

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Local Cloth: Reweaving a Landscape of Relationship

By K. CAMARA

TURNERS FALLS – Wild about local? Concerned about the carbon footprint of the clothes you wear?

At this point in time, many of us have come to a greater awareness and understanding of the impact our consumer choices might have – if not regarding our wardrobes, then at least some other aspect of our purchasing power. Here in western Massachusetts, we have been saturated for well over a decade in a campaign to Buy Local and to expand our consciousness regarding our food and from where it is sourced. What about our clothes?

At its most basic level, the subject of fiber, fabric, and clothing can reveal a surprising well of passion, as I found out recently on a sunny Sunday in February at an event sponsored by Liz Sorenson, the owner of Sheep and Shawl, a local yarn shop in nearby South Deerfield.

Sparked by my own interest in fiber and cloth and all things local, I jumped at the opportunity to attend an event there this past Sunday titled “Local Cloth.” This event was the third in an annual “FIBERary” series of four Sunday afternoon events celebrating fiber and fiber artists. The fourth event,



Sample goods from the local fibershed project.

this Sunday, February 24, from 1 to 3 p.m., will include demonstrations of spinning, rigid heddle weaving, and knitting.

Local Cloth, a panel presentation to a packed house, focused on a new initiative involving some of our neighbors and their animals, machinery, ideas, passion, and expertise in the creation of local yardage – and ultimately, local garments – from materials and labor sourced entirely within a 30-mile radius.

The eight-member panel included fiber artists, designers, weavers, a spinner, and two shepherds. They engaged the audience to follow the journey of this initial grant-funded project of the Western Massachusetts Fibershed group, a local

see **REWEAVING** page A5

Panel presenters included, from left to right, shepherd Ryan Richards of Montague, Vermont spinner Larissa Demos, shepherd Jill Horton-Lyons of Colrain, and Shelburne Falls weaver Peggy Hart.

Zoning Debate Turns Short Town Meeting Into Long One

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The February special town meeting in Montague was moving quickly, as members approved the first two of three articles in just over 25 minutes.

The first article, which appropriated \$47,495 to supplement a previous \$49,000 appropriation to replace the roof on the town-owned Shea Theater, passed unanimously. The meeting seemed convinced by town administrator Steve Ellis's rendition of the history of failed attempts to obtain a warranty by repairing the roof, and by Shea Theater Arts Center board member Monte Belmonte's description of the current roof's impact on the Shea.

“Know that the building is still leaking,” said Belmonte, “so that

see **ZONING** page A5

Funding Changes Loom Over Cable Access Stations

By KAREN SHAPIRO MILLER

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Last September, the FCC proposed an interpretation change in its regulations, which, if adopted, could cause local community access TV stations to lose the bulk of their funding.

Currently, these stations are funded through cable companies, which by law must compensate the towns for using the public rights of way required to transmit signals. They provide this compensation in part by passing 5% of the revenues they obtain from cable subscribers back to municipalities. This “PEG” money supports community access television stations in providing “public, educational, and governmental” services.

The new interpretation could greatly decrease the compensation

see **CABLE** page A4

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Following Good Budget News, Teachers Call For Reinvestment

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The news that both Massachusetts and Montague will likely contribute more money to the regional school district than had been expected has led to a number of proposals about how the funds should be used.

Last week's Gill-Montague school committee meeting, postponed from Tuesday to Thursday by snow, featured a budget hearing, pointed criticism of the secondary school administration from the teachers' union, the appointment of another critic to the committee itself, and discussions of the search for a new principal and the pros and

cons of forming a larger district.

The committee approved Thomasina Hall, a former employee and current district parent, to fill the seat vacated by April Reipold in November. Hall, the only candidate to volunteer, will serve until May, and told the *Reporter* she has not yet decided whether to seek election then to the term's final year.

In December, Hall and her husband publicly condemned the middle and high school administration for a pattern of inadequate response to racist harassment among students. Their intervention has prompted supportive words, and in some cases actions, from many sectors of the

see **GMRSD** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Elementary School Request Nudges Leverett Closer To Prop 2½ Cap



Members of the selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee discussed creating a list of everything in town that might need replacement over the next 10 years.

By MIKE JACKSON

The Leverett selectboard is deep in budget season, and its Tuesday night meeting was a three-hour joint session with the town finance committee, reviewing proposed departmental budgets and fretting about cost containment.

With few prospects for increasing its tax base, even a slow rise in public expenses brings the mostly residential town ever closer to the hard cap set under Proposition 2½ of \$25 in taxes per \$1,000 in valuation. If the

rate gets too close to the limit, any dip in assessed values could send the town over the line and trigger punitive corrective action involving deep mandatory budget cuts.

This year, the selectboard and finance committee set a “guidance” of 1.5% growth for department heads. On Tuesday the police chief, highway boss, and transfer station supervisor dutifully turned in 1.5% budget worksheets, and the boards reviewed the capital planning committee's proposal to catalog all one-time replacement

see **LEVERETT** page A7

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Franklin Tech wrestlers competed in the state finals, Olivia Whittier swam at Boston University, and the Powertown Leaders cheered in South Hadley. The Turners Falls boys' basketball team hobbled to 1 and 1, and the girls' team broke the goose egg.

Also this week, two teams got ready for the post-season.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 66 – Athol 58 (OT)

Before Friday's game in Athol, the Turners Falls girls' basketball team was 0–18 on the season. Many of those losses were close ones, but the Blue Ladies lost each game as a team. But on February 15, the girls won their first game, and again played as a team, with every player getting time on the court and nine different players scoring points.

The Red Raiders drew first blood, scoring the first basket, but Hailey Bogusz found Dabney Rollins underneath, and Turners was on the board. The teams nosed along neck and neck in the first period, and Blue was up 16-13 at the buzzer.

Red raged ahead in the second, and led by as many as 6 points. But Athol began committing shooting fouls in the closing seconds, and Blue sunk three freebies to make it a manageable 30-26 game at the break.

see **SPORTS** page A7

Turners' Chase Novak passes over the top of Hopkins Academy Golden Hawks defender Andrew Ciaglo as Thunder earns a 58-52 victory over Hopkins on Senior Night at Turners Falls.

GUESS WHO'S BACK!



Linda Ackerman passed along this photo – taken by a Millers Falls resident who asked to remain anonymous – of an early-morning backyard bobcat!

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Ten Quick Reads

New Jersey senator **Cory Booker**’s website mostly focuses on his life story. “The lines that divide us are nowhere near as strong as the ties that bind us,” it says. \$30 gets you a “Cory 2020” t-shirt that looks an awful lot like those “Kony 2012” ones.

South Bend mayor **Pete Buttigieg** has technically only formed an exploratory committee. He doesn’t have any merch up yet. “It’s time for a new generation of American leadership,” his site says.

“If we want to see change, we don’t wait for it, we work toward it,” reads the campaign site of San Antonio mayor **Julián Castro**. “Today, more than ever, we must work together to build an America where everyone – no matter who we are or where we come from – can thrive.” Castro’s site contains a pledge to campaign in all 50 states. Navy ball caps are \$25.

Maryland representative **John Delaney** presents a list of ideas, ranging from “Overturn Citizens United” to “Build a global public/private coalition against China’s intellectual property theft” to “End the Opioid Epidemic.” “Americans deserve a leader who will unite our divided nation and turn big ideas – that address present day and future challenges and opportunities – into real solutions,” the site reads. He hasn’t made hats yet, but there’s a link to buy his hardcover *The Right Answer: How We Can Unify Our Divided Nation* on Amazon (\$17.68).

Hawaii rep **Tulsi Gabbard**’s site includes a lengthy bio interspersed with nearly 80 color photos. “Regime change wars are bankrupting our country and our moral authority,” it argues. “We need to redirect those resources into a renewable, sustainable economy that works for everyone and bring about an era of peace.” Unisex t-shirts are \$29.99.

New York senator **Kirsten Gillibrand** also has a lot of photos up, but not much in the

way of political content. Clicking “tell me more” gets you a promise of “new kind of campaign, clear in its convictions and committed to fighting for people whose voices have been ignored for too long.” Gillibrand is also just exploring, so like Buttigieg, no merch yet.

In lieu of a bullet-point platform, **Kamala Harris**, senator from California, provides video and written transcript of her 2,800-word launch speech, *Our America*. She promises Medicare for All, “universal pre-K and debt-free college,” and “the largest working and middle-class tax cut in a generation.” You can buy a “Kamala Harris For The People” natural canvas tote bag for \$24.99.

Minnesota senator **Amy Klobuchar**’s campaign site says she has “grit,” and that she’s “fed up with the shutdowns and showdowns, the gridlock and the grandstanding.” There isn’t any particular policy talk, but navy “Amy for America” caps are \$29, and pullover hoodies are \$49.

Bernie Sanders, senator from Vermont, is the newest entrant, and his website is bare-bones. “No one candidate, not even the greatest candidate you could imagine, is capable of taking on Donald Trump and the billionaire class alone,” it reads, under a large slogan “Not me. *Us*.” The swag in Bernie’s store is where we find the policies – “Medicare for *all*” and “College for *all*” t-shirts are \$27, and there’s three different \$15 mugs, including “Feel The Bern.”

And finally, our own senator **Elizabeth Warren** doesn’t have a shop up, but her website gets into more analysis than any other. Warren calls for sentencing reform and marijuana decriminalization, “ending the stranglehold of defense contractors on our military policy,” “banning foreign governments from hiring Washington lobbyists,” and “an Ultra-Millionaire Tax on America’s 75,000 richest families.”



Letters to

the Editors

Water Warning

Beginning Monday, March 11, 2019 the Turners Falls Water Department will begin shutting off water to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue.

These bills were mailed on November 1 and were due December 1. Payments can be made at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A drop box is located to the left of the front door for payments after hours. Any questions, please call Suzanne at 863-4542.

Suzanne Leh
Clerk/Collector
Turners Falls Water Department

Silver Lining

Sorry to hear that multiple writers were sick last week, but glad that what it led to was the publishing of a lengthy interview with Denis Bordeaux. That dude’s got some stories to tell!

Joanna Frankel
Portland, ME

Dedication To Accuracy

Local historian Ed Gregory has researched the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, and campaigned and written to state officials and newspapers many times to explain why plaque the MassDOT put up in 2014 calling it the “Gill-Montague Bridge” is not correct, and telling people about the real correct historical name.

According to Ed, there was a real official plaque from the state dedication in 1938 calling it the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Thanks, Ed Gregory, for pointing to the real correct plaque from 1938 that the state put up on the bridge, and for covering stories and taking photos of bridges in Turners Falls. You did a real great wonderful job doing that.

We are the only paper to finally correct that. Many people have told the *Greenfield Recorder* and TV news stations like 22 News about the real historical name of the bridge. Please continue writing and calling, talking to your state officials, etc. about changing the 2014 plaque. Please and thank you.

We don’t want to change history or erase history. We want to save history. This is historically significant.

Joseph R. Parzych
Gill



Wikipedia user Denimadept took this photo of the bridge’s 1938 dedication plaque in 2007 and shared it there under a Creative Commons license.

Tax Corrector

Attention Town of Montague sewer users:

The second half bill that you just received should actually read “FROM: 01/2019 TO: 06/2019.” The bill is correct as it is the second half due, however, the dates

that it covers were inadvertently not correct.

We apologize for this error!

Eileen Seymour
Treasurer/Tax Collector
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Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

There are some special events at the Carnegie Library for **school vacation week!** On Friday, February 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., kids can play with the library’s Lego bricks. A family movie will be shown on Saturday, February 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: kids of all ages and their families can watch *Small Foot* (rated PG). Snacks will be served.

The Great Falls Discovery Center’s Kidleidoscope program on Friday, February 22 will feature a story, craft, and games **based on the theme of Snakes**. The program is geared toward tykes three to six years old and their caregivers, and meets in the Great Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

On Saturday, February 23, the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank welcomes Bette Sokoloski, who will lead an adult craft project: **making a paper jewelry box**. The project will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the community room. Bette will provide all the necessary materials and those folks attending will only need to provide themselves!

Greenfield Savings Bank will provide coffee and light morning goodies. The class is limited to 10 adults, so be sure to call to reserve your spot at (413) 863-4316.

On Saturday afternoon from 1 until 3:30 p.m., Greening Greenfield will present two programs at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant

Street, Greenfield. The first, **Beautiful Birds of Winter**, begins at 1 p.m. and features a slide show and discussion with Ted Watt, naturalist at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.

Ted will provide pointers on how to identify different species. He will discuss questions such as: *How can you tell one nuthatch from another? How do birds survive the winter snow and cold? What happened to the Evening Grosbeaks? What do the different species eat and how do their diets change in winter?* There will be time for Q&A.

After a refreshment break, the afternoon will continue at 2:30 p.m. with the story behind the creation of **The Birds of Winter: A Naturalist’s Quilt**. Ted’s queen-size quilt, which will be on display for the afternoon, depicts winter birds in applique incorporating a “realistic stylized” format. Ted will talk about his process and persistence, from conception to finished execution 20 years later, and share stories of his experiences, including two healing journeys in his life that were supported through his work on the quilt. The quilt has been displayed at several venues in the Valley and has won several blue ribbons.

Greening Greenfield is offering a follow-up winter **bird walk on the Montague Plains** on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon, led by naturalists Pat Serrentino and Ted Watt. All are welcome to join this hike. Registration opens March 4. For more information about these

and other Greening Greenfield events, go to greeninggreenfieldma.org/events.

