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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

**APRIL 25, 2019** 

# **Turners Falls Cannabis Farm** Hopes to Open Store in June



Seth Rutherford (left), director of sales and one of 253 Farmacy's principal owners, and retail manager Steve Tremblay are preparing to open the store end of the cannabis operation as early as June.

#### By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "There's not a lot of people with experience on this scale, because it's new in the state," Steve Tremblay, retail manager at 253 Farmacy, says of his company's impending hiring spree. "You just try to find the right motivated people to grow with."

The four gigantic bubble skylights above us make it feel like we are outdoors. When this building was the Hallmark Imaging lab, this was where staff stumbled out of their darkrooms to review photographs in bright, direct light. Nine months from now, a dozen

people dressed in special, clean smocks and shoes will be in this same room, painstakingly trimming high-end cannabis flowers.

As they snip and carve the bud, they will be watched, and not only by the security cameras that record "every square inch" of the 33,000-square-foot facility and broadcast the data to Cannabis Control Commission servers in Boston. If the buildout goes according to plan, customers will also be able to peer through a glass door separating the farm and processing plant from the onsite retail store.

"We're really pushing the farm-to-table

see **FARM** page A6

# **Grocery Strike Called Off**

By ANNABEL LEVINE

**GREENFIELD** – Stop & Shop employees are no longer on strike. A tentative agreement was reached Easter Sunday between company management and representatives from the five United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) unions that represent over 12 as contract negotiations came to an impasse 30,000 employees in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

The details of the tentative contract agreement have yet to be released, but Stop & Shop's website says that it includes increased

wages, and continued health and pension benefits to eligible employees.

Union representatives will meet next Wednesday with members to ratify the new contract. If approved, the contract will last for the next three years.

The ten-day strike began on Thursday, April after months of talks. During the strike some stores remained open, but service was limited and some shelves were empty due to deliveries being stopped by the picket line.

see **STRIKE** page A5

# The Week In TFHS Sports: Rain!

#### By MATT ROBINSON

Area schools celebrated April vacation this week. leaving some of their sports teams wanting. Rains swept through the region, adding more water to our already over-swollen rivers, but none of our bridges washed away, and some teams simply played in the rain.

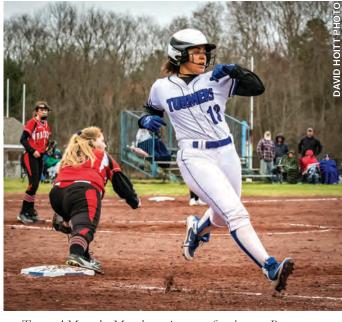
This week marked the return of the D3 Western Mass Softball Champions. It took a few innings for the Turners Falls softball team to get going, but in the third inning of their first game, they let loose and scored eight runs.

Also this week, the Franklin Tech/Turners Falls track team scored in the field, the Turners boys' tennis team stepped up, and the Turners girls' tennis surrendered the doubles.

#### **Softball**

TFHS 23 – Ludlow 0 TFHS 13 – Belchertown 0 TFHS 6 - Athol 1 *TFHS 7 – Granby 0* 

The Turners Falls Thunder Ball softball team began the defense of their Western Mass crown in earnest this



Turners' Mercedes Morales sprints over first base as Powertown captures a 6-1 win over the Athol Red Raiders.

week, outscoring their opponents by a combined 58-1 over four games. (A forfeit is scored 7-0). The Blue Bats came alive, and they capitalized on errors – and in the circle, the lone run scored against them was unearned.

Powertown opened their season on April 16 at home against the Ludlow Lions, and they mercied the cats. It took a little time for Powertown to shake off the offseason dust. In fact, the opener

was a scoreless tie after two and a half innings, but in the bottom of the third, the bats came alive.

The biggest question in that inning, as Catie Reynolds took her second at-bat, was whether she hit two grand slams in one inning. She didn't, but Turners still managed to score 8 runs in the inning, and then put another 15 runs across in the fourth for a final score of 23-0.

see SPORTS page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Montague Board **Endorses Six-Town** Regional Study...

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its meeting on Monday, the Montague selectboard voted to endorse a regional planning committee to "further explore regionalization of the Gill-Montague Regional School District," potentially combining the GMRSD with the Pioneer Regional district. The vote follows a similar vote by the Gill selectboard last week.

Board members and town administrator Steve Ellis emphasized that the formation of a planning committee did not guarantee a new regional district would be created.

"This doesn't tie us to anything, or commit us to anything," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. "But it allows a process to get started." Kuklewicz went on to say that "I think this is going to be a several-year process."

Ellis said that in a recent meeting of "civic leaders," which had discussed calling for planning committees, it was suggested that it would be "irresponsible" not to study an option that might provide for "modest cost savings, and enhancements to education."

Both Kuklewicz and Ellis cited a preliminary study funded by grant to the Gill-

see MONTAGUE page A7

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# ... And Everyone **Starts To Wonder About Pioneer**

By MIKE JACKSON

The Gill-Montague regional school committee was visited Tuesday by two experts who answered their questions - legal and practical – about the process of studying a potential six-town district with Pioneer Valley.

Russ Dupere of Dupere Law Offices, the district's legal counsel, and Steve Hemman of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools explained that there were two different paths to a six-town region. "There are pluses and minuses to both," Hemman told the committee. By the end of the conversation, all agreed that Gill and Montague need to actually hear from the Pioneer towns before any version of the idea can move further.

The first path is to create a fresh district by having all six towns appoint planning committees, which merge into a planning board, which intensively studies the idea and drafts a new district agreement if it seems viable. "One interesting thing is you've got to figure out what the name's going to be," Hemman said.

If every town ratifies the agreement by a majority ballot vote at town meeting, there would then be a transitional year of overlap,

see **GMRSD** page A6

# As Gas Moratorium Drags On, **Developers Turn to Alternatives**

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY - The controversial moratorium on new natural gas hook-ups by the Berkshire Gas Company continues in Franklin County. But cities, towns, and businesses appear to be mitigating its impact Utilities (DPU) approved Berkshire's proon development by looking to alternative sources of energy.

The moratorium was initially imposed by Berkshire Gas in 2014 pending the construction of a new transmission pipeline from New York through Franklin County to eastern Massachusetts. The company claimed that the moratorium during the DPU process, frewithout expanded infrastructure, it would be unable to meet a growth in demand.

After widespread local opposition to the project, and the inability of the pipeline company Kinder Morgan to secure suffi-

cient funding, the pipeline was abandoned in 2016. But the moratorium – which affects Montague, Greenfield, Deerfield, Sunderland, Whately, Amherst, Hadley, and Hatfield – has continued.

In 2017 the state Department of Public posed five-year plan that included an indefinite extension of the moratorium, but required the company to report to state officials every six months until its issues with supply are resolved.

A number of local cities and towns opposed quently expressing concern about its potential impact on economic development. This concern was particularly strong in Amherst, where the Chamber of Commerce lobbied

see MORATORIUM page A4

#### = PART I =

# The End of the Road for the Charlemont Inn?

The first in a series of articles exploring economic development in West County, which the Reporter is publishing in partnership with The Shoestring (theshoestring.org).

#### By SARAH ROBERTSON

**CHARLEMONT** – The fate of an historic tavern in the center of town is now un-

certain as its longtime owner, Charlotte Dewey, fights to retain ownership of the building and prevent its demolition. First opened in 1787, the

Charlemont Inn served as a stagecoach stop, hotel, tavern and meeting space for travellers and locals alike. Hunters enjoyed hot meals and a full bar during the winter months, while paddlers and hikers could spend a night on their way to their next adventure



The Charlemont Inn has been closed since 2011.

before the Inn closed in 2011.

"Charlemont will never be the town it can be if that place doesn't look good," said Jon Schaefer, owner of the Berkshire East Mountain Resort. "There's really no social, central location for a Charlemont resident."

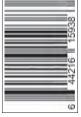
Most of Charlemont's town center is on the Nation-

al Register of Historic Places, including the Inn, some churches, the town hall, and a two-story schoolhouse. Important historical figures and celebrities have stayed at the Inn, including Mark Twain, Calvin Coolidge, Benedict Arnold, and a handful of friendly ghosts that

see INN page A5

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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# 52: The Albatross

South-eastward from the Cape, off the distant Crozetts, a good cruising ground for Right Whalemen, a sail loomed ahead, the Goney (Albatross) by name. As she slowly drew nigh, from my lofty perch at the fore-mast-head, I had a good view of that sight so remarkable to a tyro in the far ocean fisheries – a whaler at sea, and long absent from home.

As if the waves had been fullers, this craft was bleached like the skeleton of a stranded walrus. All down her sides, this spectral appearance was traced with long channels of reddened rust, while all her spars and her rigging were like the thick branches of trees furred over with hoar-frost. Only her lower sails were set. A wild sight it was to see her long-bearded look-outs at those three mast-heads. They seemed clad in the skins of beasts, so torn and bepatched the raiment that had survived nearly four years of cruising. Standing in iron hoops nailed to the mast, they swayed and swung over a fathomless sea; and though, when the ship slowly glided close under our stern, we six men in the air came so nigh to each other that we might almost have leaped from the mast-heads of one ship to those of the other; yet, those forlorn-looking fishermen, mildly eyeing us as they passed, said not one word to our own look-outs, while the quarter- deck hail was being heard from below.

"Ship ahoy! Have ye seen the White Whale?"

But as the strange captain, leaning over the pallid bulwarks, was in the act of putting his trumpet to his mouth, it somehow fell from his hand into the sea; and the wind now rising amain, he in vain strove to make himself heard without it. Meantime his ship was still increasing the distance between. While in various silent ways the seamen of the Pequod were evincing their observance of this ominous incident at the first mere mention of the White Whale's name to another ship, Ahab for a moment paused; it almost seemed as though he would have lowered a boat to board the stranger, had not the threatening wind forbade. But taking advantage of his windward position, he again seized his trumpet, and knowing by her aspect that the stranger vessel was a Nantucketer and shortly bound home, he loudly hailed -"Ahoy there! This is the Pequod, bound round the world! Tell them to address all future letters to the Pacific ocean! and this time three

years, if I am not at home, tell them to address them to -"

At that moment the two wakes were fairly crossed, and instantly, then, in accordance with their singular ways, shoals of small harmless fish, that for some days before had been placidly swimming by our side, darted away with what seemed shuddering fins, and ranged themselves fore and aft with the stranger's flanks. Though in the course of his continual voyagings Ahab must often before have noticed a similar sight, yet, to any monomaniac man, the veriest trifles capriciously carry meanings.

"Swim away from me, do ye?" murmured Ahab, gazing over into the water. There seemed but little in the words, but the tone conveyed more of deep helpless sadness than the insane old man had ever before evinced. But turning to the steersman, who thus far had been holding the ship in the wind to diminish her headway, he cried out in his old lion voice, - "Up helm! Keep her off round the world!"

Round the world! There is much in that sound to inspire proud feelings; but whereto does all that circumnavigation conduct? Only through numberless perils to the very point whence we started, where those that we left behind secure, were all the time before us.

Were this world an endless plain, and by sailing eastward we could for ever reach new distances, and discover sights more sweet and strange than any Cyclades or Islands of King Solomon, then there were promise in the voyage. But in pursuit of those far mysteries we dream of, or in tormented chase of that demon phantom that, some time or other, swims before all human hearts; while chasing such over this round globe, they either lead us on in barren mazes or midway leave us whelmed. The cabin-compass is called the telltale, because without going to the compass at the helm, the Captain, while below, can inform himself of the course of the ship.

Managing editor's note:

If you ever find yourself attempting to finish a newspaper on deadline but suffering from a back spasm that confines you mostly to the floor, you, too, can always fill space with a chapter from Moby-Dick. There's one of every length, and invariably, it's a better read than whatever it was you would have written, even if you were doing the job on two feet.



The tech wizard at Simon's Stamps, Jason Tidlund, demonstrates how workers assemble stamps at the Turners Falls business. Jason has been at the company for three years, and says they typically process 100 to 150 orders a day.



# Open Letter to Montague Town Meeting

I am writing to 2019 Montague Town Meeting members as a Precinct 4 town meeting member, and as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

I write to voice my concerns

about the addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Gill-Montague School District.

At the 2018 annual town meeting, a request to partially fund the position carried by two votes.

On August 27, 2018, I wrote a letter to Superintendent Sullivan and Chief Williams, to express my concerns and gather information about the position. My initial thoughts deserve repeating:

"was in the dark." Perhaps a public forum on this

issue is warranted. That having been said, I turn

stated by, for example, the National Association

of School Psychologists, is with their training. Ac-

cordingly, I request responses to the following:

4. The trainer(s) and their qualifications;

A major issue/concern with regard to SROs, as

1. The kind and number of hours of training the

5. The cost of the training and any expenses in-

6. Who and/or what personnel will provide any

What do you believe is the actual purpose of

ongoing consultation, training, and/or supervision

having an SRO in the schools? Does the GMRSD

have any specific requirements for the SRO posi-

tion? What, if any, are they? In relation to that, is

there now a complete and available Memorandum

committee" consisted of Supt. Sullivan, Principal

Leonard, and the Acting Police Chief. Were any

I gathered from media reports that the "SRO

now to the SRO training.

in-coming SRO will receive;

2. The training curriculum;

curred to acquire said training(s);

for the SRO?

of Understanding?

3. The location of the training;

It is no secret that I opposed the addition of an officer to the Police Department wherein the officer would function as the SRO. My opposition is to the general nature of the position in school settings. My efforts have not been limited solely to Montague/GMRSD. Further, to be clear, my opposition is not to be perceived as personal with regard to chosen personnel.

As a licensed clinician, I am professionally aggrieved that SROs are regularly referred to as "quasi- or informal counselors," and allowed, even encouraged, to function in that capacity. Rebut that as you may, such is stated throughout the literature on SROs. SROs do function in that capacity, in what I believe to be a violation of existing licensure regulations, per the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure.

Personally, I was astounded, during the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting, when Supt. Sullivan and then-Acting Chief Bonnett insisted that the SRO would not function as any sort of "counselor." Yet, they described various "counselor-type activities" (e.g. home visits) the SRO would perform. To state such was inaccurate and misleading.

Further, for Selectboard Chair Richard Kuklewicz to sing the praises of the Tech School SRO, based solely on "personality," demonstrated an obvious lack of research on SROs, which did not assist any informed discussion. I dare say he was/is not alone in his opinion. There was a sense that the process lacked transparency – and that the public

qualified or licensed mental health personnel included in this "selection/hiring" process? Thank you for your time to review this material. I much appreciate, and look forward to, your

- I have yet to receive any response to my August 27 letter. Having heard nothing, I now ask these additional questions:
- 1. What has the SRO done or accomplished in the position?
- 2. What training or supervision has he received to date?
- 3. Do not our students deserve the most trained and qualified per-

sonnel? In essence, why use "quasi-counselors"?

- 4. Is the bullying/civil rights situation in the District now resolved?
- 5. Is anybody safer? Any other improvements?
- 6. Does the District have a suicide prevention program? If not, why not?
  - Finally, the Supt. seemed quite

ambivalent at the 2018 town meeting when asked about the implementation of an SRO in the District.

I urge the 2019 town meeting to deny funding for this position in the police department budget.

Where does he stand now?

Garry L. Earles, LICSW **Turners Falls** 

#### Published weekly on Thursdays. Every other week in July and August.

No paper fourth week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

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#### Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

Turners Falls will be busy this weekend! The weather is supposed to be nice, and there is literally something for everyone happening in the village on Saturday. **Get out there!** 

I've been told that the "Mortality and Me" event at the Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, which was to happen this Friday and Saturday and which we wrote about on page B4 of last week's paper, has been cancelled. It sounded like a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to death planning, so hopefully it will be re-scheduled for another time.

The Great Falls Discovery Center's Kidleidoscope program on Friday, April 26 will feature a story, craft, and games based on **the theme of Ospreys.** 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.

Musicians can attend the **Noon-time Open Jam Session** on Friday, April 26 at Artspace, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield. These sessions happen on the fourth Friday of each month, and are facilitated by one of Artspace's music teachers. All instruments and ability levels are welcome, and there is a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10.

At the Wendell Free Library, 7 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell on Friday, April 26, Christopher Neill will give a talk on **Deforestation and Succession in the Amazon** at 7 p.m.

Chris is an ecologist and senior scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, and a part-time Wendell resident. He has studied the environmental consequences of deforestation and expanding agriculture in the Brazilian Amazon since 1992. For more information about this free event, contact Rosie Heidkamp at (978) 544-8457.

