

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 11

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 16, 2020

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Elected Officials Hit Back At Planters

By JEFF SINGLETON

A hearing to present proposals for Montague's 2020 federal Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) application, scheduled to take 45 minutes, lasted for nearly twice that long during Monday's selectboard meeting as a proposal to rebuild a sidewalk and two planters

on Avenue A encountered stiff opposition from the two selectboard members present.

The hearing had been moving along, with presentations of four proposed human service programs and a design project for a playground at Hillcrest Elementary School. But the board seemed to experience sticker shock at a proposal to reconstruct half a block of sidewalk and two planters in front of the Colle Opera House and Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls.

The proposal was not new, and in fact was part of a design for the broader Avenue A streetscape improvements, covering Avenue A from Second to Seventh streets, approved by the board two years ago. The board understood that the downtown plan would need to be financed in segments over an extended time period if it was funded by

see MONTAGUE page A7



The selectboard balked at a proposal to renovate this half block of Avenue A for \$430,000, of which about \$60,000 would be spent rebuilding two planters.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Puzzles Through Rising Hauling Fees

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard had extensive discussions at their January 6 and 13 meetings about proposals for solid waste and recycled material hauling and disposal.

The town was informed in December of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's 10-year master contract with Waste Management Recycle America to operate the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), where Erving's recycled material has been sent in previous years. The MRF cost for recycles would increase to \$93.50 per ton, with an adjustment based on the types of recycled material sent by the town and the market value of the material.

Considering the typical recycling stream, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) has estimated that the cost for recycled material could be as low as \$70 per ton. Towns have until January 31 to sign the contract or find another facility to take their recycles.

see ERVING page A6

GMRS D SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Screening Committee Call Goes Out

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The search for a new district superintendent is underway, with an advertisement soon to go out to statewide and national pools of eligible candidates in anticipation of the retirement of Michael Sullivan at the end of June. On Tuesday night the regional school committee reviewed the language of the posting and discussed the next step: appointing the screening committee tasked with narrowing applicants down to a small number of finalists by early March.

Tracy Novick, a consultant hired from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to manage the process, met with the school committee for nearly two hours to make decisions. Volunteers for the screening committee are asked to contact Novick by February 7, and the school committee will make the appointments on February 10.

The question of whether any school committee members

would help at the screening stage was quickly dispensed of. "Does anyone seem anxious to serve on it?" Gill member Timmie Smith asked her colleagues. None did.

Chair Jane Oakes offered a "tentative draft" of the screening committee's composition, and after some discussion, it was agreed that it should ideally include two students, parents from Montague, Gill, and Erving, two or three civic leaders or community members at large, and staff including a principal, two teachers, an administrative assistant, a central office employee, and a member of the support staff such as a custodian or paraprofessional.

"It might not be an awful thing," added Michael Langknecht of Montague, "if there were someone with union affiliation there, because there are particular understandings and needs and issues that just-teachers might not be aware of."

Prospective members must be available to meet February 13

see GMRS D page A5

High School Sports: Tech and Turners



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Cameron Bradley surges down the lane in the 100 fly during last Friday's home meet against Springfield's Sci-Tech.

By MATT ROBINSON

This week I'll recap the Franklin Tech winter sports season, and take a look at Turners Falls High School results.

Throughout the week, fans at high school sporting events wanted to talk football. But they didn't want to talk about the NFL. It was the championship game between Clemson and LSU they wanted to discuss. Of those who gave me their predictions, 13 picked LSU, and 8 went for Clemson. By the way, I picked Clemson. But on Monday, LSU beat Clemson 42-25. Congrats to Joe Burrow and his Tigers!

Girls Basketball

The Franklin Tech girls' basketball team has a new coach this season. Athletic director

see SPORTS page A8

MEMORIAL

Community Remembers A Kind, Generous Spirit



Elaine Cuthbert was known for her friendly nature and local philanthropy.

By DONNA PETERSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – If you were driving through this village on Saturday, January 4, you might have noticed cars, a Montague Fire Department truck, and a Montague K-9 police vehicle parked near the First Congregational Church. There are often memorial services at this church, but for the friends and acquaintances of Elaine Cuthbert, this one was special. Numerous community organizations were represented, and many friends of Elaine were at the service, because this quiet, friendly 92-year-old woman was a very special person to many people.

Elaine Jessica Cuthbert was born on January 13, 1927 in New York City, New York to Australian performer-musician parents Ru-

pert and Ethel. Her father passed away when she was seven and the family, including younger brother Lawrence, moved to Newton and later Jamaica Plain in Boston.

Elaine attended Newton High School and at 19 went to work at the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. She and her mother and brother shared a home, a love of music, and a belief in being kind and friendly. Elaine made an effort to be inclusive and kind to those who were overlooked or excluded. She excelled at various jobs in the company, even getting a special assignment to help at the Kennedy compound in Hyannis during a crisis.

After 41 years at the phone company, Elaine retired. Mother and daughter decamped to Montague

see MEMORIAL page A4

Puerto Rico Since Maria: Joshua Rivera's Perspective

By VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

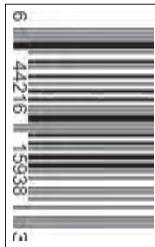
TURNERS FALLS – In November 2017 I conducted an interview with Joshua Rivera for the Montague Reporter. Joshua was a student at a vocational school in Yabucoa in Puerto Rico. Its population was affected by Hurricane Maria, which destroyed much of the island, so Joshua and his older brother spent a few months with their aunt Sandra in Northfield while the situation was being fixed. Joshua was studying his first year of welding at the Teodoro Aguilar Mora vocational school. And that's how Joshua came to spend a few months at FCTS.

At first it was not easy, especially because of the language, but little by little he got used to it, and after a few weeks he was already talking with other students in English. The administration, especially the superintendent and the assistant principal, tried to speak with Joshua in Spanish to make his stay more bearable, and Lynne Paju helped him every

see RIVERA page A4



Rivera, who attended Franklin County Technical School after Hurricane Maria, was back visiting this month.



A Week's Worth of Reading!

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The Montague Reporter

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Places of Exchange

Next Wednesday night, January 22 from 7 to 9 p.m., a very important meeting will be held at the Leverett Village Coop in Moore's Corner. It's the coop's annual member meeting, and it's an especially important one this year.

As our readers will know, the store has been operating at a loss and the organization struggling to devise a sustainable business plan. A series of emergency meetings have been held since October, and an ongoing fundraising campaign and new board members are signs that there is a will in the community to save the beloved institution.

We wish the Village Coop members luck in what seems like a very challenging time. Given the widespread availability of what was once known as "health food," they must figure out how to make this somewhat out-of-the way spot a more popular destination. The grocery shelves will be most convenient to customers already on location to meet up, eat, work, listen to music, and hang out.

It sounds like all the right ideas are already circulating, but that's easier said than done.

One week later – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29 at Saint James Church, 8 Church Street in Greenfield – members of the Green Fields Market coop (and probably the curious public at large) will gather for a happier occasion, a "Co-op Expansion Forum."

Green Fields Market has outgrown its current location, and has announced that is in negotiation with the owners of Wilson's Department Store to lease the first floor of that building after the department store closes.

"We're bursting at the seams," Green Fields spokesperson Sarah Kanaby told the *Reporter*, "in terms of our ability to capitalize on the strong growth we've had in our prepared foods and bakery departments, in particular.... We produce an incredible amount of food from scratch every day in a very small kitchen and bakery."

Of the retail business, Kanaby also said the market is often "the first point of entry for newer agricultural businesses in the area who are just getting into wholesaling," since it has more flexibility to accommodate small local producers.

Board president George Toulountzis painted a similar picture. "It's part of our mission to treat our staff well, [and] they've been doing heroic work with the working space we're outgrowing," he said.

The market has been scouting a larger location in downtown Greenfield for about four years, Toulountzis said. He cited similar growth at Northampton, Keene, and Putney coops. "One of the seven co-operative principles, Principle 6, is "cooperation among cooperatives," he said. "We're happy for those positive developments, and sorry to hear about Leverett's struggles."

Greenfield is experiencing an optimistic wave of creative incubation. The coming weeks will see the launch of both Local Access to Valley Arts (LAVA) and the Hive makerspace on Main Street, and there are two coworking offices downtown, as well as Looky Here, a DIY gallery/"creative reuse and workshop space" on Chapman Street.

The Greenfield coop has about five times the membership as Leverett's, and is much more centrally located, so close comparisons can't be made. Still, it's worth underlining that its growth is driven by prepared foods, and that people meet, dine, and work there.

There's no clear formula for economic success, but in this age of Amazon and DoorDash, it seems that just getting people to show up is half the battle.



An architect's rendering of what Green Fields Market could look like as the anchor tenant in a Wilson's building with a restored facade.

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Chris "Monte" Belmonte, radio personality and Turners Falls resident, poses with miniature shopping carts in the WRSI offices in Northampton Wednesday morning. The carts symbolize the fundraising walkathons Belmonte has led over the last ten years, pushing an empty shopping cart, to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. The first march netted \$13,000, while last year's efforts took in \$368,000.

Letters to the Editors

DCR's "One Size Fits All" Logging

I live in Montague and have spent much time in Wendell State Forest. Back in the 1970s, as a graduate student at the University of Stockholm, I first started studying forests while looking at the impacts of clear cutting in northern Sweden. Since then, I volunteered with Rainforest Action Network, and taught at SUNY at Buffalo as well as at Hampshire College. I have also worked as a professional arborist and built canopy walkway systems for studying life in the tree tops.

Having worked for many years trying to preserve tropical forests, I have been dismayed at how some people who express concern about logging in the Amazon seem not to have the same worries about forest degradation caused by logging on public land here in Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts, House Bill 897, "An Act relative to forest protection," has great promise in addressing climate change by decreasing the loss of carbon caused by commercial logging in our public forests.

In the *Montague Reporter* of January 9, 2020, Bruce Spencer, the former chief forester for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), expresses his opposition to this bill.

Spencer criticizes the citizens who are concerned about what took place in the Wendell State Forest for their "no cut policy," for essentially opposing industrial-scale logging of a beautiful, mixed-oak forest, approximately 80 acres of diverse, healthy, multi-age trees which had been sequestering large amounts of carbon. The freshly logged stumps show ring counts indicating 90 to just over 100 years in age for many of the larger oaks that were removed.

A major problem with DCR-style management is that it almost always involves commercial logging as the one-size-fits-all solution to all "management." I observed the Wendell State Forest cut site before and after the logging was done. This forest was a beautiful and remarkably healthy and diverse forest with saplings, medium sized trees and trees over 100 years old. It will now take roughly 100 years for it to get back to its former condition.

According to forest ecologists, after logging projects like this, the forests continue to release net emissions of carbon into the atmosphere from 10 to 25 years on, as soil organisms and dead root systems continue to decompose.

According to Chad Hanson, Ph.D., director and chief ecologist of the John Muir Project, logging not only emits more carbon than our transportation system, it greatly decreases the amount of carbon that can be sequestered by forests for the foreseeable future. This is because the longer a forest goes undisturbed, the more carbon it continues to store in both the trees and soil year after year. So, in effect, the logged forest can never catch up to where it would have been had it been left undisturbed in the first place.

New research shows that logging in tropical forests, both legal and illegal, has recently turned the global tropical forests into net carbon emitters. The same will surely happen to our temperate forests in Massachusetts should we allow business as usual in DCR-controlled forests to continue, especially since they are now planning to ramp up logging on our state lands.

Spencer also expresses alarm about gypsy moths, tornadoes, moose browsing, and invasive plants, all of which are, or might theoretically become, problems. Unfortunately, DCR's solution always seems to require bringing in 30-ton feller bunchers, logging machines which compact the soil, to remove most of the commercially valuable large trees and any other trees that are in the way. Mr. Spencer describes this industrial logging as "careful management and tending."

DCR officials, in order to allow commercial logging there, have also reclassified sections of state forests that had been set aside as forest reserves. In Beartown State Forest, the original plan called for 200-foot-wide clearings to be created along both sides of the roads in the forest, ostensibly for "public safety." This is ridiculous, because today there is not a single known tree east of the Mississippi that has achieved a 200-foot height.

"Restoration logging," which is a nebulous term, is also proposed within reserves. These reserves were thought by many who had participated in the forest visioning process to be forever wild reserves, like the Adirondack Park in New York State.

Many foresters cannot accept the idea that any forest should be considered primarily as anything but a crop.

Bart Bouricius
Montague Center

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

This Friday, January 17, the Wachusett Business Incubator in Gardner is hosting an event called **Building a Natural Fibers Ecosystem**. It features a panel discussion with members of the region’s natural fibers movement including loom operators, producers, farmers, and marketers. There will be schmoozing and refreshments at 6:30 p.m. along with local fiber products on display. Discussion ensues at 7 p.m.

Panel members include Michelle Parrish, one of the founding members of Western Massachusetts Fibershed; Peggy Hart of Bedfellows Blankets in Buckland; Katie Cavacco, a multidisciplinary maker and textile upcycler; local artisan and entrepreneur Erin Kiewel; and Keith Tetreault and Debra Intrieri, who raise alpacas on Plainview Farm in Hubbardston. Register for this event by calling Scott Graves at (978) 410-9250.

Times and laws have changed, as have attitudes around the use of cannabis, so much so that now there will be a **cannabis education presentation** at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, January 18.

Seth Rutherford of the Turners Falls cannabis facility 253 Pharmacy will present educational materials and answer your questions from 10 to 11 a.m. There will be refreshments provided by the bank, and all interested folks are invited to attend.

After the unseasonably high temperatures last weekend, let’s hope things are back to normal for **Winter Trails Day** at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center this Saturday. This winter event offers children ages 8 and older and adults new to snow sports the chance to try snowshoeing and cross country skiing for free, and to discover the great fitness and social benefits of these easy-to-learn winter sports.

At Northfield Mountain free clinics for first time skiers begin at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. and last for 45 minutes each. Thirty-minute snowshoe clinics are also offered at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Clinic participants must be new to the sport and arrive 30 minutes in advance of their scheduled start time to sign in and pick up equipment.

The event is weather dependent. Call to register at (800) 859-2960.

This weekend, Stone Soup Café

in Greenfield is hosting a **Weekend of Service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** which is officially Monday, January 20.

Following the Saturday noon lunch, there will be a presentation from 2 to 4 p.m. called “Shorten the Line: Changing the Story About Hunger” by Franklin County Task Force members Andy and Justin, who adapted this interactive discussion from the book *Big Hunger* by Andrew Fisher.

