

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 15

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

## Greenfield's Date With Density: City Debates Zoning Reform



Two councilors propose a raft of changes to allow for denser housing downtown.

By SAMANTHA WOOD

**GREENFIELD** – “Walkability is the secret sauce for a community,” says Greenfield city councilor Tim Dolan.

In an effort to get things cooking, Dolan, Precinct 5, and council vice president Otis Wheeler, Precinct 7, have proposed a recipe of zoning changes aimed at opening the door to more housing options in Greenfield’s urban core.

They presented their proposal in December, following a report in November from the Greenfield Affordable Housing Project, the task force convened in response to a tent city on the town common in the summer of 2018. Eric Twarog, Greenfield’s director of planning and development, issued a detailed response in recent weeks, supporting some of the proposed changes while suggesting revisions to others.

About 30 people packed into the city hall meeting room Tuesday night for a public hearing hosted jointly by the planning board and the city council’s economic development committee. Because of strong interest, the hearing will be continued on Thursday, March 5 at the John Zon Center. The officials also welcome feedback via letters and email.

To start things off, Wheeler gave a brief presentation on how residential development took shape in Greenfield’s urban core long before zoning was enacted. He outlined the rationale behind the new proposed changes, while making clear from the outset there is “room for negotiation on all of these numbers.”

At the forefront was the goal: working toward more housing stock in the heart of Greenfield. At the end of the presentation Wheeler see **ZONING** page A6

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Town Pushes For Better Effort on Bridge

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, in the wake of a public hearing on state plans for the rehabilitation of the General Pierce Bridge between Montague and Greenfield, the Montague selectboard endorsed a two-page “public input” letter from the town expressing significant “concerns” over the proposed design.

Although the letter begins by expressing appreciation to the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for “the level of investment required for bridge rehabilitation,” it criticizes the department for waiting “until such a late point to substantially engage Montague in the

project planning process, allowing us to offer input only at the margins to a largely final design.” Thus, the potential for a “new bridge at this general location” – an option which received widespread support at last week’s public hearing – “stands now as impractical.”

The letter calls for a significant revision of the proposed project, including painting the upper portion of the bridge and adding “functional lighting” to the structure. “This process may reveal more safety concerns to be addressed during the course of the project, and will further protect the bridge structure,” it argues, during a lifespan which could be longer than MassDOT’s

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## New Leadership, Volunteers Keep Coop Open

By ISABEL KOYAMA

**LEVERETT** – “People looked like they’d just been punched in the gut,” says Leverett Village Co-op member Kari Ridge, recalling the facial expressions of those who attended last Wednesday’s board meeting, when they heard the staff was laid off and there was a motion to dissolve the business.

A few hours before that meeting, the board had received an agenda containing a motion to dissolve the coop. Board officers Susan Lynton, Pat Fiero, and Julie Shively then broke the news to the rest of the board – including six newly elected members – that the store’s staff had been laid off earlier that day because there was not enough money left to continue paying them.

A contentious debate ensued, re-



New board member Lori Lynn Hoffer chats with Patty Townsend at the coop.

sulting in a decision to postpone the vote for dissolution until February 19, by which point member-own-

ers would hopefully have a better grasp of what dissolution looks like

see **COOP** page A5

## Uplifters Get Their Turn in the Spotlight

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – “I was very surprised,” tenth-grader Dylan Burnett said after the Tuesday morning awards assembly at Turners Falls High School. “I’ve just always been the person who wants to do things for people in our school, and participate in a lot of things – I like to know what’s going on.”

At the end of the all-school assembly, which recognized students for excellence in a range of subjects, Burnett and special education teacher Faith Klumb were announced as this year’s recipients of the Earl McGraw Uplift Award. Burnett’s parents had snuck into the back of the auditorium to

watch the ceremony, but she didn’t notice them until she was called up to receive the honor.

Burnett and Ms. Klumb were chosen from a “whole stack” of nominations for the award this year, said special education teacher Jessica Vachula-Curtis. The award is presented each year to a student and teacher who exemplify the ideals of respect and uplift espoused by former TFHS vice principal Earl McGraw, who died of cancer in 2016.

Ms. Klumb, who teaches the Rise Up class as well as an academic support program for seniors, was described as “absolutely unwavering in her support for students.”

“I’m going to hang it on my see **UPLIFT** page A2



Dylan Burnett (left) and Ms. Faith Klumb (right) are this year’s McGraw Award honorees.

## INVESTIGATION

## Hearing the Falconer: An Interview with Mr. Mead

By ANTHONY PETERSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Michael Mead is the longest-tenured teacher at Turners Falls High School. He started in the early 1990s and has been teaching here ever since.

As a teacher, he has always cared about his students and he has always been willing to help them. He teaches 9th and 10th grade English.

**Anthony Peterson:** What was your first year at TFHS, and what was your role?

**Michael Mead:** 1991, Middle School English teacher.

**AP:** How long have you been teaching English?

**MM:** Thirty-two years.

**AP:** In what ways are students different today from when you started?

**MM:** Last week when I was asking students what they learned from taking my class, one responded, “Before I had this class, I never actually thought students ever did homework or worked with peers outside of school... except in the movies.”

Her response says it all. I don’t believe students have actually changed. I believe that adult expectations of themselves and their children have changed dramatically.

**AP:** How has your teaching changed since you started?

**MM:** Technology such as Google Classroom, Google Drive, and see **INTERVIEW** page A6



PETERSON PHOTO

Michael Mead has been teaching at Turners since 1991.

## Turners Falls Winds Up To Spin This Saturday

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Downtown businesses kick off the February vacation week with an exciting lineup of events this Saturday, February 15. The weather looks good for tromping around the village center that day.

The giant, colorful pinwheels that will be spinning in front of many locations are the brainchild of Alex McGuigan the creative owner of Buckingham Rabbits Vintage, which is re-opening that day on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. Shake off your winter slump, and enjoy all the events:

At eight in the morning, the **Upper Bend** brunchonette at 112 Avenue A advertises a biscuit and gravy special and a Cheap Art Auction. This is the last day they will be open see **SPINNING** page A2



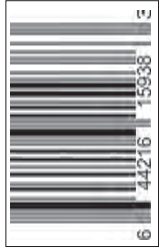
ERIN MACLEAN PHOTO

Pinwheels like this one will brighten the downtown during a special day of events Saturday, February 15.

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# The Montague Reporter

*“The Voice of the Villages”*

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About Face Computing

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August 2002

UPLIFT from page A1

door where I have all my inspiration-  
al stuff,” Ms. Klumb said. “Mr. McGraw  
gets a prime spot there.”  
Burnett received the award because she  
“intentionally works to ensure that all  
classmates are included in group work”  
and “consistently works her best and  
always helps others when they are  
confused, with respect and without  
judgment,” Vachula-Curtis told the  
assembly.  
She was also praised for her participation,  
including as a Student Council member,  
an Advisory Stu-

dent leader, an artist, and an athlete.  
Burnett told the *Reporter* that Student  
Council was her favorite activity at the  
school. “‘It’s really fun to be able to  
make decisions, and work with other  
students to make our school a better  
place,’” she said.  
Asked if she had advice for other  
students who want to pitch in, Burnett’s  
advice was simple. “Be kind to people,”  
she said, “and try to get involved with  
things you maybe never thought you’d  
want to do.”



SPINNING from page A1

before closing for vacation week.  
Yoga classes are available at two  
locations if you want to stretch out  
in the morning. **Fire + Embers Hot  
Yoga** at 141 Second Street offers a  
special interactive workshop with  
Hannah Jacobson-Hardy of Sweet  
Birch Herbals at 9 a.m., followed by  
90-minute hot yoga with Mishel  
Ixchel. **Great Falls Yoga** at 34 Third  
Street offers a slow flow yoga session  
with Abigail Shapiro at 9:30 a.m.

The **Great Falls Discovery Center**  
opens at 10 a.m. with habitat dioramas  
and the ongoing art exhibit, *You Are  
Here*, in the Great Hall. Consider a stop  
at the Friends of the Discovery Center’s  
museum store, and pick out a wildlife  
finger puppet.

A giant mid-winter “Salespin” at the  
**LOOT store**, 62 Avenue A, begins when  
they open at 11 a.m. They’re offering  
25% off everything in the store, and DJ  
Just Joan will provide the soundtrack  
for browsing through a fresh batch of  
industrial what-nots and hand-made  
items from local artisans.

The Avenue’s body artists are also  
opening at 11 a.m. with a Flash Sale  
upstairs at **Charon Visionary Art +  
Tattoo**, 107 Avenue A. This tattoo  
studio, staffed by all-female artists,  
is having a special on drawings by  
Leah Caldieri and Kylee Mason, in  
three sizes and price points from \$60  
to \$150, with arm and leg placement  
preferred.

Alex and John McGuigan have moved  
their **Buckingham Rabbits Vintage**  
store from Canal Street to the corner  
spot at 102 Avenue A, where they co-  
hosted a holiday popup this December.  
The grand re-opening will include a  
raffle to win a gift card at the business.  
They open at noon, so stop by, say hi,  
and see how the new space has been  
transformed!

Next door, **Mystic Pinball** at 104  
Avenue A also opens at noon, with  
free play all day on three pinball  
machines: *Elvira*, *Quicksilver*, and  
*Hard Body*. You can get a \$25 gift  
card for \$20, or a t-shirt and a \$20  
gift card for \$35 (a \$40 value).

They’ll be open until 9 p.m.  
Mosey further down to **Two Birds**  
vintage goods at 106 Avenue A, and  
enjoy 20% off everything in the store,  
including clothing, from 12 to 5 p.m.  
Across the street at 125A Avenue A,  
**Nina’s Nook** opens from noon to 7  
p.m. with the sixth *Triple SSS: Sensual,  
Sexual, Smut* erotic art exhibit. The  
show features sculpture, paintings,  
and photography from more than 30  
regional artists, many of whom will  
be at the artists’ reception at the  
Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, between 5  
and 7 p.m. See the show within the  
tiny gallery, and stop in at the reception  
to meet the artists.

There will be a door prize raffle from  
Oh My Sensuality shop, erotic crafts  
by Edite Cunha, Nina Rossi, and  
others, Dimpled Dragon corsets,  
Honeypie Honeys, a screening of  
three short films, and a sex advice  
booth featuring *Montague Reporter*  
sex columnist Stephanie Baird.

**Abundant Splendor Healing Center**  
at 69 Second Street will open their  
doors from noon to 4 p.m. with a  
very sweet “Valentine for Our  
Community” consisting of free ear  
acupuncture, free herbal mini-  
consultation, and free heart-opening  
herbal tea.

Turners Falls artist **Allen Fowler**  
will be at the Great Falls Harvest at  
50 Third Street between 2 and 4 p.m.  
for an artist reception for the exhibit  
of his paintings and assemblages  
there. The restaurant will be open  
for brunch and dinner between 11  
a.m. and 9 p.m.

DJ Lazy Boy and special guest DJ  
E-Mag will spin hip hop, funk, soul,  
and reggae at **Breakdown Records**,  
59 Avenue A between 2 and 4 p.m.  
Stop in and dig through the crates of  
vinyl there.

At 5 p.m., you can take it down  
several notches with a Meditation  
Foundation session at the **Local  
Yoga Joint**, 42 Canal Street. Sarah  
Frye and Lori Allen will lead the  
meditation and facilitate a group  
discussion on how to integrate this  
simple practice into your life.

Dine at one of the many downtown  
eateries Saturday, and then



Anna, Erin and Tamara are almost wrapping up the day after 3 p.m. in the kitchen at the Upper Bend Bruncheonette on Avenue A.

# Letters to the Editors

## Theater Company Resignations: Reference Without Comment Unfair

As it stands, the “article” *Unexpected Changes in Greenfield Theater Company’s Leadership* (January 30, 2020, page A5, by Ellen Blanchette) was more in the vein of gossip column; not an objective reporting of the facts.  
When a company experiences a wave of resignations (in this case, Silverthorne Theater Company had two co-producers and the chair of the board resign, though possibly the additional resignation was not mentioned by the writer’s source), a journalist would make an effort to investigate the other side of the story. However, the writer in question is a long-time member of the Silverthorne company and friend of the co-founder, and seemingly didn’t see the need to discover the whole picture.  
Fairness is one of the basic ethical standards of journalism; to quote a section from NPR’s website ([www.npr.org/ethics](http://www.npr.org/ethics)), “To tell the truest story possible, it is essential that we treat those we interview and report on with scrupulous fairness.... [we] make every effort to gather responses from those who are the subjects of criticism, unfavorable allegations or other negative assertions in our stories... Our goal is not to please those whom we report on or to produce stories that create the appearance of balance, but to seek the truth.”

We feel treated unfairly, as no effort was made to contact us to hear our side of the story. To suggest no reason was given for our resignation is a ridiculous assertion; we did give specific reasons for our resignations. If Ms. Kidder was “surprised,” might it have made sense to contact one of us to inquire as to why. But no such inquiry took place.  
Our resignations were in response to a constantly shifting narrative about what had or had not been agreed to about the future of company operations, behind-the-scenes undercutting of our authority as the new leaders of the company, and eventually an ultimatum from the other co-founder and, by implication, from Ms. Kidder herself.

**Rebecca Daniels**, Turners Falls  
*former co-producer, literary manager, and board member*

**Carmela Lanza-Weil**, Shelburne Falls  
*former co-producer and treasurer of the board*

**Mary Kay Mattiace**, Montague City  
*former board chair and head of the Friends of Silverthorne volunteers*

## Loved GFMS Concert

I’m so glad I attended the February 4th concert at Great Falls Middle School; it was an example of outstanding teaching. To see an excellent teacher at work is a beautiful thing. A glance at the program tells the story; of 12 selections performed, 11 had been arranged by Alec Fiorentino, music teacher extraordinaire.  
As a retired music teacher, I know what it takes to guide kids to this level of accomplishment. It takes consideration of their skills and talents, and the knowledge, pedagogy, and effort to meet them where they are. Mr. Fiorentino’s recipe for success was to create just the right arrangements for his students, and then make room for them to excel. Gill-Montague is very

lucky to have him!  
The music was lively, with some familiar tunes bumped up by rocking percussion. Groups of four musicians had as much to offer as an ensemble of 25, and all entertained. Tuneful, rhythmic, and above all, playing with enthusiasm, the Great Falls Middle School instrumentalists performed with confidence. The singers, in three separate choruses, sang musically and with great diction, not an easy thing to accomplish.  
How many times have you gone to a school concert and come away with joy in your heart? Congratulations to all the students and their teacher!

**Emily Samuels**  
Gill

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Justice Department has found the Mississippi state penitentiary system guilty of Eighth Amendment violations, with conditions that constitute “cruel and unusual punishments.” A spate of violence within the prisons has resulted in several deaths, and two dozen inmates are suing the system for numerous civil rights and other violations.

Tonight – Thursday, February 13 – join the folks at Great Falls Books Through Bars in a letter-writing campaign at La Mariposa (115 Avenue A Turners Falls) as part of the national **Mississippi Freedom Letters** effort. The campaign hopes to write each of the 30,000 incarcerated persons in Mississippi a message of support, letting them “know they are loved and not forgotten. We need lawmakers and elected officials to know the world is watching them and holding them accountable.”

Drop in between 6 and 9 p.m. to help write short messages of support – no experience necessary– or do it on your own time through *mumiconference2019.wixsite.com/mysite*.

The next **Great Falls Coffee-house performance** falls on Valentine’s Day, Friday February 14, in the Great Hall at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Come out for some Piedmont-style blues from the 1920s and ‘30s with the group Same Old Blues. They’ll get your hips shaking with blues heavily influenced by syncopated ragtime music, using guitar, harmonica, washboard, Cajón (drum box), moose bones, and more.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. and there’s refreshments available, all for a suggested donation of \$6 to \$12 apiece at the door. Funds go to support programming at the Center, as well as the musicians.

You just might hear a whole lot of clucking when you come in to do business at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls this Saturday morning. The bank announces that there will be **“talking chickens” at a fun family event** at 10 a.m. on February 15.

Bring the kids and check out

“Academy Award winners in the Silkie category.” Light refreshments courtesy of the bank; “celebrities courtesy of Pinnie and Billye.”

This sounds like a great breakfast deal: the Montague Center Congregational Church, at 4 North Street, has advertised that on Saturday morning, February 15 from 8 until 10 a.m. they are having an **\$8 all-you-can-eat breakfast** sandwich event! Enjoy eggs, cheese, and bacon on an english muffin with home fries, juice, and coffee or tea, for that very low price.

