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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 7

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Two New Shops Open in Turners Falls

Downtown: La Bella Florist

By EDITE CUNHA



La Bella owner Melissa Pippin.

LaBella Florist opened on Second Street on November 1. LaBella is a full-service flower shop, providing services for all sorts of events: proms, showers, weddings and funerals. In addition, customers may drop in for a single bud or a bouquet. Nothing is too small or too big.

"I already have some local regulars," proprietor Melissa Pippin of Greenfield says, smiling. "A couple of guys come in for flowers for their

girlfriends."

One half of the bright shop is filled with sunlight and flowers. Cici, the resident cat, may saunter over to greet you. Vintage mirrors expand the space and reflect light, further enlarging the already roomy interior.

The other half of the shop is filled with second-hand, vintage and antique furniture and other items of interest; items "that still have lots of life in them," according to Pippin.

see **LA BELLA** page A4

On the Hill: PICKED

By EDITE CUNHA

Not all the cool shops in Turners Falls are downtown. **PICKED: Art, Antiques, Furniture and More** is just up the hill, and it is very cool indeed.

If you find yourself in need of a black shirt that once belonged to Johnny Cash (certified authentic); a life-sized cast iron horse's head; a tractor seat kitchen stool; or a free book – yes, most of the books in the shop are free – head on up the hill to **PICKED**, at 194 Millers Falls Road.

You'll see the sandwich board

sign out by the road when you near Rubin's Garage. Look for an antique tractor, a tidy façade, and bright blue trim.

The shop was opened two months ago by Jeremy Young and Lauren Grenier, who combined their skills and appreciation of interesting merchandise in the venture.

Jeremy began collecting stuff about eight years ago, he says, when he was messing around with old engines, mopeds, old boats and such. He still loves old mechanical things. There are antique outdoor

see **PICKED** page A6



An antique tractor, one of the odd and unusual finds at the new **PICKED** shop.

Down to The Wire: Turners 20, Franklin Tech 12

By MATT ROBINSON

Full disclosure: Franklin Tech is my second-favorite high school football team, ranked just above Brockton. So if Turners doesn't win the states, I want Tech to win it all.

Unfortunately for both teams, they were each eliminated in the playoffs, and the dream Western Mass Championship game never happened. Instead, the two teams played in the consolation game on Saturday, November 14.

And even though the game wasn't for a trophy, it turned out to be a close-fought nail biter, which wasn't decided until the game's final seconds, when Tech found themselves with a first and goal from the

see **FOOTBALL** page A7



Turners Falls quarterback Tionne Brown hands off to running back Quinn Doyle early in Saturday's game at Franklin Tech.

TAKING SHAPE



Ed Gregory shared this picture of progress on Unity Skatepark. Curved rebar holds the shape of the park's main bowl.

Women in Engineering and Computing Conference At UMass Inspires Franklin County Tech Students

By MICHAEL REARDON

TURNERS FALLS – Cat Landers has a passion for chemical engineering, so her visit to the Women in Engineering and Computing Career Day at UMass-Amherst opened her eyes to possibilities for her beyond high school.

"The conference gave me an insight into internships, career paths, scholarships, and opportunities for the future," said the Franklin County Technical School senior. "Chemical engineering matches my other passion for marine biology. I only wish they would have this conference more than once a year."

Landers, 17, of Millers Falls, was one of eight female FCTS students to attend the annual Women in Engineering and Computing Career Day Conference. More

see **ENGINEERING** page A5



More than 200 young women from 25 high schools, including eight from the Franklin County Technical School, explored the fields of engineering and computing through hands-on activities at the Women in Engineering and Computing Career Day.

Health Board Invites Village Water Officials for "Friendly Discussion"

By JEFF SINGLETON

Karen Casey-Chretien, who lives on Union Street in Montague Center, told the Montague Board of Health at its November 19 meeting that she found out about the potential contamination of her water four days after the neighborhood source had tested positive for *E. coli* bacteria.

"Why so darn late?" she asked. "Thank god it wasn't a catastrophe!"

Casey-Chretien was one of several Montague Center residents who approached the board Wednesday to discuss "standard operating proce-

dures" for water contamination.

"It was a disaster," said Chris Boutwell, noting that many residents who learned about the problem did not know what water line they were on. He stated that he had walked into health director Gina McNeely's office to discuss the problem and found her busy on the phone, talking to a resident about the water problem.