It’s almost time once again for the 40th annual Artspace **Pottery Seconds and More Sale!** This is one of the biggest fundraisers for Artspace Community Arts Center and they are looking for volunteers. The Sale will be Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, at Greenfield Community College.

You can volunteer to help on Friday or Saturday of the sale, with several shifts offered each day. Email to let Artspace know you would like to help: info@art-spacegreenfield.com. Volunteer orientation (with snacks) will be on Tuesday, February 26 at 6 p.m. at Artspace, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield. Attendance at the orientation session is strongly encouraged.

Many of you may know that Greenfield is hoping to build a **new public library**. Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center at 289 Main Street in Greenfield will be hosting a Covers for a Cause fundraiser on Thursday, February 28 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30).

The event will feature live music by local favorites Chris Scanlon and the Other Guys, The frost heaves and haies., Emily Bourque, Tim Dolan, Steve Koziol, and more **covering the songs of Tom Waits**. Tickets are free (go to tinyurl.com/y2rso4a2 to reserve yours) but there is a suggested donation of \$5 to \$50. Visit www.friendsofjpl.org to find out more about the library initiative.

Cate Woolner, of Racial Justice Rising, tells us that there is a free program on Saturday, March 2, called **Racism in the Prison Experience**. Lois Ahrens, who founded the Real Cost of Prisons Project 19 years ago, will focus on the criminal legal system in Massachusetts and how it manifests racism through bail,

policing, and extreme sentences such as life without the possibility of parole. Lois is an organizer to end the carceral state and an advocate for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and girls.

Two formerly incarcerated people will describe their experiences of racism within the criminal legal system. The program is free and the public is warmly invited. It runs from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and the doors open at 9:45 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield. For free childcare, RSVP to email@racialjusticerising.org with number and ages of children. If the weather is bad that day, tune in to WHAI 98.3 FM or go to whai.com/closings to see if the program is cancelled.

Looking ahead, the Our Lady of Peace Women’s Group will once again be holding a **Stash Bash** on April 27. As you are doing your spring cleaning, you may come across unwanted fabric and sewing supplies, yarn, rubber stamps, beads, buttons, other crafting supplies, and tools. Please consider donating them to the church, or if you prefer, rent a table at the event to sell your “stash.” For more information about the event or to rent a table, call me (Chris) at (413) 367-3052 or e-mail csPELLERIN@comcast.net. To donate supplies, call Sandy at (413) 773-9217 or Mary at (413) 648-3244.

The Bernardston Kiwanis Club has put out a call for artists, craftspeople, and specialty food purveyors for their two-day **Scarecrow in the Park** event taking place on October 19 and 20. Get more information or apply for a space by contacting scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com. You can also find all of the details on the Scarecrow in the Park Facebook page.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Feds Prolongs Comment Period For FirstLight License

By JEFF SINGLETON

WASHINGTON, DC – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has granted the request by Montague and other “stakeholders” to extend the public comment period on a proposal by FirstLight Power Company to transfer two licenses to two new limited liability corporations. The town of Montague and others argued that the proposal, which came as the federal government was in the throes of a shutdown, potentially moved the goalposts for federal relicensing of two power projects on the Connecticut River.

FirstLight has argued that the corporate reorganization simply reflects the different functions of the two projects and is unconnected to the relicensing process.

FirstLight argues that the Turners Falls project, which includes the Turners Falls dam, power canal, and Cabot Station, is a traditional hydroelectric generating operation; while the Northfield Mountain project upstream, where water is pumped to a mountaintop reservoir and then released to gen-

erate power during periods of peak demand, constitutes “storage.”

The original deadline for comment on the license transfers, which were requested by FirstLight on December 20, was February 7. Montague had requested that the comment period be extended into March. On February 11, FERC granted an extension of the public comment period on the proposal until February 25, “due to the funding lapse at certain Federal Agencies between December 22, 2018 and January 25, 2019.”

Numerous comments opposing the license transfers, which have appeared on the FERC website, argue that separating the two projects could impact the outcome of the relicensing process. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments, for example, has suggested that FirstLight’s new corporate structure may have been created “to avoid or limit the amount that can be paid for Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement (PME) measures that will likely be required under the new FERC license.”

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP) also opposed the transfers “more than six years into the FERC integrated relicensing process.”

According to the DEP: “During this period there have been a significant number of studies conducted and a significant investment made by multiple stakeholders to review and comment on those studies... it appears that the applicant(s) and stakeholders could be required to undertake new studies to evaluate the various environmental impacts in a bifurcated fashion...”

The DEP proposed that FERC “defer the consideration of license transfers until the licensing process is complete.” The state agency also announced “notice” of its intervention in the process, which it claimed was its right as a “state water quality certification agency.” Intervenor status, which has been requested by Montague and a number of other stakeholders, allows a concerned party to appeal a FERC decision.

FirstLight challenged the DEP’s arguments in a response filed on February 15. The company, as it has in the past, argued that the corporate reorganization was not a response to the relicensing process:

“Many of the comments in this proceeding attempt to raise the alarm that Applicants [new FirstLight LLCs] are pursuing the transfers for some ulterior purpose, specifically to avoid their responsibilities under the current and future licenses... Applicants wish to assure Commenters and the Commission, for the record, that the corporate restructuring is not a ruse to enable the Projects to operate independently or to allow Applicants to dodge or to limit their responsibility in the future to comply with as-yet-unknown conditions of the new licenses.”

FirstLight also argued that critics of the license transfer had strayed beyond the “limited scope of the Commission’s [FERC] review of a license transfer, which is to examine the fitness of the transferee to carry out the obligations of the license, not to adjudicate environmental issues associated with the project.”

The impact of FERC’s extension of the public comment period on FirstLight’s request for a license transfer was not clear as of press time. FirstLight’s initial transfer request asked the federal agency to make a decision on the issue by February 28 so the power company could complete its corporate reorganization by the end of March. That requested timeline was reiterated in its February response to critics of the request.

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Reyli Galvez-Martin
Grade 8
Silas Koyama
Related Arts
Regan Marshall

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CABLE from page A1

[the cable companies] are supposed to give back to the town.”

Under the new interpretation, the companies would still be required to give 5% of their subscriber fees to towns. But they would be allowed to subtract the value of in-kind services – such as the value of the channels they provide to stations – from that 5%. And, under the new rules, the cable companies themselves would be the ones deciding how much these in-kind contributions are worth.

“Are they going to bill that channel back at a pay-for-view level? Or at a PBS level?” asks Garry Longe, president of the board of Greenfield Community Television (GCTV). “How are they going to determine the value of those channels? If you are going to do it this way, there should be some sort of standard somewhere in the FCC guidelines that tells how they are going to value the channel. But the FCC left it wide open for the cable distribution company to decide how much they are going to take away from the revenue they give to each town.”

While cable companies argue that the towns are taking advantage of them, requesting excessive in-kind services, and potentially causing the companies to raise customer fees or limiting their ability to invest in new infrastructure, many in community access media regard the changes as a money grab.

“[This proposed change] is just another way for the cable companies to basically bring more revenue to their shareholders, while cutting services to the communities they serve,” says Longe.

“Ever since it was put into law that the cable companies have to pay these fees, they’ve been trying to shirk having to pay for this,” says David Gauthier, vice-president of MassAccess, a public access trade organization, and executive director of Winchester Community Access and Media. “If a company’s coming into town, and using the public rights of way, using public land, then that municipality and its residents should be compensated.”

Community access television is required to provide PEG services to the towns. They offer video

equipment for the use of local residents, they offer training, and they distribute the work that’s been produced. Community TV is one of the last “local soapboxes,” says Longe, “one of the few remaining ways for town residents to have a voice in what happens.”

“Although it’s homegrown, and just local people doing their thing for the local community,” he says, “it’s a way for people to get their ideas into the community.”

As part of their PEG services, the stations provide political coverage that is not available elsewhere. They stream local government meetings live – the town council meetings, the school committee meetings – and, typically, post them online later for on-demand viewing, allowing folks to go back and see what actually happened.

“This is where you can watch your local elected officials, learn about leaders, get to know them, know what they’re doing,” says Longe. As local coverage in newspapers gradually diminishes, Longe says, community TV provides one of the few remaining ways for people to watch what’s going on in their towns.

“If you care about transparency, this is a big deal,” says Drew Hutchison, director of Hadley Media.

In a study by finance professor Dermot Murphy of the University of Illinois at Chicago, decreases in transparency and civic engagement have been shown to have a bottom-line effect on towns.

“We suspected that if local media is not present to keep their government in check, then there would be a greater likelihood of mismanaged public fund and other government inefficiency,” Murphy wrote in an article in the *Columbia Review of Journalism*. Murphy found that in towns in which newspapers have closed, the cost of borrowing increases, driving up expenses for town residents.

Although the FCC was expected to issue a ruling on the proposal by early this year, no decision has yet been made. According to an FCC spokesperson, there is no regulatory requirement that they take action within any particular timeframe, and as of this writing, the proposal has not yet been placed on the calendar.

“We continue to try to speak to local and federal legislators who are in contact with the FCC and still objecting to it,” says Gauthier. There is, he says, an expectation that the FCC will approve the interpretation change, because most people believe a majority of the commissioners are in favor of it.

“One thing MassAccess has done this year was to focus more of our limited resources toward legal than lobbying,” he continues. “We are working with a law firm who is looking out for our best interests. So we’re focused on the legalities this year, and hopefully it doesn’t come to a point where we have to file a suit.”

If it does, Gauthier says, because of the costs, they would more than likely join forces with a national organization, and hope that the effort doesn’t drag on for years. “You’re talking about a cost to a group of non-profits,” he says, “as opposed to court costs for a multibillion dollar corporation.”

“The hard part right now is that we don’t know the numbers we’re dealing with,” says Longe. The uncertainty, he says, makes it hard to plan: “The funding loss could be 25%, it could be 35%. People in panic mode are saying we’re going to lose 50%.” But it’s all speculative. “No one knows what this means.”

Because GCTV was expecting a ruling by the end of February, its board decided, as a precautionary measure, to develop just a 30-day operational budget, which was tightened by 20%.

“We are cutting back some things, and making adjustments to how we function as an organization,” Longe adds. “But we’re not making any major decisions until we figure out what kind of revenue effect this has...We may have to shift our mindset from a pure public service mindset to a quasi-business fundraising framework.”

Longe says he believes that the community access station will continue to provide value to the community: “People really want to see what’s going on, and I don’t see that shifting.” But while Longe says he doesn’t see the station going away, if the rule change goes through, the way it operates is likely to be very different.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Washing Toxic Fire Gear

By **GEORGE BRACE**

Fire chief Gene Beaubien appeared at the February 19 Gill selectboard meeting to recap a fire service cancer awareness class he attended recently. The board also heard an update on FirstLight Hydro’s application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to split the company’s Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls operations into two separate companies.

Board member John Ward filled in as chair for Greg Snedeker, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Chief Beaubien reported that his department was already doing many of the things talked about at the class, but identified areas for concern and improvement. Board member Randy Crochier, who also attended the class, said there were a number of studies discussed which point to higher cancer rates among firefighters.

Crochier said one of the statistics he found scary was that 20 firefighters in Boston are diagnosed with cancer every year. He acknowledged it was a large department, but said it seemed like a big number.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), two large studies by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) concluded that firefighters are 9% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer, and 14% more likely to suffer a cancer-related death, than the general population.

The chief commented that plastics and man-made materials used in construction, and present in the contents of fire sites, are one of the main cancer risks for firefighters.

The chief spoke of a number of safety improvements he is looking

at, but much of the discussion centered on the washing of gear. Crochier said that Veronica Mard, who led the class, spoke of the need to change a culture where dirty gear has been viewed as a badge of honor. He also described videos that were presented showing the transfer of contaminants to firefighters’ homes.

Chief Beaubien said he has begun looking into acquiring a gear washer, which is similar to a commercial version of a household washing machine. Issues around where to put it, and how to deal with the water involved, were discussed, along with how to fund its purchase.

Crochier said the washers were not expensive, and that one of the ways the town can help the department is by adopting policies such as, “we expect you to wash your gear,” and providing the means to do so.

Power Division

Purinton brought up a letter from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notifying the town that it had extended until February 25 the comment period on FirstLight’s application to split into two limited liability companies (*see page A1*).

The town of Gill had filed a protest letter, and a request for intervenor status, on January 31. FERC cited lapses in federal agencies during the period of the government shutdown as the reason behind the extension.

Ward brought up a response from FirstLight, which he characterized as saying, “basically, their finances and their desire to do this are none of our business.” He called the response “more of a brush-off, with the idea of getting us to just stop pursuing it.” The board decided to comment again on the split before the deadline.

Other Business

Administrative assistant Ray Purinton provided an update on Gill elementary school’s new well water treatment system, saying the water had passed a mid-month test and was functioning properly. Another test will be made at the end of the month. Purinton said he was informed by MassDEP that an additional water meter is required, and he has initiated the process to get it installed.

Crochier asked about work on a plan for monitoring the system going forward. Purinton said he’d spoken to Bob Flagg, the well’s operator, about it, but not much has been done yet.

The board reviewed a request from Michael Buoniconti, superintendent of the Mohawk Trail regional school district, for a letter of support for a bill planned to go before the state legislature to increase rural school funding.