Also this Saturday, February 15 there is a plethora of activities **throughout downtown Turners**, all outlined in another article on page A1. So if you haven’t visited Avenue A for a while, make this the day to do it, and take advantage of some fun promotions and other activities.

On Monday, February 17, **Voices from Inside**, a group of women writers who have been incarcerated, will share excerpts from their acclaimed original play *What Our Voices Carry*, produced in collaboration with local playwright Trender Loftin. The play was written in celebration of the 20th-year anniversary of the organization and was originally performed at the Shea Theater. They will present the work at the new LAVA Center in Greenfield at 324 Main Street between 7 and 9 p.m.

Ella McDaniel, a confirmation candidate at Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls, is organizing a **book drive for inmates at the Franklin County Jail**, with help from several other young people from the congregation.

The Greenfield high school senior’s community service project will collect new and gently used books at Our Lady of Peace, the Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts in Turners Falls, the Greenfield Loyal Order of the Moose, Greenfield Garden Cinema, and the Greenfield YMCA between February 24 and March 24. True stories and mysteries are especially desired.

I got a little reminder in the in-

box that February is American Heart Month, which might be a great excuse to **quit vaping, smoking, or using other tobacco products**. Says the American Heart Association, “Smoking can lead to narrowing blood vessels and high blood pressure; it is a leading cause of heart disease. Vaping is still fairly new and less is known about its effect on the heart ... two new studies find that vaping may be just as dangerous by increasing heart disease risk factors.”

Vapers, smokers, and other tobacco product users can call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free coaching through phone, e-chat, and text 24 hours each day, seven days a week. Find helpful information and enroll online through *KeepTryingMA.org*.

It often takes many tries before nicotine addiction can be defeated. I finally managed only about ten years ago, after at least half a dozen failed attempts, and I’m sure it’s saved me thousands of dollars in addition to those health benefits!

**Art Deviation Gallery** opened last week in South Deerfield on routes 5 and 10 at the Tibetan Plaza, next to Hillside Pizza. Owner JJ White of Greenfield writes that the Gallery specializes in erotica, political/ resistance, and LGBTQ-focused art.

“I feel our art-rich area needs more venues for artists who are pushing boundaries and creating political art to foster hope and social justice during a very dark time for the country,” says White. “Even if your art tastes don’t include erotica, political or queer art, you’ll enjoy the colorful atmosphere.” White also has several pieces on display.

The gallery also hosts a variety of current and vintage erotica magazines and books, greeting cards, and art prints. Browse during winter hours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

Artspace in Greenfield is gearing up for their biggest fundraiser of the year, the **41st annual Pottery Seconds & More** sale featuring local artisans and crafters, at Greenfield Community College. The sale will be held the evening of Friday, March 6 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success, and Artspace is reaching out to find them. Please email *artspacegreenfield@gmail.com* or call (413) 772-6811 if you would like to volunteer. Proceeds support many wonderful music and arts programs for youth and adults.

**Learn map and compass skills on snowshoes** at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center on Saturday, February 29 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This will be a day of outdoor fun and skill building with Ernie Hansche, an experienced wilderness trip leader and avid naturalist.

Participants can learn how to navigate through the woods, how to orient and read a map, set a bearing, and follow it using map and compass. Hansche will share tricks for not getting lost as well as fire-building skills. Bring a trail lunch and dress for the outdoors in warm, waterproof footwear and layers that can be easily removed and added. The group will travel up to three miles off-trail over hilly terrain. Depending on conditions, the program may be on snowshoes or micro-spikes (available to borrow).

Snowshoe rentals are \$16 per person. Pre-registration is required, by calling (800) 859-2960. This program is appropriate for adults and interested teens ages 13 and older.

February vacation week at the Great Falls Discovery Center includes several activities to keep busy, such as **Maps and Legends**, on Thursday February 20, from 12 to 1 p.m. aimed at teens and adults.

Have you ever seen a map where California is an island, Mars has oceans, or where US states have names like Cascade and Cochise? During this brown-bag lunch learning session in the Great Hall, learn why mapmakers don’t always get it right, and try to make some maps of your own.

Next Saturday, February 22, check out **Get in Touch with the Winter and Not Get (Too) Cold** from 1 to 2 p.m. In this family program, see and feel how wildlife copes with winter in hands-on experiments and demonstrations. Weather permitting, there will be out-of-doors investigations, too. Aimed at ages 6 and up with grown ups, siblings, and friends.

And on Sunday, February 23, Exploded View (a performance art group of which I am a member) presents an **open discussion on surveillance in our lives** from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Mike Jackson, *Montague Reporter* managing editor, will lead an open discussion about the increasing surveillance of our movements, actions, and associations. How can we reduce this growing record?

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

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Great Falls Middle  
School Students  
of the Week

Week ending Feb. 7:

Grade 6  
Naomi  
Wilson-Hill

Grade 7  
Cail Brown

Grade 8  
Jaade Duncan

Related Arts  
Samantha Wiles

## A Word from the Wendell Board of Assessors...

**WENDELL** – In response to a January 30 article in the *Montague Reporter*, the Wendell Board of Assessors would like to share some information about our role and the work we are doing. Our primary job is to value the real-estate and personal property that is subject to taxation by the town.

In 2019 the Board of Assessors visited over 70 of Wendell’s 350+ homes. These site visits were triggered by new building permits, ongoing construction, recent sales, and cyclical inspections. As a Board we strive to record each property carefully and accurately so that the tax burden is spread fairly and equitably among residents.

By law we are required to visit each property every nine years. Since January of 2019 we have been putting in many more hours than in previous years doing on-site inspections. Our dedication to being accurate and fair in combination with the upward trend we are seeing of sale prices in town has caused us to increase our inspection rate. Our goal is to visit each of the remaining 275+ properties in the next two years.

When assessors find a trend of sales being higher than assessed values, we are required by the state to adjust all the properties within the affected class code (single family, multi-family, vacant land, etc.). The state requires that our values be within 10% of market value. Each year we look at our sales and previous years’ sales to determine if an adjustment is needed.

By visiting all of the properties in Wendell within a four-year period, we will be better equipped to make this decision during our next re-evaluation year in 2023.

Although we recognize that there may be some inaccuracies in our data, we want residents to know that we are working very hard to eliminate them as quickly as possible. All property cards are available to the public outside the assessors’ office. If you feel there are any errors on your property card, please contact our office right away.

It is important to understand that raising all values within a class does not necessarily mean taxes

will go up. The tax rate is determined by dividing the town budget by the total valuation of real and personal property. If we determine that values need to be adjusted up across the board, it could mean that the tax rate would go down, assuming the town’s total budget stayed the same.

This would be very helpful as the town is quickly approaching our levy ceiling. This has been done recently by the town of Leverett where they increased land values based on sales data. This averaged a 3.5% increase on all improved properties, lowering their tax rate, while seeing only a small increase in individual tax bills.

As part of this work, we are making a concerted effort to document all personal property for Wendell businesses and owners of second homes. If you own a business or a second home and do not receive a letter and a copy of the Form of List by early February, please contact our office as soon as possible.

**The Wendell Board of Assessors**  
*Chris Wings, Anna Seeger, Luke Doody*

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## GUEST COLUMN

By **BILL STUBBLEFIELD**

As a scientist in support of H.897, I must respond to the attack published in this paper on January 30 as an open letter to Senator Comerford and Representative Whipps in opposition to H.897 signed by 30 Wendell residents.

No scientist I know has ever argued that forest science is of no value, “and that only climate science is valid science.” As I stated in a guest editorial in this paper: “Forestry science has developed” tools of inestimable value as we determine “just how much carbon and living diversity our forests contain. We object not to the science of forestry itself but rather to the goals it serves.”

Supporters of H.897 question whether managing the lion’s share of our public forest as “woodlands” represents their highest value as public resources. We argue that the available scientific evidence supports our view that public welfare is better served by leaving them intact.

None of my colleagues would “deride valid science around bird habitat loss in the Commonwealth.” As stated in my earlier editorial: “Any land-use policy is likely to help some species and harm others, and protecting our forests from logging is no exception.”

We maintain that cutting down forests to favor species that thrive on disturbance necessarily involves trade-offs regarding which species are favored and which are not, and we hold that such “logging for wildlife” should only proceed with the most careful scientific scrutiny and

## Science And Forest Policy-Making

only after exhausting the ability of already existing habitat to support the species in question.

As my editorial stated: “What are genuinely rare and most in need of our protection are mature ecosystems where the wounds of disturbance have time to heal and the web of ecological interactions has time to develop to its fullest extent.” We must look beyond trees and birds to consider all realms of life that are part of the network of interactions that constitute a living forest.

The signatories claim that “proponents [of H.897] are engaging in a form of anti-science, where they pick and choose which science is valid based on their worldview.” This attack on the scientific integrity of me and my scientific colleagues is profoundly offensive. Just what “worldview” is blinding our vision, and what empowers the signatories to step out of their worldview and discern the validity of the science they endorse?

We are fully prepared to rest our claims on scientific evidence, and ask others to do the same.

The claim that “conflicting scientific conclusions must be reconciled through sound policy-making” is a dangerous conflation of two very different realms. Only scientific evidence can resolve conflicting scientific claims.

Scientific knowledge is always provisional and subject to change as new evidence becomes available. Policy-making is a different matter altogether, having to do with how to best balance conflicting values and goals. Sound policy-making requires a sound foundation in fact, and science is the best tool we have to provide that foundation.

The signatories state that they “view climate change as an emergency,” but I question just how fully they grasp the urgent severity of our situation in view of their willingness to auction off our common wealth of carbon capture and storage to the highest bidder. To our call for overdue policy change and the default assumption that nature knows best, they offer business as usual and the default assumption that forestry management must continue regardless of the long-term consequences.

This brings us to the very heart of the existential predicament we now face. We are all, every one of us, victims of the most colossal and far-reaching market failure in the history of the world: the failure to put a price on carbon that fully accounts for the negative effects on society and the ecological systems upon which we all depend.

What is to be done? There is an urgent need to re-evaluate how our public lands are managed, and I fear we may lose our most valuable trees while we do so. I support sound policy-making based on sound science, and the signatories apparently agree.

I ask them to join me in calling for a thorough effort to gather, analyze, and widely disseminate the scientific evidence needed to develop sound forest policy before it’s too late. I am fully prepared to proceed wherever the facts may lead.

*Bill Stubblefield, Ph.D. is a concerned resident of Wendell.*

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Erving Unsure How to Cover Wage Adjustments

By **KATIE NOLAN**

At Monday’s joint finance committee and selectboard meeting, Erving selectboard chair Jacob Smith summed up the dilemma: “How do we do something fair to the taxpayers and fair to the employees?”

The board and fin com were discussing how to implement a compensation study prepared for the town by the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass-Boston. The study, which compared Erving’s hourly rates to those in 16 local towns, found that many Erving employees are paid less than comparable employees elsewhere.

According to a spreadsheet prepared by administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, the cost of increasing wages to market rates for FY’20, retroactive to July 1, 2019, is \$87,000. However, at the special town meeting last June, voters approved only \$50,000 for potential compensation adjustments.

According to the study, the salaries most significantly below market value are the senior center director, town clerk, fire captain, tax collector, water/wastewater operator and assistant chief operator, recreation assistant, and library assistant.

“As far as I’m concerned, Erving employees are overpaid,” said one resident present at the meeting. “The raises are absurd.”

“The market study says otherwise,” Jacob Smith replied.

“You’re creating a system,” Collins Center consultant Mary Aicardi told the board and fin com. “Before, you had random individual rates of pay, with no rhyme or reason.”

Aicardi said the study created a system of grades for town positions, with market-determined ranges for the pay rates. She recommended the town get the grade and step increase structure in place, “then work on your policies” of when and how to implement it. Policies would include when the

system becomes effective, and whether pay raises are retroactive.

“We should be fair to the good people who are working for us,” said fin com member Daniel Hammock.

Member Charles Zilinski asked Aicardi how similar the comparable towns were to Erving. “It’s really your market,” she replied. “Who do you lose your people to?”

Asked by selectboard member William Bembury, police sergeant Robert Holst said that over the last five years, three full-time and one part-time officer left Erving for better-paying positions in Greenfield.

Several of the significantly under-market salaries are for elected officials. Bryan Smith reminded everybody that by law, only the voters may set the compensation for elected officials.

The unforeseen cost for adjusting salaries, as well as increasing recycling costs and a large requested increase for Erving Elementary School, had the board and fin com wondering how to pay for the town’s needs. Jacob Smith said the amount put into the capital stabilization account this year could be reduced from \$400,000 to \$250,000.

“If we want capital stabilization to be self-sufficient, we shouldn’t be cutting it back,” said Debra Smith of the fin com and capital planning committee.

Fin com chair Benjamin Fellows observed that “there are a lot of moving parts” to the implementation of the wage study. He suggested focusing on the most underpaid positions in the first year, then adjusting the other positions retroactively in the second year. Aicardi said that she had seen that done in West Boylston.

“I would rather go now than over three years,” said Holst. Aicardi said the town could approve the structure as of January, but give step increases in July.

When the study was commis-

sioned, the board expected to have results by March 2019, and recommend the adjustments at the June 2019 special town meeting. Because the study was not completed then, that STM approved a 2% cost of living adjustment to non-unionized employees in FY’20.

“Why do we, as municipality need to go retro?” Debra Smith asked. “Taxpayers have to come into the equation.”

Fellows said retroactive pay needed to be considered because last year, “people were told, ‘don’t put in for raises, the study will take care of it.’”

The board decided to set April 6 as the tentative start date for the new grade and step plan, and asked Bryan Smith to calculate its impact on the FY’21 budget. Aicardi said she will work with him to develop implementation scenarios, and return to Erving on February 24.

## Proposed School Budgets

Union 28 finance director Bruce Turner, superintendent Jennifer Culkeen, Erving Elementary School principal Lisa Candito, and school committee chair Erik Semb presented a \$3.4 million FY’21 budget for Erving Elementary School, a 5.88% increase over FY’20.

Turner said that 90% of the increase was from contractual increases to staff salaries and special education costs. Jacob Smith said that the board had hoped for increases to be closer to 2.5%.

“Obviously, you’re not happy,” said Semb. “We can sit down together and sharpen our pencils.”

“If you reduce the budget, we would be reducing staff,” warned Culkeen.

Hammock said the board, fin com, and school committee had a good relationship, and suggested “there are things in the budget we could do without.”

Asked what percentage increase would be more acceptable, Jacob

Smith said he would love to see 3%.

“We can take your guidance,” Turner told him.

The board voted unanimously to authorize Culkeen to apply for a Massachusetts School Building Authority grant to repair the 25-year-old roof and boiler at the elementary school.

Turner said that the MSBA pays a minimum of 40% for school renovation projects, with the town paying the balance. If the town is approved and decides to go forward with the repairs, a feasibility study costing \$60,000 to \$80,000 would be conducted in FY’21, with construction in FY’22.

Turner estimated the tuition for Erving students at Turners Falls High School at \$1.1 million, a \$44,000 increase, based on two additional Erving students attending and a higher per-pupil rate.

Franklin County Technical School superintendent Richard Martin presented Erving with a draft FY’21 assessment of \$488,703, a 13% decrease from FY’20, in part due to the number of Erving students attending declining relative to other towns.

Martin highlighted successful programs including a new veterinary science program and the cooperative work program, and said a certified medical assistant/licensed practical nurse program is planned. A final budget will be presented in March.

## Other Business

The board appointed Michael Shaffer to a vacant seat on the conservation commission.

According to Bryan Smith, an invitation to bid on completing the transformer spill cleanup at the former International Paper mill was published February 5, with bids due February 25.

An invitation to bid on curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables was published the same day, with bids due February 19.

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# A National Call for Moral Revival Arrives in Greenfield

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – The Poor People’s Campaign came to Franklin County last Wednesday, February 5, and was welcomed after much anticipation by several hundred people gathered in the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield. Attendees filled the sanctuary and spilled over into a side room where the event was streamed live. The room was abuzz with conversation as the crowd waited, the band gathering their members to get ready to add music to the event. As things got going, the campaign was welcomed with enthusiastic applause.

The Reverend Dr. William J. Barber and Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharris, co-chairs of the Poor People’s Campaign, are on a nationwide tour of 25 states to build a movement following the example of Martin L. King, who led a Poor People’s Campaign and March on Washington in the 1960s. The goal is to bring together poor people, educating them about their rights and their power when they work together, registering people to vote, concluding in a major march on Washington, DC on June 20.