The Leverett Library will show the movie, "Leave No Trace," at 7:30 p.m. on April 26 as part of the events surrounding the **community-wide reading program**. The library is located at 75 Montague Road in Leverett.

Don't forget that on Friday and Saturday, Turners Falls hosts the **Radical Interconnectedness Festival**. The festival celebrates art that engages issues of race, age, gender, religion, economic class, and aspects of cultural identity that have been suppressed, with venues all over town. Tickets are available at *www.eggtooth.org* or at the Shea Theater this weekend.

In addition, a conversation with the artists and humanist scholars will take place on Sunday, April 28 from noon until 3:30 p.m. in the Cohn Commons at Greenfield Community College.

Reminder: Our Lady of Peace Women's Group hosts the "Stash Bash" this Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church basement. There will be a variety of new and used art and craft materials for sale at bargain prices, and the ladies will be offering lunch.

Help clean up Unity Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers can help spread wood chips on the paths, process compost, or plant spring vegetables in the pick-your-own garden beds. They will be plied with warm drinks and snacks and will be sent home with free seeds. Green thumbs of all ages are welcome.

Also this Saturday, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, **John Landino will discuss his artwork** in the Community Room. John, age 71, will share his journey battling cancer, and will attempt to "turn the audience into a living poem." Light refreshments provided by GSB. His work will remain on display through May 13.

The town will **celebrate spring** with a 5K run, starting and ending at Turners Falls High School, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday. Contact Kelsey Cadran for information about the race at *fc-spring5k@gmail.com*.

Later, at 1 p.m., **the Spring Parade** will step off from Sheffield School. This year's theme is "Magic." For information, go to www. facebook.com/montagueparade.

Wendell teens have interviewed seniors in their community and will **present their oral history project** in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Free Library, 7 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell. Join them for stories, conversations, memorabilia, and refreshments on Saturday, April 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Gill-Montague Education Fund presents "Dancing Dream," an ABBA tribute band, at their 2019 Gala on Saturday night. Take a trip down memory lane at the high school at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door for \$30.

The GMEF provides financial support for educational programs and activities that enrich the curriculum, and encourages advocacy for public education within the community.

Looking ahead...

The Montague Dems will be holding their monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 1 in the downstairs conference room of Montague Town Hall. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the **Democratic town committee** is welcome.

Montague **Precinct 2 town meeting members** will be at the Millers Falls Library on Thursday, May 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. to discuss the upcoming town meeting warrant. They will be available to hear voter opinions, hopes, and concerns and to address questions before the town meeting on May 4. The event is sponsored by the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association.

Hear Vermont author Rick Winston in a special Franklin County presentation and discussion of his new book, "Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era, 1946-1960," on Friday, May 3. A potluck dessert

buffet at 6:30 p.m. will precede the 7 p.m. program in the historic Wendell Town Hall, 6 Center Street, Wendell. The event is free, and all are welcome.

Not to be confused with "Game of Thrones," the "Chalice of Crones" will be sharing their stories, poetry, and songs at the Warwick Free Public Library, 4 Hotel Road, Warwick on Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m.

The "Chalice of Crones" comprise nine wise women who have been writing together in Wendell for almost three years. Refreshments will be offered after the readings, with time for discussion. The Crones will share take-home prompts with their audience, to encourage the sharing of stories.

Slate Memorial Library in Gill is reopening after six months of renovations, restoring the rustic charm and revealing hidden assets to this historic building built in 1921.

The public is invited to help celebrate the reopening of Gill's proverbial small-town library on Saturday, May 4 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be served, and there will be activities for kids! The library is located at 332 Main Road in Gill.

Pop in to the **Spring Surprise Pop Up Shop** in Wendell on May
4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the
Wendell Senior Center, 2 Lockes
Village Road, Wendell. Just in time
for Mother's Day, the shop will
include several Wendell artists offering a wide variety of products,
including fiber art, stationery, jewelry, and more.

The first of its kind in Wendell, organized by Mez Ziemba and Ruth Flohr, this pop-up shop provides an opportunity for local wares to be showcased in a small venue.

Attend a sweet community event in Montague Center on Sunday, May 5. May Day will begin with the gathering of children and musicians at the Montague Center Post Office beginning at 10 a.m. From there they will proceed to the Common where they will dance around the Maypole. Entertainment will include singing and Morris dancers. Bring your lunch for the community picnic, commencing at 12:15 p.m.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

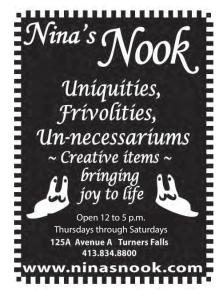
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Hello! My name is Ivy Olcott. I grew up in Shutesbury and am interested in moving back to the area with my partner, Nate. We are looking for a single family home to rent (move-in date on or around August 1). We are both very clean and responsible young professionals! We are happy to provide rental history or anything else you may need to consider us. Neither of us smokes, and we have no pets. My email is G.IvyOlcott@gmail. com. Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us relocate!



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I would urge town meeting members to amend the motion to eliminate the preamble, but endorse the establishment of a commission. If this amendment is rejected, I would vote against the motion in its current form.

Jeff Singleton lives in Montague's Precinct 4. He works as a reporter for this newspaper.

# State Flag Article: Preamble Contradicts the Motion

By JEFF SINGLETON

**GUEST EDITORIAL** 

MONTAGUE – Article 39 on the May 4 Montague annual town meeting warrant asks the meeting to vote on the state flag and seal, which depict a Native American holding a bow and an arrow. The arrow points downward, in theory a sign of peace. The seal dates back to the colonial era, and has been updated a number of times over the past 400 years.

There has recently been a movement to change the seal and flag because they are deemed contradictory to current values and offensive to Native Americans in the state. Legislation has been introduced at the state level to establish a commission to review the flag and seal (SD 1495 and HD 2968). For a good discussion of the debate on the issue, Google "Sign of the Times: Rethinking the Massachusetts State

Seal in 2019" (*Daily Hampshire Gazette*, March 22, 2019).

As a former professional historian who taught US history at the college level, I have no problem with establishing a commission to revisit the flag and seal, particularly if they are offensive to tribal members and other Native Americans in the state.

However, I strongly oppose the town meeting motion as written. It is internally contradictory, and an abuse of the historical thinking we should be promoting.

The motion begins with a long preamble that mainly lists a variety of insensitive and often brutal actions against indigenous people. Most of these abuses are very real, and should be recognized as serious blemishes on our history.

But exactly what is the connection of this history to the flag and seal? With a few exceptions, the

preamble does not say. The assumption seems to be that one can simply create a list of bad things that have happened to indigenous people, and then dump them on the image on the flag and seal. I strongly disagree with this logic, and think this is an abuse of history. The image on the flag and seal should also be evaluated in the context of its own history, which is probably more complex than the overly moralistic preamble suggests.

The logic of the preamble also implies a virtually endless campaign to sanitize names and images associated with the colonial era. One of the atrocities listed in the preamble is the 1623 massacre of Massachusetts Indians by Myles Standish. Should we therefore change the name of the state?

Most importantly, the preamble essentially contradicts the core of the motion itself. The preamble

Massachusetts." But when we get to the "be it resolved" clause after the preamble, we find that what is actually being endorsed is legislation to establish a *commission* for *investigating* the flag and seal.

One would hope that this would be a balanced commission that

states that its object is "Changing

the Flag and Seal of the State of

would consider all points of view on the subject. When a nearly identical motion came before the Gill town meeting in the spring of 2018, some supporters repeatedly argued that they were only supporting a commission to investigate the flag and seal, not endorsing everything in the preamble (*Montague Reporter*, June 21, 2018).

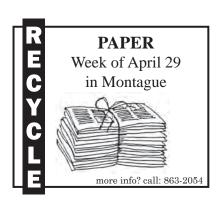
But if this is the goal of the motion, why introduce it with a one-sided preamble that presumes the outcome of the state investigation?

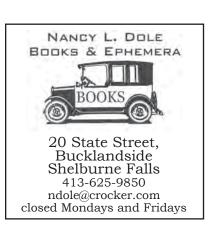
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#### MORATORIUM from pg A1

the town selectboard to seek intervenor status in the proceedings.

Yet in some ways, the region seems to be adapting to the moratorium, with municipalities moving ahead with construction projects by finding alternatives to gas for heating. Greenfield completed its new senior center last year by installing air-source heat pumps for both heat and air conditioning. The latest design for Montague's new public works facility, which could be completed this year, makes use of the same technology.

According to Jason Burbank, an energy engineer at the UMass-Amherst physical plant and a member of Montague's DPW building committee and energy committee, there is "nothing terribly new" about air source heating, which is essentially air conditioning in reverse. He said that dual systems for both heating and cooling have a longer history of use in the southern states.

Carole Collins, director of energy and sustainability for the city of Greenfield, said that the "technology has evolved and efficiency improved" to make heat pumps, which rely on electric power, more cost-efficient in cold climates.

Former Montague building inspector David Jensen, who also serves on the DPW building committee, said he is skeptical that air source heat will solve the problem created by the natural gas moratorium. "There is no magic solution," he told the *Reporter*.

Jensen said that the cost of electrical heating units varies a great deal with the cost of elec-

tricity, and that such systems are vulnerable to outages. The Montague DPW project is in fact a "dual" system which will rely on both electric-

ity and oil. Geoff Kravitz, economic development director of the city of Amherst, said that if air source heat pump technology has eased concerns about the impact of the moratorium on economic development in Amherst, he is not aware of it. He told the Reporter that adapting to the moratorium, including "burying propane tanks," has increased design and construction costs.

Kravitz said the impact is "hard to quantify," but that nearly all developers he has talked to would prefer the natural gas option.

Northampton is under a separate moratorium imposed by the Columbia Gas Company, which has proposed to build a new pipeline infrastructure into the city and nearby communities. Last October the city council voted to oppose the plan, and more recently the city indicated its opposition to ending the moratorium.

In addition to the usual arguments against natural gas produced by "fracking," opponents in Northampton have pointed to the wave of gas explosions in Lawrence and Andover, which are served by Columbia, last September.

Chris Mason, energy officer for the city of Northampton and a member of the Montague energy committee, pointed to air source heat pumps as a way of adapting to the moratorium. Mason said that under "today's building codes," which require new construction to be well insulated and "zipped up," heat pumps are more

viable in colder climates.

The downsides of the technology, according to Mason, are increased use of electricity and the potential escape of coolants into the atmosphere. But he argued that the "net impact" of open air pumps on global warming is less than a high-efficiency gas boiler. "The new cold climate ones are much more efficient," he said.

Air source heat pump technology played an important role in the redevelopment of a building on Pleasant Street in Northampton called Live 155. The building, which features commercial space on the ground floor and 70 rental units on the upper three floors, was developed by a private non-profit company called Way Finders. Peter Serafino, a project manager for the organization, said the Columbia moratorium "sure had an impact" on the decision, but that the project was still in its design phase when the moratorium was extended. As a result the company was able to plan for installing air source pumps and solar panels on the roof for the rental units.

Last December, Berkshire Gas announced it would be giving \$1 million in "alternative energy" grants to help eight towns address the "challenges imposed by the moratorium."

The money came from a settlement agreement negotiated by Attorney General Maura Healy in response to the merger of Berkshire's parent company, UIL Holdings, with a Spanish firm named Iberdrola. Grant applications, which will be vetted by the DPU, could include air and ground source heat pumps, solar and biomass heating systems, and anaerobic digesters.

#### **SPORTS** from page A1

Reynolds finished with five RBIs, Jade Tyler and Cassidhe Wozniak both had doubles and four RBIs, and Olivia Whittier and Hailey Bogusz each got three hits at the plate. In the circle, Tyler K'd eight, and relief pitcher Juliana Rode came in to preserve the shutout.

On April 17, Powertown traveled to Belchertown for their second consecutive mercy win, burying the Orioles 13-0. They made the most of their shortened at-bats, scoring 4 in the first, 5 in the third, 1 in the fourth, and 3 more in the fifth and final inning.

Jade Tyler hit her first homer of the year, 10th overall, and Aly Murphy her first and 11th. Both Lexi Lacey and Taylor Murphy went 2 for 3 at the plate and Whittier sliced a double. Tyler pitched a one-hit shutout, striking out 10 and walking two.

The Athol Red Raiders entered the Thunderdome last Thursday, and would not accept mercy. Athol is much better than they used to be, and they made a game of it.

ing 2 in the first and another in the second. But the Red Ladies wouldn't go away, putting one across in the third to make it a 3-1 contest. Turners would go on to score 2 more in the bottom of the inning and added an insurance run in the fifth, and the Raiders just couldn't keep pace.

This was a good test for Powertown. Athol's pitcher squashed the long ball, and their fielders only gave up two errors. Only one Turners batter got an extra-base hit: a double by Lacey, who ended with three hits on the night. Most of the Turners players made contact with the ball, and only three struck out.

Defensively, Turners made one critical error, allowing a Raider to reach base; Athol took advantage of the mistake and hit her home. Because the inning would have been over without the error, the run was not earned, and Tyler maintained her 0.00 ERA. She struck out 11, allowed three hits, and gave two walks.

Then on Monday, the Granby Rams came to town.

Monday was an iffy day for sports in Turners Falls: the baseball game was postponed, tennis was

scrapped region-wide, and even the Red Sox were rained out. But the track team ran in the rain, and for the softball squad, the game went on as scheduled.

By the middle of the third, sporadic downpours caused the umbrellas to come out, as players tried to keep their gloves dry, and officials pocketed the balls. But the ladies played through the rain, and did pretty well.

Though the game was forfeited at 7-0 due to a Granby injury, the Blue Ladies actually scored 16 runs off 11 hits; five were for extra bases, and Powertown averaged a collective .440 at the plate. Blue did not commit a single error on the wet field, and Tyler threw a no-hit, one walk shutout. Whittier went 2 for 2 at the plate with a homer and a double; Lacey and Bogusz each hit triples; A. Murphy added a two-bagger; and Rode went 2 for 3.

#### **Boys' Tennis**

*TFHS 5 – St. Mary 0* TFHS 4 – Sabis 1

When I was a senior at Turners, Blue quietly built their lead, scor- I had my wisdom teeth extracted during spring break, and missed two track meets. I hope the kids did something a little more enjoyable during their time off. The boys' tennis team went 2-0 this week, despite losing key players to the break.

> The team traveled to Municipal Playground in Springfield on April 16 to face the St. Mary Saints. When a team loses two players in a seven-player sport, it's very difficult to win; when the two are Brian Poirier and Brody Trott, the number 1 and 3 players, it's even more challenging. But the rest of the team stepped up, and Blue not only won but swept.

> Will Turn moved up to the near court and won first singles handily 6-1, 6-1. Joseph Kochan played the second singles match, all by himself - his first-ever singles match - and swept away the second-best Saint, 6-2, 6-2. Kochan's doubles partner Josh Gaulin, was penciled in at #3 and received a forfeit.

> With Kochan and Gaulin out of the mix, Mike Boyle and Corin Wisnewski moved up to first doubles, and outlasted their opponents 3-6, 6-4, 10-7. Then the new guys came in: playing their first varsity

match ever, Miles Keefe and Rayne Bonfiglio played steady tennis to win 6-0, 6-2.

Then on April 19, the team went to Forest Park and defeated Sabis 4-1. Poirier was back on the court and won first singles 6-1, 6-0; Turn swept second singles, 6-0,6-0. Trott also returned, but had to sit, and won third singles in a forfeit.

With Gaulin unavailable, Kochan teamed up with Boyle and won second doubles 6-3, 6-3, leaving Wisnewsi and Keefe to play second doubles, 4-6, 1-6.

#### **Baseball**

Easthampton 5 – TFHS 4 (8) TFHS 7 - FCTS 6 (8)

This week, the Turners Falls baseball team traded a pair of onerun decisions: a loss to Easthampton, and a win against Franklin Tech. Sometimes it's easier to beat a team by 10 runs than it is to fight one that's your equal. Turners found that out when they were forced to play 16 innings in two days.

In the Easthampton Eagles game, played Wednesday, April 17 in Easthampton, East scored a run in each of their first two innings, and Turners trailed 2-0. Powertown tied it up in the fifth, and went ahead 3-2 in the sixth, but the Birds took back the lead.

Blue was down 4-3 going into the seventh, but they tied it up, sending the game into extra innings. But Blue failed to score in the eighth, and the Eagles put a run across to steal the game 5-4.