"The fact is, the system is broken," said McNeely. "No pun intended."

Michael Nelson, chair of the town selectboard and member of its board of health, said that "to

see **WATER** page A8

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Department of Ed Plans New Hybrid Standardized Test For 2017

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

In response to an announcement earlier in the day by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) commissioner Mitchell Chester of Massachusetts's new plan for standardized testing in its public schools, Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan gave a report at Tuesday's school committee meeting about the district's own plan for testing.

The Board of Elementary and

Secondary Education, taking into consideration commissioner Chester's recommendations, along with comments and suggestions from educators, voted to "transition to a next-generation MCAS that would include elements of PARCC and MCAS items, [and] items developed specifically for the Massachusetts tests."

This new hybrid test would be administered for the first time in the spring of 2017.

see **GMRSD** page A4

Legislators Agree to Lift Solar Cap, Seek Compromise on Cost Sharing

By JEFF SINGLETON

BOSTON – Faced with the possibility that the state's highly successful solar program will grind to a halt this winter, the state legislature has been working feverishly over the past few days to lift the cap on the policy called "net metering." In the process, legislators have had to confront demands from the energy industry, manufacturers, and the governor to reduce the cost of the program.

An initial bill from the state House of Representatives contained so many provisions anathema to solar advocates that they mounted a fu-

rious campaign to defeat it. The Senate, on the other hand, has eliminated or modified these parts of the bill.

Late Wednesday afternoon, the House rejected the Senate amendments, and representatives from the two chambers were meeting in a conference to try to resolve the differences.

Meanwhile, Governor Baker is on vacation at an "undisclosed location," according to the State House News Service.

Two related issues have driven this debate.

First, the net metering program, which has played a key role in

see **SOLAR** page A5

The Montague Reporter

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"A Line in the Sand, Or Boundary in the Air"

January: *Baga and Shikarpur*. February: *Fotokol*. March: *Sana'a, Maiduguri and Tunis*. April: *Garissa and Jalalabad*. June: *Monguno and Kobani*. July: *Kukawa, Damaturu, Khan Bani Saad, and Suruc*. August: *Douma, from the sky, and Baghdad*. September: *Maiduguri, again, and al-Hasakah*. October: *Ankara and Sinai*. November: *Beirut and Paris*.

2015 has seen a disheartening number of large-scale incidents of violence directed against civilians.

On October 10, two suicide bombers detonated explosive vests in the midst of a peace rally held by trade unionists and secular and Kurdish parties in Ankara, Turkey. Video from the attack showed activists dancing arm in arm when the bombs hit. 102 died, and hundreds more were injured.

And on November 12, two more suicide bombers killed 43 people in a predominantly Shi'a neighborhood of Beirut, Lebanon. They targeted a mosque, and then emergency responders.

Both attacks, in modern capitals of countries bordering Syria, were claimed by the Islamic State (IS). Taken together, they highlight a new phase of the group's strategy.

Syria is being devastated by a three-way, or even a four-way, war. The attacks in Ankara and Beirut hit at civilian bases that Kurdish militias and Hezbollah, respectively, seek to represent; in Syria, those groups are fighting against, and for, the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

Simply drawing more firepower into the maelstrom has so far worked to the IS's advantage. Turkey's airstrikes in Syria and Iraq this summer focused instead on Kurds, and Russia's efforts to prop up Assad were at first aimed at rebel groups that also oppose the IS.

A couple weeks after Russian strikes moved east toward Islamic State targets, a passenger jet full of Russian civilians was apparently bombed after takeoff from Egypt's Sinai peninsula. And France, which had for a year been bombing the IS in Iraq, had only recently shifted westward to targets in Syria when affiliated terrorists struck in Paris last week.

By murdering Russian and French citizens, just as with Lebanese Shi'a and Turkish Kurds, the IS will manage to build both the pro-Assad and anti-Assad coalitions.

This will, in turn, prolong the war, and create more refugees. The Syrian Network for Human Rights estimated that of 276 people killed by Russian shelling in October, 263 were "civilians including 86 children and 44 women," and that only 13 were "gunmen."

From an initial population of 22 million, 220,000 Syrians have lost their lives, and over 12 million have abandoned their homes, since the war in their country began in 2011. Most of them are still "internally displaced," but the UN Refugee Agency has registered 4.2 million in other countries.