Introducing the event was Kirsten Levitt, the executive chef of Stone Soup Café at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Greenfield, who has been organizing the western Massachusetts group that helped plan the meeting. Joining her on the podium was Minister Savina J. Martin, coordinator of the Massachusetts Poor People’s Campaign in Boston. Both welcomed everyone as the band played and spirits were high.

The national side of the organization brought substantial materials, and their presentation included slides projected on a large screen behind the podium. Rev. Theoharris joined Levitt in greeting everyone and spoke of the purpose of the Campaign: inviting poor and low-wealth people to join together to fight for their rights and be heard. Rev. Barber had expected to be at the rally as well, but for health reasons was unable to attend.

Ben Grosscup of Greenfield, head of the People’s Music Network in Massachusetts, led the band and the singing, creating a warm sense of community. People joined together in songs that easily recalled the early years of civil rights campaigns.

Rev. Kate Stevens, retired minister of the Ashfield Congregational Church and leader of the Interfaith Council, spoke to the purpose of this campaign. “We are a new and unsettling force,” she said, “and we are powerful.” Stevens went on to say that the land we live on and the creatures that live here are precious, and that we cannot give up on them. She ended by welcoming everyone in the room to join them, saying, “We need a moral revival.”

### Personal Stories

Four witnesses testified about the issues that matter most to them, and to the impact of poverty on their lives and the lives of others. Joannah Whitney of Greenfield, seated in her wheelchair, spoke of the hardship to people on supplemental security income (SSI) not being allowed to keep more than \$2,000 of their own money in order to qualify for benefits. SSI is for people who have not worked enough to qualify for Social Security.

Whitney explained that many on SSI have never worked because of injuries or illness early in their lives. She spoke of the impact of the financial limitations imposed on them. “Let people on SSI keep more of their own money,” she proposed, acknowledging that this was both simple and difficult. “This would require the government to treat people on SSI as if they were honest.”

Whitney pointed out that the federal government’s reason for this limitation is to guard against “fraud and abuse,” with no consideration for how much the cost of living has changed over the last 30 years. She said this could change the lives of millions of people by allowing them to keep more of their money without losing benefits.

Today, each dollar over the \$2,000 limit causes those on SSI to lose benefits immediately, sometimes their entire check for the month.

Maria Colville said she found the result of twenty years of hard work was tiredness, financial helplessness, and hopelessness. She concluded that the systems in place are there to guarantee people would not succeed.

“I found out I was not alone,” she said. “Our life is just a small part of humanity, only one race – the human race. Together we are stronger in our brokenness.”

Sarah Ahern of Greenfield spoke of her personal experience with the stigma of being a recovering addict, sharing a harrowing story of a serious accident that left her with a spinal injury and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Ahern said her history of opioid addiction caused her to be denied healthcare when medical practitioners did not believe her injuries were real. This led to a long delay in care, leaving her further traumatized and suffering from unnecessary pain.

Ahern emphasized that hers is not a unique experience, that doctors continue to treat addicts in recovery with suspicion – just one of many situations where the stigma of addiction affects those in recovery as they try to get back to building normal lives.

James Shearer, president of the Massachusetts Union for the Homeless and cofounder of *Spare Change News*, a street newspaper and online blog about homelessness, talked about providing a forum and voice for the voiceless.

“Homelessness shouldn’t exist,” Shearer told those gathered. Considering that America is one of the most wealthy nations in the world, he said, there is no reason why people should be homeless. Shearer also spoke of the reality faced by many veterans who come back from war with traumatic brain injury and who end up living on the streets.

The Poor People’s Campaign will continue its tour of twenty-five states, leading to the March on Washington on June 20. For more information on the campaign, including following their progress through the states, go to [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org).

Organizing continues locally, led by Kirsten Levitt. Meetings will continue on alternate Fridays at All Souls UU Church, 389 Main Street in Greenfield. Information can be found on the Poor People’s Campaign Facebook page or at Stone Soup Café every Saturday, from noon to 1:30 p.m. The Café serves a pay-what-you-can meal of good, healthy food, which everyone is welcome to share.



The Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharris (at center), co-chair of the national Poor People’s Campaign, led the event in Greenfield last Wednesday.

## The Montague Congregational Church Community Breakfast Saturday, February 15 8 to 10 A.M.

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### COOP from page A1

During the executive session following the public portion of the meeting, Lynton, president, Fiero, clerk, and Shively, treasurer, all resigned.

“I just decided I had enough,” comments Shively, adding that she has recently been on the receiving end of online “bullying” via email listservs and social media posts. One of the original founding members of the coop, Shively’s resignation comes shortly after she was re-elected to the board at the end of January.

In response to the three officers’ unexpected resignation last Wednesday, the remaining eight scrambled to elect new officers on the spot.

Rumors also circulated last week that the store’s general manager Ann Walsh had resigned, but no one mentioned it at the meeting. Walsh confirmed her resignation this week to the *Reporter*.

“In mid-January I was offered a position at another company that I felt I could not pass up,” explains Walsh, who says she had wanted to wait until “a new chance at a loan for the coop from guarantors was at last confirmed allowing for an appropriately timed departure.”

Though the store has been operating without a GM for over a week, coop members, the board, and even some of the laid-off staff have been volunteering their time in front and back of house to keep the store open and the shelves stocked.

On Sunday, as the coop settled down after an influx of brunch customers, the board met again, this time under new leadership. Julio Mendez and Jeff Lacy are now president and vice president, respectively; Jono Neiger is treasurer, and Karen Traub is clerk.

“We’re slowly but surely integrating the employees who were here before,” opened Mendez. “The idea is to get back to some normalcy.”

Mendez and Lacy went on to cite the different avenues of funding the coop could pursue, from “bridge funders” and guarantors, to possible grants and bank loans.

“Bridge funders are folks who are willing to put up whatever they can to get through the next couple weeks,” explained Lacy, “and those are coming in at about \$1,000 apiece.” Mendez added that such donations, which are at “\$6,000 and climbing,” will go toward paying employees, stocking the shelves, and keeping the store’s lights on.

The board also discussed the terms of a two-year \$25,000 loan offered by coop member and Montague resident Sam Lovejoy, which would incur 2% interest the first year and 4% the second, with payments due at half-year intervals. This loan would be intended to cover the roughly \$22,000 of payables due within the next month.

“I’ve seen loans that are much worse,” responded Mendez to the terms of Lovejoy’s offer. “I want to sit down and talk with Sam.” The board decided not to vote on this

particular offer yet.

Mendez also spoke of looking into a bigger business loan from Greenfield Savings Bank (GSB) or another bank. At the annual meeting in January, then-board president Lynton had announced that the coop was in the final stages of securing a \$150,000 loan from GSB, after several rounds of negotiations. Weeks later, no such loan had been signed.

“They’ve said ‘no’ at least four times,” said membership committee chair Ann Ferguson on Sunday.

“My interpretation from Greenfield Savings Bank’s continued ‘Nos’ is that they didn’t see a business plan they believed in,” added Erbin Crowell, a representative of the Neighboring Food Coop Association. Crowell later told the *Reporter* that the plan the coop had presented to GSB “wasn’t a formal business plan, it was a strategy for outreach and fundraising.”

“One of their fundamental requirements was reducing payables by 50%,” said Neiger, who proposed having a team devoted to “digging into funding options.”

“I didn’t want to say this today, but I think \$150,000 is nowhere near enough money,” offered former store manager Paul Rosenberg, who has been volunteering in the store for the past several days. “I mean, we are \$150,000 *in debt*.”

“Small rural coops have really had to redefine themselves,” says Crowell, citing “the change in competitive landscape and the increased availability of organic food” as added challenges the Leverett coop faces. Crowell says that other rural coops have succeeded in digging themselves out of similar holes by “doubling down on their cooperative identity, and reengaging with their membership.”

“Right now, it seems clear to me that the coop has to figure out what the cashflow can support,” says Crowell. “It’s going to take some very strong member participation to keep the store open.”

Ridge, Ferguson, Ellen Edge, and others have been keeping their fellow members informed of the organization’s rapid changes with a new newsletter, *Co-operative Voices*.

New board member Lise Copinger proposed that rather than keep talking about the GSB loan, the board’s time together would be better spent brainstorming committees and appointing people to spearhead them and report back on their progress.

Committees devised included fundraising, member outreach and communications, finances, store operations, facilities, and further down the line, bylaw revisions and the search for a new general manager to replace Walsh.

Finally, the board set a private meeting for Wednesday, February 12 to discuss an agenda for the emergency special member meeting on February 19, which is open to the public – “a small meeting to prepare for the big meeting,” joked Traub.



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ZONING from page A1

reminded the crowd that these proposals came out of the report from the task force, responding to a housing crisis. “Housing is a human right,” he said.

A Bundle of Changes

The proposal would allow three-family dwellings by right, reducing minimum lot sizes in the “urban residential” zone from 8,000 square feet to 2,000 and minimum frontage from 65 feet to 30. It would drop the minimum open space required in building lots from 40% to 20%, and eliminate parking requirements outright.

The change would simplify the definition of an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) to “a self-contained unit” capped at 900 square feet, allow such units by right, and remove the requirement that the primary dwelling be owner-occupied. Wheeler indicated that he is considering retaining the owner-occupied requirement for ADUs.

The proposal would also remove the definition of family and related occupancy limits from the zoning code, referring instead to health and safety codes governing how many people should live in a dwelling.

“I agree that the change is radical,” Wheeler said of the whole proposal during a recent interview, “but I think it’s necessitated by the fact that I see the current regulations as radical. Councilor Dolan and I are not trying to change the character of neighborhoods that are zoned suburban or rural. We are merely trying to bring regulation to [the urban core] that is in line with the historical building pattern.”

A recent GIS survey of lots in Greenfield’s “urban residential” zone, commissioned by the planning and development department, shows that more than 700 of 3,233 lots do not conform to the current zoning.

“Those dimensional requirements are about as small as we could go,” Dolan said in an interview last week, “and I am absolutely ready and willing to compromise to find a number that works for everybody. “

INTERVIEW from page A1

PlusPortals have revolutionized my teaching. I have spent thousands of hours in the evenings and during summers creating all kinds of student resources such as detailed rubrics, annotated student exemplars and study guides, slide presentations, etc., that students can access 24/7.

Additionally, these resources have enabled me to get students to work more effectively with their peers and to provide each other meaningful, quality feedback. This allows me to step back so that their work becomes much more student centered, leading them to deeper understanding and longer retention.

AP: When you have free time, what do you like to do?

MM: I’m a falconer and a grandfather. I have one granddaughter and another on the way. I have two goshawks and a great horned owl. Playing with my granddaughter and hunting with my birds are my greatest passions.

AP: If you could visit one country, what would it be?

MM: It used to be Greece, but now I’d rather check out parts of our own country I haven’t seen yet.

AP: What is your favorite book

Both councilors own houses on lots that are about 2,000 square feet. “I own a duplex on a 2,000-square-foot lot,” Wheeler said. “I have a backyard – it’s a normal place to live. When I found out that the zoning code not only did not allow that, but did not allow anything even in the same universe as that, I thought it just went against common sense.”

Access to Opportunities

The call for more varied and affordable housing options is familiar in Greenfield.

Jena Duncan, of Wells Street, works at Community Action. At the hearing Tuesday, Duncan described mothers walking more than a mile to drop kids off at daycare, to face another long walk to work or classes. “I was really excited to read some of these zoning proposals,” they said. “It creates so much more access to opportunities to have walkable housing to downtown.

“Looking at the statistics of who this impacts, for instance, our Latina population is around 8%, however, they are disproportionately represented in the shelters. So it’s driving out folks we want to be able to be safe and thrive in our communities.”

“I applaud the effort to fix our zoning code, because it’s out of date – it’s very badly sized,” said Margo Jones of Chestnut Hill, a longtime Greenfield resident and architect. “I would really hope that something as important as the zoning code, you would get some professional input from planners to look at very, very carefully.... What’s on the table is drastic, and a little overkill.”

Montague resident Kiah Raymond, of Sunderland Avenue, attended the hearing with colleagues from Just Roots Farm, a non-profit Greenfield farm focusing on food access for low-income residents.

“I think that the revision of these zoning laws is a step in the right direction,” Raymond said. “We spend a lot of time at both Leyden Woods and Oak Courts.... We work at the farmers market, and people can’t often access that food because the bus lines don’t run from those communi-

ties on the weekends. All of these issues tie together, and I think it would be great to have affordable housing close to downtown.”

you ever taught in a class, and why?  
MM: As I Lay Dying. I think Faulkner is the greatest writer I ever read. His subjects are dismal, but his style is amazing. One chapter in its entirety is, “My mother is a fish.”

AP: What was your first car?  
MM: It was a Honda Hawk motorcycle.

AP: What was your first job?  
MM: In third grade, I dragged my dad’s push mower around the neighborhood and mowed people’s lawns. Since then, in addition to teaching, I was an Army officer, a training consultant for the nuclear power industry, a maintenance man, a painter, a janitor, a contractor’s assistant, a sawyer’s assistant, a mason tender, and a farmhand.

AP: What is your favorite book that got turned into a movie?  
MM: The Hobbit.

AP: What is your favorite kind of music?  
MM: My playlists have all kinds of music, from classical to rap. My favorites change constantly.

AP: What’s your favorite sport?  
MM: I loved football, but racquetball is the best.

AP: What is your least favorite

book that was turned into a movie?  
MM: Don’t know. Was Margaret Atwood’s Cat’s Eye turned into a movie? If not, Snow Falling on Cedars.

AP: When do you plan to retire, and what do you plan to do after retiring?  
MM: I will retire in two and a half years. I’m going to help take care of my grandchildren and hunt with my birds.

AP: What is your favorite season of the year?  
MM: Winter. It’s when my birds fly best.

AP: What is your favorite part of teaching?  
MM: The students. I have the privilege to be a small part of their lives. They are a big part of mine.

AP: Who was your role model growing up?  
MM: One of my wife’s relatives, Ray Risley. Ray got a rare form of Guillain-Barré disease that left him crippled. The doctors told him he would never again walk. Three years later, he was jogging around Shelburne with his dog.

Then he got brain tumors. He battled them for a couple of years but then died. Before he died, I

Many of the people who spoke about parking at the hearing were in favor of reducing the minimums, though some expressed concerns over an increase in on-street parking. “Added density increases walkability,” said Jeff Sauser of James Street, himself a planner. “More and more people want to live car-free, or car-light.”

Responding to the concern about parking on the street, Sauser said, “We have public streets for a reason. One of the great uses of the extra-wide public street – it’s only two lanes, but 40 feet wide – is to park cars on it. And when you subsidize developers’ parking requirements, you free up funding for them to invest in affordability. They can make rents lower because they don’t have to build parking.”

Climate change and sustainability came up several times in the hearing, as most of the proposed changes are in line with the sustainability goals outlined in the 2014 Master Plan.

Nancy Hazard, who helped write that plan and serves on the Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee, but spoke as a private citizen, called for the city to be ready for population growth. “In the future, I see a day when we’re going to see climate refugees come here because of flooding on the coast,” she said.

In the interview, the mayor raised a concern about the proposal to reduce the open space minimum to 20% of each lot. Twarog’s recommendation is for a more conservative reduction, to 30%, and he cites drainage issues in the urban core.

Open space includes permeable – unpaved – ground. “Reducing minimum landscape open space negates the climate change piece of this,” said the mayor. “We need every little bit of green space we can find in our denser neighborhoods.”

Sharing Space  
“Greenfield could use another couple thousand people,” said Garth Shaneyfelt of Grinnell Street, “and we need somewhere to put them. I was on the affordable housing task

force; I’m in favor of density.... The neighborhood impact could be addressed by a noise ordinance. The closer people are together, the better we have to behave together.”

Wheeler and Dolan have also proposed removing a definition of family, “related by blood or marriage,” and accompanying limits on the number of people who may live together. Currently, there are no restrictions on the number of people living together so long as they conform to that definition of family, but if they don’t, no more than four may share a dwelling. Their proposal, after cutting the definition and replacing it with “single housekeeping unit,” relies on building codes, fire and health regulations to determine safe occupancy numbers.

At the hearing, there was overwhelming support for removing the definition of family. Several speakers said it is discriminatory, and has nothing to do with health and safety.

Noah Modie of Russell Street offered pointed feedback. “The word ‘blood’ shouldn’t be anywhere in the zoning document,” Modie said, to hearty laughs and applause from those gathered at the hearing. “It’s absurd, unless you have some sort of special zoning for slaughterhouses or a blood bank.”

Dolan and Wheeler say they see these measures as the first step toward increasing housing in Greenfield and planning for a future with a greater variety in places to live, especially more studio apartments and one-bedrooms close to downtown.