Jon Fritz went 2 for 4 at the plate and knocked in two of Turners' runs. Ryan Campbell also got two hits, with the other three from Cayden Lehtomaki, Jake Dodge, and Kyle Dodge. Sharing pitching duties for Powertown were Jack Putala, Brian Murphy, K. Dodge, and James Robison, with Robison getting the loss.

Turners was in another eight-inning marathon the very next day, this time against cross-town rivals Franklin Tech. The game had plenty of early scoring, as each team scoring 2 in the first. Turners scored again in the second and third to go up 6-2.

But Franklin got a run back in the bottom of the third, and 2 in the sixth, and in the seventh they tied the game at 6 and sent into extra innings. The Boys' Thunder were able to put one across in the eighth, and held the Techs off to take a well-deserved exhausting win.

Sam Maniatty got three hits for Tech and batted a runner home; Max Leh, Max Charest, and Garrett Cole had two apiece; and Nathan Sciandra, Nate Pelletier, and Shawn Telega one each. Jon Fritz, K. Dodge, and Lehtomaki had two hits each for Turners, and Jake Labelle had one. On the mound, Lehtomaki, J. Dodge, and K. Dodge all pitched, with Kyle getting the win for Turners. Leh, Cole, and Tim Fritz pitched for Tech, and Cole got the loss.

#### Track and Field

Frontier 93 – FCTS/TFHS 52

On Monday, the Franklin Tech-Turners Falls combined boys' track team hosted the Frontier Red Hawks at Turners Falls High School. Tech did pretty well in the field events, but were bested on the track. The field events were done first, and the rain held off, but the rain was falling steadily by the time the starter's gun banged.

Tech got 9 early points when they swept shot put. Ryan Duclous finished first with a put of 38'1.5", followed by Kai Rodriguez (36'5.5") and Deven Goshea (35'9.25"). Duclous also took first in the javelin (123'1") and third in the discus (64'6"). Rodriguez placed second in the long jump, with a leap of 16'3.25", and hopped-skipped-and-jumped 34'9.5" to win the triple jump.

Tech took the top two spots in the high jump, as Justin Dobias cleared 5'4" and Ryan Bergmann jumped 5'2". Zack Conway won the 100 hurdles in 19 seconds flat, and finished second in the 400 hurdles (63.6), followed by teammate Lucas Upham, who placed third in the 400 (66.6). Donte Rosewarne won the 200 with a time of 25.3 and placed third in the 100 dash (12.0); Cameron Gauthier took third in the 400 with a time of 62.0; and Tech won the 4x100 relay in 48.9 seconds.

> Next week: The softball and boys' tennis teams fight to stay perfect.



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decided to stay.

For Charlotte Dewey, the fight to keep the Inn alive is deeply personal. Her mother and sister lived there in the 1970s, when there was an artists' studio in the loft of the barn. Jean Dewey, Charlotte's mother, is a decorative artist well known in the area who hand painted floral designs on some of the Inn's bedroom walls.

Dewey took over the Inn in 1983, living on the third floor and overseeing everything from food service to bed sheets. During that time she also served as town moderator – she is currently seeking reelection – and would sometimes open the tavern as a meeting space, free of charge, for town residents to discuss the issues.

The Charlemont Inn has a history of financial insecurity, evidenced by the numerous times the business fell behind on tax payments in the 1960s. The Inn experienced a boom through the 1980s and 1990s as Charlemont grew as a mecca for outdoor recreation, but fell off after 9/11.

Then, a perfect storm of bad luck – the death of Dewey's business partner, who held the Inn's mortgage; the 2008 housing crisis; and Hurricane Irene, which hit just before the 2011 foliage season – led her to close the Inn to customers in December 2011. The Inn has stayed closed ever since.

"It is a very important cultural resource for our town," said Bambi Miller, a member of the historical commission. "We're very, very deeply concerned about keeping its sense of integrity as an inn and trying to protect it. We're going to do everything that we can."

#### **Making Ends Meet**

After the Inn closed, Dewey handed the keys over to the Charlemont sewer district, which had foreclosed on the property over unpaid sewer taxes, evicting her from her longtime home.

"It was probably one of the hardest times of my life," Dewey said. "I couldn't stand it. I moved, but I had to keep fighting for it."

She appealed the taking in land court, and was able to pay down the debt after her father passed away and left her with just enough money. But when she regained control of the building in August 2012, she found it had been vandalized: copper plumbing pipes in the basement had been ripped out, cut into pieces, and collected in trash cans. There was no sign of forced entry, and the police found no suspects.

"They didn't succeed in taking it all, but they did a number on the building by ripping it all out," said Bill Coli, a member of the town's historical commission.

Dewey never received any compensation for the damage done to the Inn's plumbing, and replacing the pipes cost her nearly \$30,000. "I really didn't want to sue," she said. "Why sue your own town when you want to go back there and do business? That is not what you want to do!"

The attempted burglary was a first for Dewey, who had been struggling to keep the Inn financially solvent for years. Debts continued to accrue; a January 2013 tax lien notice shows that at one point Dewey's business, Mohawk Trail Hospitality Inc, owed \$81,718 in state taxes. She relied on friends, inheritance, and retirement savings to finance the building's ongoing maintenance. Today she works as a food services director for Bard College, two hours from Charlemont, to make ends meet.

Between ongoing renovations,

renexc@gmail.com



Charlotte Dewey lived at the Charlemont Inn for three decades before she was evicted in 2011.

mounting bills, late fees and interest payments, Dewey says she has spent nearly \$300,000 to date trying to reopen her business. At one point, she tried to start a nonprofit to ensure the future preservation of the Inn, and rallied community support by launching a GoFundMe campaign. So far, the campaign has raised \$3,620 of an initial \$40,000 goal – but the Inn still needs well over one million dollars in work.

#### Unfit For Habitation

In June 2015, a newly convened "abandoned and derelict properties task force" identified the Inn as a priority project for the town. According to meeting minutes, former regional health agent Glen Ayers said that any action taken by an owner to fix an aging building prior to the town repossessing it would "make the most financial sense," according to meeting minutes.

In November of that year, the Charlemont board of health condemned the Inn, which had by then been closed to the public for four years, for multiple health and safety hazards. A complaint by a neighbor prompted the inspection, according to board of health member Doug Telling.

Handwritten comments on Ayers' health inspection report said things like "mold so bad I could not stay in the room long enough to look around" and "looks like a bomb went off inside." Ayers reported holes in the floor, stripped live wires, and more mold in the basement, but Dewey claims the report is exaggerated. She has since replaced portions of the damaged drywall and ceilings, replaced the leaking roof, installed a new heating system, and hired a contractor to perform air quality tests for mold, which came back clean.

During a public hearing on the condemnation order, board of health members discussed the possibility of boarding up the Inn to prevent potential vandalism or arson. Dewey argued that the only vandalism to the Inn occurred during the eight months when the sewer commission held the keys to the property, and she presented over a dozen images of other blighted or abandoned buildings in Charlemont that have not received the same level of scrutiny.

Signs posted on the exterior doors today still deem the building "unfit for human habitation." In order to meet modern health and safety standards, Dewey was told the building must undergo more expensive renovations, including a fire sprinkler system with an independent cis-

tern, widened hallways, ramps and bathrooms to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, as well as new plumbing, flooring, and electrical work.

According to project estimates Dewey provided the town in 2016, the sprinkler system alone would cost her about \$700,000. Revamping the entire building, she said, would cost about \$2.46 million. Dewey says her plan is to raise the money necessary to finish and open the first floor tavern – about \$180,000 – and then finance repairs to the second floor through those profits, loans, or future grants.

But each time Dewey thinks she's close to opening the Inn, she says, another problem arises.

The town asked Dewey to meet deadlines for the repairs voluntarily, but when work went undone, they imposed stricter deadlines and formalized the demands in writing. Mold abatement was a specific concern. Dewey said that additional scrutiny of the condition of an adjacent barn and residential home on the property delayed her progress.

#### **Economically Unviable**

Eventually, the town looked to a state program called receivership to remedy the situation. Under the program, a court-appointed contractor called a "receiver" redevelops an abandoned property up to habitable standards, and is awarded a lien against the building to recoup the project's costs. Receivership programs took off in Massachusetts around 2010 as part of then-Attorney General Martha Coakley's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which targeted blighted and abandoned properties.

Telling said the town considered two potential receivers, one local and one not. The *Shelburne Falls Independent* reported in March 2017 that developer Robert Obear of Montague was being considered as a potential receiver. Another potential receiver, Alan Hope of Charles Hope Companies in North Andover, submitted a preliminary assessment of the property in February.

"There's a lot that needs to be done," Hope said of the Inn. "I really felt that Charlotte had bent over backwards in doing what she was asked to do."

The town has delayed a decision on receivership three times now, most recently pushing back an April 19 court hearing until July. If a receiver fixes the Inn, it would be sold at auction to recoup renovation costs and any taxes owed

on the building. In theory, Dewey would have an opportunity to buy back the Inn at auction, but likely at a steep markup. She might be open to the idea of managing the Inn, she said, if a receiver financed the repairs and let her stay.

On advice from her attorney Mark Tanner, Dewey has stopped paying for any taxes or renovations on the building until she knows whether she will lose it to a receiver.

"I don't think the town deserves to get it for nothing," Dewey said. She said she believes the town is, for some reason, trying to force her to give up the Inn.

The town was unsuccessful in finding a receiver by the April 19 deadline, according to Tanner. "There wasn't a receiver appointed," board of health member Telling explained. "What the court said was we *could* – a receiver could be appointed."

According to Tanner, at this point, the town is preparing to tear down the Inn. "I think the issue was the cost to do the rehab that the town wants done just makes the whole project economically unviable," he said, later writing to clarify: "The town indicated they are not going forward with their application for a receiver and will be filing paperwork to demolish the building."

At this point, the town can seek permission from the county housing court to raze the property on the grounds that it is a health hazard. Alternately, the town could seek in land court to repossess the Inn for taxes owed, then demolish it, though Dewey herself says she has the money to pay it.

Members of the historical commission say they are worried about the weak safeguards in place to protect historic buildings in town, and say they wish they were consulted during the decision-making process. "There's nothing but rumor going on now," Bill Coli said.

Because the town does not have a demolition delay bylaw, Coli added, there can be little to no warning before a historic building is to be torn down. "We will do everything in our power," he said, "and I admit we don't have much power."

"The town hasn't been really reaching out to us and letting us be part of the conversation with what goes on," Bambi Miller said. "Everybody wants to see it open. Nobody wants to see it torn down.... I would be appalled to see it knocked down and turned into a parking lot."

In Part II:
The other side of the coin.





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#### STRIKE from page A1

A few customers walked around Stop & Shop in Greenfield on Wednesday afternoon as workers were hard at work restocking the shelves. One employee walked by and thanked shoppers for returning, and employees seemed to be relieved to be back on the job.

In a press release sent out by UFCW Local 1459, representing western Massachusetts, the union thanked its members for holding the line. "The message you sent by collectively standing up for yourselves, your families, and for good jobs," it read, "has resonated not only with the company, but all of America."

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#### FARM from page A1

type of pharmacy. That's our brand," says Seth Rutherford, director of sales and one of the company's principal owners. "We're one of the first facilities that's going to open that will have the retail store at the cultivation site."

For now, the building is a hive of activity; the parking lot is full of vans and trucks, as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, drywall, painting, landscaping, and security crews all work double-time to finish renovations before the state inspection that would turn 253's provisional cannabis license into a real one.

Rutherford tells me he hopes to get the retail wing of the building open for business in June - product will be sourced from wholesalers, and customers will be initially limited to a small amount at a time – and then start building up the cultivation side.

By January, the plan is for full vertical integration. At design capacity, the farm could produce 300 pounds of the sticky green shrub a month. Customers, who must be 21 or over and have their ID scanned to be buzzed in, will be able to browse jars of different strains, or choose from what is sure to be a confusing array of concentrated products manufactured onsite.

Tremblay was a bar manager for 20 years, which he says means he's "moved from one controlled substance to another," though the scale of regulatory control is sure to be higher in Massachusetts' exploding cannabis industry.

For example, every one of the thousands of plants on the farm, as it makes its way from the clone room to a vegetation chamber to one of seven high-ceilinged flower rooms and on to processing and packaging, will have its own RFID tag; staff will scan and register its every movement, so the state can track it centrally in its Metrc database.

"You know every aspect of that plant's life, from when it goes out the [clone room] door to what customer it's sold to," Rutherford says.

"We need to track what people are purchasing here," Tremblay explains, "so they're not getting too much and moving it to the black market."

The farm environment is designed to be squeaky-clean and fastidiously regulated in other ways, too. Workers will first cross a gravel buffer, meant to reduce the number of tiny insects that free-ride through the employee entrance, scan a badge to enter, and then shower and don smocks and Crocs. The walls will all be white PVC panelboard, easy to sterilize, and sensors everywhere will stream temperature, humidity, and CO<sub>2</sub> data into a central computer system.

"You have to keep a very constant environment, and not stress your plant," Rutherford says. "The HVAC is the biggest part of the job, by far."

Rutherford is a soil and irrigation expert, and, as it turns out, a local boy returning home. He grew up in Shutesbury and attended Greenfield Community College – he even lived in downtown Turners, back when Hubie's was D.J. Baron's pub - before moving to Nantucket at the age of 21 to start an irrigation company.

Another principal, Lee Olesen, is providing the cannabis industry experience. Olesen, a "cannabis consultant," has overseen projects in Colorado, California, and Arizona. "He's taken us through design-build here," says Rutherford.

Located at the entrance to Turn-

ers Falls' airport industrial park, 253 Farmacy stands to become one of the town's largest employers practically overnight. Rutherford says he can't tell me the cost of the renovation of the imaging lab, but it is in the millions.

"It was like a horror film in here when we bought it - all these little cubicles," he says. "It was like The Shining, walking through this

Berkshire Gas's moratorium on new customers in Montague prevented the company from a natural gas hookup, so for now, the facility will be heated with the more expensive propane. The system was designed, though, with a gauge of pipe that can accomodate a conversion if natural gas becomes available.

The companies that have made it through Massachusetts' rigorous permitting process are staking serious investment on what will eventually become a more crowded market, so the incentive to find advantage in unique selling points can be seen everywhere.

One perk here is the parking: 37 spots for employees, and nearly 70 for customers. In a rush, they may line up outdoors, and then wait in a comfortable lobby after checking in. The shop's inner sanctuary has wrap-around counters for product display. Cabinets are painted tobacco red, which Rutherford says is meant to evoke the "farm to table" brand; budtenders working six registers can help around 15 customers at a time select their cannabis. They will close sales by weighing out buds on the spot, a distinction from the pre-packaged product available at other area dispensaries.

"The shelf life of cannabis is pretty much as soon as you get out the door," Rutherford says. "You lose terpenes every day, and trichomes - the more it's handled, the more break off."

A significant part of the operation will be in value-added products. Inhouse bakers will produce "candy, chocolates, maybe cookies," sometimes using "live frozen" plants, harvested and flash-frozen instead of being cured in order to preserve

On the more industrial end, the company has opted for CO<sub>2</sub>-based, rather than butane-based, extraction processes, which I am told on my tour is the only way to ensure that potentially carcinogenic residues tail opening in June - albeit with aren't left in the substance that ends up as cooking oil in the kitchen or in cartridges for vape pens.

Rutherford says Olesen has also found a "very small, medical-grade propane machine" capable of refining oil to a 92% to 93% cannabinoid content. "That could be used in hospice on day, for pain medication," he predicts.

When I ask Rutherford and Tremblay about CBD - cannabidiol, one of the hundred-plus active compounds found in the plant, and one popularly associated with non-psychoactive, medicinal effects - neither is too enthused.

"With any perceived health benefit, people are optimistic," Tremblay says. "But there's a lot of research yet to be done."

Rutherford says he uses a high-CBD hemp oil product from a Vermont farm for inflammation related to sports injury, but he urges consumers to "go to the farm": "There's other cannabinoids, besides THC and CBD, that are very beneficial - the real power of healing is in the full spectrum. A lot of the CBD coming in is in isolate form; it's grown in other countries, and then

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Two Town Meetings Needed; No Wastewater Deal Reached Yet

#### By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday, the Erving selectboard scheduled a special town meeting for May 8 to ask for \$125,000 from free cash for an air-source heat pump heating and cooling system for the senior and community center. There are no other articles on the special town meeting warrant.