The letter that said in addition to the funding, state senator Adam Hinds, a sponsor of the bill, is proposing the addition of a “rurality factor into the Chapter 70 formula” which would provide a long-term solution to the funding issue. The board decided to draft and send a letter of support.

The board approved a request from the Northfield Mount Hermon school (NMH) to amend their agreement with the town on dealing with recyclables, to reflect the school’s change in trash haulers.

A public hearing was scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, March 4 on transferring Robert Higgins’ Class II vehicle dealer’s license. Higgins is moving his business, and a new location requires a hearing.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was February 19, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive

**Wendell Depot
Post Office Break-In**

Sometime between the afternoon of Saturday, February 14 and Tuesday morning, February 17, the Wendell Depot Store and post office was broken into and burglarized. Postmistress Anny Hartjens knew as soon as she came to work on Tuesday morning, after the President’s Day holiday, that her store had been the scene of a crime.

“Everything was out of place,” she said. “I called the Postal Inspection Service; I called the police. The Postal Inspection Service told me to wait outside until they got there, so as not to disturb fingerprints that might be found at the scene. They took an hour and a half to get here from Springfield.”

Hartjens, who has run the cozy coffee counter and store since 1982, said this is the first time it had ever been burglarized.

The thief or thieves made off with a three-foot by three-foot safe, property of the US post office. And, what particularly upset Hartjens, “they busted my beautiful cash register” – a brass, manually operated vintage model manufactured a century ago in Dayton, Ohio by the National Cash Register Company, probably worth a great deal more than the few coins the perpetrator found in the drawer once he forced it open.

**Montague Seeks
Voluntary Unpaid Furloughs**

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio presented a budget forecast for FY’10 to the Montague selectboard on Wednesday afternoon, with a roomful of anxious department heads looking on.

The town expects between \$167,577 and \$346,359 less in state aid than last year, and hopes to reduce excess overlay reserves allocated to the operating budget by half last year’s amount. The selectboard approved, a target FY’10 budget of \$17,466,868, an 0.7% increase over last year’s omnibus (school and town budget).

The school committee has issued a preliminary budget calling for a total operating budget increase of 2.7%, with the expectation that state Chapter 70 aid will probably not decline in the coming year.

Even with the optimistic school assessment figure, Abbondanzio said his budget anticipates a best-case shortfall of \$278,070, and a worst-case shortfall of \$457,489 – depending, on whether the state legislature passes a 1% local option hotel and meals tax, and approves legislation allowing for local taxation of certain utility poles.

To make up the anticipated gap, Abbondanzio called on all town employees to take a voluntary unpaid two-week furlough to avoid layoffs, or for the departments to propose other ways of reducing personnel costs by a similar amount, for about \$90,000 in total savings.

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REWEAVING from page A1

affiliate of a non-profit called, simply, Fibershed, which was birthed nearly a decade ago in Northern California by a woman named Rebecca Burgess.

Concerned with the impact our present clothing choices have on our environment – including the land, the people, and our communities – Burgess set out to make a difference, and to find a way to support others around the nation and world who seek to consider their choices and work together to regenerate their own local Fibersheds.

Nur Tiven, a Turners Falls weaver, learned of the organization and submitted an application to form a local western Massachusetts affiliate group, along with an affiliate group grant to fund the current Local Cloth project. Other fiber artists within a 30-mile radius united to form a network, and since receiving the grant last fall, the process has moved rapidly to near fruition.

Sheep To Fabric

Once the funding was secured, steps were taken to purchase wool, hire the spinner, and hire the weaver. Local fleeces were acquired through generous donation by two local farms. The shepherds representing those farms, Ryan Richards from Brooks Bend Farm in Montague and Jill Horton-Lyons from Winterberry Farm in Colrain, were members of the panel.

Jill spoke of the sheep she tends on her farm (and the dogs that tend them) and the nature of the wide variety of fleeces available. There are over 500 breeds of sheep whose fleece humans use in our fiber production. She spoke, more specifically, of the type used for this project, the fleece of Romney and Shetland sheep.

Ryan spoke to the group about the economics of small-farm shepherding, and of the passion and imagination that creates and fuels its culture, as well as some of the permaculture techniques he is excited to implement in his new role as shepherd at Brooks Bend Farm. (Brooks Bend Farm owner Suzanne Weber, also a part of the process, was not in attendance.)

Next in the process was the hiring of a spinner. In this case, the spinning was hired out to Green Mountain Spinnery, a worker-owned cooperative located in Putney, Vermont. Worker-owner Larissa Demos presented to us

the steps taken to clean the wool of lanolin before spinning, which results in a significant loss of weight – more than 50% – and the blending of wool of two different colors from the two different farm sources. She showed slides of the spinnery, and the machinery used to process the wool fleece into yarn.

The yarn is then finally finished and wound onto spindles for use by the next person in the production line, the weaver, who in this instance was Peggy Hart of Bedfellows Blankets. Slides were shown to give a glimpse into her studio, and audio was played to enable the audience to experience the volume of the old loom used to weave the cloth.

Although these are machine looms and not manual looms, it was noted that each cloth design has to be threaded by hand in the initial stages of production. The loom cannot thread itself, nor is it self-correcting.

Weaving for this project had yet to commence at the time of the presentation. Other members of the Fibershed group were actively involved with discussing and choosing from an array of sample pieces woven on a manual loom by local weaver and Western Mass Fibershed member Michelle Parrish.

These samples were displayed on a table along with the spindles of yarn, fresh from the spinnery, and samples of the rovings from sheep, as well as examples of heritage wool blankets woven by Peggy with the support of a CISA (Community Involved in Supporting Agriculture) grant in 2005. Fibershed members Lisa Bertoldi of Weft Handwovens, a fiber artist for three decades, and Katie Cavacco of Wool-ology, a natural fiber shop and makerspace located in South Deerfield, also sat on the panel.

Beyond Our Reach?

The presenters entertained some questions during the slide show, and time allowed for some further questions after it had finished. The two foremost questions seemed to be related to the ultimate culmination of the project, the creation of local, artisan-designed garments. More than one of the attendees expressed interest in this next step.

The other question was that of cost. It was stunning to hear that the cost of a single yard of this fabric, with all production costs included, would be approximately a staggering



A statue at Spinner Park in downtown Turners Falls honoring women who worked in the local textile industry, with a drop spindle and yarn.

\$95.00 per yard!

Taking that out a few steps to include a designer in the mix, we would come to an even more staggering figure. A fabric far beyond the reach of many within our local community, and a figure that tempts me to drift off into a sullen state – or alternatively, to consider the good that is at hand, and perhaps take a look at other possible definitions of what “local” truly means to me.

Luckily, I was able to catch up with our downtown weaver, Nur Tiven, after the event, and through our conversation I was inspired to take a long-term, holistic look at the picture. My vision cleared and I was once again able to see the bigger picture when Tiven reminded me that “this is an initial project – a lab test, as it were – a proof and an investigation into what it takes, and what it means, to create cloth from a local fibershed in these times.”

More importantly, I was reminded through our conversation of some of the words from the Fibershed website relating to just what is being attempted in this exploratory work. I found myself stunned yet again when I realized the magnitude of it: this is work that seeks to mend the fabric of relational systems that have been broken. This is generational

work. It is multi-layered, and it doesn’t happen overnight.

The Local Web

Once all the data is “in” for this experiment, Tiven told me, there would be further work to do: more questions and more research, more community building through networking, and more education.

Locally, fiber and fabric remain passionate and popular issues. Within our own community in recent weeks, the question of the Spinner statue who resides in Spinner Park downtown and her significance has come up for discussion at our selectboard meeting. And the recent exhibit of Kanga cloth on display at the Discovery Center last month showed us how cloth could “talk.”

Community and economy are fostered at the Women’s Center through the sharing of sewing expertise, skills involving thread and fabric and stitches that were once taught and taken for granted.

Fashion designer Richie Richardson sells his clothing line designed and sewn from his Second Street boutique and workshop, FAB Fashion. Newly opened Flourish with Grit on Avenue A creates unique, upcycled clothing from previously-worn textiles. A phenomenal flow of textiles occurs as clothes are donated and purchased at the two thrift stores in town, and new and vintage textiles and clothes are also sold at two Avenue A businesses, Honey & Wine and Stenhouse Vintage.

As Tiven and I spoke, I saw that the price of this particular fabric could not be the true measure of its value. The price in dollars does not include the important restorative work being accomplished by Fibershed and its affiliate groups. Their attempt to reweave the web that connects us to the garments we purchase and wear can restore our connection to the environment and the people within it, the same way that the local food movement has connected us to the farms and farmers who grow our food.

For more information on the FIBERary event this Sunday, February 24, and other events at Sheep & Shawl, visit sheepandshawl.com. For information on the Western Mass Fibershed project, email westernmassfibershed@gmail.com. Visit the parent organisation at fibershed.com.

ZONING from page A1

when there are events there and it is raining, it is raining inside. It’s coming down the walls. Certain locations on the stage are experiencing some leakage any time it rains, or when the snow melts.”

“I’ve been up on the Shea roof more times than I care to remember,” said town meeting member and building consultant Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno. “We have gone back and forth on this, but it’s exceedingly clear to me... that the only smart way to go is to put a new roof on there.”

Town meeting members agreed, and passed the appropriation without dissent.

The second article, appropriating \$165,000 to replace the town hall and town hall annex roofs, received only one “nay” vote after 10 minutes of discussion. Both roofs, Ellis explained, are on the ground floor of town hall, and all are leaking. The annex is currently used by the town Department of Public Works.

“This roof is a disaster,” said Sawyer-Lauçanno, referring to the annex roof. “There’s a waterfall inside the DPW garage.” He said the building itself was in “good shape” and has “tremendous potential for the town once the DPW moves out.”

Added Ellis: “We don’t know precisely what it will be used for, but the intention is to migrate [the DPW] up to their new building, and we expect that to be completed in the summer of 2020.”

After a near-unanimous approval of Article Two, the meeting moved on to consider the town planning

board’s major revision of the town zoning bylaws. This topic engendered over an hour and a half of discussion.

Totally Zoning

The discussion began with a slide presentation of the new bylaws by town planner Walter Ramsey. This included a brief history of Montague’s bylaws, the general goals of the revision, and specific highlights. Ramsey said the revisions had been developed over a three-year period involving 15 open meetings of the planning board, two public information sessions, and two public hearings.

“At its most basic level, zoning regulates what you and your neighbors can do with your property,” said Ramsey. “But more importantly, zoning is a blueprint for how the community will develop over time.”

The first question about the new bylaws came from finance committee member Mike Naughton. He asked about the residential district designation “RS 1,” which refers to small lots on the town sewer system. He noted that the minimum lot size was 15,000 square feet, and asked, “How did you arrive at that number?”

Ramsey responded that the RS 1 standards were modeled on the Randall Road subdivision in west-central Montague between Turners Falls Road and Greenfield Road.

Naughton said he had done a “brief look-around,” and believed that large numbers of lots in downtown Turners Falls, Millers Falls,

and Lake Pleasant would currently be below conformance to this standard. “I realize you guys have put a lot of work into this,” he said, “and I hesitate to vote against it, but you said the goal was to have zoning reflect the way things are, and I believe the RS 1 zone does not reflect the way things are.”

Naughton asked why a resident with a smaller vacant lot in Millers Falls would need to go to the planning board to get a special permit to build a house “when all they are doing is what their neighbors are doing.” He suggested considering a new residential designation for areas with smaller lot sizes, but did not propose a motion to amend the bylaws. “I would encourage you to keep looking at this,” he said.

Next, former building inspector David Jensen arose. He defended the RS 1 lot size because the bylaws allowed residents with smaller lots to build with a special permit, which he called a “safety valve.”

Jensen then criticized the bylaw revisions as too sweeping. “This is an overwhelming process, a leap of faith,” he said.

Jensen’s comments elicited a number of strong defenses of the bylaw revisions and the work of the planning board. Lynn Reynolds of Taylor Hill called the revisions “a tremendous improvement over what you had, with all the additions and changes and that sort of thing... This is a big deal, and I think it is time that we do it.”

Richard Widmer of Millers Falls called the bylaw revision process

“impressive, and it gives me confidence in the work that the planning office does.”

After more general discussion, Jensen proposed two amendments to the proposed changes. The first would have eliminated Section 8.12, and the second would have deleted Section 8.11.

Section 8.12, called “Planned Unit Development,” would encourage “a unified development containing a mixture of land uses and buildings” in former industrial areas. Section 8.11, called “Open Space Residential Development,” would allow residences with smaller lot sizes, in exchange for more open space within projects.

Jensen complained that Planned Unit Development was simply “a strip mall or mall permit.” He called the open space residential section “poorly crafted, unintegrated – it doesn’t fit. It’s a dull tool trying to do a sharp tool’s work.”

Sam Lovejoy defended the open space residential proposal. “What we’re trying to do here is to allow the developer to get 20% more house lots,” he said. “What are you getting in trade for that? You get a developer that comes to you and works with you in order to figure out how to preserve open space around it; to try to not have *house, house, house...*”

In the end, both amendments were defeated, and the bylaw revisions passed by the required two-thirds majority. The meeting adjourned after approximately two hours.