“As councilors, we are always looking for a win-win,” Dolan said, “and I see this as a major win-win. We have too few people in units that are too big right now. And I would just love to see some renovating of the housing stock that’s a little bit dilapidated – dividing some of the larger units into smaller units, creating more studios and one-bedrooms that are affordable, and creating more accessible housing.”

The hearing will continue on Thursday, March 5, at 6 p.m. at the John Zon Center, 35 Pleasant Street.

Anthony Peterson is a senior at Turners Falls High School.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Ganja Farmers Forget to Show Up; Septic is Latest Meetinghouse Snag

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The first item on the Wendell selectboard’s February 5 meeting agenda was a meeting with potential marijuana growers interested in establishing a facility inside the town. Three citizens came out of interest, but by the end of the half hour allotted, the potential growers had not shown up for their presentation and discussion. The citizens left at 7:30 p.m.

A fourth citizen, Lisa Winters, was there in the room at 7 p.m. She accepted an appointment to the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). Tim Sheehan accepted an appointment as a voting member of the conservation commission, and the board signed appointment slips for Sally Stuffin and Lori Mars to the kitchen oversight committee, and for Ray DiDonato and Dan Leahy to the open space committee.

Selectboard member Christine Heard said the broadband committee unanimously recommended an appointed municipal light plant (MLP) of three or five members to oversee the operation of Wendell’s fiberoptic network once its construction is complete.

Annual town meeting articles for either an elected or appointed MLP have been postponed so far because overseeing the network is unnecessary until the network is operating.

ing. Heard said that Massachusetts recommends that the selectboard, functioning as MLP, oversee the network through construction.

The MLP has already received a bill for electricity at the “hut,” the network’s operating center. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the town needs to set up its enterprise fund as the entity that collects and spends money. Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato asked if there is any reason to delay setting that up. For now, the hut’s electric bill may be paid through Whip City Fiber, and Wendell can repay Whip City.

### Meetinghouse Tangle

Representing the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, Chris Queen and Jerry Barilla came to help continue unraveling the tangled web that makes transferring the meetinghouse from the town to the Friends difficult. Both the town and Friends want the transfer to happen quickly: the town to get the issue completed, the Friends to have a clear title that will allow them to apply for grants.

The last congregation to use the meetinghouse gave the building to the Friends, who have maintained it and restored it since then. But Wendell owns the land it sits on, and that ownership is recorded on a 1795 imperfect deed that makes the Friends uncomfortable with simply

buying the property.

Wendell and town counsel wrote a purchase and sale agreement that was fairly restrictive, but since then it has been simplified to three principles that both parties agree to: that the building be kept available for public spiritual and cultural use; that the building maintains its historical aspect; and that any sale by the Friends must be made to a party that agrees to the first two principles.

The building’s water supply and septic connection create another convoluted issue. “Without water, we are out in the cold,” Queen said. The town water and septic systems were built to serve town-owned buildings, not private residences. It will not work to provide water to the meetinghouse without a septic connection.

Attaching private homes to the town septic system would require the legal nightmare of a town sewer district, and raises the question of why the town shows preferential treatment for some households over others. However, connecting a building owned by a non-profit organization and made available for public use may not require as much legal maneuvering or expense.

If the town builds the water and septic connections while it still owns the land, and the purchase and sale agreement transfers the land and buildings thereon, then there would

## LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF WENDELL

Notice is hereby given that the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 2, 2020** at 7:30 p.m. at the Wendell Town Offices to review a proposed Bylaw change adding a **Marijuana Moratorium** to last until January 31, 2021 during which time no applications will be accepted for both medical and recreational marijuana growing, processing, or selling. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process that addresses the potential impacts of marijuana installations in Wendell on health, safety, and welfare of Wendell’s citizenry, to determine how the Town shall reasonably regulate marijuana installations and, finally, to create a marijuana bylaw. The full text is available at the Wendell Town Offices during regular hours and on the town website at [www.wendellmass.us](http://www.wendellmass.us).

be no need for a sewer district in town. But the connection must be approved at a town meeting, and time is tight for the Friends, given their grant application deadlines and their goal of having the building ready for public use by Old Home Day 2021, the building’s 150th anniversary.

Advice from lawyer Sam Lovejoy is that a plan for water and septic connections should at least be in place before any purchase and sale agreement is signed.

### Other Business

Treasurer Carolyn Manley has enough properties available to hold an auction. She suggested three Saturdays, March 7, 14, and 28, as potential days. Among the properties is the lot at 120 Wendell Depot Road, acquired by the town through land court and long the location of an uninhabitable, moldy house. The house was condemned and finally burned for a fire department training, and the lot is now large enough for a new house, a well, and a septic system.

2020 is a federal census year, and

accordingly, the Census Bureau sent Wendell a map showing the town’s layout. Heard said former selectboard member Ted Lewis told her the selectboard “walked the boundaries” of the town every year – driving, rather than walking. Board members said they saw no discrepancies between the map and what they knew of the town’s layout.

Nicolette Eicholtz met the selectboard, interviewed for the salaried “shared clerk” position, and was hired by a unanimous vote. The finance committee needs a clerk who would be paid hourly, and Eicholtz was interested.

Fin com hours vary through the year. Member Al McIntire said the summers are relatively slow, and that some of their meetings are task-oriented and do not necessarily need a clerk, but that the committee gets busy during the budget season leading up to annual town meeting.

The board was pleased to accept a \$6,000 donation from the Friends of the Wendell Library on behalf of the town.

## MONTAGUE from page A1

projection of only 25 years.

Although these improvements could increase the cost of the project, the letter points out that they are consistent with the goals of the town’s Complete Streets program, currently being funded under a state grant.

The town also calls for an “expedited schedule” to reduce the project’s proposed three-year timeframe, by scheduling work in two daily shifts instead of one and a “thoughtful sequencing of work” during winter months, as well as a “written monthly status report” and better collaboration between the state and “regional public safety officials.” Finally, it asks that the state install not only detour signs, but “new signs directing travelers to Turners Falls’ cultural and historic attractions.”

Town administrator Steve Ellis, who drafted the document, asked the selectboard whether the letter was “sufficient.”

“I think it’s beyond sufficient,” said member Michael Nelson. “I think it’s exceptional.”

“You’ve done another excellent job of crafting a document that I pray they actually read,” said chair Rich Kuklewicz.

Audience member Ariel Elan suggested that the letter include a statement that state and federal officials need to begin planning for a new bridge immediately, because “it was unanimous among everybody at that hearing that replacement would be better and therefore we want them to start working now to plan for a new bridge...”

“I think you could write that letter,” said Kuklewicz. “I’m not disagreeing with you, but we need to ask for something that we might be able to obtain.”

Elan responded that “for the record, they should start working on that now.”

Ellis, who had met earlier in the day with Nelson, Greenfield mayor Roxann Wedegartner, and state senator Jo Comerford about the bridge, said that the long-term issues could be addressed by a regional group, to which he has been recently appointed, called the Transportation Planning Organization.

“I share everyone’s frustration,” Ellis said.

“But we’re not going to extract a commitment to what they’re going to do in 20 or 25 years, because none of them are going to be the decision-makers then.”

The selectboard approved the letter, and members signed it individually.

### Inflow Persists

Water pollution control facility (WPCF) interim superintendent Kevin Boissonnault and highway superintendent Tom Bergeron came before the board to report on a project to repair groundwater infiltration into the sewer system in Millers Falls. In recent winters, the problem resulted in excessive flow into the Erving plant where Millers’ sewage is treated, leading to a repair project last fall which cost Montague over \$140,000.

Kuklewicz asked about “the level of success” of the project in reducing infiltration.

“From the data, there wasn’t much,” said Boissonnault. “There was a dip around Christmas time, but after that, [flow volume] went back up to the levels before the work was done.”

Ellis presented the board with the background of the project, which identified potential locations where groundwater may be leaking into the system and tried to remedy them with targeted “slip joints and grouting.” He said the engineering company that did the work reported that this method is “highly effective.”

Bergeron, however, said he wondered whether the slip lining was “sealing properly.”

Boissonnault pointed to sump pumps, which could illegally empty water from individual basements into the sewer system.

Ellis said that former superintendent Bob Trombley had told him that infiltration is “one of those dragons you can chase”: fixing a leak in one place can cause the water level to rise and put pressure on another part of the system. He said the town may have a small amount of money to further investigate inflow, but that in the short term, it needs to work with homeowners and local businesses to make sure they are not “inadvertently” sending rain water into the sewer system.

“We want to make sure we help residents comply with the sewer bylaws, which say you can’t have that storm drain or sump pump hooked up and discharging into a sewer,” Ellis said. “That’s a process of community education and engagement.” He pointed to a flyer the WPCF sent to property owners with recent sewer bills entitled “Protect Your Pipes, The Sewers and the Connecticut River,” and added that there would be a “small community event” in Millers Falls on the topic soon, though he did not name a date.

### Comforting Proposal

Montague police chief Chris Williams came before the board to request that a “comfort dog” be assigned to the Gill-Montague regional school district. Williams was accompanied by patrolman Dan Miner, the school resource officer, and Turners Falls High School/Great Fall Middle School principal Joanne Menard.

In a letter to the board, Miner stated that the dog “would potentially play a key role with the students as well as the counselors before a therapy meeting to ease the stress as well as serving the community during appropriate times.”

Menard, who started on the job last fall, said that she had worked in five school districts and that “this is the one that has the most trauma need and social and emotional need, by far. We need to come up with creative ways to connect with students, and this is another asset that [Miner] would have in his toolbox.”

Williams said the dog would be donated to the town. The school district has agreed to pay a stipend to the officer in charge of the animal, and that Miner has agreed to raise funds for food and vet bills. He said the “primary purpose for the dog will be the school,” but the dog could also be used by the police department in the local community “if there is a traumatic event.” “There’s so many purposes for this kind of dog,” he said. “It’s up and coming.”

Kuklewicz said he had just seen an article in the *Greenfield Recorder* about comfort

dogs in that city. The board approved a motion to “begin the process” of adopting the comfort dog, and return later for “formal signatures.”

### Other Business

The selectboard voted to place a total of twelve articles on the March 5 special town meeting warrant, and signed the document. Topics will include an appropriation of \$130,000 for this year’s sewer budget, transferring \$800,000 from the FirstLight tax settlement into the capital stabilization fund, and establishing a special stabilization fund to hold cannabis revenues. The warrant, motions, and summaries will soon appear on the town website.

Ellis announced that nearly all highways in Massachusetts with posted exits will soon be renumbered according to mileage, rather than “sequentially.” This will include Route 91, Route 2, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. A handout on the renumbering project says the conversion should begin late this summer, beginning in western Massachusetts and moving eastward.

Ellis reviewed five capital projects that will go out to bid in the coming month, including the Complete Streets project, the Unity Park fieldhouse roof, hazardous materials mitigation at the Strathmore complex, the Massworks-funded rehabilitation of the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge, and the Spinner Park project.

He also announced that the Montague Wood Bank is still accepting applications for firewood. Those in need of heating assistance can contact the Gill-Montague Council on Aging at (413) 863-9357 to ask for wood.

The board executed a revised version of the contract they had already approved for recycling services at the Massachusetts Recycling Facility in Springfield. Funding for the contract is dependent on a town meeting appropriation.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held on February 24. There is no meeting on February 17 due to Presidents’ Day.



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# Turners Falls High School Sports: *The Week In Review*

By MATT ROBINSON

This week the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team qualified for the playoffs, the cheer squad headed to Chicopee, the swim teams competed in Sectionals, and the girls’ basketball team celebrated Senior Night.

**Swimming**

On Sunday the MIAA held the Central/West Sectional meet at Springfield College. Turners had three swimmers compete. With all the talk about gender equality, the MIAA had an interesting slant on the subject: in the Sectionals they separated the genders into “Boys” and “Women”!

For the boys, Cameron Bradley scored 2 points for Blue, by finishing 15th in the 100-yard butterfly. Bradley finished the first half of the race in 27.45, and the second half in 32.30. Those points earned Turners a 29th place finish.

In the Women’s lanes, Turners had two athletes competing. Olivia Whittier placed 10th in the 100-yard breaststroke. Her first leg was speedy with a 30.93 time, but she slowed a little in the second to give her a time of 1:14.33. Whittier finished the 50-yard freestyle sprint in 26.95 for an 18th place finish.

Jade Tyler completed the 200-yard IM marathon in 2:28.40, good enough for 12th place. She finished the first length in 31.10, paced herself for the next two, and finished strong in the fourth, completing it in 35.45. Tyler also finished the 100-yard butterfly in 1:07.95 for an 18th place finish, again coming out of the blocks quickly: finishing the first lap in 30.93, and the second in 37.02.

The two ladies accumulated 12 team points to give Powertown a 22nd place finish. Whittier now travels to the State Division II meet to compete against the best in the state.

**Cheering**

The Turners Falls Cheer team danced and tumbled at Chicopee High School on Sunday, competing against other cheer squads. The ladies’ next competition is next Sunday in South Hadley, and on Tuesday the 18th they head to Gardner to ply their craft.

**Boys Basketball**

Powertown needed two wins to make the playoffs. Last Thursday they defeated Belchertown, and on Monday they headed down to Hadley and defeated Hopkins on a buzzer-beater by Chace Novak.

On Senior Night, Thursday February 6, with their backs against the wall, Blue managed to beat the Belchertown Orioles 62-49 and kept their playoff hopes alive. The game started like the Greenfield one, but in reverse, with Powertown jumping out 14-0 *en route* to a 18-2 first-quarter lead. Blue began to commit fouls in the second, and the Birds chipped away at the lead one point at a time, pulling within 18-11 off seven free throws and a field goal.

They continued to hit freebees, and at the half, Blue retained a 25-18 lead. The Orioles pulled within 27-21 points in the third, and it was anybody’s game. But Turners needed the win to stay in the hunt, and in the last 7 minutes and 23 seconds of the period, they proved they deserved a place at the table.

Powertown went on an incredible run, and by the time the fourth quarter rolled around, they held a 51-31 lead. Belchertown tried valiantly to cut into it, but could never make a dent, and Blue survived for another day.

Chace Novak, Anthony Peterson, and Marcus Sanders all scored 14 points, Jaden Whiting had 10, Liam Driscoll scored 5, John Fritz got 4, and Brendon Driscoll added 1.

With that win under their belt, the Boys in Blue headed down to Hadley on Monday to

try to secure the one which would propel them into the second season. And Turners did just that, defeating the the Golden Hawks by a single point, 65-64.

This game shouldn’t have been this close. But one of the signs of a good team is playing four quarters of ball. Blue led 17-9 after one and Hopkins pulled within 5 at the half, 31-26. In the third, Blue expanded their lead to 48-36, but Gold came alive in the fourth, outscoring Powertown 28-17.

It wasn’t enough. Novak scored at the buzzer to give Turners the 1-point win – and a playoff berth. Only four Turners players scored in this one: Sanders put up 22, Peterson netted 21, Novak chipped in 14, and Whiting scored 4.

**Girls Basketball**

The Lady Thunder celebrated Senior Night last Friday against the Ware Indians. Senior Dabney Rollins, despite being out for the season, has been at every game this year. On Senior Night Rollins was not in her usual street clothes: she was in her uniform, with a very visible knee brace.

Because it was Senior Night, Rollins was allowed to score Powertown’s first point of the game, while an Indian scored an unopposed basket of her own. After she took her seat, the real game commenced.

Blue held their own at first, trailing 13-12 after a quarter and 25-20 at the half. But Ware increased their lead to 39-27 in the third and outscored Blue 11-7 in the final stanza to take the game 50-34.

For Turners, scoring was a mix of young and old – not that any high school kid is old. Eighth grader Taylor Greene scored 10, while senior Lindsay Whiteman put up 8. Ninth grader Steph Peterson scored 6, while Rollins, freshman Kendra Campbell, and eighth-grader Morgan Dobias all scored 2 points.



DAVID HOYT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Liam Driscoll pulls down a rebound as the Thunder roll past the Belchertown Orioles, 62-49, on Senior Night last week. Turners senior Jon Fritz watches on right.

Then on Tuesday, the Turners Girls basketball team headed to Orange to take on Mahar. This was the second battle in the Senate in as many weeks: the first was last week on Capitol Hill, and the second was in Orange against the Mahar Senators.

In this game, Powertown couldn’t buy a point. The Senate led 18-2 in the first quarter, outscored Blue 16-5 in the second, and in the third, shut out Turners 9-0. Blue made some headway in the final stanza, but it was too little, too late, and Mahar held on to win 50-20.

Greene scored 7, followed by Eliza Johnson (5), Campbell (4), Dobias (2), and Karrisra Fleming (2).