The board also started negotiations for the third-party wastewater agreement with Erving Industries, and approved the new layout for Wheelock Street.

According to explanatory text in the special town meeting warrant, the current geothermal heating and cooling system at the senior and community center has experienced numerous maintenance issues. In April, the board consulted the building's architect and a geothermal specialist, and it was determined that sand had entered the system's well, damaging the intake line, the primary circulation pump and other parts of the system.

"A lot went into the decision [to replace the geothermal system]," said selectboard chair Scott Bastarache. He said that the aboveground heat pump system would be easier to maintain, and would result in savings for the town.

The free cash transfer was not included in the warrant for the annual town meeting, already scheduled for May 1, because the need to replace the geothermal system and the cost were not clear until two days after that warrant was closed.

#### **Sludge Negotiations**

Erving Industries, Inc. president Morris Hausen and other paper mill executives met with the board in an initial discussion of the third-party wastewater agreement between ERSECO, a subsidiary of the Erving Paper Mill, and the town.

POTW#2, a town-owned treat-

"We want to really put out a craft

In anticipation of a potential re-

outsourced product - 253 is begin-

ning to hire its workforce. The com-

pany is hosting a job fair at Hawks

& Reed in Greenfield from 10 a.m.

"We're really trying to get some

The first hires will be budtenders.

and some managerial staff, recep-

tion, possibly maintenance. "We're

hoping people apply for lots of

jobs," Tremblay says, "so as we

This will include growers, and

build, we can get more people in."

then further down the road, bakers

and trimmers. All potential hires

must go through a background check

and training with the CCC and be-

come certified as a cannabis "agent."

erford says, due to the scarcity of

wholesale product in the state, cus-

tomers will probably be limited to

an eighth or a quarter of an ounce

ning, he says, "then the limits are

off," at least up to the 1-ounce le-

gal possession limit. "No doubt,

we'll have enough to sup-

ply what everyone needs at

But once the farm is up and run-

per visit.

that point."

When the store opens, Ruth-

to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 4.

local residents," Rutherford says.

put in bulk white powder."

product," he emphasizes.

town's residential and commercial wastes while it treats Erving Paper Mill wastewater. It is operated by ERSECO. The town pays \$1 per year for the wastewater treatment, and, under the current agreement, receives \$50,000 – or 10% of the tipping fees, if revenues from third-party waste producers exceed \$500,000.

The town's contract with Erving Industries was set to expire in June 2018, but was extended for one year. At that time, the town agreed to forego its 10% share in return for sending wastewater from POTW#1 to POTW#2.

POTW#2 was built in 1977, primarily with federal and state grants secured by the town. The town paid 1% of the \$480,000 in local costs, while Erving Industries paid 99% of the local costs. Erving Industries pays all ongoing expenses and capital costs.

Board members reviewed the annual reports for POTW#2, and asked about discrepancies between the volume of sludge recorded as having been received at the plant and the volume that third parties were billed for. ERSECO's Ralph Cutter explained that truck drivers occasionally fail to submit slips for the septage brought to the plant, and that, for a time, the accounting department recorded amounts using 13 four-week periods, while the septage receipts were recorded by 12 calendar months.

Hausen, Cutter, and the board agreed that the discrepancies were minor, but, according to Bastarache, "they should match."

"I think we can make a change in the reports," Erving Industries chief financial officer Will Wescott told the board. "We can reconcile that. We'll do a better job of reconciling."

The board also requested that ERSECO conduct an audit of

ment plant, treats a portion of the POTW#2 finances, as required in the current agreement. Erving's administrative coordinator Bryan Smith noted that the last audit was a draft produced in 2008.

Hausen said that an audit would cost \$5,000. "Would the board give us time to reconcile?" he asked. "It's \$5,000 we would rather not spend."

Bastarache replied that the \$5,000 was overhead, "the cost of bringing in the wastewater." Board members Jacob Smith and William Bembury agreed with Bastarache.

Regarding the 10% town share in revenues, Hausen said, "we would prefer the tariff to be less." Explaining that costs for waste paper were increasing and the costs of sludge disposal had increased, he added that "ten percent is pricey for us."

Bastarache asked why ERSE-CO had not accepted the wastewater from POTW#1. Hausen said that the POTW#1 wastewater didn't meet the standards required of all outside wastewater sources. He added, "We didn't see the 10% as quid pro quo for taking the other sludge.'

Hausen then asked, "What is the basis of the 10% tariff?"

"You're engaging in revenue generation under our license," Jacob Smith replied. "There should be revenue sharing."

Bastarache told Hausen, "We're not ready to give responses this evening."

#### **Other Business**

The board approved a new layout for Wheelock Street, and signed off on the street plans. Wheelock Street was created in the 1800s, but never went through the formal layout process.

An article on the May 1 annual town meeting warrant uses the word "relocate" regarding the layout, but there will be no physical change in the road, simply a clerical change at the registry of deeds.

#### **GMRSD** from page A1

after which the older regional districts would be dissolved. So far, the Gill and Montague selectboards have voted to appoint such committees, and the Gill-Montague committee has voted in favor of their decisions.

"The other way is you could take one of the regional agreements, and amend [it]," Hemman said. "Pioneer could take their agreement and say the other towns are coming in."

"Politically, it's a difficult way," he warned, as towns might view themselves as being "brought in" as opposed to "equal partners." And it could be harder to sell at town meetings: "Is it going to have the traditions of that region, that you joined, or are you going to have the traditions of a new region, six towns?"

"The first step would probably be to determine what Pioneer is thinking," Dupere, who is under retainer with both regions, advised. He recommended inviting the Pioneer school committee to a joint meeting to discuss the topic.

Hemman said he had been discussing the logistics of both scenarios with the state Department of Education, as it would be "new ground" in Massachusetts for two existing regions to dissolve and be replaced by a new one. He said that other complicating factors include the financial obligations of the existing districts,

such as debt and money set aside for "other post-employment benefits."

"A region is an actual governmental entity," Dupere said. "Either way, we would have to dissolve one district, and maybe two.... That's another complicated piece."

Hemman reflected on the downward spiral faced by rural districts with declining enrollments. "As the enrollments go down, you don't have enough kids to offer the programs you want to do," he said, adding that things were "worse" further west. "Inside the 128 belt, they're not having the same problems, lemme tell you," he added.

Erving representative Theresa Kolodziej asked whether her town would be able to tuition secondary school students into Pioneer if that district were expanded to absorb Gill and Montague. Hemman told her that it would be possible, if the Pioneer school committee were willing to negotiate such an agreement.

Michael Langknecht expressed concern that there could be "a certain amount of rolling resentment if yet another program is delivered fully formed, without consultation," including the assumption that a sixtown region would include one consolidated high school, one consolidated middle school, and a number of the existing elementary schools.

Business manager Joanne Blier

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#### MONTAGUE from pg A1

Montague Regional School District that predicted relatively small cost savings to the six towns through regionalization, but potential for greater educational opportunities for students through an expanded curriculum. The study assumed the middle and high schools of the two districts would be consolidated, and did not consider changes to any elementary schools.

Massachusetts state law (Ch.71, sections 14 through 14b) establishes the process by which towns may join to create a new regional district. Any town, either by a vote of town meeting or a combined approval of its selectboard and school committee, may establish a three-member "regional school district planning committee." Planning committees from two or more towns may then establish a "regional school district planning board," charged under the law with studying "the fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a regional school district" and submitting a report to its member towns.

If the planning board recommends that a new district be formed, it is also charged with submitting a "proposed agreement or agreements" to the member towns, and to the state board of education.

As of publication time, only the town selectboards in the Gill-Montague district, as well as the Gill-Montague school committee, have voted to establish planning committees. Northfield, Bernardston, Leyden, and Warwick, all in the Pioneer Valley district, have not voted on the issue.

"I don't think this should be interpreted as unwilling" to create a planning committee, said Warwick town coordinator David Young. "I don't think it's going to be a hard thing to approve here." Young said he would try to put the topic on the Warwick selectboard's April 29 agenda.

#### **Public Works**

The meeting began with an unusual "public comment" from Tom Bergeron, superintendent of the department of public works. Bergeron

announced that "over the weekend, someone dumped large trees and brush and stumps" on the public leaf pile near the Sandy Lane transfer station. He said that if the state Department of Environmental Protection or the regional Solid Waste Management District find this material, in particular the tree stumps, in the pile, the town could be fined.

"This is part of the issue of having an open leaf pile," Bergeron told the board. "It's a great thing, and I hate to close it, but if I see it again I will close it."

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell asked if the cameras at the regional dog shelter were "facing in that direction." Bergeron said he was not sure.

Kuklewicz said he had talked to residents at the leaf pile. "It gets to be a fine line," he said, "between brush and hedges that are clipped."

Gregg Yanchenko of the firm Helene-Karl Architects, which is creating the final design for the new public works facility on Turners Falls Road, came before the board to present the most recent version of the project. He was accompanied by Neil Joyce of Construction Monitoring Services, the owner's project manager.

Yanchenko and Joyce laid out a series of very large schematic drawings on the front table, visible to the board but not to the audience in the room. When Joyce handed the board a "tentative schedule" for the project, Ellis noted that the building committee had undertaken a "pretty fast and furious design process because we wanted to take advantage of this year's construction season." He commended the building committee, Yanchenko, and Joyce for "working in a very small box of time to get us where we are tonight."

Highlights of the presentation included the fact that the entrance to the DPW building had been widened in consultation with the police and fire departments, which are located in the public safety complex next door. The design also includes space for a "future fuel station," and allows enclosed parking for the department's "entire fleet," although some seasonal vehicles may need to be "stacked." A sloped roof will allow the town to install solar panels in the future.

Yanchenko said the committee would be presenting the plan to the zoning board of appeals on May 1. "We don't anticipate there will be any issues," he said. He estimated the cost of the building to be approximately \$8.6 million, although Ellis stressed that this does not include architectural fees, project management fees, or furnishings.

The original town meeting appropriation for the project was just over \$11 million.

#### **Other Business**

The selectboard approved a \$36,000 contract with Moody Consulting for IT consulting; a change order of \$8,870 for the Rutters Park improvement project in Lake Pleasant; and a contract of \$67,000 for sidewalk improvements on Avenue A.

Acting as the personnel board, they appointed Bryan Reardon as a new truck driver/laborer at the department of public works, and approved a credit card for use by Roberta Potter, director of the council on aging.

The board approved the use of public property for an arts festival in Millers Falls this Saturday, for a Newt Guilbault Little League opening day parade on Sunday, and for a charity bike ride on June 30.

The board endorsed an Arbor Day proclamation presented by David Detmold of the tree committee.

Detmold discussed whether the American Elm tree being donated to the town by Greenfield Savings Bank would be the most viable elm tree to plant. Detmold said that tree committee member Michael Marcotrigiano, an expert on elm trees, suggested that a different kind of elm would probably have a longer life span. Ellis agreed to communicate this to the bank.

The next selectboard meeting will be held April 29 at the town hall.



suggested that a new district might be an opportunity to "start fresh." "These regional agreements have responded to an inquiry. been around since before school choice and charter schools," she said.

Timmie Smith of Gill said it seemed like choosing one path to regionalization over another, as a subject of study, meant the towns would have "made the decision, and committed to regionalization."

But Hemman disagreed. "Most regionalizations don't actually happen," he said.

"Amherst-Pelham didn't work out, just last week," superintendent Michael Sullivan added.

Dupere said that legally, forming a planning board meant a commitment to studying the proposal "in good faith."

"That clarifies a lot of questions I had about this," said Montague's Cassie Damkoehler. "Bottom line - it comes down to waiting on Pioneer?"

"We've had some information in the newspaper about their meetings, but not particular direct contact recently," said chair Jane Oakes.

Attempts by the Montague Reporter to reach the Pioneer Valley regional school committee for comment on the matter have been unsuccessful. Sue O'Reilly-McRae of Warwick, marked on the PVRSD website as the chair, responded to emailed questions by indicating that Kristen Gonzalez of Northfield is the new chair, and added, "Good luck." As of press time, Gonzalez had not

In related news, the committee decided to cancel a "civic leaders' meeting" scheduled for April 30. "The focus of those [meetings] has kind of narrowed toward the Pioneer work," Sullivan said, "and we really seem like we're in a place where the next thing is to hear from, or talk to, Pioneer."

#### **Other Business**

Kolodziej reported that Lisa Candito, currently serving as principal at Ware Middle School, had been hired to start in the fall as the next Erving Elementary principal.

Sullivan reported that Joanne Menard had been hired as the next principal at Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School. He also said that fifthgrade teacher Leslie Gray and seventh-grade science teacher John Henry had both recently resigned, replaced by long-term substitutes.

In response to a guest editorial in the Greenfield Recorder by Montague Center resident Chris Pinardi, who asserted that the district "no longer has any classes on Native American history" following the elimination of the high school Indians logo, Sullivan said he had asked social studies teachers to write a public response explaining the ways indigenous history is incorporated in

their curriculum. An elective on regional Native history runs every two years, he said, and will be offered again next year; it alternates with a course on regional environmental history, which also has a strong focus on pre-colonial land use.

Sullivan gave a presentation about his own progress toward goals agreed on last year with the committee, the beginning of his formal annual evaluation. "Not everybody understands that this is a state process," Montague's Jen Lively observed, referring to the elaborate forms and schema by which the committee must measure his progress.

And the committee agreed to take time this summer to review its own processes, procedures, and decision-making practices, and how to improve them. "We've had some fairly packed meeting agendas," Oakes said of the current year's meetings.

"I left a couple meetings feeling like my brain was pretty fried," Cassie Damkoehler agreed.

The committee praised the budget book Blier prepared for this spring's Gill and Montague annual town meetings. Blier said she had modeled its format after award-winning school district budget books.

The committee signed a spring election warrant. Five of the school committee's nine members are standing, unopposed, for re-election.

#### **LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING Leverett Conservation Commission**

Α7

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on May 6, 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 Shawn Kimberley (for Garret Daly) for septic system repair at 151 Montague Road. 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 ext. 3.

This notice is also available at *masspublicnotices.org*.

#### **Montague Parks & Recreation Department PUBLIC MEETING**

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - 7 p.m. Montague Public Safety Building Community Room 180 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that the Montague Parks & Recreation Department will be sponsoring a meeting regarding the master plan of Montague Center Park on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7 p.m. Public participation is welcomed.

# LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 16 and 23, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

#### A New Superintendent For Gill-Montague

Chair Mary Kociela opened the school committee meeting on April 14 with the news that Carl Ladd had officially accepted the position of superintendent of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, pending completion of contract negotiations.

Ladd was expected to meet for a required discussion with Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester in Boston on Wednesday. Kociela said the committee hoped to complete negotiations in time for a full school committee vote to confirm him at the April 28 meeting.

Kociela then turned to interim superintendent Ken Rocke, and reflected on his impending departure from the district at the end of the school year. She said, "It's really been an honor working with you." She said Ladd was looking forward to working with Rocke to insure a smooth transition.

#### **Public Hearing on Budget**

On Wednesday, in the upstairs meeting room of the town hall, the finance committee and selectboard will hold a joint public hearing on the FY'10 operating budget.

Finance committee chair John Hanold said the focus of the hearing will be on the town side of the budget, "to inform the public about what the town of Montague's revenue expectations are, in a year of difficult economic circumstances, and what the recommended spending level is for town services."

Hanold said the committee and the selectboard have yet to agree on recommended spending levels. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the projected worstcase scenario on state aid for Montague this year may in fact get a lot worse, if the House Ways and Means budget released on Wednesday becomes final. And there is still a possibility that Governor Patrick may cut more out of local aid in the present fiscal year, to close a gap in the state budget that may range as high as \$400 million.

#### **Closed, But Not Forgotten**

What to do with the nowclosed Montague Center School building was the focus of a public hearing at the Montague Center fire station on Wednesday. Judging by the 30-plus attendees, the school building's historical role in Montague Center remains vivid in residents' thoughts.

The forum was staged as an opportunity to hear reactions and ideas from residents to a building-use feasibility study conducted by Greenberg and Associates of Putney, VT, an architectural firm working on the study in conjunction with Montague's capital improvements committee.

"Unlike the Strathmore and Railroad Salvage buildings," said Les Cromack, the committee's chair, "Montague Center School is owned by the town." Cormack noted that the school building "has some negatives," and "was not an easy building to sell, but it does have potential."