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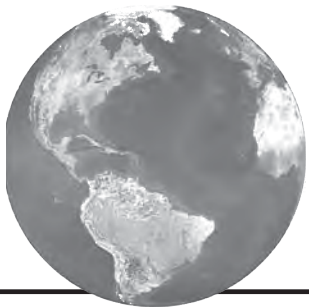
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Aquí se habla español

Aquí se habla español. Esta es la página en español del periódico Montague Reporter. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, artículos y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Protestas de maestros en El Paso: “No al encarcelamiento de menores migrantes”

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

EL PASO – Hay un lugar en medio del desierto llamado Tornillo, en el condado de El Paso en Texas. En junio de 2018 la administración de Trump decidió abrir allí un centro temporal de detención de menores separados de sus familias o que habían cruzado solos la frontera. Las tiendas de campaña que formaban el centro estaban en principio destinadas a albergar a 450 niños migrantes, pero a lo largo

del tiempo esta temporalidad empezó a ser estable y la población de menores creció hasta llegar a 6.200 menores que son los que han pasado por el centro hasta enero de 2019.

Este centro de detención de menores entra en conflicto con el Decreto Flores de 1997 que abogaba por seguir ciertos estándares en el tratamiento de niños inmigrantes detenidos bajo custodia federal después de llegar a Estados Unidos. El acuerdo especificaba que los menores debían alojarse en instalaciones que cumplieren

con las normas parecidas a las de los establecimientos con licencia para niños en hogares en custodia, debían mantenerse en contacto con las familias y debían operar con una política que favoreciese la liberación del niño a un padre, tutor legal, o pariente adulto.

El cuidado que los niños deben recibir bajo el Acuerdo Flores incluía una evaluación educativa y acceso a los servicios de salud. En Tornillo, Texas, en lugar de asistir a la escuela, a los niños les entregaron cuadernos de trabajo que debían

completar sin supervisión si querían o no completarlos.

La Asociación estadounidense de Pediatría publicó recientemente que la exposición al estrés tóxico provoca una serie de problemas en el bienestar de los niños. Entre ellos la regresión en las habilidades del lenguaje y entrenamiento para ir al baño, depresión y ansiedad, dificultad para regular las emociones, desafíos en hacer y mantener relaciones a largo plazo y dificultad para concentrarse, lo que dificulta aprender en la escuela.

El campo de detención de Tornillo fue objeto de muchas críticas debido no solamente a que los menores fueron separados de sus familias, sino que también las condiciones de vida no eran las mejores. Situado en el desierto y sin sombras, las temperaturas alcanzaban muchos días los 110 grados Fahrenheit. El centro tenía un perímetro rodeado de alambre de espino para impedir la salida de los menores.

El 11 de enero de 2019 la administración decidió cerrar el centro de Tornillo, entre otras razones porque la empresa adjudicataria rehusó continuar con el proyecto debido a las críticas recibidas. Los menores fueron trasladados a diferentes albergues del país. Antes del cierre del centro, en octubre de 2018, Mandy Manning estuvo cerca de Tornillo para dar unas charlas a maestros de la zona.

Manning fue elegida como Maestra del año 2018 y recibida en la Casa Blanca por el presidente Trump que dijo de ella que jugaba un papel esencial en el bienestar de los niños. Al mismo tiempo que el presidente pronunciaba esas palabras otro centenar de menores eran detenidos y separados de sus familias en la frontera.

Manning que es maestra en una clase para estudiantes hijos de refugiados e inmigrantes en Spokane en el estado de Washington, inició una campaña llamada *Maestros contra la Detención de Niños* (TACD) que el fin de semana del 17 de febrero viajó hasta El Paso para realizar unos talleres in situ en contra de la detención de menores migrantes. Manning considera que esta campaña no tiene una ideología política de uno u otro signo, que no es demócrata o republicana, sino que la mayoría del pueblo estadounidense está en contra de los campos de detención de menores.

La jornada del 17 de febrero consistió en maestros que dieron charlas sobre inmigración y sobre la creación de trauma en los niños encarcelados, además de bandas de música y lectura de poemas.

Maestros contra la Detención de Niños (TACD) invita a otros maestros a unirse a ellos bien contribuyendo con un vídeo compartiendo sus experiencias u organizando en sus clases donación de libros en español para menores encarcelados. Los libros deben ir acompañados de cartas personalizadas escritas por los propios estudiantes con mensajes de esperanza para los niños en campos de detención. Si quieren obtener más información sobre esta campaña, pueden encontrarla en esta página web: www.teachersagainst-childdetention.org/teachers.



Lugar de rodaje de "Roma" de Alfonso Cuarón en la Ciudad de México. (Wikimedia Commons foto por ProtoplasmaKid)

OPINIÓN

Roma y el lío de los subtítulos

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO – Casi todos ustedes habrán oído hablar de la nueva película del director mexicano Alfonso Cuarón que opta a dos de los premios más importantes de la Academia de Artes y Ciencias Cinematográficas estadounidense: mejor director y mejor película. Está nominada también a otros ocho Oscars más desde actriz protagonista pasando por mejor película extranjera o mejor guion original.

Quiero advertir a los lectores que pueden leer estas líneas sin temor a que les destripe la película de Cuarón ya que este artículo solamente se va a enfocar en los subtítulos que Netflix decidió incluir en un primer momento junto a la película y que días más tarde se vieron obligados a sustituir.

Roma narra la historia autobiográfica del director y su familia que vivía en la colonia la Roma, un vecindario de clase media en México D.F. Cuarón cuenta su infancia a través de los ojos de Cleo, que representa a Libo Rodríguez que fue la persona que trabajaba en su casa cuando era niño.

Rodríguez era la empleada de hogar de su familia, un oficio que resulta raro para mis amigos estadounidenses, pero que es común en la clase media de los países hispanicos. Son mujeres que obligadas por la situación económica, dejan su propia familia y sus propios hijos para atender a los hijos de otras familias más pudientes en ciudades como México, Buenos Aires o Madrid. Estas mujeres se convierten en verdaderas madres para los niños a los que cuidan, y en muchos casos son un miembro más de la familia.

La actriz protagonista del filme, Yalitza Aparicio, hace de Cleo en la película, y es la primera vez que actúa ante las cámaras ya que acababa de terminar sus estudios en la universidad para ser maestra de preescolar. Su vida ha dado un giro de 180 grados después de ser elegida por Cuarón para protagonizar su autobiografía. Originaria de Oaxaca, tuvo que aprender a hablar mixteco para algunas escenas de la película en las que su personaje habla en dicha lengua con Adela.

Roma ha sido rodada en blanco y negro lo que ayuda a crear esa atmósfera de retrospectiva y consigue llevarnos a los años 70 en la capital de México. Sin temor a estropearles la historia, puedo decirles que además de las diferentes clases sociales, los sonidos de la película me recordaron mucho a mi infancia en Salamanca, diferentes pero similares, especialmente el del carrito del afeitador, oficio que ya ha desaparecido de las calles españolas. También el sonido de la radio como banda sonora de la película con cantantes como Rocío Dúrcal que estaban en su apogeo al uno y otro lado del Atlántico.

Comparte también *Roma* con mi infancia los momentos convulsos sociales y políticos de los años 70 en ambos países. España intentado salir de una dictadura y abrazando una democracia todavía muy inestable y las protestas estudiantiles en un México dividido social y políticamente y donde tuvo lugar la tristemente famosa matanza de Tlatelolco.

La película mexicana reúne varios hitos en el panorama cinematográfico, por ejemplo, es la primera vez que una actriz indígena latinoamericana está nomi-

nada al Oscar, que una película en castellano está nominada a mejor película o que una película está nominada en la categoría de mejor película y mejor película extranjera al mismo tiempo.

Es también la primera vez que una película producida por Netflix está nominada a los premios de la Academia, plataforma digital donde se puede ver después de un pequeño espacio de tiempo exhibiéndose en las salas de cine convencionales. La intención de Cuarón es que esta película que no pertenece al perfil de cine comercial fuera vista por el mayor número de espectadores posibles en todo el mundo.

Netflix tomo la decisión de subtítular, mejor dicho de traducir con los subtítulos, la película en castellano peninsular, no solamente en su plataforma, sino también en los cines españoles en que se exhibió. Así pues la polémica estaba servida.

Cuando los actores decían “enojado, en los subtítulos se podía leer “enfadado”. O yendo más allá todavía, en la película se oye un “ven-gan” muy claro, cuando en los subtítulos aparece “venid,” una forma verbal que claramente no utilizaría ningún hablante de español en México y que solamente se utiliza en algunas partes de la península ibérica. Las críticas no se hicieron esperar, así que Netflix decidió que hubiera dos versiones de subtítulos:

español y español latinoamericano.

La elección de Netflix nos deja a los españoles como ignorantes, incapaces de entender otra variedad del castellano. Un castellano al que estamos acostumbrados después de muchos años de telenovelas provenientes de Latinoamérica en todos los canales de televisión y sin subtítulo alguno.

Algunos escritores latinoamericanos consideraron que los subtítulos eran una muestra de paternalismo colonial lingüístico. Netflix cometió un grave error puesto que los sociolingüistas dicen que la diferencia de vocabulario entre el español de España y de México solamente es de un 4% de vocablos, lo que hace perfectamente posible la comunicación entre españoles y mexicanos. Netflix desconoce también que dentro del español peninsular hay muchas variedades, no tiene la misma variedad un gaditano o un salmantino, pero nos entendemos sin ningún problema.

Al final Netflix retiró los subtítulos de la plataforma digital debido a la presión ejercida por académicos de la lengua y escritores, pero los subtítulos en castellano peninsular permanecieron en las salas de cine. Netflix debe pensar también que ahora mismo más de 550 millones de personas hablan español en el mundo y menos de 40 millones hablan la variedad peninsular.

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SPORTS from page A1

Turners chipped away in the third, and when the buzzer rang again, it was anybody’s game, as Red clung to a 1 point lead, 37-36. The teams traded buckets in the fourth, and with a minute left, Athol led 55-53.

With 43 seconds left on the clock, Bogusz committed her fourth foul to give Red a 3-point lead. But with only 18.2 ticks on the clock, Bogusz herself was fouled. She sunk both shots, and pulled Turners within a point.

Turners has traveled this road before. In every other close, hard-fought game, they came out on the losing end. But last Friday, with their backs against wall, the Blue D got the ball back, and at 4.6 seconds, Whiteman was fouled, sending the game into overtime.

The Turners Falls girls have lost three games this season by a single point, and this was their last, best chance to pull out a victory. And in the fifth quarter, they ran away with the game.

A rejection by Lily Spera, a Sarah Waldron-to-Eliza Johnson fast break, and accurate shooting from the foul line gave Turners 10 points while holding Red to 2, and the Turners Falls girls’ basketball team came out with their first win of the 2018-19 season.

Dabney Rollins led Powertown with 25 points, giving her 407 career points. Lindsay Whiteman hit a 3 and four foul shots for a total of 15.

Lily Spera netted 7, Karissa Fleming and Aly Murphy scored 5, and Eliza Johnson hit 2 shots for 4 points. Lana Spera hit a 2-pointer, Bogosz got two foul shots, and Sarah Waldron added one from the line.

The ladies wrap up the season when they travel to Palmer to try to extend their winning streak against the Palmer Blue Panthers.

Boys Basketball
TFHS 58 – Hopkins 52
Pioneer 80 – TFHS 54

Last Wednesday, February 13, the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team defeated the Hopkins Golden Hawks in their last home game of the season, 58-52.

It was senior night for Powertown. Before the game, Ryan Campbell, Kyle Dodge, Tyler Lavin, Nester Rodriguez, Jeremiah Russell, and Bryce Waldron each had their pictures taken and received their accolades. My first thought was, *how can these kids be graduating?* Especially Campbell, Dodge, and Lavin; it seems like they were just in 8th grade.

Speaking of seniors, Liam Ellis, a 1K-scorer for Powertown, is still going strong. Ellis, now a senior at Clarkson University, has scored 870 points and counting. I think the secret of his success is his 80% accuracy at the foul line. That’s a lesson for every basketball player: hit the free ones, and the points will come.

In the Hopkins game, Turners was hit with a book foul early as one of the players had a mis-numbered jersey. But Powertown rebounded and jumped out to a 30-17 lead at the half.

Blue extended that margin to 35-17 before the Academy made a late-game run. The run continued into the fourth, but Blue managed to hold on and preserve a 58-52 win.

Anthony Peterson hit five field goals and four free throws for 14 points. Lavin put up 11 points, and Russell added 10. Chase Novak,

who left the game with an ankle injury, scored 7, Campbell and Jaden Whiting got 6, while Dodge and Rodriguez each scored 2 points.

Then on Friday, February 15, the Boys Thunder lost to the Pioneer Black Panthers up in Northfield, 80-54.

It was Powertown’s last regular season game, and left Blue with a 12–10 record. The Panthers streaked out to a 21-11 lead after a quarter. Turners kept pace in the second, but in the third, Pioneer again outscored Powertown by 10 points. Going in to the fourth, Turners was down 62-43.

The Cats won the fourth 18-11, and took the game 80-54. With Turners suffering several injuries, only five Powertown players scored points in this one: Lavin led Blue with 20 , Peterson got 14, Campbell put up 9, Russell scored 6, and Whiting added 5.

Cheer Squad

On Sunday, February 17, the Eye of the Tiger cheer invitational was held in South Hadley as 35 different cheer squads competed in eight divisions. The Turners Falls ladies have one more competition before they hang up their pompoms – this Saturday, February 23 at Holyoke High – and we’ll report on both events in next week’s column!