Next week: The regular season ends – and the playoff picture clears.

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JOE KOPERA PHOTO

Above: A little birdhouse in the snow, at the Sawmill River Access recreation area in Montague Center on Sunday.

BOOK REVIEW

Jan Maher, *The Persistence of Memory and Other Stories* (Dog Hollow Press, 2020)

By KAREN MILLER

**GREENFIELD** – Greenfield author Jan Maher recently released *The Persistence of Memory*, her first short story collection. I’ve been a fan of Maher’s work since I happened upon her first, award-winning novel. For me, this latest effort showcases Maher’s special gifts, and brings a deepened perspective to her two earlier books.

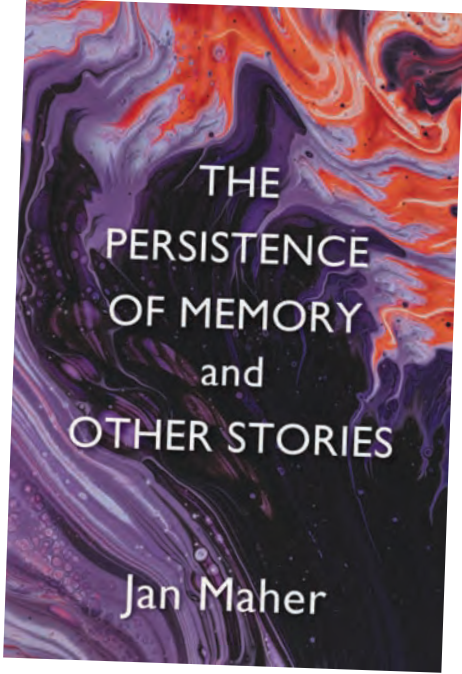
Maher’s first novel *Heaven, Indiana* is an intricate, masterfully constructed tale that deftly recreates the brimming, knotty, caring-and-intrusive texture of a small midwestern town, while also placing that town in its problematic historical and social context of slavery and racial prejudice.

There’s a double vision to the story: Maher and the reader have an awareness that the characters lack. And Maher’s skill is such that these characters are so believable, so relatable, and her style so cozy and matter-of-fact, that by the end of the book we want to tug these characters out of the stories, sit them down, and tell them what they’ve been missing.

Maher makes us wonder what in our own lives we’ve been missing; what our long held, unquestioned assumptions have blinded us to all these years.

Her second book, *Earth as It Is*, follows the convoluted life of a hairdresser from the town: Char-

lie, and later Charlene, Bader. Both books have won acclaim: *Heaven* was awarded a Kirkus Best for 2018, and *Earth* a Kirkus Best Indies of 2017, as well as winning the 2018 American Fiction Award in the LGBT category.



Short stories are, in many ways, harder to write than novels: with a limited word canvas, it’s tricky to reach the depth and richness that a novel-length work can accommodate. In the stories in *The Persistence of Memory*, however, Maher generates with precise, telling details the palpability of setting and nuance of character that mark her novels.

And her stories show an unex-

pected range. In *Persistence*, point-of-view characters include a recalcitrant preschooler, a mute teenager, a baffled husband with dementia, and seniors battling insistently for independent lives. Her settings veer from an alternate world, to a place of magical realism, to the US just after World War II – in a tale of a toddler’s reunion with her father, based, Maher explains to me, on her own reunion with her soldier-dad when he returned from Japan after World War II – and, of course, to the small midwestern towns she cherishes in her novels.

In Maher’s novels, the plots are driven by social justice issues such as racial and gender discrimination. In these short stories, I was expecting something of the same. But I emerged from these pages with the sense that Maher’s overall concern, which enfolds social issues, is an interest in relationship – in how people connect with each other, and how they fail to.

The book’s opening story oddly tweaks what connection and communication mean. In this tale, set in a near-future dystopia, Yanka, a mute, uncared-for, used and abused drudge, watches from the sidelines as soldiers are billeted to her agrarian, pre-industrial village.

One of them speaks to her kindly – perhaps the first gentleness she’s experienced. He promises to try to return and help her when the war is

see **BOOK REVIEW** page B3

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Heading South Again!

Ken was to have his tooth extracted. Ken’s molar had lost its metal cap, and his dentist was concerned that the tooth might be abscessed and recommended that it be removed before he developed a major infection.

The new appointment with the oral surgeon was available two days before we left. That didn’t seem like a plan. So, although the oral surgeons felt Ken should see a specialist, I mentioned that my dentist was comfortable doing extractions. She had performed two on me, owing to my failing teeth. She seemed very competent, and I had no further issues, although I did have to take antibiotics as a safeguard.

She was able to see Ken a few days later, and the tooth was successfully removed. He was put on antibiotics, and made an appointment for a molar which needed repair. All of this could be easily fit in

before we left for Florida.

Then the real problems began. I have dental insurance; Ken does not. He received an estimate of the cost of all this, and went through the roof. Much complaint about her charges, although he did admit that she did a good job. We once read that dentists have the highest rate of suicide of any in the medical profession. No surprise there – few people enjoy going to the dentist.

But the work was all taken care of in time, and we were on our way.

We joined the Taconic Parkway and read the names of the folks from the early American melting pot: Austerlitz, Ghent, Harlemville, Claverack, Synderville, Taghkonig, Dutchess County, Milan.

This area mirrored the weather at home: occasional snow filled the air, but it wasn’t sticking.

see **GARDENER’S** page B5



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER  
THE BALL-PLAYER’S WIFE (CONTINUED)

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS** – Gertrude sat at the kitchen table, writing, in the quiet house on Pleasant Street. There was no sound in the July heat of 1921 other than the ticking of the clock, and the low purring of the contented cat on her lap.

A faint smell of her husband’s cigar lingered in the parlor. He hadn’t been home in months.

Gertrude wrote:

Millers Falls, Mass.  
July 26, 1921

Dear Dug:

*I will now answer your most welcome letter I received. I’m glad to hear that you are still fine and dandy. Well Dug, every thing is still the same here. They say the shop won’t start up until further notice, so that will be about September. It certainly will make it pretty hard for some that have large families. The paper mill is still going but they say that the machines will shut down next week I don’t know for how long. Well we must all make the best of things. For God is good...*

Gertrude was spending a lot of time alone while her husband was off trying to make a living playing baseball. Gertrude Schworm had married Douglass Smith in Millers Falls a few years before, in 1919. My grand-aunt Gertrude and grand-uncle Doug were born in this same village, a few years apart, in the late 1890s.

Her father Jacob was a German immigrant from Bavaria, and her mother, Fanny Belterman, was born in New York City, the daughter of German immigrants.

Gertrude herself left little in our family oral history to remember her by until just last month when some of her letters to her husband turned up, carefully folded and preserved in the pages of the 1921 *Old Farmer’s Almanac*. That book and many others had been put away in the closets of this ancestral home for us to find nearly one hundred years after they were written. If it weren’t for those letters, there wouldn’t be many clues left for us to un-

derstand who Gertrude was, or that she even existed.

In piecing her story together, it is safe to say that for their first decade of marriage, Gertrude lived in the shadow of her semi-famous husband. Douglass Smith had been a rising star in the baseball world of 1912. A lightning fast southpaw at 14 years of age, he was used to pitching to, and striking out, grown men in the local leagues and opposing high school teams. The Red Sox drafted him right out of his junior year at Turners Falls High School, leaving him no time to graduate. He found himself pitching in July 1912 in Fenway Park on a Sox team with the likes of his idols Smokey Joe Wood, Tris Speaker, and Harry Hooper.

But Doug’s star flamed out abruptly in 1913 after Sox manager Jake Stahl and Sox owners discovered that he wasn’t quite white enough for the team. Indeed, he was of mixed race, Native American and African. His mother was a white woman recently emigrated from Scotland, but that wasn’t good enough for the lily-white Sox of 1912, who already had their hands full dealing with animosity between Catholic and Protestant players. One of their stars, Tris Speaker, was a future member of the Hall Of Fame, and also a member of the Texas KKK.

Dropped like a bad penny from the Sox, Doug made a living as best as he could with his left arm, pitching up and down the Eastern seaboard in semi-pro leagues in Meriden, New Britain, Utica, and Syracuse.

But the Red Sox had not heard the last of Doug Smith.

In 1916, fate handed him his chance for revenge. The Red Sox see **WEST ALONG** page B8



The author’s great-aunt, Gertrude (Schworm) Smith.

SMITH FAMILY COLLECTION



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

**ST. AUGUSTINE** – Ken and I left early on a Tuesday and took a break at the top of the Mass Pike, which must be the coldest spot. The wind was fierce and snow dotted the air. We couldn’t wait to get back in the car again. But the visibility was great and the mountains were blue in the cold. Then the forever descent to New York and the clouds.

We had been able to leave for our planned trip to Florida on time despite the dental work.

It all started when the oral surgeon’s office called to cancel the day



# Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY  
CHRISTOPHER CARMODY/COLLAGE

## “LATTE”

Do you want to make a difference in a special kitty’s life? Consider adopting one of Dakin’s “Spirit Cats.” These cats are fearful of people and don’t require a lot of attention. What they do need is a place to park their paws in a quiet home where they’ll be loved just the way they are. Spirit Cats may

enjoy being around their own kind, and sometimes make great companions for other cats. Are you ready to make a difference in a special kitty’s life? If so, stop by and speak to an Animal Resource Counselor. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

## Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH 21

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.  
**M, W, F:** 10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**T, W, Th:** 12 p.m. Lunch  
**Monday 2/17**  
8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic by appt.  
12 p.m. Potluck & Movie  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 2/18**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1:30 p.m. A Matter of Balance  
**Wednesday 2/19**  
9 to 11 a.m. Veterans’ Hours  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Pantry  
**Thursday 2/20**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards, Games, & Pitch  
4 p.m. Gentle Yoga  
**Friday 2/21**  
NO ACTIVITIES – AARP Tax Prep, by appointment only

### 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 Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.  
**Monday 2/17**  
CLOSED - PRESIDENTS’ DAY  
**Tuesday 2/18**  
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Friends Meeting  
**Wednesday 2/19**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
8:45 a.m. Relaxing Technique  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo & Snacks  
**Thursday 2/20**  
8:45 a.m. Interval Training  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10 a.m. A Matter of Balance  
11:30 a.m. Massage appointments  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
**Friday 2/21**  
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](mailto: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.

# Chasing Our Tales: A Woman Scorned Part Two

By LYN CLARK

**TURNERS FALLS** – We left off in Part I of “A Woman Scorned,” the story of the dysfunctional marriage of the author’s colonial-era ancestors Richard Edwards and Elizabeth Tuttle of New Haven, after Richard has been denied a divorce from Elizabeth twice during the first nine years of their marriage.

Elizabeth’s sister, Mercy Tuttle, was the 11th of twelve Tuttle children. She married Samuel Brown at age 17, and during the next twelve years she gave birth to a child every two to three years, six in all. Then at age 30, she stopped abruptly.

It was about this time, when her brother was hung for the murder of her sister, that Mercy began her own slow descent into madness.

Mercy, 41 years old on June 23, 1691, started the day in an ordinary fashion: as the rest of the family slept, she made up the fire, which was typically an important housewifely function. As it had gone out overnight – something for which she would have experienced shame – she was forced to go to a neighbor’s to beg a burning brand.

She then milked and turned out the cows into the meadow, as was her custom. When she returned, the rest of the household was still asleep. Then, without seeming provocation, she climbed the stairs to where her 17-year old son Samuel was sleeping beside his younger brother and, wielding an ax, struck him twice in the head.

His father, Samuel, awakened by the violence, reached the upstairs as she struck her son once again. He was able to wrest the ax from her, but when he tried to lift the child in his arms, she grabbed the ax for a fourth blow. He was finally able to subdue her. Samuel, Jr. died six days later.

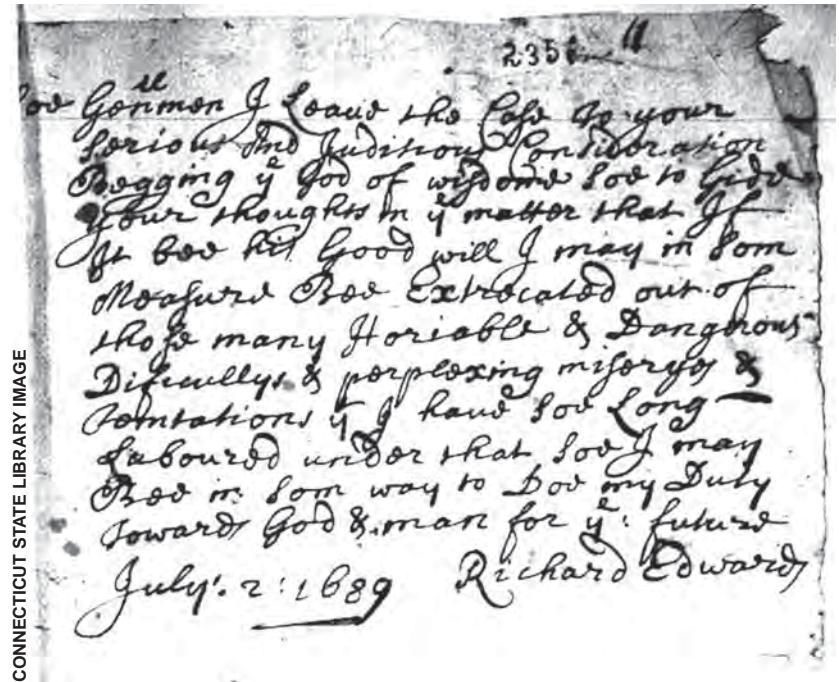
Chamberlain writes in *The Notorious Elizabeth Tuttle*, “When Mercy took the child’s life, she severed the family’s patrimony. And unlike a distraught young mother who clandestinely kills her newborn, she dispatched her husband’s namesake in a furious display of uncontrolled violence.”

It was revealed that the day before the murder she had remarked to her husband that she “would feign have the children buried in the barn” because “there are dreadful times a-coming.” And when her son Samuel had asked her if she could kill him, she reportedly said, “Yes, if I thought it would not hurt you.”

She seems to have believed that her children would be better off dead, and that she was protecting Samuel from some terrible fate.

Mercy was not hanged, as she was obviously delusional and psychotic. She was imprisoned in the jail near the Edwards’ property in Hartford during the trial, and as with Benjamin, Elizabeth would have fed and cared for her sister.

Mercy was then ordered to return to New Haven where she was to be kept in custody. There were no asylums for the criminally insane, but she would have been imprisoned somewhere local and cared for by some family member, although there are no records to tell



CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY IMAGE

The Concluding paragraph of “A True Abreviate of the Case of Richard Edwards Respecting Elizabeth his Late wife.” Connecticut Archives, Crimes and Misdemeanors, 1st Ser., 235i.

us what became of her.

Mercy and Sarah were closest in age and probably affectionate to Elizabeth, and they were taken away from her in violent and final ways which it is only reasonable to suppose would have had a profound effect on her.

Two years after Richard had been twice denied a divorce from Elizabeth, and just three months after Mercy killed her son, Richard reapplied to the highly respected Revs. Thomas Hooker and Increase Mather. They must have known that Richard was currently involved in an extramarital affair with Mary Talcott, an attractive younger woman from a well-to-do family whom he wished to be free to marry – and who had already been fined for fornicating with him.

This time, Richard stated that Elizabeth threatened to slit his throat while he slept. The upshot of this plea was that the ministers decided that “it is not within the compass of human power to deny him a divorce.” Within six months of being granted the divorce, Richard married Mary Talcott, with whom he had six more children.

Elizabeth lived out her life in obscurity after the divorce, perhaps sustained by the small maintenance Richard promised her. There is no record of any testimony by her; we never hear her voice. It would seem that her greatest sins were to refuse to give in to her husband’s sexual demands, and to have the misfortune of being a member of the deranged Tuttle family.

No one besides Richard had a bad thing to say against her. There is no record that she remarried, and no death record, which leaves one to believe that she may have been leading a marginal existence by the time she died, and may even have been buried in unconsecrated ground. The little we know about Elizabeth is hearsay, and has been colored by a religious bias, as well as told from a strictly male point of view.

And what we know about Richard does not square with the image of a man as “tender hearted and compassionate,” as their son Timothy later described him. Elizabeth was not only not a murderess, she was not even shown to be violent.

For several generations, the divorce was swept under the rug,

with no explanation of her disappearance. Only later was she resurrected as an immoral woman. Chamberlain writes, “When, therefore, after generations of repression, memories of the Edwards’ messy divorce reemerged in the latter 19th century, her passionlessness had been erased. Freed of this awkward fact, the representation of Elizabeth Tuttle as an uncontrolled and promiscuous woman acquired an irresistible weight.”