Doug Kennedy, a planner and economist from Norwich, VT, opened the consultants' presentation with a brief summation of factors. He noted the growth in the number of Montague Center residents between ages 55 and 75 with incomes over \$75,000 exceeded other towns in the area.

That trend, he suggested, might bode well for potential condominium or rental marketing.

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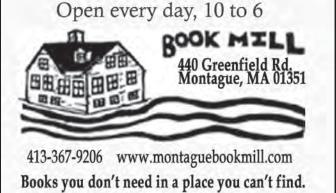
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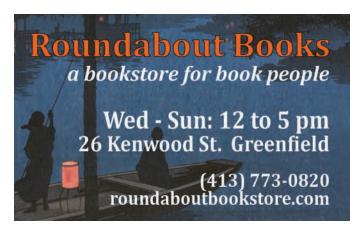
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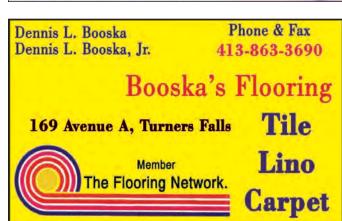














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413-772-8788 **PVSQUARED.COOP** GREENFIELD, MA MA ELEC. LIC. A13764 MA HIC 140077 Above: Meltwater surges past the dam at Turners Falls last Saturday. Thanks to Joe Kopera for sharing his photograph!

# Musica Franklin Celebrates with Fun Fest at Sheffield School

By K. CAMARA

TURNERS FALLS – Musica Franklin, a community non-profit arts and social justice initiative with roots in the life's work of one passionate Venezuelan musician named Jose Antonio Abreu, is alive and well in Turners Falls. Up on the hill at Sheffield Elementary School, Musica Franklin is having an impact on the lives of children and their families as an elective option within the afterschool program.

On Sunday, May 5 from noon to 5 p.m., Sheffield will be the property and foot traffic

On Sunday, May 5 from noon to 5 p.m., Sheffield will host an event called "Musica Franklin Fun Fest," a first-annual free celebration open to the general public which will include music and related arts performances for the entire community.

The musical revolution begun by Abreu in 1975 was an effort to bring the transformative power of music to all of Venezuela's children, and not just the elite class. His work has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their families within his country and, through his program called El Sistema, has extended to include over 400,000 children in more than 55 countries around the world today.

Abreau's work brought back to the children what belonged to all of them: music, and its power to impact all aspects of a child's life. His program provided dignity to children whose lives, as a result of the extreme poverty in which they lived, had become purposeless. Despite suffering the effects of poverty, the children proved to be resilient, curious, and eager to learn, and Abreu's program became not just a musical revolution but also a social one: the children who carried violins home saturated the landscape of their communities with a spirit of hope, vision, and renewed possibilities.

It was natural for that spirit of inclusivity to grow beyond the borders of Venezuela to embrace all children. Through the pioneering efforts of the Musica Franklin founder and director Vicki Citron – herself a passionate musician and Suzuki violin teacher – it has reached Franklin County, Massachusetts, where it is affecting the children of our own communities, their families, and their friends.

In a drizzle, under a heavily cloud-laden afternoon sky, I visited Sheffield to meet Vicki Citron and some of the other dedicated individuals who are the ripple



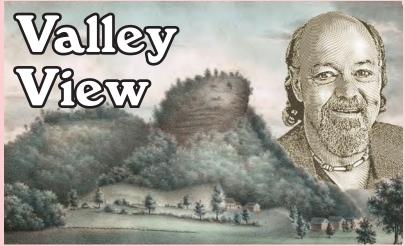
Musica Franklin founder and director Vicki Citron helps a student with bow position.

effects of that monumental pebble Abreu dropped in a pond south of the border over 40 years ago. I had been called to visit and learn more after perusing the Musica Franklin website to take a look at the offerings for the May 5 event at the school.

Plans include performances by children from the Sheffield Elementary program for ages 7 to 12, as well as a sister after-school program which serves middle school children in Greenfield, and meets in the community room of the Leyden Woods housing complex. The website states that both programs, offered at no cost to children at both locations, are based on the belief that the pursuit of musical excellence teaches students to strive for excellence in all areas of their lives.

Musica Franklin's initial program was launched in Greenfield, and in 2016 a local social service organization in Turners Falls invited them to expand through

see FUN FEST page B5



**By GARY SANDERSON** 

GREENFIELD – It's springtime, the season of emergence and regeneration, optimism and growth – a time when airborne euphoria titillates the imagination, unleashes a creative flow. Many have felt it. It's contagious. Peaks in May. Fades into steamy summer doldrums.

And here I sit, rain falling, grass greening through the southern window, enthralled, mind climbing an ancient Indian footpath leading up the southern face of a venerable Connecticut Valley landmark. Called Mount Sugarloaf by most, Wequomps by the earliest deed, and the Giant Beaver in Algonquian oral history, there exists at the top an inconspicuous shelf cave tucked under the Beaver's eyebrow.

Although I often think of that boyhood curiosity, I have not scaled the path or visited that cave in 50-some years. My last visit would probably take me back to the years surrounding the winter 1966 torch job of the white, 19th-century, porched, wood-frame summit house I remember well.

The roof of the infamous cave up there, known to locals as King Philip's Seat, is the old fenced-off observation deck along the road. I know the path and the cave despite exploring it far less often than another ancient footpath to a similar cave on North Sugarloaf, secluded on a hardwood ridge where no motor vehicles or adults ever visited. I suppose it was then possible to bump into a familiar face on rare occasions. Otherwise, you had the place to yourself - a private sanctuary, a place of peace and solitude – a lofty, indigenous, stone altar securely nestled in the Earth Mother's chapel.

Both ridgetop caves are in fact rock shelters, situated high above proglacial Lake Hitchcock shoreline of the late Pleistocene. They date back far deeper than the civilized world's oldest pew, to a world of hunting, gathering and pagan worship. The cave on Sugarloaf faces south. North Sugarloaf's faces west. Both are located high on the southern tips overlooking steep drops. They can be clearly seen from the towns below, if you know what you're looking for.

Though the caves' appearance hasn't changed in my lifetime, the

activity around them has increased dramatically. That's especially true on Mount Sugarloaf, a tourist destination where car and foot traffic stream up and down the road and hiking trails to the mountaintop observation tower protruding from the Beaver's skull. On North Sugarloaf, you are apt at any time to find gaily clad hikers and helmeted bikers following a network of marked trails maintained and patrolled by uniformed state employees headquartered at Sugarloaf.

Not threatening, these park rangers are potentially present anytime, anyplace all the way from Sugarloaf's summit, across the notch, up North Sugarloaf and down to the Hillside Road parking area. Perhaps the solitude and quiet contemplation I recall as a kid could still be experienced in that North Sugarloaf cave if you hit it right. No guarantees.

What triggered my thoughts of the Sugarloaf caves of my South Deerfield youth was a relatively new biography I read about the great Sioux holy man Black Elk. Written by Joe Jackson, I would recommend it to anyone attempting to understand the Oglala Lakota medicine man. Perhaps a diligent reader should first read Black Elk Speaks and The Sacred Pipe, both still in print, if you want to understand the tribe's worldview. Much of what that culture believed mirrors the beliefs of western Massachusetts' native people scattered long ago to faraway places. Some likely eventually found their way to Sioux, Blackfeet and other Great Lakes and Northern Plains villages that took the harried migrants in.

My interest in Black Elk began in the summer of 1962. Having graduated from Miss Tarrant's third-grade class at South Deerfield Elementary School, I would turn 9 at June's end. My maternal grandparents – Martin and Adele (Comeau) Keane – were retired world travelers. They took me along on a fascinating three-month summer tour of the Midwest, where we visited family.

We stayed first with my grandfather's sister Delia in Illinois, then traveled to my Uncle Bob and Aunt Renie's Twin Cities home in Minnesota. From there we all embarked on a camping trip through South Dakota's Black Hills and Badlands to Wyoming's Devil's

see VALLEY VIEW page B4



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – For years we have kept a garden log, noting the time the perennials flower, the appearance of the spring birds, the progress of seedlings in the sunroom. We write on the calendar the date the daffodils bloom, the date the rhubarb emerges, the blossoming of the fruit trees. At the end of the year we transfer this information to the new year's calendar.

Amazingly, perhaps not surpris-

# Mother Nature's Clock

ingly, mother nature is right on schedule.

We were fortunate in spending the month of February in northern Florida. This broke up the winter, shortening the days of shoveling, the extra layer of clothing, and the dreariness of feeling locked inside. Lulled by balmy days with walks on the beach, sitting outside and grilling fresh fish, we experienced winter amnesia.

Reality resurfaced when we returned home in March through a hail and snowstorm and of course the cold.

March was a bit of a shock. Never a favorite month; rather like November, gray and sulky with a teasing bit of spring to come now and then, but mostly another month of winter to endure.

April at last brings occasional warm days which lengthen, glimpses of the tips of spring bulbs pushing up through the mud, reddening in the top branches and the tips of trees, the happy song of the peeper frogs, the return of more Canada geese, the night calls of the owls, and the splendor of the full moon.

We don't want to rush this exquisite season when each day brings something new to see: many more daffodils in bloom, the short-lived fragile beauty of the apricot blossoms, and soon, the opening of the lilacs.

In the sunroom, it's time to finish the first transplant of tomatoes from the one-inch growing cells to twoinch pots. All of these young plants are showing their true leaves. That's

see **GARDENER'S** page B2

# Pet the Week



# "Bud"

Hi there! I'm Bud, as in "What's up, bud?" I'm a quiet boy who would be a great bud for a person, but I may prefer to be an only cat. I like to play... I even fetch toys and bottle caps! Who knows, maybe you can teach me how to fetch your slippers, and then we can both relax

while you give me a good scratch behind the ears.

I'm a lovable guy and I'm waiting for that special someone who'll come to Dakin and say, "Be my bud!" Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or *info@dpvhs.org* if that's you!

# Senior Center Activities APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 3

#### **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 4/29 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 4/30 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Healthy Living Reunion 3:30 p.m. Meditation (pre-reg)

Wednesday 5/1 9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/2 9 a.m. NO Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

10:30 a.m. to noon: Brown Bag 1 p.m. Cards & Games 4 p.m. Mat Yoga

**Friday 5/3** 1 p.m. Writing Group

#### **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 4/29

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt 10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance 11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch 12:30 p.m. Pitch card games **Tuesday 4/30** 

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise 10 a.m. Stretch & Balance 12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Wednesday 5/1

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. Homemade Lunch 12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/2 8 a.m. Foot Clinic 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones

Friday 5/3
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch
9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

12:30 p.m. Brown Bag pick-up

#### LEVERETT

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

10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

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.

#### GARDENER'S from page B1

a good thing. Now the stems need to thicken up, so we'll add some diluted seaweed fertilizer. In a mere six weeks or so they'll have been transplanted yet again, and be ready to set out in the garden when we judge the soil to be warm enough.

In the meantime, we've cleared the garden bed of old thick grass around the edges of the fenced-in plot. This year, instead of setting another stretch of chicken wire to support the peas, we plan to plant them right next to the fence and let them climb on that. Since the fence also stands to keep the squirrels out of the corn later in the season, there's no reason it can't do double duty with the peas in the meantime. They'll all be harvested long before we are picking corn or tomatoes.

We're a bit later than usual to put in the peas this year, but we've been waiting for it to stop raining for a day or two so the soil can dry out just a bit more. As it is, the river races by the edge of the property, and if you crack the window, you can hear it overnight. It is like living next to a smaller bit of ocean.

Alas, this wet, warmer weather means the ticks and the mosquitoes are active already. We cannot think of a single use for these critters, and wonder why they got a place on the Ark at all; except perhaps so humans will not expect all to be rosy and without challenge.

Research notes that many forms of fowl are big tick consumers. If you are not a fan of keeping chickens or Guinea hens, encourage wild turkeys in your yard by feeding them, or make the homely opossum your friend, as they are voracious tick eaters who groom themselves meticulously. One busy opossum can consume as many as five thousand ticks a year. At the very least, swerve to avoid taking out these critters on the roads. They tend to tear into our compost bin for their favorite veggies, but they're welcome to them. We say, thanks for coming by, and don't forget to groom yourself before you leave!

In the meanwhile, take good care of all of the life in the bug world which takes good care of your garden and flowers. Plant things which encourage bees and butterflies; don't dig deep but instead let those earthworms tunnel away, aerating the soil and fertilizing it, too. Use all the organic soil and plant treatments you can find before you resort to poisons.

Enjoy tending mother earth and she will take good care of you with beautiful blooms and nutritious edibles. Growing a garden of any type you choose will also feed your soul.

"In the world at large, people are rewarded or punished in ways that are often random. In the garden, cause and effect, labor and reward, are recoupled. Gardening makes sense in a senseless world. By extension, then, the more gardens in the world, the more justice, the more sense is created."

– Andrew Weil



#### **BOOK REVIEW**

# Rebecca Daniels, Keeping the Lights On for Ike

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS - Rebecca Daniels charts the long-distance romance her parents maintained during World War II in her carefully researched book, Keeping the Lights On for Ike: Daily Life of a Utilities Engineer at AFHQ in Europe During WWII; or, What to Say in Letters Home Where You're Not Allowed to Write About the War (Sunbury, 2018). Featuring letters and scrapbook items from a treasure trove of memorabilia that she inherited from her mother after she died in 2006, the book follows Alec and Mary Daniels' journey as newlyweds separated by the war for three years.

Married in their home state of Oregon in 1940, the couple endured a separation that was much longer than they ever anticipated, and they struggled to keep the romance alive at a distance. Communication was difficult during the war, and letters back and forth could be delayed by weeks and were heavily censored. Although her father, working as a utility engineer specialising in electrical systems, was not on the front line of combat, he was still forbidden to report his location and other details unless it were already reported by the media.

Alec Daniels had gone to college in the ROTC program, and after graduation was for a brief time reading meters in Portland before receiving his first assignment as a civil engineer at the Navy Yard in Bremerton, Washington. From there, he was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and then Fort Riley in Kansas for basic training before going overseas, initially to England, then Northern Africa and Italy.

Rebecca Daniels knew that her mother had saved a lot of material from this era, as she would often show slides from those years, but the letters revealed sides of her father she hadn't known existed. "I didn't know – because my parents were both very discrete, very private, very shy, with no public displays of affection – how much of a romantic he was. This was a very hot and heavy romance!" says Daniels. "The extent to which it was so physical and sexual was the surprise for me."

Another surprise was her father's attitude towards gender roles. In several letters, he expresses very feminist viewpoints towards supporting women's work in nontraditional occupations, and even expressed the hope that Mary might someday support him with her writing.

"His open-mindedness about gender roles," commented Daniels, was evident in his parenting as well. "It manifested as I was

growing up, in that he wanted me to be an engineer. I never had any limits about thinking what I could do."

REBECCA DANIELS

Unfortunately, because her father had to relocate many times while he was overseas, he was not able to save Mary's letters back to him, so history only has one half the couple's correspondence.

Mary loved to write, studying journalism in college, and her husband struggled to fill pages of correspondence when he was forbidden to convey so many details of his army life. From inferences in his letters, we gather that her correspondence was much lengthier than his, and he often apologized for not being able to write more than he did.

"I learned a lot," says Rebecca Daniels, of her research and writing process in this project. "The biggest thing I learned was that for every four combat soldiers in Europe, there were six support soldiers. He was one of those. I had no idea how enormous that 'tail' of the army really was."

Daniels, who is a university professor specializing in theater and communication, decided to interweave a history of the war within a chronological timeline of letters, after first pursuing a false start of more academic analysis. She credits her writing group's critique of this falsestart first chapter - "boring," is what they said - with heading her in the direction of putting human interest first. She based much of her historical research on two books from Rick Atkinson's Liberation Trilogy: An Army at Dawn, covering the campaign in Northern Africa, and The Day of Battle, about the war in Italy.

After the war the couple settled into a very conventional life, raising two adopted children, of which

Rebecca is the elder, on the shores of Lake Oswego. Despite expressing a strong desire to travel and lead a somewhat bohemian lifestyle in his letters from Algiers, Alec Daniels became the plant engineer at a paper manufacturer, a job he held for 30 years. He died young, in 1972, and never went back overseas after the war. Mary wrote short sto-

ries as her avocation while being a housewife, then worked in the book section of a department store for many years, never remarrying after being widowed.