This will be followed by a resource and networking fair, a dinner at 5 p.m., and a concert in the Unitarian Church sanctuary with Gloria Matlock and Michael Nix called “Never Enough: Songs of Peace, Love, and Freedom.”

Return on Sunday at 2 p.m. for *We Cried Power*, a documentary about the Poor People’s Campaign, a new social movement to end poverty in the United States, led by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. The documentary discusses issues such as how, in the wealthiest society in human history, nearly half of the population lives in poverty or is struggling to make ends meet and cannot afford a \$400 emergency.

There will be discussion and a sing-along after the film, then another dinner at Stone Soup Café at 5:30 p.m.

There’s going to be a **benefit concert for the Cancer Connection** this Sunday, January 19 at 5 p.m. at the Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main Street, Amherst. The **Leverett Community Chorus** will perform “Voices for Healing.”

The Cancer Connection offers support for people living with cancer and their families and caregivers, free of charge. They can help folks team with the medical system, learn how to draw on individual strengths and consider choices of integrative therapies, and connect with the wisdom of peers who have traveled down the same road.

Exploded View presents **Put Your Story on the Map** this Sunday, January 19 at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Join me and fellow Exploded View members Edite Cunha, Candace Curran, Trish Crapo, and Samantha Wood in a community mapping project from 1 to 3 p.m., combining our personal history with our visions for the future of Turners Falls. This project will also be available as a self-directed activity in the Great Hall through the end of February.

Perhaps you’ll also consider weighing in with your thoughts about **downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan**, too. The Montague Planning Department is sponsoring a conversation, “Where do we grow from here?” on Saturday, February 1 in the Great Hall. The event will review the award-winning Downtown Livability Report from 2013 (see *montague-ma.gov* for details), and update the public on future building projects in Turners Falls.

Greenfield Community College will be celebrating **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** at their main campus on Monday with a lunch and activities for all ages.

A family-friendly creative zone will be available from 10 a.m. to noon, while a panel presentation facilitated by youth leaders will be happening from 10 to 11 featuring former US Attorney Carmen Ortiz, author and philanthropist Robert

Carr, and Elena Quiroz-Livanis, of the state Department of Education.

At 11 a.m., choose from three workshops: *Children’s Voices and Human Imagination*, *Youth Voices on Climate Change*, or a discussion with Carr. During lunch from noon to 1 p.m., enjoy choir performances by the GCC Community Choir and Musica Franklin.

Next Saturday, January 25, **Great Falls Creative Movement** will host a winter open house: a morning of free creative dance classes for young children and their families. Come see what creative dance is all about, learn about their winter programs and check the Movement Studio, located on the second floor of the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street in downtown Turners Falls. A creative dance class for five and six year-olds will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a class for three and four year-olds and their caregivers from 11:15 to noon.

Warrior Writers member **Eric Wasileski** has written us to announce the release of his children’s book, *How the Rainbow Became Truly Beautiful*, published by Veteran’s Voices and illustrated by Wendell’s own Donna Horn.

On Sunday, January 26 at the First Universalist Church in Orange, there will be an opening reception and book signing with Wasileski and Horn at noon. They will both share a few words on how the story touched their lives, and then there will be a dramatic reading followed by book signing. The author says the book is written “for children of all ages.”

Wasileski is also conducting the 10 a.m. worship service entitled *The Pursuit of Happiness*. The public is welcome to both events. For more information, contact Wasileski at (413) 557-4536.

LifePath announces a **community learning session on avoiding fraud** with Dean Lagrotteria, LifePath’s elder protective services director. The session is for older adults and caregivers. Lagrotteria will explain how to identify and avoid financial exploitation, and how to report it. Anita Wilson from the Northeast District Attorney’s office will also provide details about some of the tricks scammers use.

Join them on Wednesday, January 29 at 1:30 p.m. at Suite 201 in the Greenfield Corporate Center, 101 Munson Street, Greenfield. Light refreshments will be served.

The **Franklin County 5K Committee** is already busy lining up **sponsors** for this year’s road race event on Saturday, April 25. Each year, a different non-profit is selected as their beneficiary. This year it is the Franklin County 4-H Club. In past years they have funded the Unity Skatepark, Stone Soup Cafe, the regional dog shelter, the Shea Theater, and other great local causes.

Membership opportunities exist at a variety of levels, from \$50 to \$200 or more. There is also the option to donate an item to their raffle table, if sponsorship is not possible. Please email their team at *fcspring5k@gmail.com* if you can help out!

Feel free to contact the shelter for more information: (413) 774-6382 or *efogle@servicenet.org*.

Send your local briefs to *editor@montaguereporter.org*

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MEMORIAL from page A1

and began to build a community of friends and developed ties to local organizations. The Congregational Church was a source of friendship and worship. She attended church functions with her close friend Clara, and made new friends there including Dusti Dufresne and Jeanette Edmond.

Barbara Turner-Delisle, the church's former pastor, recalls Elaine as being quiet, "self-effacing and open to different types of spiritual practices," and engaged in local and global politics and events. At church, she also met Diane Hansen, who would become "the daughter she never had," and as she aged, her tireless friend and advocate.

Elaine had always been generous, donating to different causes. As she got older and her mother passed away in her 90s, Elaine realized she was able to materially contribute to the community. So, while she lived modestly in her small home, she began to donate funds to local organizations.

The small fire truck seen in front of the church at her memorial has a name on the side: *Miss Elaine*. That's because Elaine made a donation to the Montague Center Fire Department helping them to buy a new brush truck. The MCFD website has a photo of Elaine standing proudly by the truck.

Montague police officer Jim Ruddock and his K-9 partner were at the service also. "Artur" came from Slovakia as a pup, and was nicknamed "Artie." K-9 dog officers' training and care are often paid for by donations. Elaine adored the two offi-



DIANE HANSEN PHOTO

Left: Artie and Montague police officer Jim Ruddock visited Elaine during her stay at Buckley Nursing Home in Greenfield. Right: Elaine in an earlier photograph.



cers, and for the last three years or so helped defray Artie's training and maintenance costs.

Officer Ruddock spoke to this writer about the powerful impact he and Artie had on Elaine, and the impact she made on him. Artie and Ruddock came to visit Elaine numerous times during her final stay at Buckley Nursing Home in Greenfield.

At the memorial service, Officer Ruddock had kind words to say about Elaine, and so did Artie – he was vocal and excited. As the two went to go down the church aisle, Ruddock turned and stood in front of the table that held Elaine's ashes and knelt down on one knee,

knowing that Artie would follow suit as a final tribute.

The Montague Common Hall, formerly known as the Grange, also benefited from Elaine's largesse. At her 91st birthday party at the Hall, a plaque was hung to honor her for her contributions. At the party, local music legend David Kaynor played a beautiful violin – Elaine had gifted him her mother's antique violin.

Elaine's donations helped the church clean up the common dining area by the kitchen in the church basement. She was known as the "Brownie Queen" for the treats brought to the regular lunches held there.

A voracious reader – and member of Mensa International – Elaine patronized the Montague Center library, and donated to the library as well. It wasn't only local groups that Elaine supported: Amnesty International, Foster Dignity, Friends of Children, various animal shelters, and other groups were beneficiaries of her generosity.

A few words must be said about Elaine and dogs. She adored all dogs and of course her own dogs were well loved. She had a black Lab named Heather, a male Boston Terrier, her Princess Boston Terrier, and then her final rescue dog: the very quirky Jesse, who preceded her in death by a few weeks. She also kept the squirrels in her neighborhood

well fed with baked goods.

And she was a fashionista! Elaine attended a Boston fashion school in about 1950, and those lessons were not forgotten. No sweats or housecoats for Elaine; her outfits and matching jewelry were carefully chosen. And there were the coordinating shoes and purses as well!

After a final illness, Elaine expressed a wish to go to sleep and be reunited with her mother, father, brother, stepfather, and half-brother. She got her wish, and I'm sure her dogs were there at the reunion, happily wagging their tails.

Elaine leaves behind her nephew David of Bourne, MA and her nephew Eric and niece Nicole, both of Florida. She also leaves behind her beloved friends Diane and David Hansen, Jeanette Emond, Dusti Dufresne, and Donna Wallace.

Elaine lived a quiet, modest life among her friends in the community. She lived her beliefs: to be kind, and to be friendly. She never seemed to crave attention for her generosity, but truly enjoyed seeing the tangible results of it. She helped the community groups that help or nourish us.

Elaine left a wonderful legacy, and she would want to thank her friends for their care and friendship and would urge us to "be kind and friendly." We could all use a little kindness and friendliness these days.



DIANE HANSEN PHOTO



Photos and other materials at Elaine's memorial service at the Congregational Church.

RIVERA from page A1

day with his English classes. Joshua chose the welding workshop to continue learning the techniques he had started in Puerto Rico.

This winter vacation Joshua spent a few days in Massachusetts, so I decided to meet up with him to learn more about the situation on the island currently.

The morning I was with Joshua at Franklin County Technical School to greet his former classmates in the welding workshop, and his former teachers and counselors, was the morning of an earthquake in Puerto Rico. I could see in person how his classmates, the administration, and the teachers remembered Joshua with affection, and their joy at the surprise of seeing him again.

Joshua was nervous because he didn't know if he was going to be able to continue his classes after the holidays due to the problems caused by the seismic movement. In the early hours of Tuesday, January 7, there was a strong tremor, 6.5 on the Richter scale, in Mayaguez. The epicenter was to the southeast of the municipality of Guayanilla. The Puerto Rico Seismic Network also issued a tsunami warning that was later canceled.

Joshua's sister was born in Puerto Rico during the nine months he spent in Massachusetts, and he wanted to go back to meet her and see his family and friends, but he also really wanted to stay in Massachusetts. Everything seemed different here, and much better in many ways.

We talked about school. Joshua told me that his school in Puerto Rico does not have the choices available at FCTS, and the workshops are not equipped with machines or technology that impress him. In his welding shop there are only three machines, and they are not computerized. The classrooms are barracks that have no ventilation or air conditioning, so it is always very hot. There is also a big difference in how teachers treat the students, and without being able to explain specifically, Joshua knows that the experience in class is different.

When he returned to Puerto Rico in June 2018, they had not yet been able to rebuild the school. The welding workshop was taking place under a tent, which led to its closure and a fine by the government due to the lack of a security system. The school remained in this situation for more than a year due to a lack of financial resources, which meant that during this time, many of the students have not been able to attend class. The students have theory classes, but they do not get experience in the workshops, nor the hours necessary to be able to get a work certificate.

Joshua is clear that his vocation is to be a welder, and he plans to continue his education after high school and continue studying English to work on the continent. The opportunities to find a job and get money are better here, and prices are not lower on the island. He is thinking of joining the military so he can study and help his country.

Regarding the houses, Joshua tells me that the electricity continues to fail every two or three days, and many of them have not yet been able to be rebuilt well, because there are no resources from the government or because they have not arrived.

The first earthquake was felt throughout the island and especially affected the electric power service. The island had been shaking for about two weeks with hundreds of tremors, but the tremor last Tuesday was the strongest since 1918. It took the life of a man in Ponce when one of the walls of his house fell on him while he slept.

The population is afraid, and many of them have decided to sleep in the open or set up camps because they fear their walls will fall. At this time many students have been unable to return to class due to cracks and structural damage in the schools.

If you wish to make a donation to mitigate the effects of the earthquake, these are some of the organizations that are demonstrating effectiveness:

- Western Solidarity Brigade: PayPal to brigadasolidariaoeste@gmail.com
- The Hangar in Santurce: Venmo to (240) 793-7792
- The Chef's Carretón: ATH to (787) 238-9501.

This article appeared in this week's Spanish Page (see page B6). Neida Berdugo and Emma McCumber provided this English translation.



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TFHS Honors Physics Students Study the Safety of Local Roads

By LESLIE BROWN

GILL-MONTAGUE – Six students, Haleigh M. Greene, Isabelle Farrick, Cameron Bradley, Jakob Burnett, Brian Poirier, and Eric Fenton, gave a presentation Tuesday at Turners Falls High School on research they conducted on local road safety.

The students, from Brian Lamore’s Honors Physics class, presented their findings about the drive down the Unity Street hill from the high school, the site of a rollover accident in April 2019, and secondly about making a left turn onto Park Street.

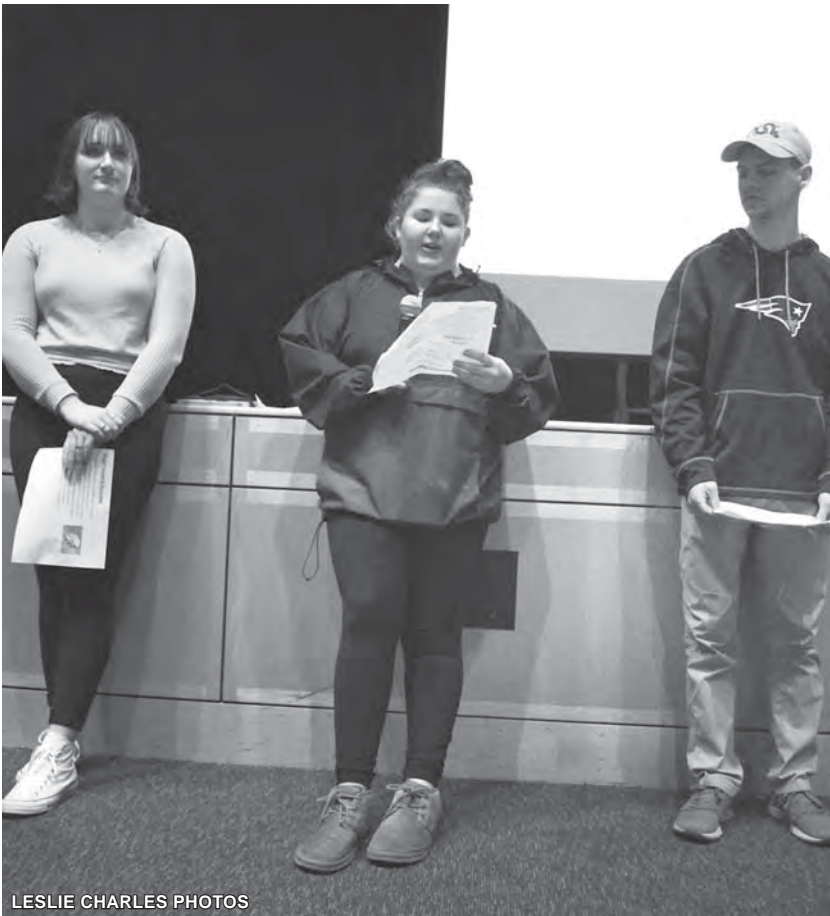
The scientific subject was two-dimensional motion, and the physics studies took in the topics of friction of tires on the roadways, weather conditions, average turn speeds, and current speed limits and signage on these roadways.