End of Season

This weekend, the Franklin Tech wrestlers competed in the Massachusetts state finals.

In high school sports, the best teams make the playoffs. Of those teams, only one in each division wins the title. Every other team finishes the season with a loss. In individual compe-

titions like wrestling and swimming, the state champs have a chance to continue. Eventually, unless you win the gold medal in the Olympics, your season ends as an also-ran.

I mention this because the Franklin Tech wrestlers, who’ve had a wonderful championship season, only scored a single point in the state finals. That, of course, takes nothing away from their remarkable run, and every time they return to their *alma mater*, they’ll see the three new banners hanging in the gym.

Also this weekend, Olivia Whittier, a sophomore at Turners High School, swam in the State Swimming and Diving finals. At Boston University, Whittier swam the 100-yard breaststroke against the fastest swimmers in the state. She finished in 1:11.65, more than a second faster than her seed time of 1:13.05.

The finish was good enough for 16th place, and earned her and Turners Falls High a point in the state meet.

The Franklin Tech boys’ basketball team needed to win its last two games to make the playoffs, but on Tuesday they lost a road game against McCann Tech. The Turners girls’ team, as mentioned above, may end the season on a high note with their win against the Blue Panthers, but any playoff aspirations will have to wait until 2020.

The two teams that did qualify for the postseason, the Franklin Tech girls and the Turners Falls boys, are now waiting on their seeds, which will be determined this weekend. The first round of playoffs begins early next week.

Next week: *Cheer – and Round 1!*



LEVERETT from page A1

costs Leverett might incur over the next decade.

But the elephant in the room – or not in the room – was the elementary school. The teachers have negotiated a 4.2% raise, and the school committee’s working budget, to the consternation of town hall, currently sits at 3.3%. A \$20,000 patch to the current year’s budget negotiated last spring as a “one-time” special article expense that went to a ballot vote at town meeting appears to have been folded in to the school’s regular budget request this year, with more growth on top of that.

Supporters of the article last year argued that the elementary school attracted wealthy families to the town and brought up home prices, but also promised that by FY’20, fundraising and out-of-the-box solutions would replace the public patch.

“To me, this is a line in the sand,” said fin com member Ann Delano. “We came to an agreement last year, we went to town meeting and we said it’s not being added to the budget. For somebody to just take that money and put it into the budget is a huge statement that means that there is not a lot of cooperation going on.”

Fin com chair Tom Powers said “contract costs” appeared to be driving the growth, “which was completely predictable.”

“That’s the nature of a budget,” Delano agreed.

“What are they going to do in six or seven years when they have to cut their budget by \$200,000?” asked selectboard member Julie Shively, invoking the specter of state-enforced austerity.

Her fellow member Tom Hankin-

son expressed sympathy. “No one else here is defending the school,” he claimed, and tempers flared as Delano and selectboard chair Peter d’Errico objected to feeling characterized as opposing education.

“At minimum, we should take out the \$20,000,” Powers said. “The optics of putting in what the town voted not to, and then taking it out, relabeling it, and sticking it back in just gets you in a lot of trouble.”

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she would prepare versions of all department budgets showing 1.5% growth, with any “overages” listed separately. A showdown with the school committee looms before the selectboard votes on the final budget it will recommend at annual town meeting.

Cost of Living

The selectboard set a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for non-school employees.

In recent years, the town has used the national Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a reference point for these raises, giving a token bump in years the CPI went negative. This year’s CPI has been posted at 2.2%.

On the other hand was the principle that all Leverett employees should have their wages rise equitably. But the 4.2% raise negotiated at the school was considered too steep to generalize, with every percentage point amounting to about \$6,700 in the budget.

“This is a compounding thing,” said Powers. “When you hit the wall, and you can’t give anybody a raise anymore, you’ve got one group that’s way out in front of the other.”

Delano suggested “a nod toward the parity” by setting the COLA “a

little bit above the 2.2.”

“I’d like to give more, but that’s at the risk of in five years laying a bunch of people off,” said Shively.

“It’s one of these things people don’t want to face,” Powers added.

“What if we split the difference, we go 2.3?” asked fin com member Greg Woodard. This solution was unanimously seized upon by the selectboard.

Roads, Trash, Planning

David Finn presented a 1.5% highway budget, with “no surprises or excitement.” He put most of the growth in gravel road maintenance and asphalt.

Finn tantalized the officials with talk of a new liquid road treatment containing an “organic-based by-product of molasses production” marketed as Magic Salt. Whately uses it, Finn said, and the company would throw in equipment for free. “It makes the salt sticky,” he explained.

“What’s it going to do to the finish on my truck?” Hankinson asked.

“It is going to improve it,” Finn answered. McGinnis asked him to make sure any deals were in compliance with procurement law.

Annette Herda’s transfer station request also hewed to the 1.5% guideline.

“It would be nice to see the revenue side of it,” Shively said, looking over the budget.

“This is the only department we have that has a revenue stream that comes close to balancing its costs,” Powers added.

Herda’s hearing wandered into a long discussion of the ailing trash compactor; funding for its replacement was approved last year, and

no official action was necessary Tuesday.

The boards also met with the capital planning committee, who are launching into an ambitious project of recording anything that might ever need replacement for over \$10,000 – roofs, parking lots, trash compactors, and all.

Police

Police chief Scott Minckler presented a 1.5% budget, but had two large asks outside of it.

The first was a third full-time officer, which would increase his department budget by about \$20,000 in benefits. Minckler is currently trying to hire his second full-timer, and is staffing the town with six part-timers.

The state, however, is discontinuing its “reserve” police academy later this year, which is expected in the long run to reduce the number of available part-time police. “Why go to full-time training for a part-time job?” Minckler asked. “Our part-time people are gonna go away.... I’m not the only chief who’s doing this.”

He said that he thought about \$7,000 of the added cost of the third full-timer would be balanced by savings on training, uniforms and equipment, and scheduled meetings.

“When I was hired here there were two full-timers and 10 part-time,” Minckler said. “We’ve dropped back – some of that is due to the fact that I’ve been trying to do this third full-time person, and you don’t want 10 part-timers on staff if you get a third full-timer.... I haven’t seen a need to really push forward to hire more.”

“It’s gotta fit in the budget, which is a big problem,” observed Shively.

No vote was taken.

The department, with the support of the capital planning committee, is also requesting that a cruiser originally scheduled to be replaced in 2020 be added to this year’s town meeting warrant, at a cost of around \$45,000.

The three cruisers are being replaced on a six-year cycle, but Minckler said that with three full-timers and a good maintenance plan, the cars could last nine years.

The cruiser is being requested early because the chief’s vehicle, which has \$114,000 on it, is failing. “That car should never have been purchased,” said Minckler. He added he would be open to hybrid Ford vehicles, “three years down the road... once they’ve worked out the kinks.”



LEGAL NOTICE
of PUBLIC MEETING
Leverett Conservation
Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on March 4, 2019 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Mark Doubleday and Virginia Goodale for installation of a shallow well at **101 Teawaddle Hill Rd.** The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 x. 3.

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GMRSD from page A1 school community.

“I decided to step up when the incidents with the boys *still* kept happening,” Hall said, “and [superintendent Michael Sullivan’s] handling of the forums were poor.... I also wanted, as a former employee, to make sure that staff members are listened to.” Hall currently works as a teacher in Holyoke public schools.

Jennifer Renehan and president Karl Dziura of the Gill-Montague Education Association (GMEA) read a statement on behalf of their fellow middle and high school teachers. They described a “monumental disconnect between the district-level vision for our schools and the reality of our students’ experience,” and said it was the result of a disregard for staff input in past administrative hires.

“We implore the school committee to proactively ensure that our voices, as teachers, are heard, and are valued in the hiring process of leaders for our schools from this point forward,” Renehan read, “and that our opinions about the candidates are a key factor in the final decision-making and hiring decisions, for both the interim and permanent positions in our schools.”

Dziura offered the teachers’ “thoughts and prayers” for principal Annie Leonard, on leave and receiving cancer treatment, but cited an “incremental deterioration of school culture which has recently ballooned into widespread incidents of discrimination and hateful behaviors among students.”

The committee heard about a number of changes that had been made in

the weeks since they approved a preliminary budget. The town of Montague’s estimated “affordable assessment” has risen, though it will not be locked in until February 28; after factoring in enrollment ratios, it amounts to about another \$77,000. The state Chapter 70 aid estimate, already increasing around \$220,000 from last year, is up another \$10,000.

The district guesses it will spend about \$46,000 more a year under a new 5-year bus contract, but receive \$30,000 more in transportation reimbursement. Administrators also propose to eliminate preschool tuition. “There’s maybe like 10 families a year that do pay tuition,” Sullivan explained, adding that the district expected to make back more money than it would lose.

Most significantly, the district may roll about \$346,500 unspent from its budget into “excess and deficiency” (E&D) – up \$134,000 from January’s estimate. Sullivan and business manager Joanne Blier have revised the FY’20 budget to pull another \$100,000 from this account.

“After years of frustration with the operation of the middle school and high school, we’ve reached a point where we feel compelled to address the situation,” Dziura said. “That point happens to coincide with decisions around this year’s budget.”

The union president criticized the plan to place a “considerable” amount of the surplus into E&D: “For the past five or more years, programs and staffing have been reduced or cut to the detriment of students,” he said. “The members of our Gill-Montague Educational Association

strongly urge the school committee to use as much money as is available to restore the needed supports throughout the district.”

Two positions are proposed for FY’20 which may touch on aspects of the student behavioral problems: a second dean of students at the secondary level, and a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA).

Sullivan explained that a second dean would help free up the principal and assistant principal to focus on management and curriculum. “The current volume of behavioral infractions prevents the consistent following of intended practices for effective communications, harm repair, and learning focused consequences,” he wrote. “[T]he school principal spends an inordinate amount of time responding to in-the-moment disciplinary needs and consultations...”

Dianne Ellis, director of pupil services, presented on the BCBA proposal. “I honestly can’t think of a school district in this area that doesn’t have a BCBA besides Gill-Montague,” she said. Currently, when a “functional behavioral assessment” of a student’s behavior is required, the district subcontracts the task at a cost of \$800 to \$1,200.

“One of the single greatest causes of teacher burnout is classroom management and behavioral challenges,” Ellis said, arguing that a BCBA would help by producing more evaluations. “High-needs kids tend to require a lot of support, as do their staff, and really, their families.”

Sullivan said the administration had eliminated the BCBA last year, “knowing it would need to return.”

The committee will take its final budget vote on March 12.

Acting middle and high school principal Kathi Smith was on hand to help update the committee on what the schools are doing to address issues of harassment and racism among students.

Trainers from the National Conference for Community and Justice worked with a group of 10 Gill-Montague and 10 Mohawk students, a workshop aimed at making “leaders in the community in anti-bias work.” They also did professional development with staff members.

Sullivan said he, Ellis, and Sheffield Elementary assistant principal Christine Limoges met with the Center for Responsive Schools, headquartered in Turners Falls, to ask if they would be interested in “re-committing [their] time and energy to [their] local community.”

“They rose to the occasion,” he said, and have offered a range of professional development services to elementary and middle school staff over the next year, free of cost.

“Do you feel like we have a system in place to keep a handle on student behavior?” Montague member Michael Langknecht asked Smith, who said she and her staff were “working very hard” on the issue. “People across the board were interested in seeing more restorative practices work, which is very time-intensive,” she said. “It requires space, it requires a lot of time, and a lot of preliminary work with students.”

Consultants from the Collaborative for Educational Services, who have facilitated forums for parents,

students, and faculty on the issue, will report on their findings and give recommendations to the school committee at their February 26 meeting.

The school committee discussed the idea, favored by many in the Pioneer Valley regional school district, of merging Gill and Montague together with Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick into a new, larger district. The administration is working to supply information to consultants who are estimating costs of different forms of merger.

“I’m not thrilled with the outcome so far, frankly,” said Langknecht. “It’s a lot of money.”

“If we look at this preliminary information and it doesn’t look feasible, we don’t want to necessarily make a commitment to go further,” said Gill member Jane Oakes.

Gill-Montague is finally seeing a substantial increase in Chapter 70 aid after years of being level-funded because it was “held harmless” during a period of declining enrollment. Members discussed their worry that, by merging with the Pioneer towns, Gill and Montague would forego that growth in funding. “Hold-harmless is a very critical thing to look into,” said Timmie Smith of Gill. “That’s a dealmaker or breaker right there. Well, not necessarily maker!”

“There’s so many moving parts,” said Blier, indicating that she was looking forward to the results of the consultants’ calculations. “I can’t recreate those numbers and see where we would land.”

The committee’s next meeting will be held February 26 at the high school.



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Above: Zigzags of frost on the roof of the Cutlery Block in Turners Falls.



Unearthing
the Archives

By Charlotte Kohlmann



Part I: Nancy L. Dole Books and Ephemera

All memory is individual, unreproducible – it dies with each person. What is called collective memory is not a remembering but a stipulating: that this is important, and this is the story about how it happened, with the pictures that lock the story in our minds.
Susan Sontag, “Regarding the Pain of Others”

BUCKLANDSIDE – Love letter telegrams, cyanotypes, local maps, 19th- and 20th-century postcards: these are all just a few items of what you will find in Nancy L. Dole’s thoughtfully curated book and ephemera shop located in Shelburne Falls. You can also find books on history, art history, art techniques, agriculture, old technical, philosophy, fiction, poetry, and more.