Both of her parents were amateur photography buffs, taking lots of slides and carefully preserving them, which made it possible to include several illustrations within each chapter of the book. There are pictures of the couple and their German shepherd Pete and shots from Army locations showing the daily life there. Her mother kept postcards, envelopes, ration cards, and other momentos, which are also digitized and included. Daniels is grateful that her university was able to grant fund this digitization.

The book moves swiftly along, while at the same time capturing the frustration of their prolonged separation. The historical timeline provides just the right bit of historical context to these war years behind at the tail of the army. This is not the typical WWII combat book; those types who prefer working behind the scenes will relate to the Daniels engineering efforts as outlined in this story.

Rebecca Daniels has lived in Turners Falls since 2014, having grandchildren in Montague. Retired from university teaching, she also volunteers as the literary manager of Silverthorne Theater. She will be giving a talk about her book on Thursday, May 2 at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls at 6:30 p.m.

A copy is available at the Carnegie Library, and there are several for sale at World Eye Books in Greenfield. It is available as a Kindle edition and in paperback from Amazon and Sunbury Books, and by special order at local book shops.

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# MONTY / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN APRIL EDITION: "The Trio"

By J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS - "The Trio" is a newer "supergroup" kind of band from the Philadelphia area. They are fronted by Tara Burke (a.k.a. Fursaxa), who sings and plays chimes and bells. The other members are Brooke Sietinsons, from the Espers, and Nathalie Shapiro.

The Trio are playing at Looky Here in Greenfield on Saturday, May 4, along with the Crystalline Roses Band and a duo, Willie Lane and Wednesday Knudsen.

MMM: How did you three end up playing together? What are some memorable early experiences playing music?

TB: Nathalie and Brooke were coming up for a visit (I live two hours from Philadelphia), and said they wanted to share with me the songs they had been writing together, and see if I wanted to participate as well. I immediately was moved by what I heard, and the ideas for vocal parts started manifesting.

After we played together for a few hours, we went to a fun potluck at our mutual friends Eric DeJesus and Beth Duby's house in Stony Run. Having good food involved when we are playing music is usually of utmost importance.

MMM: Do you have any fun memories of hanging out or playing in West Mass? Fave venues, musicians, people out here?

BS: My favorite memory of playing in Western Mass with Espers was at Byron Coley's "Ecstatic Yod" space in 2003, sharing a bill with Michael Hurley.

My favorite show as an audience member was the Gladtree Brattleboro Fire Benefit at Hampshire's Red Barn in 2005. There were a dozen bands, and it was also a potluck. I drove up from Philadelphia with Otto Hauser, with some offering of baked goods to contribute.

I distinctly remember watching the Flaherty-Corsano Duo play in front of the big windows as the sun set in the background. Aaron Rosenblum played a small, parlor-style guitar that day and I thought it was the best sounding guitar I'd ever heard in my life. I also had my first meeting with some of the members of Feathers, who soon became close friends.

Espers opened for Stereolab at Pearl Street in Northampton a year later. I can't remember much about the actual show, but I had a great time staying with Meara, Shayna, and Asa from Feathers in Dummerston, Vermont afterwards. Meara made a tarte Tatin for breakfast, and Asa taught us how to play cribbage. We hung out way too long that morning, arriving late to the NYC venue in the midst of St. Patrick's Day chaos and missing our soundcheck.

**TB:** I played a Fursaxa show in Turners Falls, MA about a year and a half ago at Shannon and Beverly's place. The show was fun, and I got to see some old friends and musicians that I had not seen in a

really long time, like MV and EE, Dan Ireton a.k.a. Dredd Foole, and Willie Lane.

NS: I never played in Western Mass before, but my favorite memory is driving over from Boston to visit my friend Sam in his sprawling bookshop Grey Matter Books in Hadley and spending the afternoon browsing and chatting, and the beautiful day outside. Also, great ice cream at Herrell's in Northampton.

Happenstancily, Sam has opened a second Grey Matter Books in New Haven, Connecticut, where we'll be playing the night before we play at Looky Here in Greenfield.

MMM: Have you done any recording yet?

NS: Yes, but we will be starting over, because our songs have evolved and we're much better at playing together now!

MMM: Tara, how does this project differ from your solo & duo projects?

TB: Well I guess there is the obvious that Fursaxa is more about creating music alone, and having total control over how it sounds.

As for the duo projects, Anahita is usually Helena [Espvall] and I getting together and hanging out for a couple of days, playing music, and when we have something we really like we record it. Tau Emerald, with Sharron [Krauss], was kind of similar in that I was staying with her in Oxford for the week and we spent our time together recording an album.

Playing with Nathalie and Brooke, they usually write the songs together, play them for me, and I am inspired with words and voice. I do play just Casio keyboard on one song, but I also like the idea of just concentrating on singing and writing lyrics to the songs.

MMM: How would you describe your music?

NS: We've known each other for over 20 years, maybe even over 25. So there is implicit closeness, with melodies and phrasings we each play interweaving; with Tara's vocals and bells/instrumentation, Brooke's guitar, and the harmonium, there's sometimes adjacent warp and weft to the song structures.

We don't all three get together as much as we'd like. When we do get together we play for hours at a stretch. That first experience playing at T's house, which was off the electricity grid a mile back down a drive off the main road, was 100% solar powered, and I think the first song was like 40 minutes long.

It's hard to describe, especially when people tell us we don't sound like anyone or anything else, but that generative moment you can say was off-grid chamber drone. And though we've been grid-tied on and off since that time, I think the description is still accurate.

Also, snacks. Chocolate. Popcorn. Fruit. Cookies, esp. if Brooke bakes them, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Males Allegedly Trespass, Damage Car, Argue, Steal; Female Allegedly Uses Very Smelly Cleaning Chemicals

Monday, 4/15

Fourth Street reporting off. Officer advised. looks sick; caller is unable to let dog out. Animal control officer is off this week. Officer advises skunk gone on arrival. is there on daily basis and compost pile at the comadvising that the skunk walking backwards and looks sick. Skunk is now younger skunk looking be sick. Residents advised to stay away from it.

Lake Pleasant Road re- Area search negative. morning his niece saw a the vehicles in the drive- moved along. an officer.

previous call has returned. Two males were walking by and threw the skunk but hit the caller's vehicle and a tenant's vehicle. Unknown damby the vehicles. Respondsmall crack in windshield to shelter. of other. Unable to deterfrom this incident.

Newton Street reporting that his son and another Randall Wood Drive ad- this time. vising that her smoke 5:01 p.m. Two-car acci- Sunday and egg hunts. over-cooked some food.

Tuesday, 4/16

10:36 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street calling about a roofing company that is doing a roof on Bridge Street. Caller states that there are tiles with nails in them in the road. Caller did speak with a worker two hours ago, and the tiles are still there in the road. Officer spoke with roofing company; they will be picking up the tiles in the road. Officer will check back to make sure the tiles were picked up.

2:58 p.m. Caller advising that a large black Ford SUV was parked in the alley on the Shea Theater side of the Cutlery Building for at least 40 minutes. Caller advises that at one point, a male and female were in the back of the

vehicle. Parties relocated 8:37 a.m. Caller from to the front seats and drove

skunk in the yard that 4:32 p.m. Caller reports receiving several vulgar phone calls from an unknown male party. Officer will follow up.

5:35 p.m. Caller's children Neighbor advises skunk just reported to her that while they were at the may have headed to the Montague Center playground, a white truck munity garden. At 11:05 with red lettering circled a.m., caller called back the playground four or five times. Operator did not is back, weaving around, try to interact with children. Area checked; unable to locate.

in a hedge. Officer ob- 5:43 p.m. Report of a poserved skunk for a while; tentially injured or sick fox in caller's backyard on for food; did not appear to Turners Falls Road. Fox appears to have an injured leg and is drooling. Fox is 9:10 a.m. Caller from lying down at this time.

ports that at 1:00 this 6:07 p.m. Complaint regarding panhandler at male walking in between F.L. Roberts. Advised and

way. Nothing missing 9:38 p.m. Per officer's refrom vehicles. Referred to quest, left message for DPW advising that the 12:20 p.m. Caller from street lamps (not traf-Fourth Street advising fic lights) in the area are that the skunk from the completely out all along Avenue A from Fifth Street to Subway.

Wednesday, 4/17

rocks at it; they missed 9:35 a.m. Caller from Billings Road states that there is a loose husky in her yard chasing her cats and age, as the skunk is still horses. Dog is friendly and wearing a collar; however, ing officer advises no there is no tag info. Officer damage to one vehicle; en route; dog transported

10:30 a.m. Vehicle fire on mine if damage occurred Meadow Road. No injuries. 4:14 p.m. Report of black 6:11 p.m. Caller from smoke coming out of smoke stack at Strathmore/Indeck. TFFD admale are arguing outside vised and en route. It apover a motorcycle; states pears someone dragged they have had issues with tires into that section of this male before. Officer the building and lit them clear. Advised of options. on fire. Fire knocked down 8:50 p.m. Caller from by TFFD; overhauling at

TFA1 and Rau's en route. 5:44 p.m. Report of kayakers too close to the dam; the barriers have not been put up yet. Officer will be heading over the bridge to the Gill side to speak with the kayakers about

safety precautions. 6:40 p.m. Caller reporting dead raccoon near the fence next to the volleyball courts at Unity Park. Advised caller that DPW should be able to pick it up tomorrow.

11:50 p.m. Caller reporting that tonight he was "jumped" by parties known to him. Caller was injured and went to the hospital; currently being driven home by a friend. Advised of options.

Thursday, 4/18

4:22 a.m. Caller reporting that new roommate is throwing things and screaming. Caller also states that the female is using very smelly cleaning chemicals. Caller is hiding from female at this time. Officers en route. Issue is mostly noise complaint. [Redacted.]

1:58 p.m. Caller from Rite Aid states that a male operating a newer, shiny black Lexus sedan was asking her if she wanted to "go with him." He asked several times, and she refused. He drove off without incident.

2:12 p.m. Employee reporting a sick or injured squirrel in the front of the office building at New England Extrusion. Animal made its way back into a tree; did not appear sick.

Friday, 4/19 4:38 p.m. Caller from Dell Street reporting dead fox between two trees on the property. Advised that DPW and ACO are not on duty until Monday, but if something can be done today, we will try. Caller concerned about Easter

alarms are going off, but dent at Montague City 5:33 p.m. Walk-in who Animal dispatched and everything is fine; they and Turnpike roads. One wishes to remain anonparty reporting chest pain. ymous advising there is

a great blue heron stuck in some of the netting at the hatchery on Hatchery Road. Contacted Environmental PD; they do not have anyone available. Officers were able to release the heron to enjoy the holiday weekend.

Saturday, 4/20

2:51 a.m. Caller reporting large group of teenagers outside apartment building on Fourth Street. Group scattered when they realized she was on phone with police. Officer spoke with caller, four of the kids, and a parent. All of the kids were respectful. The problem kids were seen crossing Avenue A just prior to call. Unable to locate them at this time. 3:11 a.m. Officer out with three individuals in the alley next to the Pizza House. Clear; not the people he was looking for.

3:07 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports scrawny-looking fox that was lying in his yard; fox is now walking back into the woods. Caller will call back if fox returns.

3:21 p.m. Shoplifting at Rite Aid; male stole a large number of dental items and took off out the rear exit. K9 unit searching area. Report taken.

7:12 p.m. A 21-year-old Orange woman was arrested on a default warrant.

Sunday, 4/21

1:15 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle pulled to the side of Greenfield Cross Road. Parties admitted they were looking for alone time. Parties advised to move along.

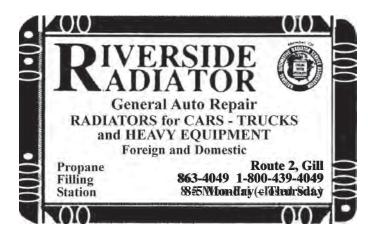
5:09 a.m. Caller from Pinewood Circle reports his neighbor is in the backyard yelling and screaming; thinks he is either drunk or "on something." Area checked; unable to locate. 5:54 a.m. Officer located fox that appears to be ill on Turners Falls Road.

moved to side of road.

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#### VALLEY VIEW from page B1 Tower, a magical place indeed.

Along the road, I witnessed abject Native American poverty, the likes of which I had never

imagined. I also got my first taste of black urban poverty, passing through Gary, Indiana, where I was confronted by my first black mannequin. But let us not digress.

During a brief sightseeing stop at Mount Rushmore, I met Black Elk's son, Benjamin Black Elk, who worked as interpreter for Black Elk Speaks author John G. Neihardt's interviews. Leave it to my grandfather to connect with the traditionally dressed Sioux man. From Galway, Ireland, Grandpa had kissed the Blarney Stone. Having read a Rotarian magazine feature about Benjamin Black Elk, a Mount Rushmore attraction, he sought out the man in the dining room and sat him down with us for buffalo burgers.

Ben Black Elk was promoting the Cinerama spectacle "How the West Was Won," which was debuting, and in which he played an Arapaho chief. An Oglala holy man himself, he told us his father had witnessed Custer's Last Stand and was a famous Sioux healer about whom books had been written. His traditional dress, kind black eyes, deep dignified voice, and graceful manner left an indelible mark on me.

Since that boyhood encounter – and because I grew up on the banks of Bloody Brook, knew the "Boy Captive" narrative and often walked the "Indian Trail" to the North Sugarloaf cave - I have held a fascination for our indigenous people. Most fascinating in recent years has been my study of Native shamans, plant medicine, vision quests, spirit quests, the cosmos, worldview, and creation myths – all of it esoteric to the *nth* degree.

Having read what I've read and studied my place, I am confident I

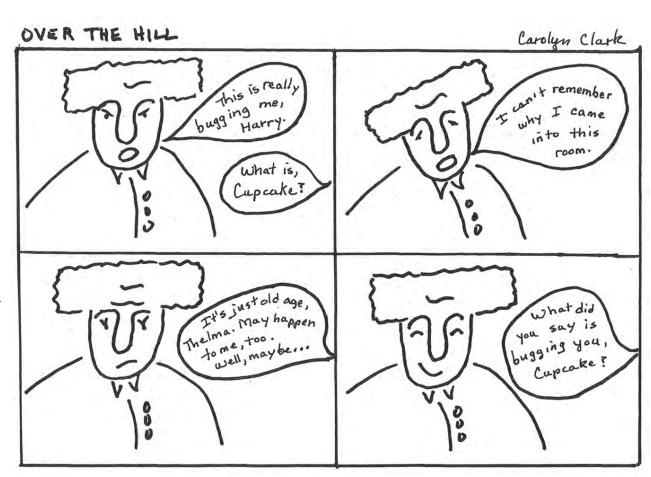
know why the ancient footpaths to the Sugarloaf caves are carved so indelibly deep. I know why they will outlast me, why they will likely never disappear. Such ancient paths through dangerous mountain terrain strongly suggest an important destination. Maybe such a trail was related to hunting and gathering, to a strategic observation point, a sacred place of high spirit and cultural worship. Maybe all of the above and then some.

Who was the first to walk the path? When? How often was it scaled? Was it only for men? How many indigenous feet trod it before the European colonial invaders came? Many questions. Answers

I'm more convinced than ever that the two stone chambers - one situated in the eye of the Giant Beaver, the other overlooking the fatal neck-wound delivered by the mythical transformer hero Hobomock of Algonquian lore - were, first and foremost, seclusion chambers for vision quests and spirit quests. For millennia, shamans used these sacred shelters to sit in spiritual isolation, fasting, singing, chanting and praying themselves into trance for supernatural instruction. Google it. You'll find that the Sugarloaf shelf caves meet all the classic requirements for such a place of spiritual questing. Water could be transported in. The trails could be 8,000 years old. Maybe more. Incredible.

These forest treasures hidden on a state reservation (ironic, huh?) must be respected and protected. They stand as spiritual monuments to a native race that called our place theirs for unimaginably longer than we have, and had a far deeper understanding. Too bad they are gone. They knew the rich stories of the land, tales that need to be told... and heard... if they survive, which is at best unlikely.