While these students were all well versed in physics, it was all pretty much Greek to this reporter, who had carefully avoided these subjects in school. We asked the instructor to write it all down in layman’s terms.

“Both these sites are interesting because they are both banked away from the inside of the turn, instead of towards the inside,” Mr. Lamore wrote. “Our analysis consisted of calculating the speed at which a vehicle would skid out of each turn. To do this we needed to measure the turn radius and road bank angle for each site and do some research on tire friction.

“We also decided to collect some acceleration sensor data while driving the school van through these turns and comparing it to what we would expect the acceleration would be given our speed and the turn radius.”

The students’ calculations predicted that a vehicle would skid out of the turn on the Third Street hill if it was traveling at 35 miles per hour – well above the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour.



Junior Haleigh Greene (center) reads from the group’s presentation as junior Isabelle Farrick (left) and senior Brian Poirier (right) look on.

“We concluded all that was reasonable,” Mr. Lamore explained.

However, the “skid threshold” for vehicles coming down the hill and making a left turn onto Park Street was calculated at only 13 miles per hour, even under ideal road conditions.

“If the town decided to place a warning sign at that turn site, we recommended 10 mph speed limit,” the teacher wrote.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis attended the presentation, which was given during an all-school assembly Tuesday morning. Ellis asked the students if they would be willing to present their findings to the town selectboard. All nodded enthusiastically.

Perhaps the town will choose to act on the recommendations of the students’ study – not bad for a semester’s work!



Science teacher Brian Lamore (far left) joined the class for their presentation to the entire student body.

GMRS from page A1

and 24, and to conduct interviews March 3, 4, and 5. Volunteers are asked to send an email to Novick at tnovick@nasc.org with “Gill-Montague superintendent screening committee” in the subject line, and indicate what role they would fill.

Novick stressed the need for the screening committee, which will meet in private, to recommend enough finalists – at least three – that even if some withdraw during March, the school committee will have at least two to choose from. By statute, if the pool shrinks to one before a hire is made, the entire process must start over from scratch.

“Have we discussed yet with the superintendent just how fast he’s headed to Yellowstone, or wherever he’s going?” asked Langknecht. “It might help us to know just how much wiggle room we might have, God forbid.”

His colleagues reminded him that Sullivan plans to leave June 30.

Hopes for Growth

Sullivan and business manager Joanne Blier gave a presentation on the district’s “preliminary” FY’21 budget.

The largest as-yet unknown factor is the aid the district will receive from the state. Governor Baker’s own proposed budget is

expected to be released next Wednesday. “This is the number I’m most nervous about in this budget,” Blier said.

The administration’s educated guess is that state Chapter 70 aid will increase significantly due to ongoing changes in how the state calculates each district’s “foundation budget.” After five years with an average \$35,992 annual increase, Gill-Montague’s Chapter 70 aid jumped up by \$350,745 for the current fiscal year, and the preliminary FY’21 budget has it rising a further \$561,555.

If that guess pans out, Sullivan said, it would allow the district to expand its staff. Between FY’15 and FY’19 payroll shrank by 21.5 full-time-equivalent positions, and in FY’20 it grew by 5.4. The administration currently hopes to add another nine or ten for next year.

The current wishlist includes four first-grade paraprofessionals at Hillcrest and Gill elementaries; increasing the reading teachers at those two schools from two to three; a special education teacher at Sheffield Elementary and an additional adjustment counselor between Gill and Sheffield; and two new secondary school faculty: a physical education and health teacher at the high school and a new music and theater teacher at the middle and high school.

“The increase would allow us to have theater arts courses, and expand chorus as well as band,” Sullivan said, and added that restoring health classes would be part of a planned development of Innovation Pathways curriculum in healthcare and nursing.

During the public comment period, Gill Elementary second-grade teacher Sherry Wood and third-grade teacher Lori Rinaldi delivered a request from their fellow staff members for a full-time reading interventionist and additional special education teacher at Gill. In keeping with policy on public comments, school committee members did not address this request during the meeting.

Sullivan also took time during the presentation to drill into data showing relatively high per-pupil expenses at Gill-Montague, relative to other districts in the state with comparable enrollment and income levels. In FY’18, per-pupil expenditure was \$19,309.

One cause, Sullivan showed using graphs and charts, was relatively high employee benefit costs per pupil, led by insurance for retirees. \$1,067 was spent per pupil on retirees’ insurance, the sixteenth-highest of the state’s 304 districts.

“Our costs are driven, to a large extent, by our demographics,” Sullivan noted. “Not that I’m complaining, because I will be enjoying those benefits soon.”

Other Business

During her scheduled report, non-voting Erving representative Teresa Kolodziej noted that all six Erving residents in the high school’s senior class, as well as another student who attended Erving Elementary, were among this year’s 13 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship winners.

Kolodziej said that Erving town administrator Bryan Smith and a selectboard member hoped to sit in on the committee studying the feasibility of a large district comprised of the six towns currently in the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional districts. Erving school committee member Jennifer Eichorn has been nominated to attend, and it is hoped that a finance committee member will also join her. Erving currently tuitions students into Turners Falls High School.

She also advocated for the inclusion of Erving residents on the screening committee.

Due to the length of the Tuesday meeting, some agenda items were tabled, including a proposal by the administration to remove the granite sign in front of the high school, a gift from the Class of 1985 proclaiming the school the “Home of the Indians.”

“We would like to discuss our plans to remove the sign, return it to the alumni, and not replace it,” Sullivan wrote in agenda notes submitted before the meeting.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
PROJECT FILE NO. 601186

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed
**Greenfield-Montague - Bridge Rehabilitation, Br. G-12-020=M-28-001,
Montague City Road over Connecticut River** project in Greenfield-Montague, MA.

WHERE: Shea Theater Arts Center, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
WHEN: Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
(Snow date: Thursday Feb. 6th, 2020 at 6PM at TFHS, 222 Turnpike Rd, Montague, MA 01351)

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Greenfield-Montague Br. G-012-020=M-28-001 - General Pierce Bridge Rehabilitation** project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the existing structurally deficient bridge and improve the condition for service and public safety. The proposed project consists of the rehabilitation of the General Pierce Bridge carrying Montague City Road over the Connecticut River between Greenfield and Montague, MA. The project consists primarily of deck replacement, various steel member replacements, isolated steel repairs, and utility additions. The proposed roadway alignment and profile will be similar to the existing conditions. The intersection in Gill of Route 2, Main Road, and Avenue A will be modified to better handle additional traffic when the bridge will be closed during construction and detour will be in place. No right-of-way is necessary for this project.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below. Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Bridge Project Management**, Project File No. 601186. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation/delay announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

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CHIEF ENGINEER

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ERVING from page A1

For recycled material, Erving’s current trash hauler, USA Waste & Recycling, through their Murphy Road Recycling (MRR) subsidiary, proposed a disposal rate of \$110 per ton of recyclables. Erving’s municipal curbside collection contract includes a \$50 per ton credit, so the town’s net rate would be \$60 per ton.

This week, the FCSWMD forwarded a regional plan to send solid waste to the Community Eco Power LLC trash-to-energy facility in Agawam for \$80 per ton. At the current disposal facility, the cost is \$90 per ton, with an increase to \$98 per ton for FY’21.

Also this week, USA Waste & Recycling proposed four options for Erving’s solid waste and recycling:

1) Weekly solid waste and weekly dual stream recycling collection, with recycles sent to MRR at the MRR recycling rate, for \$9,600 per month plus the \$98 per ton solid waste fee;

2) Weekly solid waste collection and single-stream recycling collection every other week for disposal at MRR at its recycling rate, for \$9,000 per month plus \$98 per ton of solid waste;

3) Weekly automated cart solid waste and single-stream recycling collection, with recycles going to MRR, for \$8,400 per month plus \$98 per ton of solid waste; or

4) Weekly collection of solid waste and dual-stream recycled material, going to the MRF or another facility, for \$11,100 per month plus \$98 per ton for solid waste plus the MRF’s (or other facility’s) rate for recyclables.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that “emails were flying” with the various proposals, and that he had not had time to develop a clear comparison of the costs and benefits of the differing plans. The selectboard asked Smith to get answers to several questions, including whether USA Waste & Recycling would haul the town’s solid waste to the waste-to-energy facility in Agawam rather than the current disposal site. The board also asked Smith to reply to FCSWMD that Erving is interested in disposal at Community Eco Power if it works with the current trash hauler.

The board put off making a decision on a solid waste or recycling contract until they have additional information.

FY’21 Budget

On January 6, the selectboard and finance committee considered fiscal year 2021 budget requests from the library trustees, recreation commission, board of health, historical commission, and veterans’ district.

The FY’21 request from the **library trustees** is \$39,000 higher than their FY’20 budget, based on the estimated costs of operating at the new library building. The library director position will increase from 19 to 40 hours per week, as use of the library is expected to increase in the new building. Trustees’ chair Mack-

ensey Bailey said the utility and maintenance line items were “best guestimates.”

In addition, the trustees asked that their current \$750 stipend be increased to “approach parity” with the stipends for the school committee and recreation commission. Asked what amount the stipend should be, Bailey said they would get more information on comparable stipends and provide an amount.

Recreation commission chair Erik Eichorn told the board that, while the request for electricity and office expenses has decreased, the grounds maintenance line item has increased, resulting in a \$3,275 increase in the FY’21 budget request. The commission will oversee maintenance of tree lines at several parks and renovations and Americans with Disabilities Act updates for Veterans Memorial Park, Park Street Park, and Zilinski Field.

The **board of health** request for FY’21, at \$58,451, is essentially the same as for FY’20. However, board of health chair Bruce “Cyd” Scott told the selectboard that the costs for the Eastern Franklin County Health District, which provides health agent services for Erving, Shutesbury and Northfield, may change. Local towns have shared the health district costs since 1936, but there is no legal contract between the towns creating the district.

On January 13, administrative coordinator Smith said that representatives from the three towns and Erving’s legal counsel and insurance provider met to discuss how to operate the health district with a formal agreement about how it would function. Smith said that the group will meet again in February.

In her written narrative, **senior center** director Paula Betters said that her total FY’21 request for the senior and community center is essentially the same as the current year’s budget. For FY’21, Betters asked for additional funds for landscaping around the building.

Although the building’s heating and cooling system is based on heat pumps, which should be cheaper than the previous geothermal system, Betters requested the same amount for electricity and propane as for FY’20. She said she would like to have the information from a year’s worth of actual expenses before she revises these line items.

The **historical commission** budget request was \$3,000, the same as last year. Cyd Scott, now speaking as historical commissioner, said that he had been working for the return of archaeological artifacts dug up in Erving during state projects – such as Route 2 work – from the state archives to the town. He said that the Pearl B. Care Building had been designated an archaeological depository, and that the commission would find a way to display the items once they are returned. Costs for building security would increase if the artifacts are housed at the Care Building.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wood Chips, Logging, Simple Sale

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The town office parking lot was full for the Wendell selectboard’s January 8 meeting, the first meeting of the year. This meeting attracted extra citizen attention because of a letter the Wendell selectboard sent to state representative Susanah Whipps opposing House bill H.897, which would restrict commercial logging on state-owned land, and which is supported by the Wendell State Forest Alliance.

Janet Sinclair was scheduled to speak at 7:15 p.m., and other concerned people at 7:30, but at 7 p.m. the office building meeting room was full of people sitting in the chairs arranged auditorium-style, facing the table at which the selectboard sat when they entered the room. The selectboard began their meeting with the ordinary biweekly business in their regular meeting rooms at the other end of the hall.

Because he is able to stay awake after 9:30 p.m. and even write coherently into the night, Jeff Singleton came from the *Montague Reporter* and wrote about the citizen input and selectboard response for our January 9 issue.

Town Buildings

During the first fifteen minutes of their regular meeting, selectboard chair Dan Keller clarified some concern about the town septic system. An engineer had told him that the system gets too little flow, and is, in effect, suffering from malnutrition. It serves several buildings, but none of them is occupied full time, or has regular household water use, such as laundry or teenage showers.

However, town facilities engineer Jim Slavas reminded Keller that the septic system is a dosing system. The small amounts of wastewater that enter the system are collected in a holding tank, and when that tank is full, it is emptied into the leach field and fills it all the way to the end of the pipes, keeping the system healthy. So, the town’s septic system is reasonably healthy.

Slavas also told Keller that the mold preventative treatment suggested for under the town hall, Concrobium, is a good product, but needs to be reapplied annually. It is

not toxic, but it does smell. It works by leaving tiny sharp points that penetrate mold cells.

Tom Chaisson estimated high for applying it, because he estimated for the entire floor area of the town hall. The kitchen, stage, and bathrooms do not need the treatment, so his estimate was high. Concrobium comes in gallons that can be applied with a \$300 fogger, or quart spray bottles. Keller suggested trying a quart spray bottle first.

A large stone was removed from the town-owned property at 120 Wendell Depot Road and put in place next to the town hall to replace the broken Jersey barrier that has been there for years. The board members discussed whether the rock should be oriented vertically or horizontally, and decided that it is fine for now.

The Jersey barrier was moved to the side of the new internet hut, where it will serve as a barrier between the hut and a pile of wood chips. The broadband committee was concerned that dust from the chips could enter the hut ventilation, and joined garden committee members to move the whole chip pile out to the garden paths. With the ugly Jersey barrier in place next to the hut, new wood chips that are delivered will be kept far enough away.

Heard Quietly

“Okay, let’s go,” Keller said at 7:15 p.m., and board members went down the hall to meet the waiting citizens. Discussion in that meeting began with Keller saying there are no climate change deniers in this room. No one objected. (See our January 9 edition for more coverage.)

When they returned to the office, selectboard member Christine Heard said quietly that after 22 years on the board, she intends to retire at the next town election, May 1.

Meetinghouse Lot

Jerry Barilla and Chris Queen, as Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, followed the selectboard back to their office to discuss the mired process of transferring the meetinghouse property to the Friends.

The last congregation that used

the building as a church gave the building itself to the Friends, but the town owns the lot it sits on. The selectboard, representing the town, does not want to own the lot, and the Friends need to own it in order to get grants and other money for restoring the building. The selectboard wrote a request for proposals (RFP) because they wanted some control over what happened to the building, and that control would be gone in an open auction.