Chamberlain goes on to ask, “But who was Elizabeth Tuttle? She was an ordinary puritan woman trapped in an unhappy marriage with a man, who, because of his own troubled upbringing, was both insecure and ambitious. As a small villain in a much larger story, she has been cast as Jonathan Edwards’ crazy grandmother. The cruel taunts and mad threats of this notorious figure will always sound more loudly than Elizabeth’s inarticulate story of the divorce.”

What was the mental illness that plagued this family? What was the nature of the depression that gripped so many?

Sybil Smith, in her article “What Is It With Those Tuttles” in *Ancestry Magazine*, has this to say: “I believe it is possible that some members of the Tuttle family suffered from a severe form of manic depressive disorder, and that Jonathan Edwards [author of *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*] himself suffered from the mood disorder. Many of his descendants were luminaries in their own right, but how many suffered depression or mania I do not know.”

As for Elizabeth Tuttle, poor scorned woman: I like to imagine that she did the best she could, cared for her siblings, was treated kindly by her friends and neighbors, and somehow managed at last to gain some happiness in a simple life apart from Richard.

I hope her children visited with her, gave her grandchildren to hold close, perhaps took her in and cared for her in her old age.

But perhaps not. We will never know.

Please let us know about your ancestors, their success and travails, be they recent or in the distant past, at [genealogy@montaguereporter.org](mailto:genealogy@montaguereporter.org).

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BOOK REVIEW from page B1

over. Mistaking him for the prince in fairy tales, her naivet  is so profound that even finding his body doesn’t alter her belief that he’ll return.

Maher writes, “She smiled a slow smile of delight.” All she has to do is wait, she thinks.

The story speaks, writes Maher in an email interview, to “the possibility of basic decency as the foundation of relationships.” It doesn’t matter that Yanka does not comprehend the war, or death, or time. The soldier’s compassion, his recognition of her as a person, soothes her, and that moment of connection sustains her.

We tend to think of connection as a verbal understanding; Maher turns this on its head. Yanka’s happiness is based on her misunderstanding; her connection, with bitter-sweet irony, on her lack of connection.

“There’s a lot about relationships in all the stories,” says Maher. Her work, she explains, explores “the sorrow and pain that characters deal with because of isolation, [and] lack of communication as well as the deep joy they experience when they find connection.”

Maher writes sensitively about broken relationships. In “Fencing,” “Ashes to Ashes,” and “Dancing in the Dark,” she explores partners who cannot say what they need, or reach out; her dialog keenly captures the ways couples talk past each other. And her characters can be estranged from themselves as well.

In the marvelous and quirky “Answering,” a lonely widower’s main connections are via bizarre phone calls from his whiny, bossy body parts, who nag him to take better care of them. (Is it fair to call one’s own body part intrusive?) His daughter cajoles him into taking a role in a play and, oddly, he’s a wild success. His fellow thespians find him a brilliant actor – but he’s not acting at all. Just by sitting, uncomfortable and bewildered, exposed on a stage, he somehow reconnects with himself, and in the process re-enters the world.

Maher is no glib optimist. She understands that pain exists. Yet her

vision seems ultimately joyous. In the book’s closing tale, “The Persistence of Memory,” nonagenarian Marie’s son spirits away her driver’s license.

Refusing limitations imposed by others, Marie remembers her biking lessons from her dad, and sure that muscle memory will see her through, borrows her great-granddaughter’s bike, pedaling off to lunch with a friend. Her muscle memory’s great, but this bike is generations beyond the one she learned on, and, mid-ride, Marie is stumped by the absence of coaster-brakes.

But her dangerous, wild ride doesn’t daunt her. Intrepid Marie is not trapped by long-ago lessons or the customs of her girlhood. (Here, one thinks of social barriers like racial and gender prejudice, and other social and psychological struggles caused by clinging blindly to old habits.) Marie understands that to get where she wants to go, she needs to learn new skills, and she’ll do that. While her son browses bicycle accessories, she buys a new bike for her great granddaughter, replacing the one she mangled in the crash. As she does, she pumps the kid behind the cash register on how to manage this new-fangled, unfamiliar kind of bike.

The skills that Marie learned as a kid took her pretty far, but not as far as she needs to go. Even at 90+, Marie is determined to keep moving forward.

I wondered if this book would live up to Maher’s other two. It does. This book nourishes. It’s worth reading slowly, stopping between stories and taking the time to savor each one.

*The official release date of Jan Mahe’s The Persistence of Memory is February 19, but pre-release electronic copies are available on Amazon.com.*

*A book release party with Mahe will be held at the LAVA Center at 324 Main Street in Greenfield on Monday, February 24 between 6 and 7:30 p.m. There will be selected readings, book signing, and a chance to win a free copy.*



MUSICIAN PROFILE

Blue Streak’s John Sheldon

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I have seen John Sheldon a couple of times, because I really like his guitar playing. The latest time was when he did a reunion show with his band Blue Streak at Hawks & Reed center in Greenfield on January 25.

He plays an electric guitar very well, which I got proof of at the reunion show.

Joe Nerney from Blue Streak played a saxophone very well, too. Sheldon hadn’t performed with him in ten years. They made a unique sound when they played together with Sheldon’s guitar and Nerney’s flute and saxophone.

I decided to do a profile on John. The website told me that he’s been around for 50 years with the Blue Streak. The website also helped me learn that he has put out 13 albums since 1978. The show made it so I know the names of some of them: *Planet Song*, *Earthman*, and *No Brakes*. Two that he did with the Blue Streak are called *Bone Yard* and *Play Out*.

John Sheldon mentioned to me that he had been playing guitar and songwriting since he was teenager. He has performed with some well-known musicians, too, James Taylor and Linda Ronstadt being a

couple. As he puts it, “I was in Van Morrison’s band when I was 17 years old.”

I asked him whether he has done televised performances or been on TV. It came up that he has done theater pieces, including one called *The Red Guitar* that was a one-man show. Speaking of performances, he has done the Upper Valley Festival three times.

He doesn’t consider himself to be well-known, but he said, “I do have a following in the Pioneer Valley.” He has an interest, instead of fame, “in creating, songs, instruments, and theater pieces, like *The Red Guitar*, my one-man show. I consider my musical path to be a healing one for me, and hopefully sometimes for others.”

I would certainly call the crowd at Hawks & Reed one where his music was greatly appreciated, and it was surprisingly large in John’s eyes. His words in connection with that were: “I was surprised at the turnout at Hawks and Reed on Jan. 25. We hadn’t played in public since 2010, so guess that helped get people there. In the past, we would have had a good crowd, but not that many!”

Beside the Upper Valley Festival, he has played locations around New



JEFF SKERIK PHOTO

England. He used to play the People’s Pint, the Mole’s Eye in Brattleboro, the Charlemont Inn, and Pearl Street and the Iron Horse in Northampton.

I am not surprised to hear he has a following in the Pioneer Valley. I have seen him enough times at the Shea Theater to think that myself. I decided to go to this reunion show in order to get a hold of his contact info, which I did from the man himself, and I am thrilled that my desire to interview him turned out as well as it did.

To look on his website, go to [www.JohnSheldon.com](http://www.JohnSheldon.com).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Chicken On The Ave; Roofing Trash In Sandpits; Female From Online Steals Car; Loud Music All Day

Sunday, 2/2

2:57 p.m. Caller from Lyman Avenue reporting possible vandalism to her vehicle. Left front lug-nuts were removed; not sure how it happened, but would like it documented in case further issues arise.

7:03 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that she just returned home after being out of town since noon on Saturday to find that her door had been tampered with; the wall around the door is cracked, and the lock will not allow her to put the key in. Maintenance is coming to try to fix the door, but they requested that police also be called to make a report. Referred to an officer.

7:16 p.m. Caller states that there is a large animal in the road on Route 2 in Gill; she believes it is dead, but it startled her and she is concerned it could cause an accident. Shelburne Control contacted for Gill PD.

**Monday, 2/3**

1:06 a.m. Report from Seventh Street of neighbor banging on floor; caller believes she is doing it intentionally. Involved party found to have an active warrant. A 45-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant.

11:45 a.m. Caller reporting a chicken walking around in front of Ed’s Barber Shop; is afraid it will get hit by a car. Officer advised; states that the chicken’s owners live behind Hubie’s Tavern; will attempt to make contact with them. Owners state that they will gather the chickens and make sure they are in their pen.

12:42 p.m. Caller from Food City reports that a male party is posing as a veteran and soliciting people for money. Area searched; party gone on arrival.

1:34 p.m. Caller reports that as they were driving over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, they saw somebody in a turquoise jacket and a pink hat standing under the bridge on the ice. Caller is concerned for person’s safety. MPD officer advised; contacted Shelburne Control to dispatch Gill PD to check if it is on their side. Gill officer advises that he can see two parties on the ice on the Turners Falls side just below the fish ladder. Officer spoke with two parties who are currently ice fishing.

2:07 p.m. Party from K Street into station to report that he believes he is the victim of a motor vehicle theft. Remainder of call redacted.]

5:42 p.m. Fire department advising they are responding to a brush fire on the railroad tracks out behind the North Village Smokehouse. Fire extinguished.

6:11 p.m. Caller states that while walking through the Plains, he found an excessive amount of roofing materials that have been discarded off one of the main roads into the “sandpits.” Environmental police notified.

8:31 p.m. Caller states that a disheveled older woman came into the Millers Falls laundromat and grabbed a bunch of clothes. Report taken.

9:53 p.m. F.L. Roberts

employee requesting assistance with an unruly customer who is refusing to leave the store. Male party moved along and advised he is no longer welcome at the store (verbally trespassed).

**Tuesday, 2/4**

2:05 a.m. Caller from Seventh Street reporting loud noise from neighbors below her; yelling and banging. Officer advised resident of complaint.

11:52 a.m. Caller from Twelfth Street reporting suspicious solicitor; advises male came to her door and was looking through the window and waving to get their attention. Caller advises male produced a piece of paper and stated it was a solicitation permit from the town, but she did not look at the paper. Officer located party on G Street and spoke with him.

8:23 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that an unwanted female is creating a disturbance in the upstairs hallway. No answer at door. Area checked; unable to locate.

9:52 p.m. Caller from Central Street states that he let a female who he just met online come to his house to hang out. While he was in the shower, she took his vehicle and has not returned. Shelburne Control, Brattleboro PD, and Vermont State Police advised to be on lookout for use without authority.

10:40 p.m. A 42-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a probation warrant.

**Wednesday, 2/5**

8:50 a.m. Caller states that a strong odor is coming from whatever the Montague Garage on Station Street is burning in their wood stove. MCFD toned out. Appears to be just a wood stove firing up for the first time.

12:46 p.m. Caller from L Street states that a male party came to her door requesting to confirm her personal electric bill details. He was not from Eversource and did not appear to have a solicitor’s permit. Area checked; unable to locate.

4:01 p.m. Maintenance person from Second Street building advises that several tenants who were removed from the apartment have returned and are “trashing” the place; possible drug activity also ongoing. Officers advised not as reported.

**Thursday, 2/6**

12 a.m. A 35-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a probation warrant.

12:10 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street would like it on record that someone has been dumping items into the dumpster that is on her property.

3:03 p.m. Walk-in party reports that her vehicle was stolen from Central Street a few nights ago. Vehicle entered into national database.

3:20 p.m. Caller from Second Street reports that he found a bag that has drug paraphernalia and possibly also drugs in it. Report taken.

**Friday, 2/7**

1:01 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident in drive-through at Freedom Credit Union. No injuries or damage. Information exchanged.

1:36 p.m. Report of unshoveled sidewalk on K Street. Officer advised.

4:26 p.m. Caller from Newton Street reporting a yellow kayak or canoe hung up on the rocks in the river. Called TFFD and asked who is responsible for removing it; was advised that it was investigated by both TFFD and Erving FD; it is not a life safety hazard but is filled with ice. Once the ice melts and conditions are safer, TFFD will go out and retrieve the canoe.

7:23 p.m. Caller reporting that a vehicle had just pulled up near the bike path next to Town Hall and shot off a BB gun. Caller states that the vehicle then drove to the Shady Glen parking lot, then pulled out and headed over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Referred to an officer.

9:17 p.m. Agawam PD requesting MPD officer attempt to make contact with a party on L Street whose vehicle was found abandoned on Route 5. Unable to make contact; APD advised.

**Saturday, 2/8**

11:55 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering into caller’s vehicle in the Third Street alley. Nothing appears to have been disturbed or stolen. Parties requesting to have on record.

5:22 p.m. Vehicle into pole on Turnpike Road. No injuries; minimal damage to pole. Eversource notified. Courtesy transport provided. Citation issued.

7:04 p.m. Report of loud music playing all day on G Street. Officer advised occupants of apartment of complaint and town bylaw.

**Sunday, 2/9**

9:15 a.m. Caller reporting that she found a dog in Greenfield wandering the streets; was advised by GPD to contact MPD for assistance getting dog to shelter. Dog has collar but no tags and appears to have two large tumors. Before animal was checked in to shelter, copied in via simulcast that dog was reported stolen in Greenfield. Caller will bring dog back to owners.

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# COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

**T-RUMP** by **denis f. bordeaux**

I FIRED 3 TREASONOUS WITNESSES AND I'M GONNA FIRE MORE. I THINK I'M GONNA CALL IT "THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES." OF THE LONG KNIVES, PRETTY CATCHY, HCY MORTY?

SIR, THAT'S BEEN TAKEN BY A MAN NAMED ADOLPH HITLER, AND THESE ARE JOBS SEEM VERY DICTATOR LIKE. SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP A LOWER PROFILE.

WELL, OKAY THEN. HOW ABOUT WE CALL IT "THE NIGHT OF THE BIG SWORD?"

PROBABLY SHOULD GO A BIT LOWER THAN THAT, SIR!

EVEN LOWER HUH? O.K. LET'S GO WITH "THE NIGHT OF THE POINTY LETTER OPENER."

MAYBE JUST A TAD MORE SUBTLE, SIR.

BOY, REALLY? NOT MUCH LEFT. ALL I GOT IS "THE NIGHT OF THE RUSTY TONGS."

THERE YA GO!

**Cool Cats on the Ave** *Suzette*

Apollo and Luna...

What's that? Grass

What's it for? Makes you barf.

If I eat it? Right

If I wanted to barf, I'd just listen to human news. Meow. Right.

**OVER THE HILL** *Carolyn Clark*

I think I just had an epiphany, Harry.

Hmm...

It came to me out of the blue, that we are all connected by invisible threads.

Have you ever had an epiphany, Harry?

I had measles once. Does that count?

**THREE DEGREES OF WARMING**  
JANICE ROWAN

Full House!

You win...

**GLIMPSES FROM THE OFFICE** *ANNABEL LEVINE*

Tell me... what do you enjoy most about your Gill delivery route?

UPPING FARM

ANNIE'S GOT A ONE-TRACK MIND

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RIO BNCGT RNQO RINR  
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(closed Tuesdays)



GARDENER’S from page B1

Signs warned of deer. We saw three cross to the other side of the highway northbound, and hoped the traffic missed them. They seemed intrepid, still choosing to live near a busy road. Maybe they were crossing to get water we couldn’t see. After all, they were here first.

We were on the road for an hour and a half, and passed Rhinebeck, Nine Partners Road, Hyde Park, Clinton Corners, La Grange, Pleasant Valley, Pawling, Fishkill Creek: all a watershed area. Then we turned off onto Route 84 and drove over the Hudson River. It was 40 degrees when we neared Point Jarvis, New York and saw the sun!

At 11:07 we were welcomed to the Poconos, and found the last rest stop in Pennsylvania at last.

We stayed overnight and treated ourselves to a well-deserved room in the Hilton in Shippensburg.

On our second day of driving we finally passed the endless state of Pennsylvania and arrived in West Virginia (for some brief miles) and then to Virginia near Richmond, where it was 48 degrees. Often stymied by the prevalence of “under repair” and “closed” signs at rest areas, we were reduced to pulling to the edge of the highway and going behind a couple of trees.

North Carolina had an active welcome center with green grass and flowering pink trees. It was 53 degrees there. The state’s roadside ads for “South of the Border” remind me of the Bill Bryson book

*The Lost Continent: Travels in Small-Town America* in which he describes making the cross-country trek his father once drove, and how his own trip built up expectations of a stop at one of America’s legendary landmarks only to find a disheartened one-man show at the end.