#### by denis f. bordeaux T-RUMP ECONOMIC POLICY DEREGULATION WE'LL LEAVE THE NOT TARRED AND AB ON THE TABLE CRAP HITS THE FAN, WE'LL USE MY OLD FAVORITE, DECLARE BANKRUPTCY AND RAPE, PILLAGE, AND FEATHERED YET CLASS WILL HAVE TO PAY IT. JUST LIKE POLIUTE HAS BIG CORPORATIONS PILING UP HUGE SLOGAN TO REFLECT WHAT A GREAT VOTE TRUMP 20 BUSINESS MIND I WHEN LIL GEORGIE SOCKED IT TO EM HAVE. CASH OUT BIGTIME. PROFITS. IN 07:



#### **Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School** 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

#### Grade 6

# **FIRST HONORS**

Marilyn Abarua Corona, Starrli Bell, Amelia Bruso, Ripley Dresser, Jacob Guillemette. Shelby O'Leary, Alexander Quezada Abarua. Matthew Richards, Alexander

#### **SECOND HONORS**

Rayne Bonfiglio, Juel Caraballo, Tatiana Carr-Williams, Julia Dickinson, Gianna Disciullo, Ruby Henry, Madison Liimatainen, Sheni Ovalle Roblero

#### THIRD HONORS

Aaliyah Gover, Josiah Little, Julian Mayo

# Grade 7

**FIRST HONORS SECOND HONORS** Aiden Bailey, Isabel Garcia, Michael Boyle, Trevor Brunette, Cameron Burnett, Taylor Greene, Alexander Hugh Cyhowski, Fiona Knapp, Jasmine McNamara, Hutchison, Logan Johnson, Raygan Pendriss, Oliver Syna Katsoulis, Anne Postera, Jacob Reich, Jack Trombi. Derek Wissmann Kolodziej, Ella Kolodziej, Audrey Lapinski, Regan Marshall, Joseph Mosca,

#### THIRD HONORS

Ian Bastarache, Jack Dovle, Jeremy Kovalsick, Owen LaValley, Taryn McDonough, Deven Sloan

# Movies Against Racism

**GREENFIELD** – The All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church is proud to announce their 17th Annual Anti-Racism film festival at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, May 5. Three films will be shown, starting at 1:30 p.m. Organizers state that they "are proud to present this film festival at a time when conflict around race, religion and class threaten to divide us. We offer this festival in hopes of creating greater tolerance and collaboration as we build a community that is strong, healthy and respectful of differences."

There will be facilitated discussions following each film, and free child care for those who need it. Donations appreciated, but there is no fee for this festival. At 6:30 p.m. a nourishing meal of local foods cooked by Stone Soup Café will be served, with vegan and gluten-free options. Sliding scale donation \$4 to \$10 for the dinner. No one will be turned away.

The first film to be shown is Dawnland: The untold story of indigenous child removal in the US through the nation's first Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigated the devastating impact of Maine's child welfare practices on the Wabanaki people. After-film discussion led by Strong Oak. (86 minutes, directed by Adam Mazo and Ben Pender-Cudlip, 2018)

At 3:45 p.m. the film will be *Do* 

You Wonder Who Fired the Gun? Described as a documentary about director Travis Wilkerson's investigation of the 1946 murder of an African American man by his white supremacist grandfather, which meets great resistance with threats to his life. A mix of journalistic inquiry, family secrets and self questioning. Discussion led by Carl Mc-Cargo. (90 minutes, 2017.)

After supper at 7:30 p.m. the final film will be The Hate U Give. A black community deals with the shooting of a black youth by a white police officer during a contrived traffic stop, as seen through the eyes of a black high school student who witnesses her childhood friend being shot while they are on a date. The story follows her evolution from trying to fit in with her white friends at school and avoiding public attention, to finding her voice in standing up for justice and truth. This film received a 97% approval rating on the Rotten Tomatoes website. Writing for Rolling Stone, Peter Travers gave the film four out of five stars, calling it an "exceptional adaptation." Momadou Sarr leads the after film discussion. (133 minutes, directed by George Tillman, Jr., 2018.)

For more information, call All Souls UU Church at (413) 773-5018 or Molly Chambers at (413) 772-0003. The Church is at 399 Main Street in Greenfield, on the corner of Hope and Main.

# Sabin, Zachary Zilinski

Grade 8

#### **FIRST HONORS SECOND HONORS**

Kendra Campbell, David Damkoehler, Lindsay Davenport, Shealyn Garvin, Samuel Hoynoski, Alexander Johnson, Silas Koyama, Ashley Leblanc, Madison LeBorgne, Nikolas Martin,

Brayden McCord, Lillian Poirier, Levin Prondecki, Kitana Rodriguez, David Stowe, Brooke Thayer, Sophia Wolbach, Cadence Wozniak

#### THIRD HONORS

Alina Bocharnikova, Thomas

Hall, Derek Helms, Aisha

Pruitt Gonzalez, Ashanjeriel

Santiago, Corin Wisnewski

Noah Ausikaitis, Kordell Cannon, Hailey Chagnon, Morgan Dobias, Ian Farrick, Mia Gonzalez, Samuel Lashtur, Sean Matakanski, Abigail Moore, Kaylee Moore, Sabrina Raymond, Adeline Riley,

Kimberlyn Semb

### Grade 9

#### **FIRST HONORS** Dylan Burnett, Emily

Holly Myers, Ricky Pareja

Jillian Revnolds, Avery

Tela, Isabell Vachula-Curtis,

Charlotte Valle, Carly Whitney, Shan-Tong Widmer

> Fess, Jacob Norwood, Kiley Palmquist, Blake Pollard, Brandon Pollard, Maria Romashka. Dylyn Russell, Abidail Sanders, Ivan Sankov, Olivia Stafford, Paige Sulda, Enmanuel

Villafana Abarua, Hannah Warnock

#### **SECOND HONORS**

Melany Sanchez Abarua, Chloie Sumner, Britnev Lambert, Bryce Finn, Jada Jurek, Olivia Delisle, Emily Young, Brendan Driscoll, Devin Willor, Hunter Reipold

**THIRD HONORS** Samantha Thorpe

#### Grade 10

#### **FIRST HONORS**

Mercedes Bailey, Haley Bastarache, Xavier Chagnon, Jacob Dodge, Isabelle Farrick, Haleigh Greene, Isabella Johnson, Natalie Kells, Audrey O'Keefe, Dalver Perez, Catherine Reynolds, Madison Sanders, Amber Taylor, Brynn Tela, Leah Timberlake, Jade Tyler, Leidy Villafana Abarua, Hailey Wheeler, Olivia Whittier, Maralee Wiles, Cecilya Wood

#### **SECOND HONORS**

Brianna Beckwith, Kate Boulanger, Ryan Duclos, Sophia Gobeil, Taylor Murphy, James Robison, Kaylin Voudren

#### THIRD HONORS

Sara Billings, Vincent Carme, Alexander Gleason, Kate Graves, Emily Johnston, Emily Sevrens, Lana Spera, Shelby Terounzo, Jamie Thayer, Kolby Watroba

#### Grade 11

#### **FIRST HONORS** Josy Hunter, Joseph Kochan,

Lorie Wood, Kamara Woodard

#### THIRD HONORS Mason Kucenski,

Alyson Murphy, Anthony Peterson, Brian Poirier

#### **SECOND HONORS**

Hailey Bogusz, Cameron Bradley, helsea Curtis, Liam Driscoll, Karissa Fleming, Alexandrea Francis, Joshua Gaulin, Eliza Johnson, Maya Johnston, Kaitlyn Miner, Chantelle Monaghan, Brian Murphy, Anastasia Romashka, Jakob Shearer, Vy Sok, Thao Vo, Abigail Waite, Lindsay Whiteman, Jaden Whiting-Martinez, Lydia Wright

#### Grade 12

#### **FIRST HONORS**

Lindsey Bourbeau, Dominic Carme, Kyle Dodge, Cailyn Gobeil, Anna Kochan, John Putala, Isaac Savage

#### **SECOND HONORS**

Ryan Campbell, Reilan Castine, Ruben Galvez Perez, Katherine Moreno-Sibrian, Mireya Ortiz, Will Turn, Hannah Welles, Cassidhe Wozniak

#### **THIRD HONORS**

Alazay Bauch, Alexis Lacey, Bryce Waldron

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#### FUN FEST from page B1

a second program in this town. To date, they have reached 100 children through their efforts: four afternoons a week in Turners Falls, and three in Greenfield. There are no fees, auditions, or other barriers to participation in the program, and families are encouraged to attend monthly Family Nights, which include formal and informal student performances, and a presentation by a professional musician.

On the day of my visit I was greeted by Christine Bates, the coordinator of the after-school program, A staunch supporter of Musica Franklin, she addressed my curiosities about the program she coordinates as well as the music elective's place within it. She led me to

the classroom where the musicians meet, before returning to attend to children participating in other electives such as gardening and computer lab, which are also offered in the afterschool program.

Travelling through the halls of a foreign (to me) institutional building kept me attentive and alert to notice all that surrounded me. I was struck immediately by the wooden violins and their partner bows as I entered the art room of the Sheffield school, where a group of children gathered with partners, doing hand-clapping rhythms and ordered dance steps. They were supervised by a woman who introduced herself as Gloria Matlock, one of two teachers overseeing the group of seven children who were gathered, ranging in age

and height, all attentive to the patterns of the clap being practiced.

Gloria encouraged me to take a seat, and I was introduced to Benjamin Weatherbee, who held rosin to bow after bow as we spoke. Both Gloria and Ben are musicians as well as teachers, and their enthusiasm for their work was evident throughout my visit. Gloria encouraged two of the students to sit and speak with me after the group had finished playing out rhythms on colorful new hand drums.

Micki and Trinity, 4th and 5th graders who have participated in the program for a year, responded in agreement to my question of what they liked most about the program: "A trip last year to Boston!" There they joined in a performance with other Massachusetts affiliate groups of El Sistema. They also noted an appreciation of an incentive aspect that allowed them to track their own progress with a karate-like system of colored belts, rather than grades.

When the notes of an improve xercise on the violins had hardly stopped vibrating, the first group of students was gone, and a larger group appeared along with Vicki Citron, who moved among the children with permission slips, encouraging their participation on Musica Franklin's "hay wagon" in this Saturday's Spring Parade.

When she had a moment to speak, I inquired about the belts, and she confirmed the importance

To plant

The plant

T

Micki and Trinity, with teacher Gloria Matlock in the background.

of tracking development in a system so process-oriented that it is sometimes difficult to assess one's own progress. These incentives, she explained, fulfill an important aspect of the mission to empower the children and develop their self-esteem. While Vicki answered any remaining questions I had, the songs, movement, drumming, and music of the second group filled the room – this time including two cellos amongst the violins.

We spoke of the importance of community celebrations as Vicki radiated with pride over another stack of papers bearing an illustration of a violin-playing cat, drawn by a participant. The image will help to advertise Fun Fest, which serves as a culminating event.

Fun Fest will feature a range of interactive and creative activities ranging from musical performances, juggling, puppet theater, face painting, crafts, and a bouncy house to sound wave demonstrations, a family dance, and an instrument petting zoo. Refreshments will be available from popular area food trucks, and there will also be a bake sale. (See the sidebar on this page for a full schedule.) Volunteers for the event are still being sought, and those interested can contact the associate director of the group, Rachel Ackerman, at rachelle@ musicafranklin.org.

# Fun Fest 2019 – Sunday, May 5 Schedule of Events (subject to change)

12:15 p.m. Youth dance perfor-

presents Kasper the Cow and

mance, Awesome Art in Motion

12:30 and 2 p.m. Puppet Theater:

Jana Zeller (Spybird Theatre)

1 and 3:15 p.m. Juggler extraordinaire Tony Duncan

**1 p.m.** Piti Theatre Youth Troupe

**1:30 p.m.** Orchestra Concert: Musica Franklin students play sideby-side with orchestra members

**2:30 p.m.** Family Dance with Peter Amidon (caller) and live

music by Musica Franklin staff, joined by Mary Alice Amidon

**3:45 p.m**. Songs and step-dancing by Musica Franklin students

**4 p.m.** Concert with Mister G, the Latin Grammy award-winning "kid-friendly, bilingual rock star!" and a 4-time winner of Parents Choice Awards

There will also be "Cymatics" demonstrations with Jodi Wheeler, a bouncy house, a piano mat, instrument manufacturing, and more. Information at *musicafranklin.org*.

# Youngsters Learn to Weave Songs and Stories

By NINA GROSS

Tchokolino

TURNERS FALLS - The first graders in Lori Saylor's class at Hillcrest School are rehearsing for a special performance in which they get to showcase a number of songs, including one that they wrote themselves. "And I can see a rainbow and I can see the fish ladder... One hundred forty years ago, the bridge went across this beautiful river," sang the children, raising their voices to finish: "For so many thousand years here the Pocumtuck people gathered to share salmon, seeds, and song. They joined here in the spring by this river."

It is a song of appreciation for the land and the local history. In another first grade classroom, one student was inspired to write a song of gratitude for the abundance of life on this good earth. These individual and collective works will be part of the Spring Pageant program on Friday, May 3 at 10 a.m. at the school. The public is invited to join these first graders and their families for the concert.

For nine weeks, all of the first graders at Hillcrest have been working with award-winning songwriter and guest artist Sarah Pirtle who, through a STARS grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, has been sharing her passion for weaving together history lessons, earth science, and music in an organic collaborative learning adventure. It is a holistic approach which resonates with the children, fostering a creative cooperative spirit.

Wide eyes and ready smiles greet Pirtle on her weekly visits, reflecting back her own gentle enthusiasm. If there is a magic formula for this kind of engagement it is equal parts care, kindness, and respect, themes which weave themselves into the songs she shares with the students, including her original songs.

The respect flows both ways.



First-graders at Hillcrest hold two woven symbols of unity: a Guatemalan sash of the Tree of Life, and a quilt brought by Sarah Pirtle (at center rear).

Pirtle knows the children's names, and she invites them into the conversation, asking their opinions and including their inspirations, making each one feel their unique importance to the group. She also consults with the classroom teachers to incorporate unit themes in science and social studies.

Says school principal Sarah Burstein, "The work that Sarah Pirtle is doing in our classrooms aligns with many of our goals for our students, creating opportunities for cooperative learning in which students have both individual accountability as well as shared responsibilities. Creating music together is a very enriching form of cooperative learning. In addition, this type of learning promotes emotional well-being and self-regulation. Also, Sarah has connected her work to our current science units which is a lovely interdisciplinary approach. Finally, she has integrated Spanish into some of the songs which reflects the languages of our students.

Pirtle shared her excitement with me. "One of the boys came up and said, 'You have to put in, This is the beautiful earth we love.' It's from that impulse that children learn cooperation, and that's what we study in science, that nature is fundamentally cooperative."

Sarah Pirtle has received ten national awards for her original children's music including a Magic Penny lifetime achievement award. She is a founder of the Children's Music Network, whose mission is to bring meaningful music to the schools.

In getting to know Pirtle, I discovered that my sister had her as a camp counselor at Rowe Camp in the early 1970s. My sister remembered her well, singing her praises as if no time had passed.

If you know a child who would like to have a similar experience, Pirtle runs week-long summer Journey Camp sessions at Woolman Hill in Deerfield. Scholarships provided by the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice have been set aside for Montague students ages 6 to 16.

For more information, visit the Journey Camp website at *sarah-pirtle.com/journey-camp.htm*, or contact Sarah Pirtle at *pirtle22* @hotmail.com.

#### **MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

# This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We hope you're having a joyful start to spring! These TV schedule highlights for the days ahead will give you a glimpse at the local programming available on Channel 17:

- Sonya Lamonakis Day, November 2018: Thursday at 4:30 p.m.
- Migration Festival, Turners Falls, 2018: Friday at 10 p.m.
- Erving Library Groundbreaking Ceremony, March 2019: Sat-

urday at 7:45 p.m.

Keep an eye out for more programming at *montaguetv.* org/p/55/TV-Schedule.

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

#### WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

# Saturday, May 4: Fantastic Voyage (1966)

WENDELL – Scientist Jan Benes, who knows the secret to keeping soldiers shrunken for an indefinite period, escapes from behind the Iron Curtain with the help of CIA agent Grant. While being transferred, their motorcade is attacked. Benes strikes his head, causing a blood clot to form in his brain. Grant is ordered to accompany a group of scientists as they are miniaturized. The crew has one hour to get in Benes's brain, remove the clot and get out.

The 1966 American science fiction film *Fantastic Journey* was directed by Richard Fleischer, who would go on to make *Soylent Green*, *Conan the Destroyer*, *Red Sonja*, and *The Jazz Singer*.

The film screening is free, and starts at 7:30 p.m. next Saturday, May 4 at the Wendell Free Library. At 7 p.m. an episode of Fireball

XL5, "Robert to the Rescue," will screen before the movie.

This is the next in the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the library, located in the center of Wendell.