The matter stalled there, however. The town’s ownership of the property dates to an uncertain claim from 1795, and Luke Goodrich, lawyer for the Friends, suggested clearing that ownership with a quiet title complaint. Land court posts would post three requests for objections to town ownership, and if no one comes forward, the town’s title becomes clear, and the town can then sell the property.

That process will likely cost \$3,500 or more.

Wendell’s town counsel has suggested a simple sale for \$100, to get the building out of town hands. The RFP required that the Friends keep the building’s historic characteristic, make it available to the public and for spiritual purposes, and not sell the building to any private party that might destroy its appearance. The first two are intentions of the Friends, and the third is because the building is in a historic district.

Heard suggested that the Friends pay the town \$100 and take the building with no stipulations and no lawyers. Barilla and Queen will bring the idea to the Friends’ board.

Other Business

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich announced grants totaling \$8,020 for fire department turnout gear, a washer for that gear, and emergency management.

She also announced that Wendell will get \$8,792 in additional state Chapter 90 money, bringing the fiscal 2020 total to \$206,713.

Myron’s Fine Foods donated a Metro Rack and a three-shelf stainless steel shelving unit to the town hall kitchen.

The town hall is reserved March 21 for a memorial for Doe Brousseau, who passed away on January 2.

would include completing interior abatement at Building 17, constructing a temporary ramp for access, removing windows, and installing window infills with fire-rated plywood. Alternate 2 would include the abatement of all original windows at Building 2 and installing window infills there.

The board appointed C. Mark Blatchley to the conservation commission and Devon Gaudet to the open space committee.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

CDBG grants, and portions of the streetscape on the northwest side of Avenue A were either completed or in progress. Town planner Walter Ramsey told the board that the town has already spent over a million dollars on the streetscape project.

The latest proposal, presented at the meeting by Ramsey and Berkshire Design’s Carlos Nieto, would replace the current brick sidewalk with brick inlaid in concrete, raise the height of the planters, and reconstruct them with granite blocks rather than concrete. Ramsey and Nieto emphasized the durability of the materials as a significant upgrade.

But the price tag for this proposal – over \$430,000 of the potential \$738,000 FY’20 – seemed more than the board could swallow, particularly when it was estimated that, at this rate, the entire streetscape plan might take over 20 years to complete.

“I’ve expressed my opinion on the planters previously,” said selectboard member Michael Nelson. “If it’s something we’re going to generally be able to do over the next ten years, and make them all happen, then I would support it. I am just very nervous about starting it and then hitting a horrible financial situation where they’re very piecemealed done and then they just get forgotten, having some that are the original streetscape and some that are the nice new ones.”

Nelson questioned whether the planters need to be replaced now.

“I agree,” said his selectboard colleague Chris Boutwell. “We have a lot of issues to deal with, and some things have to go to the back burner, whether we like it or not.

There followed a lengthy discussion of the virtues of the proposed planter design, and ways to reduce the cost of the project. Ramsey said the town could consider reducing the planters’ size. Nieto estimated that the planters accounted for about \$60,000 of the proposal, and said it might be difficult to replace degraded planters in the future after the sidewalks had been rehabilitated.

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto said she was in favor of reducing the number of planters due to the town’s difficulty in finding volunteers to maintain them, and

the fact that they tend to block the view of business storefronts.

When Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which administers the CDBG for the town, noted that there may not be enough money in the 2020 grant application for housing rehabilitation, Nelson replied, “You’re completely proving my point about the 20-year process. We’re going to have to take out housing rehab this year to do this project? Who is to say that all these projects lined up aren’t going to then take precedence over finishing the planters 20 years from now?”

Town administrator said the board needed to know the projected life expectancy of the existing concrete planters to evaluate the options. “If we don’t know what their condition is,” he said, “it’s hard to say it makes sense to maintain them [in their current form].”

In the end McHugh, Ramsey, and Nieto agreed to return in two weeks with new options for the project. McHugh said he hoped the selectboard would hold a hearing on the final block grant proposal, which needs to be submitted at the beginning of March, in three weeks.

Other CDBG Proposals

The board heard four proposals for human services programs to be funded under the block grant. Dana Mengwasser of the Brick House Community Resource Center described two programs to promote leadership skills and “movement arts” among “at-risk Montague youth.” A Meals on Wheels program for the elderly was presented by Jane Severance, nutrition program director at LifePath.

Natan Cohen of the Western Mass Training Consortium described the offerings of the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community, including an “alternatives to suicide” program, wellness programs, and outreach and learning activities. Finally, two staff members of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries, Heather Wood and Jimena de Pareja, described an education program for low-income farmworkers called “Families Learning Together.”

After these presentations, Nieto described a project to design a new

playground for Hillcrest Elementary School. The design he showed included two new play structures, an outdoor classroom, a small forest of trees, and a pollinator garden.

Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein said that the playground would be accessible to children and parents in the surrounding neighborhood “so that we become a community gathering spot.” Burstein went on to say that beautiful playgrounds “attract families to your local community school,” and warned that “we need to be really mindful of our enrollment trends.”

Hazardous Materials

After the CDBG hearing, Ramsey stayed at the front table to request that the board approve applications to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to fund two Phase 1 site assessments for hazardous materials. FRCOG has received funding for hazmat assessments in the region.

The two sites in the Montague application, which was approved by the board, are 100 Avenue A, the site of the current department of public works garage soon to be abandoned, and the former Railroad Salvage building on Power Street.

Ramsey said the “Phase 1” assessments would document the history of the sites and the potential presence of hazardous materials in the ground. In the case of the Railroad Salvage building, he said, an evaluation was done prior to the collapse of the building several years ago, but the town will need to update that assessment and generate a new remediation plan. The building is not currently owned by the town, but is in court for non-payment of taxes. Ramsey said that, despite this, the town is allowed to conduct a Phase 1 hazmat assessment.

Other Business

RiverCulture Coordinator Suzanne LoManto asked the board to execute a \$5,000 grant to the Turners Falls Cultural District from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The grant will fund various arts activities in Turners during the coming year. The grant, which must be spent by June 30, can fund art installations, performances, and other activities, but not signage, according

to LoManto. The board approved the request.

Boutwell, as the board’s clerk, signed a formidable stack of documents related to the financing and refinancing of the town’s current debt. The total bond, according to town treasurer Eileen Seymour, is \$8,970,000, most of which will finance the new department of public works facility on Turners Falls Road. Early in the meeting Boutwell entertained the audience by reading segments of required bond documents, but he waited until the end of the night to sign them.

The board approved the hiring of Dave Williams as a heavy equipment operator at the department of public works. Ellis said Williams was an “internal candidate,” and the only applicant with the appropriate license for the job.

The board approved a date of Thursday, March 5 for a special town meeting at the Shea Theater, with a snow date of March 7 at the Turners Falls High School theater. The submission deadline for articles for the meeting will be Thursday, January 30 at 10 a.m. The board also approved a March 19 article

submission deadline for the May 2 annual town meeting.

Ellis confirmed that a “Design Public Hearing” for the General Pierce Bridge, organized by the state Department of Transportation, will take place on February 4 at the Shea Theater at 6 p.m. He said that the doors should open at 5:30.

The committee charged with hiring a new director of the water pollution control facility has reposted the job description on the appropriate websites, Ellis said. The deadline for applications is January 31, but the posting will continue after that date.

Ellis ended the meeting with “a bit of sad news.” The state Office of Disabilities has rejected a grant application from the town to provide automatic door openers on several town buildings. He said the rejection may reflect the fact that the town has been awarded three grants in the past two years, and “we know there are a lot of communities that have not been previously awarded.”

The selectboard will meet next on January 27.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was January 14, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Beauchesne Property
To Be Cleaned Up

The 7.8 acre property formally owned by Rodney Beauchesne, of Main Street in Montague Center, is being purchased for \$95,000 and cleaned up by the Franklin Land Trust, for eventual resale to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game. “In the end, it will be returned to its natural state,” said Alain Peteroy, director of land conservation for the Franklin Trust.

That should come as something of a relief to the people of Montague, where the property has been a particular thorn in the side of the building and health departments for many years.

Beauchesne, a bit of an eccentric who would ride his horse to get a drink at bars from Turners Falls to Belchertown, was in the salvage business, and in later years used the Main Street property, which sits on 1,000 feet of floodplain of the Sawmill River, and across the street from the village’s drinking water well, as a scrap yard. Salvaged doors and windows and building materials were piled in sheds and scattered in heaps across the property.

Beauchesne died of cancer on October 14, 2007.

Peteroy said Beauchesne’s family has already removed much of the debris and recycled whatever materials still had value. Now the Land Trust is paying for removal of much of what is left, before being sold as recreational land.

When the sale is finalized, the Fish and Game department will soon own, and permanently conserve for recreational purposes, almost the entire frontage on the west side of the Sawmill River from the town’s southern border to South Street.

Walkers Call for Vermont
Yankee to Shut Down

Plagued by a series of incidents over the years, the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is now engaged in damage control over the latest news: On January 7, VY spokesman Rob Williams released data on elevated levels of a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, found in a test well on the Vernon reactor site, that show a plume of tritium has been leaking into the groundwater around the plant and is now migrating toward the Connecticut River.

“There is no danger to the public,” assured Williams last week. But people living near the reactor are doubtful. They want the Vermont state legislature to reject a bid by Vermont Yankee for a 20-year license extension at the accident prone plant, and they’ve walked 125 miles through the dead of winter to Montpelier with one demand: shut down Vermont Yankee.

The walkers, organized by the Safe and Green Campaign, are protesting the bid by Entergy, the Louisiana-based corporate owner of Vermont Yankee, to extend the power plant’s operating license, due to expire in 2012, by another 20 years, by walking to the state capital, far from their Windham County, Vermont, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and Franklin County, Massachusetts homes.

The center of Vermont’s political power is in the north. But the center of the nuclear power plant’s evacuation zone is just south of Brattleboro.

Downwinders in New Hampshire (where one quarter of the people within 20 miles of Vermont Yankee reside) and Massachusetts (where one half of the evacuation zone population lives) say they are suffering “Radiation without Representation,” and they too want their voices heard in Montpelier.

Montague Wood Bank
Has Firewood Available

The Montague Community Wood Bank has 14 cords of dry firewood available for Montague residents in need of heating assistance. Wood will be distributed in half-cord allotments to residents, with the potential to receive additional wood as need and supplies allow.

Interested parties should contact the Gill-Montague Council on Aging at coa@montague-ma.gov or (413) 863.9357.

The town of Montague recycles town tree removals into firewood with the help of the tree advisory committee. Volunteers are always welcome to come help split and stack firewood. Interested volunteers should contact David Detmold, chair of the Montague tree advisory committee, at (413) 863-9296.



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SPORTS from page A1

Joe Gamache took over the reins this year, and has coached his team to a 7-2 record. You may know him as the coach of other sports, but several Tech fans have revealed that basketball is Joe’s favorite.

The team’s only two losses this season have come against Hopkins in their second game (50-26) and Mohawk Trail on January 7 (34-27). Since the Mohawk loss, Tech has blown out Smith Voc 52-23 and Westfield Tech 71-22.

This Friday they host Pathfinder, and next Tuesday they travel down to Springfield to take on the Renaissance School.

The Franklin Tech girls don’t rely on the 3-point shot. Their top scorer, Jocelyn Crowningshield, has only sunk one 3-pointer, but has hit 49 near shots, giving her 108 points. Jordan Hurlbert also works on the inside. Although she’s hit three 3-pointers, 68 of her points were scored underneath. With her nine free shots, she has 83 points, and also leads the Birds with 17 rebounds.

Franklin Tech has the enviable advantage of having six consistent scorers. Isabelle Duga (70), Gemanai Cruz (55), Desiree Doane (46) and Gabby Castagna (40) are also big reasons why the Eagles currently have a .778 win ratio.

The big news in Turners Falls sports is that the girls won their second basketball game. Last Thursday, they beat the Southwick Rams 42-41. That doubles their win record from last season.

In that game, Powertown went up 28-17 at the half. Southwick made a run in the 4th, putting a scare into the Thunder, but Blue was able to pull it out in the end and record their second win.

They almost made it two straight on Monday, but Mohawk had a late-game rally to beat Blue 42-37.

Mohawk, like many Turners’ teams, has a drought in numbers. They only suited seven

players. But they stayed out of foul trouble and executed a late-game surge to steal this one.

The Lady Thunder tries to get their revenge on Wednesday when they travel up the Trail for a rematch against the Warriors.

Boys Basketball

The Franklin Tech Boys’ Basketball Eagles are currently 6 – 4. So far in January, the Techies lost against McCann (50-39) and Greenfield (63-45), but they rebounded and are currently riding a three-game winning streak.

Tech beat the Lions in Ludlow on January 7 (51-45), defeated the Pioneers of Pathfinder at home last Friday (45-24), and on Monday they defeated the Gateway Gators, 56-42.

Bailey Young leads the Franks so far this season with 166 points, courtesy of his outside attack. Young has hit an amazing 26 three-pointers and is money from the foul line, sinking 24 frees.

Center Garrett Cole hasn’t hit a 3-pointer this season, but makes up for it on the inside. He’s hit 57 baskets inside the arc, grabbed 39 rebounds, and made 19 steals. Because he’s the inside man, he gets fouled frequently. He’s sunk 34 from the line, giving him a total of 148 points so far.

The number-three scorer for the Blue Birds is forward Justin Littlewood. Littlewood has scored 62 points and pulled down 19 rebounds. Number four is Ty Sadoski. Like Young, most of Sadoski’s points have come off the long shot: 30 out of his 42 points came from 3-point land.

Tech gets back in action this Thursday at home against Hampden Charter School of Science East.

The Turners Falls boys’ basketball team also has numbers issues, with only eight players on varsity. Last Thursday the 9th, they traveled to Springfield and dropped a game against Baystate Academy 76-63. Turners had three big scorers in this one. Chace Novak



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ Hannab Marchefka swam the anchor leg of the 200 medley relay against Springfield’s Sci-Tech.

scored 18, Marcus Sanders got 15, and big man Ant Peterson scored 13.

Powertown hosts Mahar on Wednesday, and welcomes Smith Academy on Friday.

Wrestling

Franklin Tech is known throughout the state for its wrestling program. I won’t go into detail in this article because, like swimming, wrestling has individual playoffs.

On Saturday February 1, Tech hosts another huge wrestling smackdown. That tournament is an all-day event complete with delicious filling food and plenty of action.

Swimming

Last Friday the Turners swim teams hosted Springfield High School of Science and Technology. The Blue Men edged out Sci-Tech 26-14, and the Blue Ladies trounced the Scientists 55-3.