“I love books on obsolete information, like old textbooks. They tell us so much about how we used our minds, and how far technology has come,” says Dole.

From a very early age, Nancy has always had an affinity for books and ephemera. Growing up in eastern Massachusetts on an agricultural farm, she would leave the Big E with bags full of recipes, pamphlets, local maps, and other “insignificant” printed matter. She only wishes now she held onto these materials to sell years later at her bookshop.

Gravitating towards the discarded and transient documents of the past, Dole sees these items as historical monuments, “because these items were saved (for whatever reason – intentional or accidental), they now have value; they originally may have been free or throw-away items,” says Dole.

Nancy had revealed to me her notebook full of customers’ personal reading interests, which she uses as a



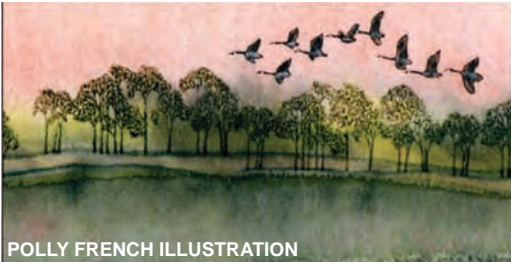
Nancy Dole in the fiction section.

resource for titles or types of ephemera to later purchase for her collection. She says the search, whether online or in person, is the most thrilling aspect to owning her shop.

Education is very important to her, and the accessibility to knowledge even more so. She may get a customer who comes in only annually, but she will remember that they liked a specific subject, and as a result, will put a related title aside for their next visit.

EBay, estate and auction sales, home visit clean-outs, and library sales are the wellspring of sources to replenish her bookshop needs. She once found a collection of Heath postcards from an eBay seller in California, and bought them for her Heath customer. Another time, she purchased a local collection of mid-20th-century snapshots of automobiles and, upon receiving them, realized they actually had been

see **UNEARTHING** page B2



BY DAVID BRULE

*One must have a mind of winter
To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow...
And have been cold a long time
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,
The spruces rough in the distant glitter...*

Wallace Stevens

THE BEND in the RIVER – It’s been a while since I’ve filed a winter report from the back porch. I have to say that up until now, it’s been a rather dull winter. I’ve been resigned to noting simply how my sun has been rising up over the rim of my valley, in the same old way.

But on *February 12*, the sun didn’t come up in its usual way: it was lost behind a sky of gray.

As always in deep winter, I take heart in its gradual shifting to the east. It moves past my bench marks of tall white pines on the valley rim as the season advances.

No such indication today, just gray all around. The landscape is barren with November blahs, even though it will soon be Valentine’s Day. At least up in the village shop on the corner, that new one called the Bridal and Tux Shop, the store window displays brilliant crimson and vermilion-red gowns, just right for the season. They brighten the drab gray street and get

see **WEST ALONG** page B2

WEST ALONG THE RIVER
WINTER-KEEPING



Agelaius phoeniceus, the red-winged blackbird.

So Many Shopping Carts:
A Police Log Retrospective

Friday, 6/21/2013
12:20 a.m. Two males were observed pushing a shopping cart with an open container inside at L Street and Third Street. Subjects were advised of the bylaw pertaining to consumption of alcohol.

Sunday, 6/30/2013
3:49 p.m. A Park Street resident reported that his truck had been broken into and a GPS taken the previous night; an older bearded man spotted near the truck took off toward Central Street, where he had a shopping cart. Vehicle determined to have been part of break-in spree reported earlier this day.

Friday, 8/9/2013
1:17 a.m. Parked vehicle on L Street observed with shopping cart upside down on the hood.

Thursday, 8/15/2013
8:34 p.m. Report of six or seven youths destroying a shopping cart in the Fourth Street alley. Verbal warning issued.

Sunday, 10/27/2013
1:41 p.m. Purse stolen from shopping cart at Food City. Property recovered and returned to victim, minus missing cash.
5:28 p.m. Second incident of purse being stolen from shopping cart at Food City. Suspects identified and apprehended. Some stolen items located in dumpster on Fourth Street and returned to owner. Arrested were a 21-year-old Greenfield man, charged with larceny and larceny from a person over 65, and a 28-year-old Turners Falls woman, charged with larceny, malicious destruction of property under \$250, and larceny from a person over 65.

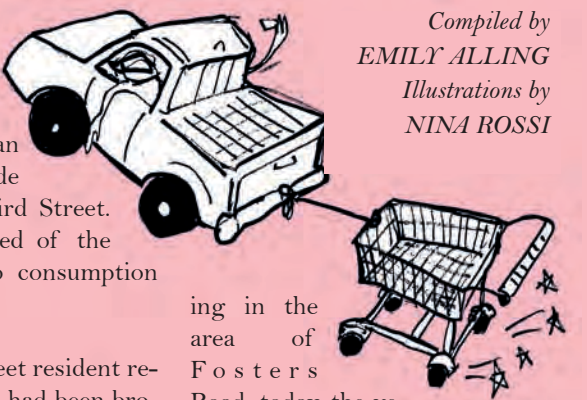
Tuesday, 2/11/2014
2 p.m. Caller reported that a man pushing a shopping cart near the Carnegie Library struck his vehicle and damaged a side mirror. Report taken.

Saturday, 3/8/2014
6:25 p.m. Caller reporting a female on a scooter with a shopping cart in the middle of Seventh Street; afraid she is going to be hit. Responding officer advised that the female is now near Fifth Street. All set.

Sunday, 7/26/2015
10:41 a.m. Report of shopping cart on bike path. A purse and other items are visible in the cart. Officer spoke with owner of items and advised her that she cannot leave her property there; she is en route to remove the items.

Sunday, 8/30/15
6:24 p.m. Caller reports that a dark green vehicle has been peeling out and speed-

Compiled by
EMILY ALLING
Illustrations by
NINA ROSSI



ing in the area of Fosters Road; today, the vehicle ran a stop sign and almost hit the caller, who was walking with her small child. Vehicle was reportedly dragging a shopping cart behind it, creating sparks. Officer spoke to parties in vehicle, who advised they were dragging a broken muffler, not a shopping cart. Officer checked area; no shopping cart located. Parties admitted to going too fast and were spoken to about this.

Friday, 9/4/2015
2:04 p.m. Officer requested for a male causing a disturbance outside of Food City: swearing, pushing shopping cart into things, etc. Witnesses advise that subject is now in Peske Park. Subject spoken to about behavior and advised not to return.

Tuesday, 11/10/2015
9:38 p.m. Caller advises that a male party with a flashlight is walking on the sidewalk of the General Pierce Bridge, possibly trying to flag people down. Greenfield dispatch called to advise that they have units responding to their side of the bridge for a female party standing in the middle of the road with a shopping cart. Montague officer clear; reports nothing showing on either side of bridge.

Saturday, 11/14/2015
6:11 p.m. Officers out with several youths pushing another youth in a shopping cart that was traveling against traffic on Third Street. Parties were warned about the dangerousness of this activity and will be returning the cart to Food City.

Thursday, 2/25/2016
8:51 p.m. Caller from L Street advising of shopping carts again left in the area. Tonight when caller returned home, there was a cart blocking her driveway. There were also two carts directly across from the bakery. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 2/28/2016
9:08 a.m. Report of a subject who stole boxes from behind Food City



see
SHOPPING CARTS
page B4

Pet of the Week

I am Sassy. Hear me! Well, actually it's more of a quiet little chirp, really. I can be a scaredy cat in new situations, but once I start to get used to everything, I promise I can be super sweet. You see, I came from a home with a lot of other kitties, and I just couldn't let my personality shine

there. I would love to go to a home that is quiet, but not too quiet!

I would do well with older kids and a few cats. Give me a chance, you won't regret it.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“SASSY”

Senior Center Activities

FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 1

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.

M, W, F: 10 a.m. Aerobics;
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch
Monday 2/25
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 2/26
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Healthy Eating Session 2
Wednesday 2/27
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 2/28
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Friday 3/1
12 p.m. Pizza Party
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Wednesday 10 a.m. Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 2/25
8:45 a.m. Stop & Sculpt
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch
1 p.m. Pitch/Bridge Game
Tuesday 2/26
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
Wednesday 2/27
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo and Snacks
Thursday 2/28
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Friday 3/1
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch
9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun
10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

UNEARTHING from page B1

photographs of her own children's paternal grandfather's car.

From then on, she came to see that ephemera could hold unexpectedly fortuitous meaning.

Used bookshops, antique sellers, record shops, and second-hand stores recycle and recover fragments of a past that have been dismembered and extracted by time. Dole curates a collection where anyone can find something of interest, whether it be a Civil War-era photograph, an early manual on weaving, or a book of Emily Dickinson's poetry.

There is no "complete" recovery process of a historical narrative. Human memory constantly destroys, distorts, and rebuilds itself up again. In recollection, a narrative comes together and what is left behind is accidentally or purposefully chosen to help illustrate history. Through this process, a story can be both factual yet fictive.

An old bookshop may not qualify as an archive by definition. These items, after all, are for sale, and this collection of printed matter is just as transient as it was when it entered Nancy's collection. Yet, in her own right, she is an archivist. She wants to connect present-day people to past lives and events. She is safeguarding the sacred fleetingness of information. And she is preserving a cultural history for her community.

"Unearthing the Archives" is a new series that explores local archives and the keepers behind them. Be sure to visit Nancy L. Dole Books and Ephemera, located on 20 State Street, on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls. (413) 625-2210 or (413) 625-9850. Open from 11 a.m. until the late (ish) afternoon; closed on Mondays and Fridays until further notice.



WEST ALONG from page B1

the solitary walker with dog to thinking romantic thoughts.

From walking the Millers Village streets to a river walk in yesterday's late afternoon brought no real relief from the blandness of the season, no signs of life along the shore. With no snow to record activity, there were no tracks, no sign of birds, no beaver sign, no ducks on the sullen waters. Dog and I made our rounds looking for something, anything!

He got lucky, probing along the shore following his nose. He found a bleached bone of a deer's shoulder blade and proudly carried it home. I didn't have the heart to take it from him, and he now keeps it safe in the backyard, a fine possession which he gnaws on from time to time when the mood strikes him. Some humans upriver butcher deer and then throw the remains in the river to wash up on our beach at the bend.

February 14. Lo! The morning sun did peek over the valley rim, and in fact it had even moved over farther to the east in just a few days time.

Why is it that I'm actually surprised at that? Why would I feel wonder about something such as the sun rising every day as it has for hundreds of millions of years? Just a little phenomenon that reassures me in my winter record-keeping. Like Chanticleer, I can take pride in confirming that the sun is coming up, a little earlier each day, although I'm not personally responsible for it.

You might take something like that for granted, although poet Charles Wright reminds us:

*Well, two things are certain
The sun will rise,
And the sun will set.
Most everything else is up for grabs.*

The days are getting longer, but no feathered lothario is singing yet. Any day now, the first song sparrow will tune up his pipes, and announce his spring-time joy from the top of a cattail, or from the garden fence post.

Still though, no spring song, just the occasional stuttering call from the red-bellied woodpecker, or the tap-tapping of his cousin the downy, but nothing that

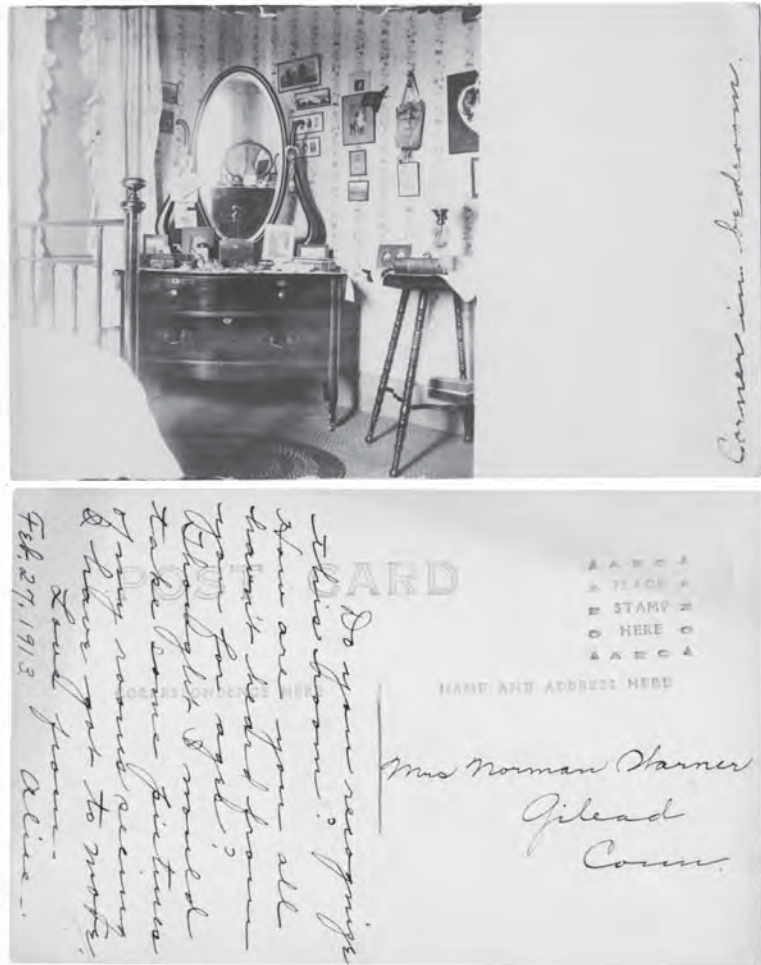
Permanently Revealed

I found this postcard, written one hundred and six years ago, when I visited Nancy's store months prior to this interview.