The “South of the Border” signs built up to the actual tourist trap that it is: several acres of sombreros, teepees, and someone’s idea of what a foreign country might look like. And there it was, just after the South Carolina border.

But the welcome center was not open: it was under rebuild.

Just the same, South Carolina had lots of redbuds, ready to burst on the hardwood trees amidst the bushy red pines on the Pee Dee River.

It was 55 degrees in the palm trees near Florence, South Carolina, 58 degrees in Hardeeville, and as we entered Georgia, our car temperature reading indicated 59 degrees.

On Thursday morning we crossed the Savannah River: it was 60 degrees at Wentworth. Spanish moss draped the cypress trees which stood in muddy water. In this area of the country, “clear cutting” is the practice as they harvest telephone poles. Then a new area of swamp land is born.

It was 61 degrees at Brunswick at 11:30 a.m., 62 in Woodbine, and 63 degrees at 1:50 in Horse Stamp. We crossed the Florida state line at 2:07 on Thursday. Our stay in Saint Augustine didn’t begin until Saturday, so we booked at a Days Inn for

\$69, and inquired about the rate for Friday night. We learned it would be rising to \$89 for the weekend, so we chose to walk three doors down, and booked a room for Friday night for \$65. We were allowed to move right in, so we did.

We took the opportunity to change the oil in the car, and as the fellow at the garage seemed friendly and honest, we let him talk us also into cleaning the fuel injectors. After we saw the rejected parts – which were filthy – we were happy to have had this needed maintenance done.

When he was finished with the work, we returned to our new hotel to learn what we were getting for our \$65. Granted, there were no hangers, and some other minor detail that we’ve since forgotten, but otherwise, the beds and room were just as clean and quiet as our night in the Days Inn.

We walked to a local brewery for Friday lunch, shopped for fruit, cheese and such for the night’s snack in the room, and slept well. After breakfast at the local IHOP, we packed up the smooth-running car and drove the short way down the coast to our beachside hotel, where we would spend the rest of our vacation in a suite containing a large bedroom, living room, bath and dining area, and a seating area on the outside patio.

After checking in, we went right off down the pathway and the stairs to the beach of white sand, fabulous views, and very few other people.

Heaven!



Montague Community Television News

# You, Too, Can Watch The Bridge Hearing

By MICHAEL SMITH

Recently posted on our website is the recent MassDOT General Pierce Bridge Public Hearing, which took place February 4 at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. The hearing sheds new light on plans for the future of the bridge, so if the bridge affects your commute, this is not a video you want to miss! Navigate to the “Latest Videos” page at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) to watch the full hearing.

We also have a brand new edition of Franklin County Varsity Sports Report for you to enjoy, as well as West Mass Brass’ 2019 Christmas

Concert. And in case you missed the Montague finance committee meeting or last week’s Gill select-board meeting, you can rest easy knowing that those videos, too, are available for you to watch at your convenience at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org).

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](mailto: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!

# OUT OF THE PARK

## February 2020

By JON DOBOSZ

**UNITY PARK** – Hello again, everyone! We hope you’re enjoying the winter so far. It’s been relatively mild, so I’m sure some of you are enjoying the small amount of snow we’ve had. Whether you love the snow or prefer to hibernate, make sure you still get out and stay active.

Here at MPRD, we would still like to see Old Man Winter show his face at least a little in the coming few days. On Saturday, February 15 we will be holding our **Night Sledding** event down here at Unity Park, but we’ve received so little snow that we’re in danger of cancelling.

If we get the right amount of white stuff, the event will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. We’re planning on illuminating the hill with light towers, getting a campfire going, and enjoying some s’mores and hot chocolate to keep us warm!

We held this event for the first time last winter, and we had a great turnout. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page as to whether or not we’ll be able to hold it, and start doing a “snow dance.”

We also still have a few sessions of **Open Swim** remaining. Be sure to get your last little bit of pool time at the Turners Falls high school pool on Tuesday and Friday evenings from now until March 6. Family Swim is held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., with Adult Lap Swim from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Spring programs will be here

sooner than you think, and we’ve even started taking registrations for our **Girls Softball Program**. For girls ages seven to nine, we offer our Purple Panthers team, which is a member of the Nipper League through the Greenfield Girls Softball League. The Purple Panthers are a coach-pitch program, and is a perfect introduction to the game of softball. We also offer the Diamond Dusters through the Ponytail League at the GGSL for girls ages 10 to 12. This is a player-pitch league. Both programs go from early April to mid June.

Now that we’re on the subject of spring, the spring edition of our **Fun Times Brochure** will be out in the next couple of weeks. Included you will find all of our traditional offerings, including; Tee Ball (ages four through six), Rookie Baseball (ages seven through nine), and information on our new Basic Water Safety Program.

Please also note that we will be holding our **Annual Peter Cottontail’s EGGstravaganza** on Saturday, April 11 at 1 p.m. down at Unity Park!

That’s about it from here. For information on some of our other programs, feel free to contact us at (413) 863-3216, log onto [montague.net](http://montague.net), or view our Facebook page. Stay warm, stay active, and enjoy the remainder of your winter!

*Jon Dobosz is the director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.*



## Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll

### Grade 6

**FIRST HONORS**  
Orrin Anderson, Camden Bonnett, Jackson Cogswell, Lincoln Coleman, Madisyn Dietz, Elsee Galvez Martin, Nathan Johnson, Shayly Martin Ovalle, Janelle Massey, Anna Norwood, Mario Pareja, Khalifa Seck, Alexis Smith, Kailey Steiner, Nathaniel Trinqué, Michael Waite

**SECOND HONORS**  
Laken Chessie, Trinity Davis, Alexander Golembeski, Alexander Hannum, Dominick Stafford, Brooke Tirrell, Nathaniel Valle

**THIRD HONORS**  
Allysia Corbin, Skylei Lapan

### Grade 7

**FIRST HONORS**  
Maren Batchelder, Starli Bell, Rayne Bonfiglio, Cail Brown, Darian Burnett, Juel Caraballo, Samantha Carr, Tatiana Carr-Williams, Gianna Disciullo, Ella Guidaboni, Jacob Guillemette, Trent Holst, Madison Liimantainen, Anthony Prizio, Matthew Richards, Linley Rollins

**SECOND HONORS**  
Amelia Bruso, Darian Burnett, Marilyn Abarua Corona, Reneishaly Benvenutty, Amelia Bruso, Rylee Fisher, Cordelia Guerin, Kailey James-Putnam, David Klempner-Siano, Colby Leete, Josiah Little, Julian Mayo, Sofia Moreno, Jordan Rogers

**THIRD HONORS**  
Julia Dickinson, Madison Fritz, Logan Gould, Jailyn Martinez, Samuel Studlien, Landon Thompson, Zachary Zilinski

### Grade 8

**FIRST HONORS**  
Ian Bastarache, Michael Boyle, Trevor Brunette, Cameron Burnett, Logan Franklin, Isabel Garcia, Taylor Greene, Fiona Hutchison, Logan Johnson, Syna Katsoulis, Anne Kolodziej, Ella Kolodziej, Jeremy Kovalsick, Audrey Lapinski, Owen LaValley, Regan Marshall, Taryn McDonough, Jasmine McNamara, Joesph Mosca, Holly Myers, Ricky Pareja, Raygan Pendriss, Oliver Postera, Jillian Reynolds, Avery Tela, Iasbella Vachula-Curtis, Charlotte Valle, Carly Whitney

**SECOND HONORS**  
Aiden Bailey, Devin Emond, Isabella Johnson, Aiden Kelly, Michelle Newsome, Ella O’Keefe, Jacob Reich, Carla Rompies, Nevaeh Sikoski, Jack Trombi, Derek Wissmann

**THIRD HONORS**  
Otilia Bartolon, Kamryn Berry, Lillian Day, Kyleigh Dobosz, Jack Doyle, Eli Guerin, Megan Leveille, Ayleen Ovalle Perez

### Grade 9

**FIRST HONORS**  
Lindsay Davenport, Cadence Wozniak

**SECOND HONORS**  
Anna Baskowski, Kendra Campbell, David Damkoehler, Morgan Dobias, Mia Gonzalez, Alexander Johnson, Silas Koyama, Madison LeBorgne, Nikolas Martin, Braydon McCord, Stephanie Peterson, Levin Prondecki, Haley Randall, David Stowe, Brooke Thayer

**THIRD HONORS**  
Tyler Tetreault

### Grade 10

**FIRST HONORS**  
Emily Fess, Jayden Hosmer, Hannah Marchefka, Jacob Norwood, Kiley Palmquist, Keyvin Perez Ventura, Brandon Pollard, Maria Romashka, Abigail Sanders, Olivia Stafford, Paige Sulda

**SECOND HONORS**  
Dylan Burnett, Brendan Driscoll, Bryce Finn, Jada Jurek, Anthony Kerivan, Britney Lambert, Blake Pollard, Odalis Ramirez-Martin, Isaiah Thompson, Christa Turner, Ennamuel Villafana Abarua, Hannah Warnock, Emily Young

**THIRD HONORS**  
Lorelei Farrington, Angel Ortiz, George Thayer, Samantha Thorpe, Devin Willor

**FIRST HONORS**  
Haley Bastarache, Xavier Chagnon, Isabelle Farrick, Isabella Johnson, Natalie Kells, Audrey O’Keefe, Dalver Perez, Madison Sanders, Brynn Tela, Leah Timberlake, Hailey Wheeler

### Grade 11

**SECOND HONORS**  
Mercedes Bailey, Sara Billings, Vincent Carme, Emily Cobb, Ryan Duclos, Sophia Gobeil, Taylor Murphy, Catherine Reynolds, Enessa Stytsenko, Jade Tyler, Leidy Villafana Abarua, Olivia Whittier, Cecilya Wood

**THIRD HONORS**  
Madison Gagne, Alexander Gleason, Haleigh Greene, Yanlea Robles Hernandez

### Grade 12

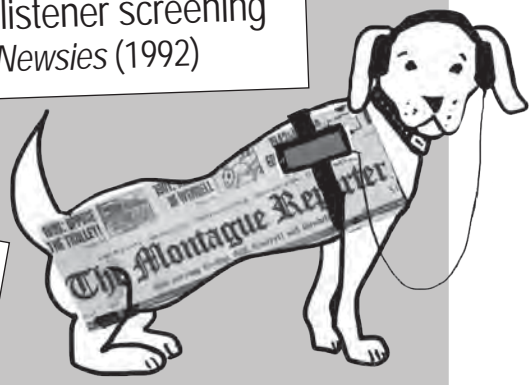
**FIRST HONORS**  
Josy Hunter, Eliza Johnson, Kaitlyn Miner, Vy Sok, Abigail Waite, Jaden Whiting-Martinez, Kamara Woodard

**SECOND HONORS**  
Hailey Bogusz, Cameron Bradley, Jakob Burnett, Chelsea Curtis, Liam Driscoll, Alexandria Francis, Joshua Gaulin, Zackary Mason, Brian Poirier, Anastasia Romashka, Luis Vinton, Lydia Wright

**THIRD HONORS**  
Jaeden Ausikaitis, Edward Reipold, Jakob Shearer

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Sunday, March 1  
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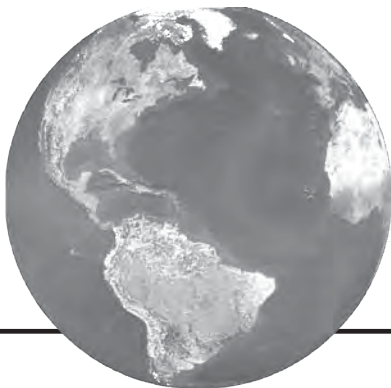
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# Aquí se habla español

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](mailto:spanish@montaguereporter.org).



## ¿Qué significa ser afro-latino?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

Febrero es el mes designado desde 1976 para ser reconocido como el Mes de la Historia Afroamericana en Estados Unidos, Canadá, Reino Unido y los Países Bajos. Se eligió el mes de febrero debido a que en este mes se celebran los cumpleaños de Abraham Lincoln y Frederick Douglass. En este mes en casi todas las escuelas y universidades del país se habla de importantes figuras afroamericanas como Martin Luther King, Barbara Jordan, Malcolm X o Rosa Parks.

Casi nunca se incluyen nombres de afrolatinos que han sido importantes también en la historia de este país. Incluso todavía existe una gran confusión entre ser afrolatino y hablar español.

Así pues, empecemos por el principio: ¿Qué significa ser afrolatino? La historia de Latinoamérica es una historia de mestizaje, aunque muchos se empeñen en negarlo. Ya desde los primeros años de la conquista se estableció el llamado sistema de castas impuesto por los conquistadores y que reflejaba una sociedad estratificada dominada por los españoles de raza blanca, sometidos a la pureza de sangre y en la falda de la pirámide se encontraban los negros y los indios.

Se hicieron multitud de cuadros que representaban las diferentes mezclas y se colgaban en las iglesias u otros lugares públicos en que aparecían las conocidas denominaciones de mestizos, castizos, mulatos, moriscos chinos, salto-atrás, cambujos, jíbaros, lobos, tentes-en-el-aire, etc. y clasificaba bajo estas denominaciones lo que ahora conocemos como multiculturalidad. No debe pues extrañarnos que encontremos a personas de piel negra que hablan español como primera lengua.

Si queremos explicar mejor la idea de afro-latinidad debemos remontarnos a siglos atrás y a la figura de Bartolomé de las Casas. Los españoles esclavizaron a los taínos y la gran mayoría de ellos murieron como resultado de ello o de las enfermedades llevadas por los europeos. Aquí es donde aparece la figura de Bartolomé de las Casas que en principio viajó al Caribe como encomendero, pero que más tarde se convirtió en un fiel defensor de los nativos. De las Casas, al mismo tiempo que abogaba ante el rey de España por mejores condiciones para los nativos, reconocía que debían apoyarse en el esclavismo para



Celia Cruz, cantante afrolatina de salsa de origen cubano.

poder trabajar en las minas y en las tierras. Bartolomé sugirió la introducción de esclavos provenientes del oeste de África para solucionar el problema.

Años después las islas caribeñas del imperio español se convirtieron en lugar de paso para los esclavistas holandeses y británicos. Algunos especialistas consideran que el 95% de los esclavos africanos llegaron al Caribe y Latinoamérica y solamente el 5% llegó a Norteamérica.

No hay que olvidarse tampoco de que los primeros africanos que llegaron a América fueron llevados por los portugueses y españoles en 1492, uno de ellos fue Pedro Alonso Niño que viajó con la primera expedición de Cristóbal Colón. Marineros provenientes del norte de África, conocidos como *libertos* embarcaron en los viajes de los conquistadores españoles especialmente en los primeros años.

Así pues, desde hace siglos América y África, aunque divididas por un océano, están unidas por generaciones de hombres y mujeres que fueron obligados a vivir y trabajar en otro continente que no era el suyo, lo que se conoce como la diáspora. El rey de España, Felipe II, bisnieto de los Reyes Católicos, ideó una estrategia para conseguir dinero a través de la importación de esclavos a América: los asientos. Eran unos permisos especiales que se daban a ciudadanos españoles para importar esclavos a América a cambio del pago de un dinero a la Corona española.

Se cree que durante el siglo XVII llegarían unos 270.000 esclavos a los territorios americanos del Imperio español. La mitad de ellos entraron a través del puerto de Cartagena de Indias en Colombia, unos 70.000 a través de Veracruz en México, unos 45.000 por el puerto de Buenos Ai-

res y el resto por el Caribe u otros puertos como el de Montevideo.

¿Y ahora, qué ocurre 450 años después? Parece que las políticas estatales se han olvidado de que es posible tener la piel negra y hablar español. El censo no entiende que es posible ser latino y negro a la vez y es por ello que se recurre al término afrolatino. Un afrolatino es alguien que tiene orígenes africanos y orígenes latinos. Es importante reconocer la existencia de afrolatinos en la multiculturalidad de este país y la diversidad de la comunidad latina y la comunidad africana. Es cierto que dentro del contexto latinoamericano no se usa el término afrolatino. El afrolatino se define siempre en el contexto de su propia nacionalidad, al contrario que el afroamericano que mira siempre hacia el continente africano.

El afroamericano se asocia con la música hip-hop y el rap, y el afrolatino lo hará dependiendo de su lugar de origen, por ejemplo, si viene de República Dominicana con la bachata y el merengue. Si viene de Cuba, entonces con la salsa y la rumba. Así pues, la única diferencia entre un afrolatino y un afroamericano es simplemente que el primero habla español o portugués como lengua nativa y el afroamericano habla inglés. Por lo tanto, ¿por qué no se incluyen afrolatinos a la hora de celebrar el mes de la historia afroamericana?