In the boys’ meet, Nik Martin finished first in the 200 individual medley and 100 freestyle. Cameron Bradley won the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke, and Camden

Bonnett won the 500 freestyle, but was disqualified in the 100 free.

In the girls’ lanes, Blue took advantage of Science’s small team to run the board. Hannah Dziedzic, Hannah Marchefka, Gracie Rosenberg, Jade Tyler, Allison Wheeler, and Olivia Whittier all scored points in this lopsided battle.

And in the freestyle races, Marchefka and Dziedzic took first and second in the 200, Whittier and Rosenberg took the first two places in the 50, Rosenberg and Dziedzic finished first and second in the 500, while Whittier and Wheeler likewise took the gold and silver in the 100.

In the other races, Tyler and Wheeler won the backstroke, Whittier won the breaststroke, and Turners swept both relays.

The Powertown Swimmers put on their trunks again on Tuesday, January 21 when they host Palmer.

Next week: the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team attempts to stave off postseason elimination.



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Above: A diorama at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Looking At The Lottery, Part III: An Unfair Tax, Or Just Entertainment?

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – In the first two parts of this series, we looked at how fraud and corruption took over the early lotteries, which had once been an important means of raising capital for infrastructure projects in early America. Louisiana’s “Octopus” lottery was the last and most corrupt 19th century example. When it finally ended, a prohibition against lotteries lasted from 1894 to 1964 in every state.

Outlawing lotteries did not mean that people stopped gambling, however. By the year 1965, the Lyndon B. Johnson administration estimated the annual take from illegal gambling by organized crime in the United States was \$20 billion. In 1969, the Nixon administration upped the estimate to \$50 billion. Some suggested the best way to handle the problem was to be in control of it, just like the country had done by overturning the prohibition of alcohol. Some form of legalized gambling, they argued, could provide profit as revenue to cities and states.

New Hampshire, with no income or sales tax, became the first to try a state-sponsored, revenue-raising lottery in 1964. Supporters hoped this lottery could provide funds for education; the state ranked 50th in the country in funding for its schools. Voters supported its use, and hopes were high that gamblers would support the school system. But the results were disappointing compared



Money doesn't grow on trees: a sculpture made from copper wire and scratch tickets by the author, Nina Rossi, for an exhibit at the 2004 National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling convention in Rhode Island.

to the projected earnings.

Part of the problem was that drawings for this Sweepstakes – as it was called to avoid federal anti-lottery laws – were only twice a year, and the payouts were fairly low compared to total revenue. The betting was based on horse racing at Rockingham Park, and the process was overly complicated and cumbersome. State troopers were present at the drawings, and in an attempt to provide reassuring legitimacy to the proceedings, tickets were drawn by female college students and young mothers. (Sound similar to the double ID-checking,

police-monitored gateway at your local cannabis store?)

New York, not to be deterred by New Hampshire’s poor results, started its own version of legalized gambling in 1967. Their lottery, also based on race track results, was sold at hotels, motels, and bank branches. Federal law prohibited radio, newspaper, or TV ads for lotteries, so promotion was confined to print. Sales were disappointing though, and results again fell far short of expectations.

New Jersey managed to market its game successfully when see **LOTTERY** page B5



West Along the River A Week in January

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – How to capture and record a week of days in early winter during a month named for the two-faced Roman deity Janus? Is winter coming or going?

I can start by telling you that there’s not much dramatic going on out here these January days. The skies are gray, vague clouds drift from north to southeast. Icy snow covers all for the time being, but that could change. The usual winged visitors pass through the yard and woods, and the river is still rushing by, its hurried sound reaching us through the leafless birch and alder along the shore.

Even the jays are quiet. I’ve got only a friendly solitary junco for company. He pecks at small seeds spread under the work table, not concerned by me sitting here. I don’t move much except for pen on paper, and never abruptly. Wild creatures like humans who don’t move unexpectedly. I’m thinking about getting more coffee indoors, maybe a slice of buttered toast. The dog wants a walk, it’s getting to be his time. I catch myself already imagining spring projects, way too soon. It’s that kind of a month.

A week in January is like living in two places. Always leaving something or someplace behind, always pleased to be arriving at something new. January moods leave you in a bind of two minds, just like Janus with two faces, one looking back, one looking forward.

By the way, that something new actually arrived the last day of December in the form of a bold new bird. Out of nowhere, a red-headed woodpecker turned up in our woods, perhaps attracted by the gang of other woodpeckers hanging out in the old dead trees we always leave standing. There’s the whole woodpecker clan out there: downy, hairy, red-bellied, pileated, flicker, occasional sapsucker, and now a red-headed. He’s a native of the southland, and the first ever we have seen up here.

He’s a new bird for my life-list and for the list of this House on the River too. The House record now stands at 146 species seen in the yard and along the river since we moved back to our great-grandfather’s homestead in 1974. Pretty good for less than a square mile of landscape.

The red-headed is about the same size as the red-bellied woodpecker who also first turned up in our woods back in the 1970s. I say “first turned up” because back then, our own red-bellied was the only one of his species in the entire state! Nowadays easily more than one hundred individuals of the red-bellied variety turn up on

annual Christmas counts. But back then, the species was extremely rare indeed.

I sort of made the mistake of letting other birders know, and before long most bird clubbers in the region were pounding on my door, hoping to see the rare woodpecker. The last straw was the arrival of a caravan of 25 cars from the Brookline Bird Club. They parked up and down the entire length of our dead-end street and prowled our woods, pushing that woodpecker all over the place with their tape recordings of woodpecker mating calls, territorial drumming, distress calls, and all. That did it for me.

So this time, selfishly, I’ve kept my red-headed to myself until he was long gone. At least I could smugly check him off my own life list, and that red-headed is off somewhere spending January in peace.

According to my 1917 edition of *Birds Of America*, J. Ellis Burdick recorded the folk names of this bird which included “White-Shirt, Jellycoat, Shirt-tail, Patriotic Bird, Flag Bird.” He went on to describe the bird:

“Its head, neck and upper chest are uniform bright crimson; rump, upper tail coverts, secondaries are uniform pure white...” He added: “No species of woodpecker in this country, with the exception of the yellow-bellied sapsucker, has been the subject so much adverse criticism as the red-headed. It has been accused of eating nearly every variety of cultivated fruit... yet, the red-head does little harm by its destruction of predatory beetles... there seems to be no reason to condemn this woodpecker...”

That was back in the early 1900s. Times and attitudes have changed, and luckily for the

see **WEST ALONG** page B8



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – Sometimes, in the midst of my single-parenthood and business-owning exhaustion, I marvel at how, of these two pursuits, parenting is more challenging by far. I can do 12 to 14 hour days without skipping a beat when it comes to work. I realize that with my work, it’s because at the end of the day I get to come home and check out. But when it comes to

Winter Quiet

parenting? Dear lord, please send in all the backup.

In my experience so far, being a parent doesn’t stop, not even when my child is sleeping. There’s this sense of always being “on,” of not being able to put my guard down entirely. On the rare nights when I get to stay up a bit later than my little guy, there is no checking out. If I allow myself to indulge in watching a movie or reading a book, it’s really only a matter of time before he wakes up, asking for me.

This inability to lose myself in alone time brings up deep resentment. I often let out a heavy sigh, a “why-god-why” eyeroll, before going and tending to my child and his needs. Sometimes I joke to myself that I feel like his butler. All that’s missing is a little bell for him to ring.

Everyone says that “they grow up so fast,” and to “enjoy every moment of it.” While it’s true that

my child is growing on the daily, I can’t for the life of me get on board with enjoying every moment of it. Of course I am grateful for him, for the time I get to spend with him, and for the joy and the gift of being his mom. But to say I’m going to enjoy every moment feels like negating part of my experience.

Because, no, I don’t enjoy every moment. Some moments straight-up suck. Some moments take the last drop of my reserve. And while it’s important for me not to lose my cool, in some moments all I really want to do is curl up and weep.

It makes me realize that in and of itself, it’s not parenting that sometimes leads me to feeling drained and resentful. True, one is constantly “on.” But more than that, it’s the lack of space for self, the lack of time for solitude, and the constant pouring from my cup that drains me. Because it’s in those moments

see **INDIE MAMA** page B2



Red-headed woodpeckers (Melanerpes erythrocephalus): adult above, and juvenile below.

Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

“DORA”

Are you looking for a super cute and down-to-Earth girl? Meet Dora. This gorgeous girl loves to lounge around in all the sun puddles, and soak up all the attention. She does well with other cats, and would possibly do well with a calm dog that doesn't really care about cats. She would do best in a

home with older kids who just want a friend to snuggle with. If you're interested in this lovely lady, talk to an Animal Resource Counselor to learn more. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 20 THROUGH 24

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 1/20

8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)

1 p.m. Potluck & Movie

Tuesday 1/21

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday 1/22

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 1/23

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards, Games, & Pitch

3 p.m. Census Info Session

4 p.m. NO Gentle Yoga

Friday 1/24

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 1/20

Closed – Happy MLK, Jr. Day

Tuesday 1/21

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12 p.m. Bag Lunch & Friends Mtg.

Wednesday 1/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11 a.m. M3 Games

12 p.m. Pizza & Salad

12:45 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 1/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 1/24

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

LEVERETT

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

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

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

WENDELL

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

INDIE MAMA from page B1 of uninterrupted alone and self-care time that I get to replenish. Now that those windows of replenishment and nourishment are fewer and farther in between, managing a new business while sharing custody of my child, I know that I must prioritize them, even with a million things on my to-do list.

Even if I neglect my self-care, and devote myself fully to tackling all the things that need to happen, it's not like my list is going to get any shorter. It is up to me to carve out the time to take care of myself,

because without it, nothing else really stands a chance. At least not in the long run, and definitely not sustainably.

Especially now, as we dive deeper into winter. This is the time to go within, to let the land lay fallow, to deepen connection with our selves and with those closest to us. The season invites us to slow down, to nourish, and to do our best to stay healthy.

In the last few years this has also been my time to quiet down and listen. To listen for whatever my heart is trying to communicate

to me. I deeply believe in living seasonally, cyclically, and I believe that in order to live my best life, all I need to do is listen before taking action.

I'm still figuring out how to teach and model these ideas of self-care, alone time, and winter quiet to my child. To a four-year-old whose energy levels only seem to be increasing by the day, this is proving to be challenging. But if there was ever a time to talk about and move through this way of being, it is right now, during this season.



TV REVIEW

Netflix's *Lost In Space*, Season 2

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – It seems everybody is making a remake of something these days. Netflix decided to try their hand at a remake of the *Lost in Space* TV series. It paid off and they got a second season, which premiered on December 24, 2019. I saw a trailer for it that indicated that the family's robot will be the one lost in space this time, and that Will Robinson will look for it.

The season's first episode featured a Christmas celebration, which was appropriate, since it premiered on the date I mentioned. There has been a little bit of a time jump since we last saw the Robinsons, and they are living a relatively stable situation on a planet of mostly water.

Will's mom is trying to figure out how to use an alien engine to get them to the site of the colony that they started to go to in the pilot episode. Will's dad thinks they shouldn't press their luck, so to speak. The mom wants the kids to be able to have fulfilling lives of their own. Basically this disagree-



ment ends when their food supply is badly destroyed. They then try to get back into space.

They try to do that by turning the spaceship into a sailboat – to at least be moving forward, more or less. As for the female Dr. Smith, who is still being held in a cell, she is building something that we later learn is a computer, I believe. The woman is kind of trouble.

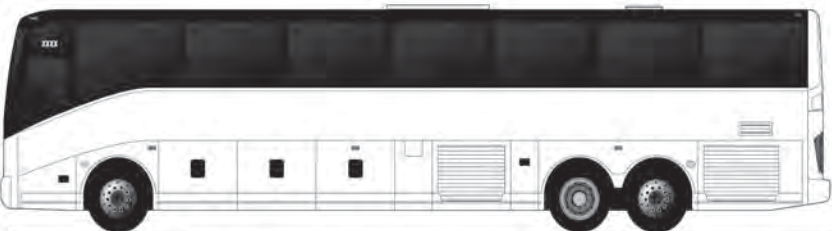
But getting back to the current situation, with the spaceship being a sailboat. Hell freezes over, because they have to let Dr. Smith out of her cell, after they get into trouble while sailing and need her know-how of the subject. When Netflix premieres a show, they

CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Bus Design Contest Announced

GILL – Want to see your artwork driving up and down the valley and know your design will have long-term positive impact on the youth of Franklin County? FM Kuzmeskus/TravelKuz, Hale Custom Signs, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County are announcing a call for entries for a first ever, collaborative bus design contest.

Pam Reipold, executive vice president of operations at FM Kuzmeskus, the leading transportation company in Franklin County, says she is excited to announce this collaboration. "We've got a brand spanking new coach. It's still white from the factory," explains Reipold.



Above and bottom left: Blank canvases, as provided on the Big Brothers Big Sisters website.

"It was our mechanics, or 'shop gods' as we affectionately call them, that came up with this idea. It's brilliant, really. TravelKuz is such a huge fan of Big Brothers Big Sisters and the important work that they do. We are very excited to be able to support such a great local agency."

Hale Custom Signs has worked with FM Kuzmeskus for many years, and has offered to subsidize the project, enabling it to have the greatest impact.

"We were overwhelmed by this offer," said Big Brothers Big Sisters executive director Jennifer Webster. "A project of this magnitude can help us raise awareness of the need for mentors, get our message out there in the world, and in turn change the lives of more Franklin County youth."

The contest is open to all Pioneer Valley artists. Each entry must incorporate the FM Kuzmeskus/TravelKuz logo and Big Brothers Big Sisters logo in its design.

The contest will be adjudicated by the team at FM Kuzmeskus, a member of BBBS, and Dan Hale of Hale Custom Signs. Entries are due by Friday, February 7, 2020. The winner will be announced no later than February 29.

Contest rules, guidelines, logos and bus templates can be found online under the Contest tab at bbbs-fc.org. Ideally, submissions should be rendered digitally using the Adobe Illustrator program. There will be no compensation for artists, but they may sign their work as part of the final design. Artwork will become property of the bus company.

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Bud's War, Part 9

By JERRY “JINX” COLLINS

TURNERS FALLS – Jerry “Jinx” Collins wrote about his youth growing up in Turners Falls in his memoir “Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952,” which we have excerpted from previously.

Now, Collins is sharing the experiences he and his brothers had during active duty in the armed services in excerpts from his latest memoir, still in progress, “Transition: A Journey From Youth to Manhood.”