Upcoming movies in this series, all of which begin at 7:30 p.m.:

June 1: *Mothra* (1961), starring Frankie Sakai, Hiroshi Koizumi, and Kyōko Kagawa

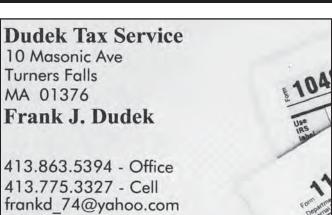
July 6: At the Earth's Core (1976), starring Doug McClure, Peter Cushing, and Caroline Munro August 3: Them! (1954), starring James Whitmore, Edmund Gwenn, and Joan Weldon

September 7: Lost In Space (1998), starring Gary Oldman, William Hurt, and Matt LeBlanc

For more information about the library, visit www.wendellfree-library.org or call (978) 544-3559.

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It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376 or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

# April's Featured Poet: Patricia Pruitt

Patricia Pruitt, who died a year ago this week, edited this page, served on the Montague Selectboard, and was an active participant in many aspects of life in Montague. She published a number of books during her lifetime, including most recently Drawing Point (Alyscamp Press, 2017), Full Moon at Sunset: Selected Poems (Talisman House, 2017), and Insistence and Blueline, both from Alyscamp Press, 2018. The poems on this page are from a forthcoming volume of uncollected poems.

#### A Cause and No Cure

An arrangement in a system to pointing not unordered in not resembling. Red weakens an hour. Sugar is not a vegetable. Out of kindness comes redness

If the red is rose and there is a gate surrounding it, if inside is let in and places change their certainty, something is upright.

A single climb to a line, a straight exchange to a cane, a desperate adventure and courage and a clock, all this which is a system, which has feeling, which has resignation and success, all an attractive black silver. A red stamp. A line distinguishes it.

### Sparkling Water

Objects don't matter Anymore. After burning rain a couch of eggshells would be welcome. Dauntless gauntlet of wanton hearts.

### In the Orange Cemetery

Surrounded by sun and stones marked Father, Mother, Son or Daughter, Wife. Few fresh flowers and dry grass, sand and rock debris of past ruins clutter the stairway up. Across the way neatly stacked cords of wood buffer a back yard from the dead. A line of tall pines is the divider. Mr. D.E. Wing lies across the path. Beside the wall the Barton Clan. It is possible to calculate about 25 years ahead. But what does one make of it in the meantime between then and now and how.

### Villanelle for Friday Morning

Are these embers burnt too low to kindle fire Night's pallor sharpens in morning's glare Perhaps light alone can sound the lyre.

Disillusion all fours slinks round its sire -A cold dog making Friday into its lair Are these embers burnt too low to kindle fire

All reason spent, and honor just a penny in the mire When leaves fall, they rot tangled in Autumn's snare As if light alone could sound the lyre

Futile to gather wood against spring's desire Eke out what heat lurks in a stranger's stare If these embers burn too low to kindle fire

Enough! Get up, put coffee on the fire Throw off this dour nightdress of despair Perhaps light alone will sound the lyre

Fashioned out of coffee cups and neuron wire Systematically it vanishes into air Are these embers burnt too low to kindle fire Perhaps light alone can sound the lyre.

# **Endings**

Are they made-up words or old, unused ones

Are there bonbons for any of us?

Plant a kiss on dry soil and it shrivels like the Polaroid of choirboys in flames

I listened but heard more blinds drawn than windows opened

Feminine endings - no one has ever asked me if I have feminine endings - Sin is an end that is masculine said a poet.

### My Seishin

Sweet peas in a vase the Buddha in the kitchen and me just sitting

only sitting here in each moment seeing this repetition renewal.

#### This I must Remember

The papaya tree in Cuyutlán bursting with bird song. The small black birds, not crows, flying up at dusk like swallows only not.

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# **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25** 

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tales of the Lost Formicans. The play explores the themes of adolescence, aging parents, fragile memory, lost love and divorce, unfolding in a collage of encounters among family members, the people around them, and the aliens who are studying them, trying to make sense of the complex dynamics of the family and its environment. Opening night discussion with playwright Constance Congdon precedes the show. Tickets to benefit United Way on opening night. \$. 7 p.m. Root Cellar, Greenfield: The True Jacqueline, Gladshot, ZoKi, Mystics Anonymous. \$. 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Radical Interconnectedness Festival. Festival featuring art addressing the concerns of marginalized communities; located at the Shea plus various venues throughout downtown Turners. Tickets and map at the Shea. See the ArtWeek preview article in our 4/18 edition for details, or eggtoothproductions.org. Repeats Saturday. \$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tales of the Lost Formicans. (See April 25 listing for details.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

St James and Andrew Church, Greenfield: Dolunay, Cesni Trio. Turkish and Rumeli music ensembles with album release show. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: The Proletariat, Moving Targets, Feminine Aggression, Human Ignorance. Punk. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bluegrass and Beyond. 9:30 p.m.

#### **CALL FOR ENTRIES:**

Slate Roof Press is taking submissions for the Glass Prize. One poem will be drawn from contestants in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, one from across the US. Cash prize, \$250. \$10 reading fee per submission. Deadline June 15. Details at slateroofpress.com..

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: TNT Karaoke. 9:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 27**

Downtown Millers Falls: Millers Falls Art Festival. Crafts, art, music on the sidewalks and in the galleries. Children's activities. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cowell Gym, Shelburne Falls: Hilltown Draw-Around. Annual community drawing marathon for everyone in a giant walk-through drawing space. Twelve hours of creative play, food, poetry, music, etc. Music with She Said at 8 p.m. Donation. Noon to Midnight. Root Cellar, Greenfield: Traditional Music Open Session: Contra, Irish, Old Time Etc. Open jam session. 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Reggae Roots Allstars. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Trinary System, Tin Vulva, The Original Cowards. In the Wheelhouse. \$. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Sedagive. 9:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Brick House Youth Art Show. Celebrate youth art and music. Youth will keep all proceeds from the sale of their art in this show. Performances by students from the Northampton Community Music Center. Donation. 12:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tales of the Lost Formicans. (See April 25 listing for details.)

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Rabbi with a Past: A Birthday Celebration. Stories and music featuring the life and times of Greenfield's own Andrea CK. Andrea details her journey from being the daughter of a cross-dressing mobster to her current gig as Rabbi at Temple Israel. \$. 6 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT

Karaoke. 9 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 30**

Wendell Library: Watercolor IIlustration. Gary Lippincott will give a talk on his work as an illustrator in conjunction with his current exhibit at the Herrick Gallery in the library. 6 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Photo/Tales. Photos submitted by DVAA artists, and archival photos from The Recorder newspaper, will be used as inspiration by participating audience members to write very brief mini-dialogues (no more than 5 minutes) which other audience members will read - "staged readings' against the background of the projected photograph. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Salsa Wednesday. With McCoy and DJ Roger Jr. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Creacion Latin Big Band Jam. On the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 2

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: GCC Rock and Jazz Bands. Free. 7 p.m.

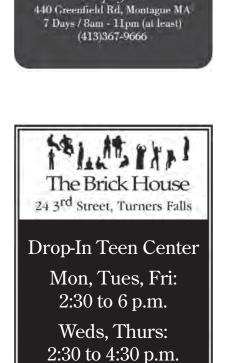
Looky Here, Greenfield: The Big Draw. Figure drawing session with a model in monthly sessions. \$ donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tales of the Lost Formicans. See Thursday's listing for details on the play. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Falltown String Band. 8 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: Trivia Night. Come with a team or by yourself, \$5 to play. Winning team receives \$25 gift certificate to the tavern, and all proceeds go towards a monthly good cause.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Swimmer, the New Motif. \$. 9 p.m.



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Auburn Auto with Hollyhocks, a painting by Leverett artist Louise Minks, is part of her exhibit "Roads and Rails" at the Sawmill River Gallery during May. Minks is fascinated by old cars, trucks, and steam engine trains, and often adds a twist to the image such as large flowers or intense backgrounds. The gallery is part of the Montague Bookmill complex. A reception will be held Saturday, May 11 at 1 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Radical Interconnectedness Festival. (See Friday's listing.)

\$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Joe Belmont Experience with Samirah Evans, Jazz, tunk and blues. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tales of the Lost Formicans. (See Thursday's listing for details.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Valley Jazz Voices. Largest jazz vocal ensemble in the area, singing standards with a professional jazz trio. Followed by a singer's open mic. \$. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Literary Rendezvous. Featured poets Trish Crapo and Janet Mac-Fadyen reading plus Open Mic hosted by Candace Curran and Beth Filson. 2:30 p.m.

### **EXHIBITS**

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: Pastel Studio. Recent works by Becky Clark's students. Through April 26. Followed by Paintings by Karen Axtell, through May; artist reception May 10, 5:15 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Large paintings by Sandy Sokoloff, glass creatures based on children's drawings; narrative paintings by Amy Bennett, collaborative fiber art of Jackie Abrams and Deidre Scherer, immersive mixed-media installation by Joey Morgan; paintings documenting several generations of an African-American and Cape Verdean family on Cape Cod by Joseph Diggs. Through June 16.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Spring Member Show. Artists in various media. Through May.

Flourish Gallery, Turners Falls: A Good Year for the Roses. Paintings and mixed media work by Alison Williams and collaborative work with Glen Scheffer. Through May.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Portraits of

Native Peoples of the Valley. Photographs by Sara K. Lyons, curated by Rhonda Anderson. Through May 31.

Greenfield Community College South Gallery, Greenfield: Student Art Exhibit. Highlighting work from current classes in the Art Department. Through May 9.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: Layers and Contingencies. Painters Kate Marion LaPierre and Hannah Richards. Through May 11.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: The Art of Missy Ashton. Paintings.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: Gary Lippincott. Professional illustrator. Through April.

La Mariposa, Turners Falls: Landscape Collage by Jesus Vio. Vio uses landscape to explore new themes and aesthetics for the general global consciousness, using multimedia collage. Through April 26.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Spontaneous Combustion: Improvisatory Art by Adam Bosse. Improvisations in color, paint, and ink, with a soundtrack from Bosse's musical projects. Through May 5.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: A Group of Seven, women painters from GCC, in the Barnes Gallery; drawings by Northfield Mount Hermon student Zitong Xu, a storytelling collection called "Lost Girls," in the hallway gallery. Through April.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: Roads and Rails: Trucks, Trains, and Cars with a Twist. Paintings by Louise Minks featuring her favorite steam engine trains and old cars and trucks. May 1 through May 31. Reception May 11, 1 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Women of Power, Fabric Figures by Belinda Lyons Zucker. Through April 28. Followed by Garden Structures and Ornaments: works by Piper Glass & Steel. Structures providing visual interest and functional support in the garden. May 3 through June 30. Reception with classical guitar music by Chris Eriquezzo on June 1, 3 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: The Lay of the Land, local watercolor landscapes by Nina Coler through April, followed by Fabrications, a fiber art exhibit by member artists in May.

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THE MONTAGUE REPORTER APRIL 25, 2019

# GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By MOON MOONEY

TURNERS FALLS – Spring is finally arriving, with green beginning to emerge from the slowly warming ground. Have you ever thought about how we, too, go through our own cycles with the seasons? Our bodies are part of the seasonal changes around us, and the earth provides us with what we need for each season. If we eat with the seasons, we can experience the joy of connection with nature, as well the anticipation and reward of what grows as the seasons progress.

As spring approaches, I always look forward to the early wild spring greens. Early spring greens tend to be very high in nutrients, providing us with much needed vitamins and minerals after a winter of less (or no) leafy vegetables.

Many spring greens are also bitter tasting. The flavor of bitter is very beneficial, believed to encourage digestion and liver function and help to clean our blood, providing a gentle "detox." This is especially important as we move out of more sedentary winter into the energy of spring and summer. Eating bitter greens in the early spring helps ready our bodies for the season ahead, and just plain makes us feel good!

Many wild edible spring greens are common and abundant in most areas. These include dandelion greens, garlic mustard, chicory, chickweed, cleavers, stinging nettles, wild onion/garlic, and cresses. These wild greens are some of the most nutrient-dense plants there are. Chickweed has a wealth of health benefits and contains vitamins A, B, and C as well as tons of minerals including iron and calcium. It calms many types of inflammation, and can be used both

internally and externally. Its cooling, expectorant, and antibacterial properties are said to be beneficial to the lungs, supporting recovery from conditions such as bronchitis and asthma.

Chickweed is a lymphatic herb, which means it helps move lymph in our body, reducing swollen glands and cysts. It is delicious raw in salads, and can also be steeped in vinegar along with other nutritive greens mentioned above and then used in dressings and marinades or taken straight.

Dandelion leaves, flowers, and roots are edible, with the younger leaves being more tender and less bitter, therefore better for eating raw. Dandelion is high in vitamins A and C, potassium, iron and other trace minerals. It is used as an appetite stimulant, and to assist digestion, and the root is used as a liver tonic. Dandelion is a gentle diuretic and supports the urinary system. However, unlike some other diuretics, which cause the body to lose potassium, this herb adds potassium back into the system. Dandelion has a myriad of other medicinal uses as well.

Dandelion greens can be found in the produce section of many stores, as well as other cultivated bitter greens such as mustard, endive, frisée, broccoli rabe, radicchio, and of course kale and collards. If you choose to harvest from the wild, exercise caution and only harvest if you are 100% sure of what you are harvesting. Make sure to only pick from land that you are sure is pesticide and chemical free, as well as located away from roadways, railroad tracks, and other pollution producing areas.

If you don't have access to land, try talking to a local organic farmer. Many of these plants are prolif-



ic in and around farm land, and it's likely farmers will welcome you to take away some of their "weeds"! Some other, much rarer wild plants tend to get more attention and are more glamorized in the local foodie scene, especially ramps (wild leeks), which has led to over-harvesting and depletion of their population. The other delicious wild plants covered here are vastly more sustainable to harvest, although it is important to still practice respectful harvesting with gratitude.

You may be thinking that the concept of "bitter greens" does not sound all that appealing. Sautéing these greens with onions and/ or garlic can mellow out the bitterness while not eliminating the benefits. They can also be added to soups and stews. A favorite way of mine to eat dandelion greens, that I learned from a friend well-versed in wild greens, is to roast thinly sliced potatoes until crispy, and fry up some sliced garlic in a pan. Toss the still-warm potatoes and garlic with the greens and a lemon vinaigrette, and you'll have a truly tasty

and satisfying salad.

Some greens, such as chickweed, have a milder flavor and are great in salads or as a topping for other dishes. Another great way to incorporate spring greens into your diet is to make pesto. Simply substitute these greens for basil, or mix with basil and make a traditional pesto. It's wonderful on pasta or veggies, or spread on hearty bread.

Local herbalist Brittany Wood Nickerson of Thyme Herbal in Conway has many yummy recipes using spring and wild greens in her beautiful cookbook *The Herbalist's Kitchen*, which is available through the CWMARS library system. She also has some recipes on her blog over at *thymeherbal.com*, where you can purchase her book.

If you are new to identifying wild plants or would like to learn more, be sure to come out to the Great Falls Apple Corps Free Wild Edibles Walk on May 19 at Unity Park. I will be there, helping to lead the walk with other knowledgeable Apple Corp members.

Hope to see you there!

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**Upcoming Events** 

Saturday, 4/27 at 10 a.m.: Spring Clean Up at the Unity Park Community Garden. All are encouraged to come help us clean up the garden in time for the new growing season. We'll be laying wood chips down on the paths, weeding, and planting spring vegetables. We'll have snacks and warm drinks on hand, and we'll have plants (including strawberry!) and seeds to give away.

Sunday, 5/19 at 1 p.m.: Free Wild Edibles Walk at Unity Park. Meet at the Unity Park Community Garden for a gentle loop around the park and onto the bike path, ending at the (open) fish ladder! We'll be talking about the abundance of forageables available downtown including nettles, wood sorrel, dandelion, and more. Route is paved and accessible.

Saturday, 5/25 at 10 a.m.: Avenue A Permaculture Talk and Planter Workday. Come help us maintain our two permaculture-inspired tree planters on Avenue A. The two planters are located on the corner of A and Third, in front of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries. We'll have a short "Permaculture 101" presentation, and then we'll get our hands dirty weeding, planting, and getting the planters ready for the summer.

Saturday 6/15 at 11 a.m.: Plant Swap at the Unity Park Community Garden. Come bring your extra seedlings, starts, and perennials to our free plant swap, and bring home new plants for your garden! You do not need to bring a plant to attend, as we will have donated extras on hand.

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

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