I was captivated by Alice's desire to share her intimate space with a friend. Her curated wall decor and display of trinkets on her dresser is now permanently revealed to us. This type of sharing has only been heightened

with recent instantaneous technological means.

For Alice, the time it took to photograph, develop, print, and eventually share this postcard with its intended receiver would likely have been weeks, or even months. But, for accidental or intentional reasons, this fleeting moment from over a century ago gives us a glimpse into how she lived.



Transcription of postcard. Front: "Corner of Bedroom." Back: "Do you recognize this room? How are you haven't heard from you for ages? Thought I would take some pictures of my rooms seeing I have got to move. Love from Alice. Feb. 27. 1913."

passes for song. For now it's just another winter's day, and I'm fending off the desire to fall into a longing for spring.

February 17 brings a cold, frosty morning for porch-sitting. This has become my vocation which I will likely fulfill today as almost all days, and I'll be found here, snow or sun, or Doomsday. I could do worse with my time than to be a porch-sitter. Besides, who else would tell you about what's going on out here?

There is finally a blanket of hard white snow covering the landscape this day. Snow has finally fallen in fits and starts, often followed by freezing rain. The crust is hard enough to support a dog, but I break through with every step.

The Siberian shows off his Westminster Dog Show style, prancing and trotting along nice as you please, very self-satisfied, as I, the mere human, stumble along the path following Nicky's panache of a high-held snow-dog tail. He spent the evening loafing and amused on the couch watching that Dog Show by the way, just as he will scoff with disdain at the Iditarod. None of that craziness for him!

The sun today is bright enough to cause me to rummage around in the hat drawer and pull out my Red Sox ball cap to shade my eyes. I do that with mixed feelings, since the Red Sox robbed my Smith family of our one chance at stardom in the Big Leagues. My grandfather's brother Douglass Smith, born in this house, was destined for fame beyond the sandlots of Millers Falls and Turners Falls. He got his one shot on a hot summer day in July 1912 in the new Fenway Park.

He was recruited by the Red Sox right out of Turners Falls High School in June, and found himself on the mound in July. He pitched well that July day, a rookie southpaw striking out a couple of St. Louis Browns sluggers, but somehow word got out that he wasn't really white enough for the Red Sox. The rumor was, and later proved true, that he had black and Indian blood, and had no right to play for the lily-white Red Sox. He was banished from Fenway Park, as I've written about before.

That was way back in 1912 – maybe I should get over it.

see **WEST ALONG** next page

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PART 2: ARKM FOAM

By J. BURKETT

WENDELL – Arkm Foam (Adam) is a local musician and botanist with a wide variety of music projects. He moved out here a few years ago from the Boston Whitehaus Community. He had five LPs come out last year, with more releases and shows happening this year.



ZEBU1212 IMAGE

Foam, on ice, 2015.

MMM: You were part of the Whitehaus community, correct? What are your best memories from that?

AF: The Whitehaus was a communal artist home, exhibition and performance space in Jamaica Plain that also functioned as a record label. The best part of that project was creating with friends. Cleaning the house together often involved inventing and re-inventing our sculptures.

I was lucky to see so many inspirational performing artists in my living room. The “haus” worked together to organize influential festivals outside the home as well. I lived there for seven saturated years, and had 70 or so roommates over that time.

I’m finding it difficult to relay a memory that would seem to sum up the experience. We had a lot of community support in JP. One of the best memories was writing a score for middle-school kids. They experienced sound and group improvising in ways that many adults have never even considered!

MMM: How did your solo stuff start out? And what does your name stand for?

AF: It’s hard to say, exactly. At age 9 I wrote and played solo flute melodies based on different animals I knew of in the Cape Cod woods.

At age 13, about 1996, I started collaging audio. I would search my family computer then use a simple audio editing program to alter the sample speed, as well as reverse, cut/copy & paste, ending in my own unique compositions. I could use the simplistic microphone too, as well as CDs.

After a few years I assembled my first album I called *The Computer Tape*. This was released in 2000, but I’m sure I only ever made one cassette dub. I’m proud the album still holds up as interesting and idiosyncratic.

It took another 10 years or so before I started performing solo, but recording all the while. ARKM stands for Adam Ryan Kohl McCarthy, and they are all names I’ve legally had at one point or another. I’ve even had some other names that I’ve intentionally left out of the acronym.

Foam was a name I invented for myself for my high school

band, “Oh, Oh, Mints!” I wanted us to all have cool freak names like the guys in Captain Beefheart’s Magic Band. 20 years later, it seems the foam has stuck.

MMM: You have a bunch of newer releases. Can you talk about them?

AF: Yes, there were five 12” records that came out through the valley-local label Feeding Tube Records in the past year and a half or so, and I have a few other cassettes that will all be coming out soon.

The *Peace, Loving* self-titled record was in the making for about five years. It features an A-side that is our band using a “rock-n-roll” set-up, playing original songs. The B-side is a long piece that weaves a banjo-driven theme through an all-encompassing climactic black hole of clanging pipes and sheet metal.

The *Foom & Foam* self-titled record is an improvisational show-down. I’m squirting cassette tape spools through small battery-powered speakers. My old Whitehaus neighbor and friend Foom uses portable turntables to sample a fine trash heap of fascinating foraged vinyl.

BANG! BROS.’ *Hard Rocks Vol. 21* was recorded in my basement in Wendell. It’s free jazz that’s not afraid to dip into other genres. We very literally slam on drum machines and effects pedals, making buzzing and cracking percussive landscapes. The trio version of the band includes woodwind player Andy Allen. As a trio, we have two cassette releases coming out on Hausu Mountain.

ARKM Foam – Bloodroot Spitball is me solo. It’s collected collages and 4-track recordings. It includes a lot of street sound, highlighting the situational chance audio I use in my performances.

Just last week I recorded a release on Ticked Off Tapes that’s all traditional solo banjo music. I have another release, a keyboard double cassette out soon on NYC’s Baked Tapes label.

KNIGHT HOWLS’ self-titled album is officially out next month. K.H. is an *a cappella* duo with the crooner Frank Hurricane. We paint natural and horrific scenes using a wide range of amplified vocal textures, but with a comedic edge.

MMM: What do you like about the West Mass scene? You have a show coming up at the Root Cellar, right?

AF: Yes, I have a show Thursday, March 14 at the Root Cellar in Greenfield that I also helped organize. I’ll be performing in a new duo with Mary Staubitz, and there are more exciting acts.

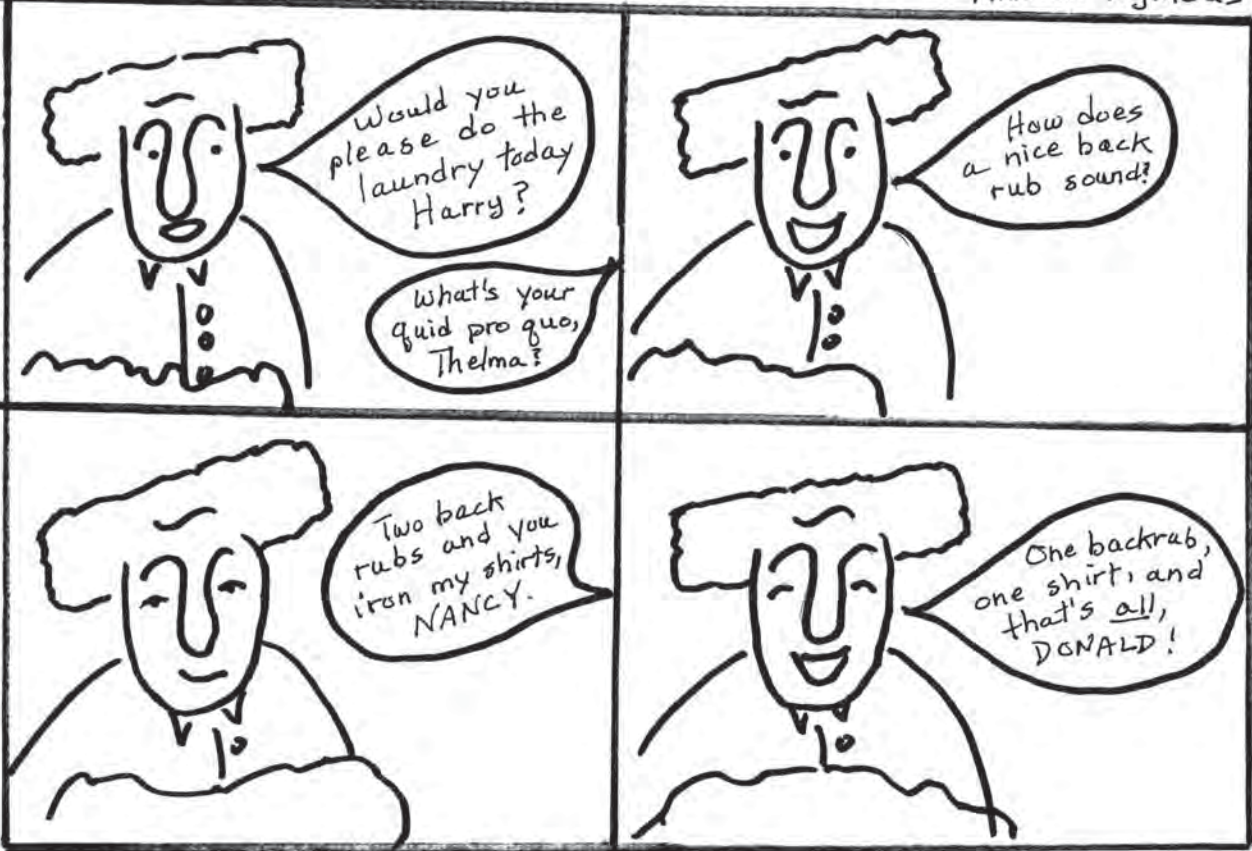
The Western Mass music scene that I know of is chock full of caring characters, and I’ve been lucky to have been supported with lots of performing and recording opportunities since moving here about 5 years ago!

MMM: Is there any connection between your music and your botany studies?

AF: I’d more likely relate my horticulture work – growing native plants – and my musical practices, where I see parallels in the ways of foraging and sourcing, nurturing, and building.

OVER THE HILL

Ann O. Nymous



T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux



SHOPPING CARTS

from page B1

Plaza (presumably from the Salvation Army donation area) and loaded them into a white shopping cart. Caller confronted the subject and advised that she would be calling MPD, at which time the subject left the cart and boxes behind and ran from the area. Officer retrieved property (banana boxes containing towels/blankets) and will be returning it to the dock behind the Salvation Army. Officer reviewed surveillance footage from Rite Aid; recognized the subject from downtown, but does not know him by name. Will be on look-out.

Thursday, 3/24/2016

5:07 p.m. Caller wishing to remain anonymous reporting that a male party on Third Street is intoxicated, being loud, and acting disorderly. Last seen walking on toward Avenue A, wearing a blue hoodie and pushing a shopping cart; has been walking back and forth for some time. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 4/19/2016

10:56 a.m. Report of a shopping cart in the road on L Street. Responding officer found no carts in road but several in the area. Message sent to manager of Food City advising him to have someone retrieve the carts.

Monday, 1/9/2017

7:48 p.m. 911 hangup call from I Street. Caller called back advising of verbal argument with neighbor. Officer en route. Caller upset with shopping cart that was left by her house; no argument with neighbor. Officer spoke to neighbor, who

Friday, 5/12/17

2 p.m. Party from Second Street advises that last night she heard noises coming from the vacant house next door and that this morning, there was a shopping cart in the yard; suspects that one or more people may be

Tuesday, 5/22/18

4:20 p.m. Caller advising that two shopping carts and approximately ten bags of trash were dumped at the end of Depot Street. DPW advised. **Wednesday, 8/15/18** 10:53 a.m. Report of male party who took two shopping carts from Food City. Unable to locate.