In this installment, Jerry continues to learn about what Bud experienced during the war, many years later, on a trip the brothers took to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC in October 2017.

Following the long walk from the track, it was a short taxi ride to the Star Plaza, and the very comfortable beds waiting two very weary old geezers. Bidding each other good night, we quickly entered into the to-be-expected snore zone.

The morning sun, peeking through the slight slit left from the not fully closed blinds, woke us around 6 a.m. Anxious to get going to the WWII Memorial, we quickly showered and gulped down the included hotel breakfast. Heading for the exit I announced, “I’ll get a taxi.”

“No need for that. I can walk it,” was Bud’s response.

I quickly followed with, “Are you sure?”

“Yup, let’s go!” he insisted.

Off we went, and 20 minutes later, there we stood at the memorial entrance.

As we entered, there at the first monument on our left stood a group of tourists being given a lecture by one of the volunteer memorial guides. Noticing the WWII “Wiley” cap perched on Bud’s head, the guide immediately stopped talking and rushed over. Sticking out his hand he asked, “Are you for real? What theater did you serve in and where?”

A little surprised, Bud responded: “My ship served in the Pacific, and I was at Iwo and Okinawa.”

That was all it took. The whole group of tourists rushed up to him to shake his hand, thank him for his service, and ask him all about it. It was evident that he was the hero of the day at the memorial. Everyplace we paused, people stopped what they were doing to come over to honor him.

At the monument that included the battles of the Pacific, Bud’s demeanor changed from exhilaration to somberness, and I imagined that he was reliving some memories of the horrific events that he had witnessed.

Completing about an hour at the memorial, we started to exit the memorial when the guide we’d seen upon entering stopped us, giving us his name as George and offering to take our picture. *This photo will be kept, I hope forever, in the revered family album.* After our shaking his hand and thanking him for what he does as a volunteer, I told Bud, “I’ll get us a cab back to the hotel.”

“I’m not ready to go back yet!” he said, and seeing the surprised look on my face continued, “Can’t we go on and see the FDR Memorial? I looked at the park map and it doesn’t look very far, so we can walk there.”

“Are you sure? Aren’t you tired? I

can get a taxi to take us there.”

“I’m sure! Let’s go!”, this 92-year-old feisty little guy surprised me with.

“Okay,” I meekly replied. “But let’s take our time and as soon as we find a bench in the shade on the way there, we can stop for a few minutes and rest.”

“That makes good sense to me,” he agreed.

So off we went.

It didn’t surprise me too much how far it was to our first rest. There were no benches until we arrived at the Martin Luther King Memorial, which is located between the World War II and FDR memorials. After about a 20-minute, really welcomed rest, and then a guided tour of this super memorial, we started out again. Noticing that Bud was starting to show his age by the time we arrived at FDR’s site, I suggested, “Why don’t we call it quits? I’ll get us a cab back to the Star Plaza and we can do the FDR later.”

“No, I’m okay, so let’s do it now,” he insisted

“Okay! But there’s no place to sit if you run out of gas,” I warned him.

After a half hour of walking around all the separate monuments, his legs cried uncle. So I started looking for a cab. We noticed a shuttle stop where we could catch one to the Vietnam Memorial which was close to our hotel. Our half-hour wait at the bus bench was welcomed, and reenergized us for the two-block walk to a restaurant for a late lunch. After having walked our socks off for over three hours and eating our lunch, we plodded two more blocks back to our hotel.

Believing he needed a rest, I said, “How about taking a short nap after which we can go down to the lounge and maybe have a beer?”

92 years old, he shocked me – *though I shouldn’t have been as he always has been so energetic* – with his response of, “I don’t need the rest, and that beer sure sounds good.”

So down we went. As it was such a beautiful day, we decided to sit on the patio. When the waiter brought out the two perfectly foamed dark Guinness beers we’d ordered, my glass raised, I toasted, “To a great day!”

To which he responded, “And to two great brothers!”

Halfway through the second round – but with his tongue probably loosened a little by then – he started to chuckle and slurred, “I never did tell you about my time in Shanghai, did I?”

“No, but I’d really like to hear about it,” was my excited response.

Continued next week!



The author's brother, Bud Collins, in his Navy days.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Driver Regrets Absent-Mindedly Passing School Bus; Cars Off Road; Hit and Runs; Fights; Unshoveled Sidewalks

Saturday, 1/4
1:54 p.m. Report of people going in and out of the basement and garage of a brown house on Seventh Street off of the Elks alley. Caller believes no one is supposed to be there. Ongoing issue. Only description is one subject has a yellow winter hat. Officer spoke with parties. House was foreclosed upon, and a cleaning crew was hired.

5:08 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that there are a male and female yelling out behind the building. Peace restored.

8:38 p.m. 911 caller from Randall Wood Drive reporting that smoke is coming into her house from the chimney. FD and PD responding.

Sunday, 1/5
7:48 p.m. Report of one-car accident with fluids involved on Greenfield Road. Caller, who was not involved in the accident, reports that the driver may have been intoxicated and that she said there was another car in the road that she swerved to miss. TFFD responding; AMR notified. Officer reporting damage to two sections of guardrail. Operator transported to hospital. Citations issued for marked lanes violation; reckless operation of a motor vehicle; and operating under the influence of liquor.

8:19 p.m. Nursing supervisor at Farren Care Center reporting altercation between two patients in the Sequoia Dining Room. No answer on callback.

Monday, 1/6
1:50 p.m. Assisted motorist with directions to Deerfield Academy.

4:54 p.m. Caller from Department of Employment Assistance in Boston reports that her office is receiving in excess of 100 phone calls a day from a male party. Party has claim with caller’s agency that was denied and has moved to appeals court beyond caller’s office. Advised caller to contact Boston PD to make a report with them as well.

6:02 p.m. Party into station to report that while traveling on Montague City Road, he came up behind a vehicle that he thought was a fire engine pulling to the right side; he began to pass it and realized it was a school bus. Just as he was passing, the stop arm came out. Caller advises there was no accident but the driver of the bus did honk several times at him. Caller very upset that he had done this. Officer spoke to involved.

Tuesday, 1/7
7:54 p.m. Caller from Falls Road in Sunderland states there is a loose dog, black and white with shaggy fur and floppy ears, running from the waterfalls heading

toward Route 47. Contacted Shelburne Control.

Wednesday, 1/8
8:45 a.m. Report of motor vehicle rollover on Main Street north of the common and south of the Route 63 crossover. Single occupant initially reported to still be in vehicle but exited vehicle as call progressed; not complaining of any injuries but appears shaken up. Conference with AMR; Shelburne Control advised for MCFD EMTs. AMR transporting operator.

11:27 a.m. Abandoned 911 call; called back and spoke with caller, who is trying to program a medical pendant for his mother. Caller advised to call back if needed to test the pendant.

3:50 p.m. Report of two couches dumped on Ferry Road. DPW advised and will follow up tomorrow.

8:32 p.m. Caller reporting car off road and into guardrail in front of the airport. Caller didn’t stop, but another vehicle was stopping. MPD officer and TFFD advised. Second caller states there was no accident but a car was stuck in the snow. Off-duty firefighter attempting to help push vehicle out; requesting officer still respond. TFFD cancelled. Officer advises no damage; owner has AAA coming; he will stand by. Multiple additional calls received regarding possible accident in this area; one caller reporting a vehicle in a ditch and another behind it with lights off. Second caller reporting that it looks like one vehicle has a busted rear window. Officer advising he will swing back out that way and check on them. Officer advising both vehicles are ones awaiting AAA. They were advised to keep hazards on and stay parked off the side of the road. Received two more calls about a car off the road in this area. Officer advised he will just go sit and wait for AAA. Officer advising AAA was

there upon his arrival, so he is available.

Thursday, 1/9
3:39 a.m. Caller states that she is in a car and four males are beating up on a female on Fourth Street. While caller was giving information to officers, some swearing could be heard and then the line went dead. Officer advising all parties have been separated for the night.

11:26 a.m. Report of unshoveled/untreated sidewalks along the routes that many students take to Sheffield Elementary School. Caller did not have a list of affected areas but will make one tomorrow and contact MPD.

2:35 p.m. Report of several houses on Turnpike Road near Turners Falls Road with uncleared sidewalks. Referred to an officer.

4:15 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that someone just hit her car and left. Caller recognized operator but does not know her name or license plate number. Report taken.

5:48 p.m. Caller states that there is a male party who she believes is intoxicated because he was yelling at his wife and smelled like alcohol; he is in the driver’s seat of a vehicle parked outside Aubuchon Hardware. Caller states vehicle took a left onto Avenue A. Officer spoke with caller, who reported argument was verbal and very loud between male and female in parking lot. At one point, male was leaning in car where female was sitting and yelling at her. Shelburne Control notified to have a Gill officer respond to registered owner’s address.

5:50 p.m. Caller states that she left her bag outside Turners Falls Pizza House while she went in to get her pizza; when she returned, the bag had been stolen. Investigated.

Friday, 1/10
9:36 a.m. Chief received complaint for unshoveled sidewalk on Marshall

Street. Officer spoke with homeowner, who advised they will salt and sand the sidewalk and it will be clear by tomorrow morning.

11:18 p.m. Officer has party in custody outside Montague Town Hall. A 19-year-old Leyden man was arrested on a straight warrant.

Saturday, 1/11
11:52 a.m. Walk-in party reporting low-hanging wires near entrance to Park Villa. Pole and wires believed to belong to Comcast. They have been notified.

1:54 p.m. Caller states that she and some friends are being harassed. Another caller reporting same issue; she is a parent of one of the girls being harassed and wants to speak to an officer. Report taken.

5:31 p.m. Walk-in from Park Villa Drive reporting that someone struck her vehicle in the parking lot of her residence and created some minor damage. Investigated.

5:42 p.m. Caller states that a dead tree has fallen in the travel lane of Randall Road near Greenfield Road, blocking traffic. Tree removed from road. Message left for DPW to pick up on Monday.

6:39 p.m. Shelburne Control advising they have taken multiple calls about a tree on some wires that is on fire on Turners Falls Road. MCFD toned out; PD responding. Road blocked at Hatchery Road. Power company advised. MCFD will handle traffic.

Sunday, 1/12
3:49 a.m. Caller states her car slid off Millers Falls Road into a ditch; denies any injuries or fluids. Caller states that she has been trying to contact AAA but they are not responding. Caller asking if she can leave vehicle and get it first thing in the morning. Officer advises vehicle is off public roadway and can be removed in the morning.

Montague Community Television News

Windborne, Wendell Board

By MICHAEL SMITH

If you didn’t already know, the Great Falls Discovery Center hosts a Coffee-house music performance the second Friday of every month. If you couldn’t make it for last week’s show, don’t worry – MCTV was there to capture it all for you to watch at your convenience.

And this is not a show you want to miss! The singing group Windborne put on an amazing performance to a packed house. We ran out of chairs, but not good times. Check out montaguetv.org to watch it on our Vimeo page, along with all our other latest videos.

Also at montaguetv.org you can check out the latest Montague finance committee meeting, as well as the Wen-

dell selectboard discussing House Bill H. 897, “An Act Relative to Forest Protection.” It’s important to stay informed about decisions being made in your community!

MCTV is your resource to help stay informed about decisions that may impact your life; keep an eye on montaguetv.org or our facebook page for updates.

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!

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FACES & PLACES

Reader Diane Hansen writes:
"Archer is my 8-year-old grandson who swims for the Montague Blue Fish swim team. This past Thursday night they had a 1-hour swim off to raise money for their team. The whole swim team participated. Archer ended up swimming 65 laps, or 4,875 feet of swimming. We are all so proud of him. He raised \$325 for his team!" Go Archer, and go Blue Fish!

PHOTO COURTESY DIANE HANSEN

New "Hive" Will Buzz on February 8

From combined sources.

GREENFIELD – The Hive, a new makerspace in Greenfield, will hold an event on Saturday, February 8 that they are calling a "Pre-Valentine's Day Expo." This will be the second official event to occur in the developing venue. According to organizer Michelle Crowningshield, the first, a "beautiful day of friends, connections and music," was so successful they almost raised enough money to file for the Hive's non-profit status.

The space at 156 Main Street has been under transformation since former landlord Rob Cohn offered it to local creatives. Artists and artisans of various disciplines formed a team to change this former World Eye Bookstore space into the Hive, a 5,600-square-foot makerspace. Rachael Katz and Adrienne LaPi-

erre are leading the project. The two have applied for a planning grant and have initiated fundraising efforts to cover costs for the first year of development.

Makerspaces are essentially membership-based community workshops with tools. They combine manufacturing equipment, community, and education for the purposes of enabling members to design, prototype, and produce manufactured works that wouldn't be possible to create with the resources available to individuals working alone. Makerspaces are part of an effort to democratize design, engineering, and fabrication, in part by reducing the necessity for a large initial capital investment.

The event on February 8 will include workshops, craft and art vendors, and live music and performance from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crowningshield is still looking for participants, both performers, vendors, and workshop leaders. Have a skill to share? A talent to display? The Hive wants you. Vending spots are \$20, with an opportunity to do associated workshops. If you want to hold a workshop without vending, the fee to the Hive will be 10%.

So far, musicians include Jake McLaughlin, Kara Lynne, Adelaide Fay, Cat Landers, and Kara Benett. There are artisans participating with jewelry and clothes, art, prints, goblets, fairies, vintage goods, painted dishes, bows, and cards. Workshops scheduled so far include yoga, mindfulness and breathing, gemstone and crystal wrapping, massage, vision boards, sand art, collage, and more.

If you are interested in participating, or for more information, please contact Michelle Crowningshield at sacredholisticarts@gmail.com.

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LOTTERY from page B1

it opened its own lottery drawings in 1970. Promoters modeled the game on the illegal numbers racket. They sold tickets at newsstands, bars, and supermarkets, and used a four-leaf clover as the logo in an aggressive ad campaign that touted a get-rich-quick scheme.

As in the illegal policy games, players picked their own numbers in the New Jersey version, and there were no forms to fill out, nor any connection to results at the racetrack. The ability for people to pick their own numbers greatly increased the New Jersey lottery’s popularity, since superstitious and “lucky” number series are apparently attractive to gamblers.

News coverage of instant-millionaire winners helped promote the game. These twice-weekly drawings were a runaway success, bringing in five times the revenue predicted. Television newscasters covered the stories of big winners.

Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Michigan all started state lotteries in 1972, and soon the federal government allowed them to advertise on radio and television. Neighboring states did not like seeing money flocking to a popular lottery across the line, and by 1977, all of the northeastern states had lotteries, followed by 17 more states in the 1980s. Massachusetts started a very popular Lotto in 1978, where players picked six numbers out of 30.