Con la intención de repararlo en alguna forma, traigo aquí diez figuras importantes para la historia afrolatina en orden alfabético:

- Pedro Albizu Campos (1911-1965): Político y líder de la lucha por la independencia de Puerto Rico en el siglo XX. En 1936 fue condenado por intento de conspiración contra el gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Albizu denunció que du-

## Tablón de anuncios

• **Food Bank de Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis el tercer miércoles de cada mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con The Food Bank en el teléfono: (413) 247-9738.

• **Ayuda con el censo.** Center for New Americans dispone de clínicas de ayuda para elaborar el censo en Greenfield. Contacten con [tamara@cnam.org](mailto:tamara@cnam.org) si desean más información.

• **Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts** organizado por Center for New Americans vuelve un año más al teatro Shea en Turners Falls el domingo 5 de abril. Tendremos la posibilidad de ver otra vez a artistas ya conocidos y otros nuevos. ¡Les esperamos! Si desean participar como artistas, contacten con [laurie@cnam.org](mailto:laurie@cnam.org).

• **Taller de auxiliar de enfermería** ofrecido por Center for New

Americans. El entrenamiento está dirigido a inmigrantes interesados en el cuidado de la salud, son estudiantes de inglés en su centro y puedan asistir a clase en Smith Vocational School en Northampton los lunes y miércoles por la noche. El entrenamiento comienza el lunes 9 de marzo.

Si usted no es estudiante de inglés ahora mismo en Center for New Americans, todavía puede optar a este entrenamiento gratuito si se inscribe en las clases de inglés antes de esa fecha. Se necesita estar en posesión de permiso de trabajo, tarjeta verde o nacionalidad estadounidense. Escriba a [Sarah@cnam.org](mailto:Sarah@cnam.org) si desea obtener más información.

• **Festival Internacional** organizado por Center for New Americans. Se ofrece la posibilidad de conocer nuevas culturas, productos, lenguas y curiosidades en un solo día hablando con estudiantes y antiguos estudiantes del centro. El Festival Internacional tendrá lugar el sábado 30 de mayo de 12 a 6 de la tarde en el 33 de Hawley Street en Northampton.

rante su estancia en prisión recibió radiaciones como parte de experimentos realizados a presos en las cárceles de Puerto Rico sin conocimiento y autorización de estos. Albizu murió de un cáncer provocado por estas radiaciones.

- Cardy B (Bacalis Almanzar, 2011): Rapera y compositora. Tuvo unos difíciles comienzos en su adolescencia y formó parte de bandas callejeras. Ha sido la primera mujer en ganar un Grammy en la categoría de rap. Se define como feminista y manifiesta abiertamente su oposición a las políticas de inmigración de los Estados Unidos.

- Julia de Burgos (1914-1953): Poetisa puertorriqueña que luchó por la liberación femenina. Compañera de partido político de Albizu Campos abogó por la independencia de Puerto Rico.

- Celia Cruz (1925-2003): Cantante cubana que murió en Miami y fue el máximo exponente de la música cubana en el mundo, especialmente de la salsa. Salió de Cuba siendo muy joven y nunca volvió a la isla. Manifestó siempre en público su rechazo a la política de Fidel Castro. Su entierro paralizó la ciudad de Miami.

- Gwen Ifill (1955-2016): Periodista de ascendencia panameña que fue la primera mujer de origen

africano en conducir un espacio político en la televisión.

- Miriam Jimenez Roman (1964-): Autora del libro *The Afro-Latin@ Reader* en el que expone sus propias experiencias acerca de la latinidad. Activista de los derechos de los afrolatinos en los Estados Unidos.


- Carlos Moore (1942-): Sociólogo e historiador de origen cubano que es conocido por su lucha contra el racismo y por ser el autor de la biografía del saxofonista y activista nigeriano Fela Kuti.

- Piri Thomas (1928-2011): Nacido en Harlem y autor de su autobiografía *Down these mean streets* en que narra la dificultad para un chico puertorriqueño-cubano para sobrevivir en Nueva York sin entrar en los círculos de violencia de las calles. Fue uno de los autores que crearon el movimiento Nuyorican.

- Zoe Saldaña (1978-): Actriz de origen puertorriqueño y dominicano y ganadora de un premio *Alma*. Es muy conocida por su participación en la película Avatar.

- Arturo Schomburg (1874-1938): Historiador de la diáspora africana. Fue una figura importantísima del movimiento Harlem Renaissance. Fundó *The Negro Society for Historical Research* con el fin de impulsar los estudios afroamericanos.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Picard Marathon Viewing Party*. Watch the new Star Trek series with fellow fans. 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Juliana Hatfield*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Swing Caravan*. Benefit for the GCC Foundation. \$. 7 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Lentz Trio*. 8:30 p.m.

Sierra Grille, Northampton: *Niagara Moon, Pearl Sugar, Pyramid Thieves*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Valentine Musical Review* featuring *Ariana Zucker, Noah Tilley, Nash Atkins, Jed Blume, and Marcy Gregoire*. Songs of love and heartache. \$. 6 p.m.

Lady Killigrew Cafe, Montague Center: *Charlotte Young, Groundskeeper, and Sweet Lightning*. 6 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro, VT: Movie, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Opening performance by *Anomali & Ophelia* on vibraphone and electronics. \$. 7 p.m.

The Hive, Greenfield: *Wallace Field, Elliott Lee Friesen*. All ages. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Love Sick*, a Valentine's party with *DJ Gus* of Boy Harsher. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *James Muschler Party*. Dubstep, hip hop, drum & bass. \$. 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Joe Belmont Experience*. In the Perch. \$. 7 p.m.

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

Mount Toby Concerts, Leverett: *Reggie Harris & Pat Wictor*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm* movie double feature: *Labyrinth* and *The Never-ending Story*. \$5 cover, beer and wine at the bar. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Ruth Garbus, Mal Devisa, and Hollow Deck*. Managing editor's pick. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Danny Pease & the Regulators, Fire in the Field, Immortal Jellyfish*. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro, VT: *Phobos: Dysfunctional Robot Orchestra*. An orchestra comprised of small robots and automatic music generation devices created by Sonoscopia, an experimental music collective based in Portugal. \$. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Equalites*. Reggae. 8:30 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Heath Lewis*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Voo Valentines Hangover with Nanny, Giant Sadness, LA Arrest, and Donna Geese*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: Screening, *Free Spirits: The Birth, Life, and Loss of a New Age Dream*. Documentary on 1970s Franklin County religious commune. Free, all ages. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Traditional Irish Music in the Wheelhouse*. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Shea Lobby Tapes Listening Series presents *Hawthorn, Sweet Lightning*, and *Wallace Field*. In the lobby. \$. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Children's music series. Live, interactive music by educator Marcy Gregoire, accompanied by movement specialist Hilary Lake. Puppets, costumes, musical instruments. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Open Mic Night*. New open mic night for fresh and local musicians. 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Electronic Music open mic*. \$. 7 p.m.

Majestic Saloon, Northampton: *Corey Laitman, Sister Jawbone, Julie Cira & The Wake*. \$. 9 p.m.

Sierra Grille, Northampton: *Minibeast, Ex-Temper, Land Man*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sayreal, Rebelle*. In the Perch. \$. 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Dar Williams, Crys Matthews*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The 60's Experience*. \$. 7 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Wishbone Zoe* album release show, with *Hot Dirt, Hoonah, and Fred Cracklin*. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro VT: *And the Kids*, with *Thus Love*. \$. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Wild Bill and the Flying Sparks*. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Annie Blech, CHS, Jacob Winans, and Gene Machine 2.0*. \$. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wub-witus VII* with *Eknocks, FUZD*. In the Wheelhouse. \$. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Freedom & Struggle Song Swap*. Singalong and potluck. Donation. \$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mana Fest Winter Luau* with *Terrafunk, The Diamondstones, Px3, Nate Martel, Eli Elkus, Stone Dynamite, DJ Funky Bottoms, and DJ Vibe Wise*. \$. 6 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Dar Williams, Amelia Chalfant*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mardi Gras Get Down* feat. *Zydeco Connection, Bourbon Street Blasters*. Show up early for zydeco dance lessons! In the Perch. \$. 7 p.m.

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

Calvin Theater, Northampton: *Kamasi Washington, Honeycomb*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Lindsay Foote, Corey Laitman, and Hoonah*. \$. 9 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Storypalooza 2*. Featuring storytellers *Susanne Schmidt Susanne, Tone Nunes, Jannelle Codianni, and David Bulley*. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro VT: *Driftwood*, with *Lily Sexton and Max Wareham*. \$. 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Swing Sunday with the *Butterfly Swing Band*. \$. 3 p.m.

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

## CALLS FOR ART

#Local Gallery, Easthampton seeks works in 2 and 3D that relate to "Mountains Majesty." All mediums are eligible, and the gallery encourages artists to "think outside the box" on this theme. Deadline: February 26. Submission fee of \$35 for up to 3 images; see details at [localgallerybyciderhouse.com](http://localgallerybyciderhouse.com) or call (413) 203-5781.

Sixth Annual May Day Fine Arts Sale at the Montague Center Library (second floor) seeks Montague artists interested in selling their work that day. Any medium, with a sale price of \$150 and under, is welcome. The event will be held May 3, in conjunction with the May Day celebrations on the Montague Center town common. Send an email of interest by March 6 to [montague.art.movement@gmail.com](mailto:montague.art.movement@gmail.com).



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SUNDAY 2/16  
11A **Jazz Brunch w/ Andrew DiRuzza**  
9P **Karaoke!**

MONDAY 2/17 8P  
**Quiz Night**

WEDNESDAY 2/19 9P  
**Dead Night w/ Owsley's Owls**

THURSDAY 2/20 7:30P  
**Half Shaved Jazz**



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## EXHIBITS

Art Deviation Gallery, South Deerfield: Edgy and thought-provoking art from around the world. Featured artists from France: Christophe Mourthé, Cathy Peylan, and Anne Eliayan.

Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Woven Together*. A community exhibit about relationships. Through February.

Artspace, Greenfield: *46th Annual Teen Art Show*. Featuring selected art works from students from 12 public and private schools in the Pioneer Valley. Through February 14.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Ask the River*. Elizabeth Billings, Evie Lovett, and Andrea Wasserman have created a community art exhibit on the theme of the Connecticut River. Postcard writing forms an interactive component. Opening reception 11 a.m. Saturday, February 15. Discussion about the river with artists, historians, and conservators, February 27,

7 p.m. Through March 7.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *My Little Town*, member exhibit, in tandem with solo exhibit *Paintings by Bev Phelps*. Through March 8.

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.

GCC South Gallery, Greenfield: *Juana Valdes*. Printmaking, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and site-specific installations, to explore issues of race, transnationalism, gender, labor, and class. Gallery talk on February 26 at noon. Through February 27.

Hampden Gallery, UMass-Amherst: *Christine Texiera: Release the Moorings*. Mixed media paintings using a pouring tech-

nique. Through February 28.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Lynne Stopen: Birds Bring Peace*. Drawings of birds in graphite and colored pencil, capturing their unique characteristics. Through February.

Leverett Library: *Unlocking the Past: A Public Domain Exhibit*. A traveling exhibit from the UMass Libraries, celebrating the 2019 release of a large number of copyrighted items from 1923 into the public domain. UMass-Amherst copyright and information policy librarian Laura Quilter will give a talk about copyright and art on Thursday, February 27, at 6 p.m. A reception will follow the talk.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Looky Here 2020: A Submission Based Art Show*. Works by over 30 regional artists in a variety of media: paintings, poetry, video, sculpture. Through April.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne: *Wool Works: Making Art and The Intuitive Process of Play*. Exhibit by Rachelle Royer-Lla-

mas. Through February 28.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Re-opening February 13 with *Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut*. Group show of erotic art from 30 artists including sculpture, photography, poetry, prints, and more. Reception February 15 with erotic popup vendors in the Shea Theater lobby, 5 to 7 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Small Works Exhibit and Sale*. A non-juried exhibit of small-scale community artwork. Through February 29.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Sweet*, a group show celebrating the sweetness of the season. Paintings, ceramics, leather, paper cuts, jewelry, wood and ornaments by member artists. Through February 24.

Smith College Art Museum, Northampton: *Black Refractions*, highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem, through April 12. Also at the museum, *A Dust Bowl of Dog Soup: Picturing the Great Depression*. Featuring 50 photo-

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WEST ALONG from page B1

team that year came to Syracuse to play an exhibition game against Doug’s Syracuse Stars. Boston was riding high, reigning World Champions, and figured this little warm-up against Syracuse would help get them ready to play a tough series against Ty Cobb’s Detroit Tigers.

Doug was slated to take the mound for the Stars against none other than opposing pitcher Babe Ruth. But the Babe had another one of those days when he was “indisposed,” likely having ingested too many hot dogs and beers.

Uncle Doug and his Stars shellacked the Sox 5-2, and Doug was the toast of the town in Syracuse. Headlines proclaimed “Smith Pitches Syracuse to Victory!” “Stars conquer Red Sox!” “Smith Twirls Baffling Ball!” and “American League Champs Fall Before Syracuse!”

Revenge was sweet, the Millers Falls boy had humbled the World Champion Red Sox. But shortly after this victory, by 1917 he was drafted into the Army to help the American effort in World War I. That is, he was drafted to play baseball for Uncle Sam! He spent the war years dominating opposing batters while pitching for the Army’s team at Fort Upton, New York.

By the time of his wife Gertrude’s letter writing in 1921, Doug was already reaching the end of his baseball career. She was still alone at home, taking care of the day-to-day necessities.

*And if I can I would like to cann some string beans in this year. For they will certainly taste good this winter won't they. I have your insurance payed the \$2.40 and Thursday I will pay our coal up... then next week I will pay our rent out of my pay, for I would like to save yours if I can.*

*My sister is just about the same she has a nurse now I guess she was pretty sick, it is new monia [sic] that she and the boy has. I certainly was glad to know you won your game. And I do hope you will win every one.*

*You said your arm was not much better! Are you using that skunk's oil, don't use it only once or twice a week for it is bad if you use it too much. So don't use to much will you hubby.*

*I haven't been out of the house tonight for I have been working on my dress...I just stopped working on it for I wanted to write to you Dug. So I guess I will close hoping all is well and that your arm will be better...so take good care of yourself, and God be with you until we meet.*

*From your loving wifey Gertrude.*

When his ball-playing days were just about over, Doug finally came home to his wife Gertrude, and both worked at the Millers Falls Paper Company until the 1960s. He continued coaching baseball for local teams and playing occasionally, but an appendicitis operation slowed down his fastball.

One of his last comeback games was against the Colored All-Stars, who came to town in 1924. He pitched six innings, then couldn’t get out of bed for days.

Doug and Gertrude settled into a quiet life on Pleasant Street. They never did have any children, and fame had eluded him, a victim of racial prejudice and fleeting youth. I dare say that Gertrude was just as happy to have her husband home at last.

But who was Gertrude Schworm? A few scant records, these three letters, an old photograph or two, and a tombstone in Highland Cemetery are all that’s left to tell us about her. It’s so hard to discern now, one hundred years after her letters told of her day-to-day tasks, small accomplishments, and the steadfast loneliness of the young woman who remained in the shadows.

Somehow, though, I think it was meant to happen, that we were meant to find those loving letters, to have the chance to see into the past, into those quiet days of village life and greet her, the young Ball-Player’s Wife, even if only for a few lines in this story.



Valley Eye Radio Seeks Volunteer Readers

SPRINGFIELD – As a non-profit affiliate of the MA Reading Network, Valley Eye Radio reads over 30 different local newspapers and publications, including the *Montague Reporter*, for broadcast free of charge to the blind, visually impaired, and those who are unable to read independently for themselves due to a disability or other condition. They cover Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden County.

Valley Eye Radio is in the process of expanding their locally produced programming. They are looking for people who enjoy reading aloud and would be able to donate one hour a week of their time – either at their studios at the WGBY building in downtown Springfield, or remotely from their own home – to help their neighbors fight social isolation and stay connected to their local communities.

To do this, they are looking to find additional volunteer readers. You can be like Jan, the volunteer reader who currently reads the *Montague Reporter* for broadcast every Friday afternoon for their listeners.

Valley Eye Radio invites you to consider joining their volunteer reader family. Please contact Harold Anderson, programming coordinator, at (413) 747-7337 or [harold@valleyeyeradio.org](mailto:harold@valleyeyeradio.org) for more information. Please also get in touch if you know of someone who has a need of their free service.

For updates on what Valley Eye Radio has been up to lately, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.



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