Friday, 8/31/18

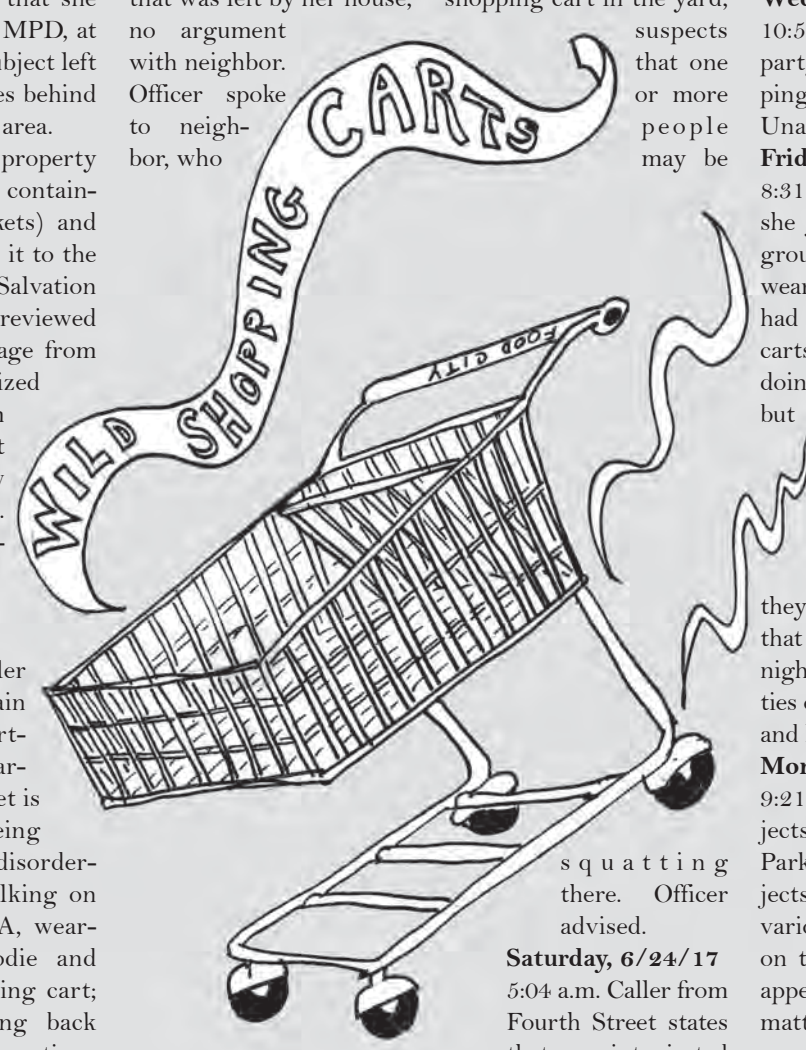
8:31 p.m. Caller states that she just drove by a large group of boys who were wearing a lot of pads and had a couple of shopping carts. She did not see them doing anything wrong, but it seemed as if they were about to do something unsafe. Officer spoke to group, who advised that they had been jousting but that they were done for the night. Officer advised parties of hazards of jousting and hours of park.

Monday, 10/15/18

9:21 a.m. Report of subjects camped out in Peske Park. Caller observed subjects with shopping carts, various belongings strewn on the ground, and what appears to be a makeshift mattress. Parties packed up and moved along.

Friday, 11/23/18

9:12 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street requesting assistance with neighbor who accumulates shopping carts and puts some of them on the caller's property; advises this has been an ongoing issue. Officer advised subject of complaint.



claimed he did not leave the cart there. Unit clear.

Monday, 5/1/2017

1:30 p.m. Caller reports that approximately 1/2 hour ago, someone stole her purse from her shopping cart while she was buckling her child into his carseat at Food City. Report taken.

male has been banging on her door all night. Caller just went on porch to see what he wanted, and he threw a shopping cart at her. Officer spoke to females, who did not want to press charges but just do not want the male party to return. Area checked; unable to locate male party.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke night*. 7 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Raving, American Wild Talk*. Al Norman discusses his latest book of essays. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Janet Ryan and Straight Up*. With Franklin County Sweethearts. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Artspace, Greenfield: *Music Jam*. Fiddle teacher Rafe Wolman will lead with bluegrass in mind. The session is open to seasoned musicians and those just taking their first steps into a group session. Come make some noise. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$10, but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. 12 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Rumble*. Community meal at 5:30; Movie at 7; panel discussion after, then 10 p.m. with *The Feldons* for an after party dance. 5:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Paula Cole*, with *Tracy Grammer*. Americana singer-songwriters. \$. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. 9 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country*. With Heath Lewis. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Ex-Temper, Beathampton*. Angular, dynamic alt-rock; heavy grooves; heavy locally focused rock. \$. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Movie of the Month: *Small Foot*. Free movie for families with snacks. 11 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Teach-In with FCCPR*. Learn how to help and organize around two issues: Medicare for All and the redesign of the state flag and seal. 6 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *The Richard Chase Experience*. Full Moon Coffeehouse presents Richard Chase in a benefit for the 1794 Meetinghouse. "Talented

multi-instrumentalist in a variety of genres." Dessert-O-Rama for your sweet tooth. Open mic before the show. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Queer Punk Drag Night. Kurt Fowl and Fashion Bug Chasers, Loo D'Flyest Priestly, Feminine Aggression, badweatherfriend*. Drag performers, performance artists, and rock music. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Colby Nathan, Ruth Garbus, Lucy, and Botanica Wilde*. Four of New England's most talented true originals. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zach Deputy*. Funk, soul, and Americana artist from Georgia.

SUBMITTED IMAGE



Explore the work of Turners Falls artist ixchelailee at the Artspace gallery in Greenfield. "From hiding behind, to walking through art as veil; the sieve which separates grief and the catharsis that emerges." ixchelailee is a multi-media artist exploring digital collage using her iPhone 6. Who is the artist? Who is the art? The opening reception will be held Friday, February 22 at 5:15 p.m. Exhibit is up through March 22.

Part of Wormtown Winter Carnival. \$. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shadow Twisters Dance Party*. Featuring Sean Callaghan and J. T. McKenna. Classic rock. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Indie Disco DJ Night* with *Jetta Babes*, playing indie, post-punk, psych nugget floor fillers. Donations will go to Greenfield Public Library campaign. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musi-

cians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Literary Rendezvous Poetry Reading*. Featured poet Christopher Sparks plus open mic. Hosted by Candace Curran and Beth Filson, and sponsored by the Straw Dog Writers Guild. 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic 2*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Blackalicious*. Hip hop. With *LS Camp* and *DJ Rec*. \$. 9 p.m.

a cushion to sit on. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sal-sa Wednesday*. With *McCoy* and *DJ Roger Jr*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kid's Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A weekly music series for young children combining music, laughter, song and movement. Adults and infants under 1 year are free; small fee per child. 10:30 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with *Tom Carroll* and *Laurie Davidson*. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tom Waits Tribute*. To support a new library for Greenfield. Local bands. \$. 8 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. Children 8+ and teens are invited to join us for a mystery activity – crafts, science experiments, tech-tools, etc.! 3:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community College: *Artspace Pottery Seconds Sale and More*. One of the biggest fundraisers for the Artspace Community Art Center, marking the 40th year of this annual sale. Beautiful work by local artisans, plus live music by Artspace students and door prizes. In the dining commons at GCC. \$2 admission. On Friday night opening at 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; repeats Saturday 10 to 4.

John M. Green Hall, Smith College, Northampton: *Bob Weir and Wolf Bros*. Grateful Dead singer and guitarist in new configuration with Don Was and Jay Lane. \$. 7:30 p.m.

All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Karrin Allyson and Miro Sprague*. A benefit for the Stone Soup Cafe and Film Festival on Racism at the Church. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country*. With *Heath Lewis*. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mardi Gras Get Down*. Boogie with bands *Zydeco Connection* and *Bayou X*. \$. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rhythm Inc., No Lens*. Reggae fusion. \$. 9 p.m.



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SAT 2/23 9:30 pm
Indie Disco DJ Night
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Greenfield Public Library benefit

MON 2/25 8 pm
Open Mic



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EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Art as Veil: ixchelailee*. Local multi-media artist. Opening Friday, February 22.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT: Five new exhibits include a six-decade survey of the work of abstract artist *Emily Mason*, *Open Call NXNE*, and artwork by *Orly Cogan* and *Elizabeth Turk*. *Open Call NXNE* features 13 juried New England and New York artists.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Members' exhibit in February: *Farms*.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Time of My Life: Vintage Views of Western Massachusetts*. Enlarged postcard scenes take visitors on an imaginary road trip, with stops at Mount Tom, Sugarloaf, Turners Falls, Greenfield,

Shelburne Falls, and the Mohawk Trail. Sit down and relax with reproduction postal souvenir albums, a hands-on stereoscope, and a Viewmaster with other area scenes. Sponsored by Memorial Hall Museum. February 16 through April 21.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Marjorie Morgan's The Long View*. Dream landscapes. Through March 15. Opening reception Friday, February 22, 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison and Friends*. Paintings and mixed media.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *Phyllis Lawrence*: Textile arts and hooked rugs. Through February.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, Leverett: *Resident Artists' Show*. Informal exhibit of work from artists who have studios at

the Center. Through February. Followed by *Jump Start*, annual exhibit of student work from Louise Minks' studio classes, from March 4 to March 23. Opening reception March 16, 1 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Jackie Pueschel: Adventures Around the World*, a collection of paintings featuring landscapes from the Grand Canyon, China, Canada, and French Polynesia. Through February.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *In the Vicinity*, featuring *Nina Rossi's* mixed media works depicting Turners Falls, including new textiles printed with streetscape paintings. Through March 9.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Women of Power*. Fabric Figures by *Belinda Lyons Zucker*. February 8 through April 28. Reception March 9, 3 p.m.

Sawmill River Gallery, Montague Center: Small Works Exhibit and Sale. 10" x 10" and smaller works by the community. Through February 25.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Seeing Red*, a member's show with a red theme, on view through February.

Smith College Greenhouses, Northampton: *Spring Bulb Show*. Spectacular flowering hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips. Lift your spirits with color and scent. Daily from March 2 to March 17.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials*. The story of plastic in sixty works by thirty contemporary artists exploring our entangled love affair with this miraculous and malevolent material. Through July.

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GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

GREENFIELD – At a Great Falls Apple Corps (GFAC) meeting last January, Danny Botkin of Laughing Dog Farm told us about the Cabin Fever Seed Swap, a free event that takes place every year in Greenfield. If we were looking for seeds to plant in town, this was a great local resource.

A few weeks later, I bagged up some seeds I had saved from my garden and headed out to my first ever seed swap. People brought seeds they had collected themselves or extras they had on hand, and some seed companies had donated seed packets. There were seeds on every surface, and they were free! It was here that I met the organizer, Melinda McCreven, a master gardener, and now a member of the Apple Corps.

GFAC is all about feeding people for free, and Melinda has been helping do that with her seed swap for twelve years. When asked why she thinks it's important to run the event for free, she had this to say: "I think it's important to create alternatives to a system based on money. People who don't have money, such as myself and many others who attend the seed swap, can come together and experience the power in what we are doing: we're providing for ourselves, creating a sustainable system based on self reliance and

community connection."

This year's Cabin Fever Seed Swap was last Sunday at the Franklin Community Coop's new working space at 170 Main Street in Greenfield. High Mowing Seed Company donated over a hundred seed packets, and Melinda put out the dried seed heads of various plants, like sunflowers and zinnias, for folks to experience first hand where their seeds come from. People gathered around a long table in the middle of the room, laden with paper envelopes and zip-lock bags full of seeds to grow squash, turnips, garlic, greens, flowers, and more.

GFAC set up a table with information about our group, hoping this gathering of gardeners might result in some new Apple Corps members. We had seeds to give away, including red mustard I got from the swap last year. The mustard grew in my front yard garden during the summer, and I harvested the seeds in the fall.

It felt good to be able to return a new generation of seed to share, and I was not the only one. One large zip-lock bag of beans, still in their pods, had a note attached saying that the original six beans had come from Danny Botkin at the 10th Annual Seed Swap, and now those six beans had produced six hundred. Here they were at the 12th, ready to be planted to bear hundreds more.

At the end of a busy afternoon

of dreaming of summer with fellow gardeners, GFAC took the remaining seeds to give away, including what was left of that bag of beans. Please email us if you would like some free seeds for your garden!

Wild Edible Spotlight #7:
Garlic Mustard (Alliaria Petiolata)

Lurking under the snow in disturbed soils and roadsides lives what some call a menace, some call a blessing, and some have yet to decide. *Alliaria petiolata*, aka Garlic Mustard, is a bitter and delicious green with a hint of garlic and has a first-year root that substitutes for horseradish.

The plant is an evergreen member of the mustard family, which means that it stays green throughout the winter. The leaf is rounded and has deep grooves, similar to a violet leaf. Leaves grow in a basal rosette the first year (like a dandelion), and the second year, the plant sends up a flower stalk with more triangular leaves and a riot of small, white-petaled flowers. The flower is a typical mustard flower, in that it has two pairs of petals directly across from each other, like a plus sign.

My parents' yard in the eastern part of the state is getting overrun with garlic mustard, and after three years of unsuccessful attempts to foist the bitter green on my family as a salad green, I finally found success with a simple garlic mustard



LEVINE PHOTO

This fast-spreading wild edible can be made into a garlicky pesto.

"kraut." I pulled a few dozen first-year garlic mustard plants, cleaned them, and blended them whole with salt (approximately 2 tablespoons per gallon), roots and all.

The roots are spicy, the leaves are garlicky, and the salt cuts the bitterness of the green to make a delicious, pesto-like condiment. Because the recipe only consists of greens and salt, it does not need to be refrigerated. If kept in a dark cabinet, it ferments and get better with age.

Each garlic mustard plant can produce hundreds of tiny seeds that can be viable for years. These seeds can be collected and, true to its name, can be used to make homemade mustard. Due to its prolific seed production, garlic mustard spreads quickly and can outcompete

native plants. Instead of poisoning garlic mustard and other unwanted and usually edible growth, we suggest a better and more delicious way: Eat the weeds!

Upcoming Events

GFAC March Monthly Meeting: Monday March 4, at 6 p.m. at the Unity Park Fieldhouse in Turners Falls.

All are welcome to our monthly organizational meeting. If you have any interest in gardening, foraging, food justice, or are just looking to meet some friendly neighbors, we encourage you to come out and see what we're about!

To contact GFAC, check out our Facebook page, or send us an email at greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com.

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