At the same time, the FBI’s crack-down on illegal numbers games continued. Mobsters pointed out that the margins were actually better for players of illegal games than those who played state-run games, and that such illicit earnings were also tax-free. (Lottery earnings carry a 28% federal tax.)

Rags To Riches?

Cheap tickets, long odds, and big prizes made for successful lotteries, and the 1980s became real boom years for lotteries. Jackpots increased exponentially, from \$5 million to \$50 million by the end of the decade. A tax that could be sold as entertainment seemed like a dream come true, and state after state joined in the fray.

In the 1990s, giant, multi-state lotteries like Powerball and Mega Millions began to take hold, and jackpots grew to be in the hundreds of millions. One of the biggest selling points for state-run lotteries were the stories of the big winners. After all, despite the terrible odds, *somebody* has to win, and stories about suddenly wealthy people provide great entertainment and promotional value.

Coverage of these big winners eventually began to wane, however, since stories that followed big winners over several years often documented disaster – failed marriages, substance abuse, bad investments, excessive spending, and other unwise decisions ruined many of the lives of “lucky winners.” It began to seem as if winners were actually

cursed. The publicity itself was part of the problem, as it fostered parasitic friendships, and attracted dubious investment opportunities and other types of fraud.

Southern states, with their conservative Christian constituencies, were among the last to adopt state-sponsored lotteries, but eventually all were won over by the promise of generating revenue without resorting to direct taxation. The objections that lotteries preyed on the poor and ignorant and were inefficient and immoral methods of raising revenue were (mostly) overruled because they provided matchless sources of income.

Currently, only six states do not have their own state-sponsored lotteries. An effort to bring the lottery to Alabama failed to pass by one vote last year. Mississippi started with scratch tickets last December, and will join some multi-state lotteries this year, but objections continue from religious leadership in the state – as well as its casino industry. Nevada does not allow them because of objections from casinos. Utah forbids them in its state constitution. Alaska is sparsely populated and, like Hawaii, is not threatened by the drain of revenue into neighboring states – a big factor in the spread of state-sponsored lotteries elsewhere – so they do not have any.

The books I’ve read on the history of the lottery were not written recently enough to capture the growth of online gambling – even online tickets one can “scratch” on a device’s touchscreen.

Are state-sponsored lotteries a significant part of any state budget? Despite the billions of dollars spent on lotteries by residents – in our state alone, over \$5 billion in 2019 – lottery revenue in most states amounts to between 1% and 3% of the annual budget. Bonuses, commissions to retailers, marketing expenses, and whatnot result in an average of 29 cents per dollar collected for the state coffers.

Massachusetts has one of the most attractive lotteries in the country. It is #1 in sales per capita, and has a high payout rate, with 72 cents on every dollar going to prizes, 20 going to the state, and the other 8 going to commissions and other overhead expenses. The public money is evenly distributed to cities and towns regardless of sales numbers in those locations.

Massachusetts was also the first to sell scratch tickets in 1974. States like the idea of a controlled game, where prizes are set and odds of winning are low, while players enjoy the spontaneity. Instant gratification made these tickets popular immediately, and they have remained a top selling product nationally.

Perfecting the printing of these

tickets was the key to growing this industry, and the company Scientific Games is the original and still the primary company supplying instant tickets to the states. Another very large company, International Game Technology (IGT), is the leading supplier of computer-generated lottery systems to states. These two companies, in various corporate iterations, have been the industry leaders since the 1970s.

Scratching Below the Surface

Since a very small amount of the revenue from lottery systems actually goes into the state budgets, it is very inefficient as a tax. There are good arguments to say that it is also a very unfair one as well: poorer citizens spend more on the lottery than wealthier ones do, and the dollars they spend represent a larger portion of their income. Problem gamblers, meanwhile, account for a disproportionately large amount of the revenue. The top ten percent of gamblers account for 65% of the total sales. (This is higher than alcohol sales, where 50% of the revenue comes from the top 10% of buyers.)

The Federal Trade Commission does not have oversight over the advertising of state-sponsored lotteries, and many feel the promotion of these games creates deceptive impressions and promotes suspect values.

Gambling certainly seems a strange business for our government to promote, and I was surprised to learn of its important historical role in the building of this country. Since this voluntary tax depends heavily on a destructive compulsion for a large portion of the income it derives, and since such activities actually contribute very little to the budget, it seems that it deserves more scrutiny than it receives.

Is a state-sponsored lottery truly in the public interest? Is it okay that most players enjoy casual gambling, which contributes a fraction to public funding, while an addicted minority contributes most of it due to an involuntary compulsion?

I really don’t have any firm answers. Frustratingly, during my research for this series I felt the stirrings of a compulsion to buy scratch tickets myself. When I mentioned that I was thinking of doing some experiential research, managing editor Mike Jackson frowned on the idea. It was a relatively easy notion to put aside, since I no longer drink or smoke, and I would have to go out of my way to buy tickets at a package or convenience store.

I have all the facts and figures in my head to form a rant about what a violation of the pact of democracy a state lottery system is. Still, the fantasy of unearned money in a materialistic society is an attractive one, particularly with my addictive type of personality and relatively low income level. I get the appeal.

While writing this last part of the series, I’ve also realized that the books I’ve read on the history of the lottery were not written recently enough to capture the growth of online gambling, with new types

LEGO Kits Offered to Eligible Teams

AYER – The Ayer Shirley Regional School District was recently awarded a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant to help spread STEM learning. In an effort to further the mission of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics, a portion is being used to fund a LEGO Education robotics kit for eligible parents, educators, or parent-teacher organizations willing to start a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Jr. team in towns currently without one.

Teams are typically made up of two to six students from K through 4th grade. Each team requires a minimum of two adult coaches and a registration fee of \$114. Budding STEM innovators work together to research a real-world problem and propose a solution through a “Show Me” poster and a working LEGO model. This year’s challenge is “Boomtown Build.”

Ayer Shirley Regional High

School’s FRC team, Andromeda One, has campaigned to bring a team to every Massachusetts public school district. Students and their mentors are running this initiative, known as MassFIRST, in the hope Massachusetts will become the first state in the country to reach this goal.

They are reaching out to superintendents, STEM coordinators, teachers, PTO/PTA groups, and libraries, seeking parents and educators to start local FLL Jr. teams in their communities. Once MassFIRST has identified adults willing to start a team in an eligible town, they will be sent a free materials kit (a \$204 value).

Parents and educators, in conjunction with your local school district, public library, or PTA/PTO in eligible towns (including Gill, Montague, Erving, and Leverett), are invited to email massfirstrobotics@gmail.com as soon as possible to receive their free kit and additional information on starting a team.

Sync or Swim at Hawks & Reed

By REPORTER STAFF

GREENFIELD – We recently received a press release from Queer & Now, a new theater company from Amherst that is bringing their latest performance to the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield this weekend. The company, describing itself as composed of drag artists re-creating the art form to be “inclusive of transgender, gender non-conforming, and women drag artists, as opposed to just men as drag queens and women as drag kings,” will perform a new piece called *Sync or Swim*.

Queer & Now says that the show’s action is “set in a world where water is rapidly rising and borders are massively disintegrating,” and its plot “follows seven mythological deities overcoming struggles rooted in rampant sexism, corporate greed, and climate change.... The production takes ancient world mythology and fuses it with contemporary pop music to

embrace our impending future.”

Audiences will encounter a variety of mythological figures from across the world: the Merrows and the Selkies (Ireland/Scotland), Mami Wata (West Africa), Circe, Nemesis, Narcissus, Demeter, and Antigone (all from Greece). The company says they will “bring these characters to life with drag, lip syncing, and dance, inserting these ancient stories directly into current culture and climate.”

Sync or Swim began with a successful debut on the UMass-Amherst campus in December 2018, followed by a tour to NYC at West Chelsea Arts in April 2019. Greenfield performances are scheduled on Friday, January 17 and Saturday, January 18 at 8 p.m. in “The Perch” on the fourth floor at Hawks & Reed. There will also be an after-party in the Wheelhouse at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are sliding scale. Check out the theater company’s website for more information: WeAreQueerAndNow.com.

of sports gambling and a myriad of other forms instantly available through the internet – even instant online tickets one can “scratch” on a device’s touchscreen. There’s been recent unprecedented growth in the casino industry as well.

Has addiction treatment kept pace? Besides peer-to-peer resources like Gamblers Anonymous, what is available, and how much of the money spent in the gaming industry finds its way into funding treatment?

The overarching concern is that our society worships the idea of having huge excesses of money, with a cult-like devotion to surplus goods and luxury items. Instead of critiquing the effects of excess wealth and seeking to even things out through progressive taxation, we entice those with less into a dream of unearned

wealth by gambling their meager earnings, week by week – in games promoted by the very government that is supposed to help advocate for their rights, and protect them from fraud in the first place. Ugh.

If this makes you feel angry, well, now you can go to your nearby million-dollar marijuana farm and medicate yourself with however many milligrams of feel-good-and-forget-it cannabis you can afford. For the present, the cannabis industry is kept separate from gambling, alcohol, and tobacco retail, while high marijuana taxes and impact fees make this industry the latest cash cow for state and local governments.

It’s too bad we can’t just implement a fairer tax structure with real benefits for us all.




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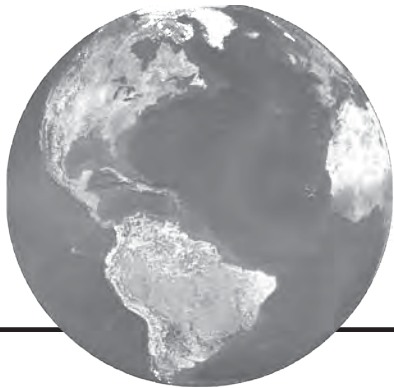
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Aquí se habla español

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



OPINIÓN

Predicciones optimistas para 2020

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

Estimados lectores,

Les deseo todo lo mejor para este nuevo año que acabamos de empezar y que se cumplan todos o al menos algunos de sus deseos y expectativas. Al dar las doce de la noche de este 31 de diciembre pasado, cuando intentaba pasar por mi garganta las 12 uvas sin atragantarme y antes de brindar con una copa de cava, pasaron por mi mente rápidamente algunas predicciones que voy a compartir con ustedes en esta página. Tómenselas con humor y, con cuidado, como las doce uvas, y no olviden que están hechas desde una perspectiva positiva.

Montague Reporter y la libertad de prensa: Uno de los derechos de los ciudadanos estadounidenses es poder escribir en un periódico. Puedo decirles que yo me he tomado en serio este derecho incluso antes de obtener mi nacionalidad. Pese a ser un trabajo voluntario y no remunerado me encanta hacerlo aún cuando incluso he llegado a recibir insultos por lo que escribo.

Me encantaría poder ver en 2020 cómo nuestro periódico aumenta su número de suscriptores para poder competir con las grandes editoriales de la prensa. Los periódicos locales, que no pertenecen a ninguna corporación son cada vez más necesarios para garantizar la libertad de prensa y la independencia de pensamiento.

Quizás en este nuevo año la página en español tenga como vecina una página en mandarín, otra en yiddish y una tercera más en coreano. ¡Ya saben, si quieren colaborar, contacten con nosotros!

Massachusetts y licencias de manejar para todos: Espero que este año que comienza espero que los legisladores de Massachusetts pasen una ley que permita a inmigrantes indocumentados obtener sus permisos de manejar. En este momento 14 estados, además del distrito de Columbia permiten la licencia de conducir para inmigrantes indocumentados. California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

En noviembre del pasado año tuvo lugar la última movilización por parte de las organizaciones que apoyan la medida de conceder licencias de manejo a inmigrantes sin tener en cuenta su estatus migratorio. Entre estas organizaciones está Movimiento Cosecha que lanzó su campaña *Drive Without Fear* para apoyar la concesión de licencias para todos.

Se calcula que solamente en Massachusetts hay unos 180.000 inmigrantes sin documentación que afrontan el problema de la falta de transporte y que podría ser resuelto con una ley estatal. Los inmigrantes contribuimos con el pago de im-

puestos al desarrollo económico del estado y una ley como esta podría impulsar la economía de Massachusetts en unos 50 millones de dólares. ¡Que el 2020 nos traiga licencias para todos!

Turners Falls y su renovado centro urbano: Empezamos el año sabiendo que Turners había conseguido fondos para reparar el pequeño puente peatonal que cruza el canal al lado de la antigua fábrica de papel y que el edificio había sido adquirido por una compañía. Tenemos un nuevo centro de clases de yoga, un nuevo café en la avenida, *The Upper Bend*, y la próxima reapertura del *Five Eyed Fox*. Así mismo es inminente la apertura de un mercado ecológico en el centro y la compra del antiguo edificio del *Discovery Center* para uso de oficinas y apartamentos.

Desde que me mudé a Turners hace cinco años muchas cosas han cambiado en el centro. Por supuesto además del paisaje urbano, ha cambiado la demografía. Los precios del alquiler y compra son mucho más baratos al norte que en Amherst o Northampton y familias jóvenes y no tan jóvenes se desplazan hasta aquí por este motivo.

Empezamos a hablar de gentrificación en el centro de Turners y creo que en los próximos años lo difícil será conseguir un equilibrio entre la nueva población, la población que ha estado aquí por años, el aumento de los negocios y puestos de trabajo y la consiguiente subida de los precios del alquiler y de compra. Si Turners consigue esto, creo que el futuro será prometedor para esta ciudad que ya considero como mía.

Y, ¿para cuándo cambiar el nombre por Great Falls?

Estados Unidos y los resultados electorales en 2020: A finales de este año tendrán lugar las elecciones presidenciales. El país se juega mucho en un momento en que la opinión de la población está claramente dividida. El candidato elegido por los demócratas se enfrentará casi seguro al actual presidente, Donald Trump.

La carrera por la elección demócrata empezó con 28 candidatos de los que solamente quedan la mitad. Solamente seis eran mujeres y quedan solamente cuatro después de la renuncia de Kamala Harris por la falta de fondos para poder continuar. Pertenecientes a una minoría quedan solamente ocho después de la renuncia de Julián Castro, entre ellos el exgobernador de Massachusetts, Deval Patrick. El mayor en edad con 89 años es Mike Gravel seguido por Bernie Sanders que tiene 78 años. El más joven es Pete Buttigieg, alcalde en Indiana y el único candidato abiertamente homosexual.

Nos jugamos mucho en la elección de este candidato que se enfrentará a Donal Trump en las elecciones de noviembre de 2020. Algunos ven a Joe Biden como el candidato favorito de las en-

Puerto Rico después del huracán María: La mirada de Joshua Rivera

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – En noviembre de 2017 realicé una entrevista a Joshua Rivera. Joshua estudiaba en una escuela vocacional en Yabucoa en Puerto Rico. Su población fue afectada por el huracán María que destruyó gran parte de la isla, así que Joshua y su hermano mayor pasaron algunos meses con su tía Sandra en Northfield mientras la situación se arreglaba.

Joshua estudiaba su primer año de soldadura en la escuela vocacional Teodoro Aguilar Mora. Y así fue como Joshua llegó para pasar unos meses FCTS. Al principio no fue fácil debido especialmente al idioma, pero poco a poco se fue acostumbrado y a las pocas semanas ya departía con otros estudiantes en inglés. La administración, especialmente el superintendente y el subdirector intentaban hablar con Joshua en español para hacer su estancia más llevadera y Lynne Paju le ayudaba cada día con sus clases de inglés. Joshua eligió el taller de soldadura para seguir aprendiendo las técnicas que había empezado en Puerto Rico.

Estas vacaciones de invierno, Joshua ha pasado unos días en Massachusetts así que decidí reunirme con él para saber más acerca de la situación actualmente en la isla.

La mañana en que había quedado con Joshua en Franklin County Technical School para saludar a sus antiguos compañeros del taller de soldadura y a sus maestros y consejeros fue la mañana del terremoto en Puerto Rico. Pude comprobar en persona cómo sus compañeros, la administración y los maestros recordaban con cariño a Joshua y la alegría que les dio la sorpresa de verlo de nuevo. Joshua estaba nervioso porque no sabía si iba a poder continuar con sus clases después de las vacaciones debido a los problemas ocasionados por el movimiento sísmico.

En la madrugada del martes 7 de enero se registró un fuerte temblor con el número 6.5 en la escala Richter en Mayagüez. El epicentro fue al sureste de la población de Guayanilla. La red sísmica de Puerto Rico emitió así mismo una advertencia de tsunami que más tarde fue cancelada.

Joshua tuvo una hermana en Puer-



MAÍLLO PHOTO

Joshua Rivera visitando Franklin County Technical School.

to Rico durante los nueve meses que pasó en Massachusetts, así que tenía ganas de volver para conocerla, ver a su familia y amigos, pero en realidad quería quedarse en Massachusetts. Todo le parecía distinto aquí y mucho mejor en muchos sentidos.

Hablamos de la escuela y me dice que su escuela no tiene las opciones que hay en FCTS, y los talleres no están equipados con las máquinas y tecnología que le impresiona. En su taller de soldadura en Puerto Rico solamente hay tres máquinas y no están computarizadas. Los salones de clases que son barracones no tienen ventilación ni aire acondicionado por lo que siempre hace mucho calor. La diferencia en el trato a los estudiantes por parte de los maestros es grande también, y sin poder explicarme específicamente, Joshua sabe que la experiencia en clase es distinta.

Cuando volvió a Puerto Rico en junio de 2018 todavía no habían podido reconstruir la escuela y el taller de soldadura tenía lugar debajo de una carpa lo que acarreó el cierre y una multa por parte del gobierno debido a la falta de sistemas de seguridad. Durante más de un año estuvieron en esta situación debido a la falta de recursos económicos. Esto hizo que durante este tiempo muchos de los estudiantes no han podido asistir a clase. Esto significa que los estudiantes tienen clases de teoría, pero no tienen la experiencia en los talleres, ni las horas necesarias para poder conseguir el certificado para trabajar.

Joshua tiene claro que su vocación es ser soldador y piensa seguir su educación después del instituto y

seguir estudiando inglés para poder trabajar en el continente. Las oportunidades de encontrar un trabajo y conseguir dinero son mejores aquí y los precios no son más bajos en la isla. Está pensando hacerse militar y así poder estudiar y ayudar a su país.

Respecto a las casas, Joshua me cuenta que la luz sigue fallando cada dos por tres, y muchas de ellas todavía no han podido ser reconstruidas bien porque no hay recursos del gobierno o porque estos no han llegado.

El terremoto de la primera se sintió en toda la isla y afectó especialmente al servicio de energía eléctrica. La isla llevaba temblando unas dos semanas con cientos de temblores, pero el temblor del martes pasado fue el más fuerte desde 1918 y se llevó la vida de un hombre mientras dormía en su casa de Ponce al caerle encima una de las paredes de su casa.

La población tiene miedo y muchos de ellos han decidido dormir al raso o establecer campamentos por el miedo a que se caigan las paredes. En estos momentos muchos estudiantes no han podido volver a clase debido a las grietas y daños estructurales en las escuelas.

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Termino estas líneas durante la noche de Reyes, una tradición en los países hispánicos en la que tres hombres sabios provenientes de Oriente Medio se encargan de dejar regalos en los zapatos de los niños que han sido buenos durante el año. Ojalá los Reyes Magos nos dejen una pizca de ilusión y optimismo para que estas predicciones se cumplan.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Shea Theater Arts Center, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players East presents A Comedy of Errors*. Free admission. All-youth cast. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

The Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Shamarr Allen & The Underdawgs*. Hailing from the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, Allen has influences in jazz, hip hop, rock, funk, funk blues and country. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Element Brewing Co, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Greenfield: *Sprague, Jaffe, Ennis Trio*. \$. 7 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Matt Valentine Preserves*, with *Center* (mems. Headroom, Nagual). \$. 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro, VT: Screening, *Agnes Varda: The Gleaners and I*, followed by discussion facilitated by film scholar Leo Cortana. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater Arts Center, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players East presents A Comedy of Errors*. Free admission. All-youth cast. 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Movie, *The Band Wagon* (1953). Musical featuring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. \$. Ragtime piano by *Dick Moulding* at 7 p.m., followed by film at 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Saturn's Return: An Immersive Movement Experience*. Dance, live music, games, mystery, more. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Queer & Now: Sync or Swim*. In the Perch. \$. 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra dance*. Dave Eisenstadter calling with George Wilson, David Kaynor, and Becky Ashenden, fiddles and piano, and the *Back Row Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Shea Theater Arts Center, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players East presents A Comedy of Errors*. Free admission. All-youth cast. 1 and 7 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Opening reception for *Looky Here 2020* submission-based art show. 6:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro, VT: *Gavin Klein: Pipes from Shore to Shore*. Concert of European and American music for the organ, performed on the Sanctuary Estey Opus 300. Pieces by Bach, Elgar, Buxtehude, Anderson, Boëllmann, others. Presented by the Estey Organ Museum. Suggested donation. 7 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$. 7 p.m.



Franklin County jangle-rockers Huevos II are releasing "III," their debut 12" EP on *Sophomore Lounge Records*, on Saturday, January 25 at the *Rendezvous* in Turners Falls. Here they are in front of a local chicken coop.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Movie, *The Band Wagon* (1953). Musical featuring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. \$. Ragtime piano by *Dick Moulding* at 7 p.m., followed by film at 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Movie screening, *Forbidden Planet*. 7:30 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Annie Patterson, Ben Touseley, Swing Set, and Anne Louise White*. Benefit for the meetinghouse's restroom project. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *A Midsummer Night's Dream Fundraiser*. Surprise musical guests, poetry readings, *DJ Mary Jester*, merch, raffle, more. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Queer & Now: Sync or Swim*. Second night. \$. In the Perch, 8 p.m., with afterparty in the Wheelhouse, 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bridge of Flowers, Hung Truck-er, Scorpion Punch*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jazz Brunch with Masala Jazz*. 11 a.m.

CELINE SUTTON PHOTO

lege, Greenfield: *Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*. Family makerspace and creative zone, 10 a.m.; panel presentation facilitated by youth leaders, 10 a.m.; workshops at 11 a.m., lunchtime and choir performances by the GCC Community Choir and Musica Franklin, 12 p.m.

Shea Theater Arts Center, Turners Falls: *Young Shakespeare Players East presents A Comedy of Errors*. Free admission. All-youth cast. 1 and 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sarah Van Buren, Joe Mygan, Certain Death*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Nite*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Open Mic*. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owsley's Owls*. Weekly Grateful Dead family night. 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Federal Street Books, Greenfield: Workshop, *Altered Books: Paper Arts with Trish Crapo*. Talk and hands-on workshop. Bring books or magazines and scissors. Free. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Primitive Heart, Chronophobia 5000, Omega Vague*. Synth-pop and worse. \$. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton: *Courtney Barnett, Hachiku*. \$. 7 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Model Home, Mal Devisa, Pussyvision, DJ Meginsky*. \$. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wubwitus Vol. VI with Isded, Camnah, and Desoli*. Dub. In the Wheelhouse. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro, VT: *Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival*. Showcasing Irish, Scottish, English, and French Canadian traditions. \$. 12 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *John Sheldon and Blue Streak*. \$. 7 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Huevos II* record release show, with *Land Man, Animal Piss*, and *DJ Mentaldrift*. 9 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: Exhibits include *Fafnir Adamites: Interfere (with); Doug Trump: By Rail; Maria Elena Gonzalez: Tree Talk; Gordon Meinhard: The Lives of Tables*; and *Thelma Appel: Observed/Abstract*. Through February.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *You Are Here: A Juried Community Art Exhibit*. Work by regional artists in multiple media exploring maps, the significance of place, and movement across boundaries, curated by Exploded View. Where do you live? Where are you from? Where do you dream? How do you find your way? Where

are your borders? Do maps lie? Through February 29 in the Great Hall.

Greenfield Gallery: *Paul Hoffman, Paintings and Illustrations*. Poetic dreamscapes informed by a lifetime of world travel. Through January 18.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: Lynne Stopen, *Birds Bring Peace*. Drawings of birds in graphite and colored pencil, capturing their unique characteristics. Reception on Saturday, February 1, 3:30 p.m. Through February.

Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton: *Marty Espinola*, photographs; *Jon Bander*, metal sculptures. January 8 through February 4.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Tiny Treasures* group show. Paintings, ceramics, leather, paper cuts, jewelry, wood and ornaments by member artists. Through January 27.

Smith College Art Museum, Northampton: *A Dust Bowl of Dog Soup: Picturing the Great Depression*. Featuring 50 photographs and prints from artists including Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein, Marian Post Wolcott, Martin Lewis, and more. These artists helped shape social policy by making the travails of rural America visible during the Depression, which stimulated enthusiasm for Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Through June.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
red-headed, he is no longer shot on sight.

Sister Susan tells me that the red-headed woodpeckers that she's seen down South are typically pretty shy, probably due to the fact of being persecuted for generations as Burdick writes above. For sure, our visitor was really skittish, easily alarmed by the shrieks of the blue jay, and was winging off rapidly through the woods in a second.

Other than this exotic Southerner, things are pretty normal. By the middle of the week, we are graced with an unexpected snowfall dropping lightly over all. Large fluffy flakes fall quietly, muffling bird calls. This will be a good day to spend near the comforting fire in the woodstove.

But first I have to trek out with the dog on our appointed rounds.

Up we go to the village of Millers Falls, across the bridge that links the neighborhoods. From the bridge, we stop for a minute to glance down the river to where the house on the Flat sits. Our family inside is just

stirring while Nicky and I walk the empty snowy streets.

When you have walked your own village for 70 years, walked where your mother ran and played with her brothers and sisters, walked where grandfather and grandmother strode up the street on errands, walked where great-grandfather drove his wagon all day long when Bridge Street was a muddy cart track, you're never really alone. They used to be here, and they still are.

Light snow falling brings those kinds of thoughts, helping time fall away.

Sigh. A week in January cold puts one in a mood like this. The year is just beginning, but it doesn't look so good out there in the world. The idiots in Washington are making life-and-death decisions with little care for our Nation; our democracy is in crisis. Will we turn away from war? Will we leave our forests, rivers, wild creatures in peace, far from harm and sorrow?

Nicky gives his leash a pull. I'm tethered to his world of canine treasures and fascinating smells every-

where, he keeps me from floating off into time past and space. And he's tethered to me, counting on me to get us where he wants to go. He figures January will just have to take care of itself.

Back home that evening, nearing the end of my week-long report, I find myself still wondering whether we're coming or going this month.

I can be thankful for the diversion of fresh snow covered with messages left along the river by fox and muskrat. At least they're little preoccupied with the joys and sorrows of January. The dog refuses to let me sink into worry, stubbornly reminding me of my self-appointed job to report back to you about the constant goings-on out here, about the poetry of living a life outdoors.


So I'll shrug off this mood, and get up now to walk out into the dusk under the Full Wolf Moon that is always rising this time in January. I'll take the frozen path once again that leads down to the eternal river rushing by, maybe to find some peace there, some respite.

There are fresh fox tracks in the light snow. Renard has trotted sure-footed through here last night, ever the optimist of finding supper.

Five lovely wood ducks rise up before me in the silver light of the moonglow.

You can do this, I say to no one in particular. You can walk hope back into the New Year. Just now the veil of a passing cloud dims the landscape then the full moon brightens everything again. Out here you can walk back into grace


Your Participation is Requested!
Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan 2020 Review
Where Do We Grow from Here?
Saturday, February 1, 2020



Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, 11am-3pm
Presented by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department

Downtown
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LIVABILITY PLAN

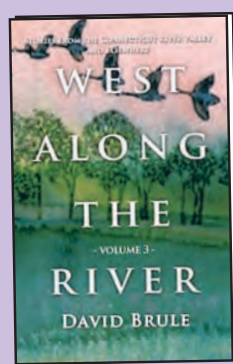


- *Review the 2013 Plan;
- *Recap our accomplishments;
- *Provide an overview of upcoming building projects;
- *Host a forum for thought-provoking conversation; and
- *Brainstorm ideas and priorities for the next decade.

Participation is encouraged. Lunch will be served.
The Discovery Center is wheelchair accessible.

11:00 AM SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION: *Livability Plan 2013 to Today*
12:00 PM- LUNCH and opportunity to view "You Are Here: An Exhibition by Exploded View"
12:20 PM- MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION: *Where Do We Grow from Here?*
1:30PM- FACILITATED BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: *Envision Future Development*
2:30-3:00 PM RECOMMENDATIONS & WRAP- UP

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under a moon like that.

Sometimes things do not go from bad to worse. Sometimes people will make the right choice, will elect the right person, will step away from war. You can get up and step out into the landscape, letting the light work its way into even a dark week in January.

Somewhere, out of the grove of birches and the white pine island, coming on the light wind, you will hear an ancient voice confiding to you:

*Darkness will lose,
Sunlight will win,
Don't worry.*



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