That the IS is willing to draw damage to itself in order to destabilize Syria makes sense in the long run, given that the group thrives in spaces left by collapsing institutions, and would probably be quite content to reign over a smoldering, 400-mile-wide crater.

It is precisely this black-flag and smoking-crater chic that lends it such an oppositional appeal among the unhappy Western youth who flock to join it.

We are told the Paris attack was masterminded by a young man named Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who grew up in a fairly well-off and secular Moroccan-Belgian family, who had traveled twice to Syria and back in the last two years.

Of the five perpetrators identified as of our press time, all five are believed to have been born in France. One of the three as-yet unidentified attackers was carrying a forged Syrian passport, with which he (or someone) traveled through Greece in October. It is not yet known whether he was in fact from Syria, or a European who used the document to slip back home.

Nevertheless, while grieving families are still identifying the remains of their lost loved ones, that single passport has been gleefully pounced on by nationalist politicians across Europe and the US as a vindication of their worst suspicions of the refugees.

Nearly all of the 4.2 million who have left Syria have only crossed one border: 2.1 million are in Turkey, 1.6 million in Jordan and Lebanon. Over 680,000 have now applied for asylum in the EU, where they are joined by Eritreans, Afghans and others.

Between January 2011 and last month, a total of 2,062 Syrian asylum seekers had been relocated to

the United States, according to data provided by the State Department's Refugee Processing Center.

That figure, oddly enough, is just about equal to the estimated number of French (1,600) and Belgian (440) nationals who have traveled to Iraq and Syria to join up with IS.

The US government has offered to take in 10,000 Syrians – amounting to a measly 0.2% of those who have fled the country.

Unfortunately, we are now within a year of a presidential election, and a massacre of Europeans was exactly the opening the opposition party in the US was waiting for.

Ted Cruz called the Obama administration's embarrassingly weak offer of hospitality "nothing short of lunacy," and he and Jeb Bush both proposed that only Syrians who are Christians should be admitted to the country.

"Our president wants to take in 250,000 refugees from Syria," Donald Trump lied. "We don't know who they are. They could be ISIS."

"Let's build an encampment for them," Mike Huckabee said helpfully on Tuesday, "but closer to where they live." He also warned his countrymen to "wake up and smell the falafel."

"We can't background check them," added Marco Rubio. "You can't pick up the phone and call Syria."

"I don't think orphans under five are being, you know, should be admitted into the United States," said Chris Christie, when asked if he would make an exemption for that specific category of potential Syrian terrorists.

"When we draw a line in the sand or boundary in the air, the world needs to understand that we mean it," explained Ben Carson, calling on Congress to defund the refugee program.

Rand Paul obliged and went one better, introducing a bill in the Senate that would place a moratorium on visas, not only for Syrians but for people fleeing "about 30 countries."

"I talked to a coal miner out of work yesterday from Eastern Kentucky," Paul said. "We don't have enough to be bringing people from around the world and putting them on government assistance."

John Kasich complained that "U.S. diplomacy and international broadcasting have lost their focus" and that he would "consolidate them into a new agency" to pro-

mote "Judeo-Christian values" in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Carly Fiorina said she was "angry that President Obama unilaterally decides that we'll accept up to 100,000 Syrian refugees while his administration admits we cannot determine their ties to terrorism."

Thirty-one state governments are led by Republican governors, and twenty-seven of those vowed this week not to cooperate with federal resettlement of any Syrians. Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker was among them, and they were also joined by New Hampshire's Democratic governor, Maggie Hassan.

(State governors do not have the authority to refuse refugee settlement, but in practical terms, they can make their lives hellish.)

Baker claimed he needed to know what kind of vetting process Syrians would be subject to. Massachusetts congressman Seth Moulton criticized him, saying it was a "shame" he "doesn't know the difference between refugees and those from whom they need refuge."

State senate president Stan Rosenberg defended Baker's position. Stan, if you're reading this: Potential asylum seekers are screened first by the UN Refugee Agency, and then by the Departments of State and Homeland Security and seven other agencies. This process can take up to two years, and involves medical tests, security reviews and several rounds of interviews. Half don't pass.

But there is no proper vetting practice that could review the parents of an Abdelhamid Abaaoud and predict one day their child would betray his family and attack his society. No vetting of Anzor Tsamaev, fleeing with his family from the Chechen Wars, could tell that his 8- and 15-year-old sons would embrace a new sort of piety in response to their experience in America.

The reason such people are recruited by movements that seek to brutalize existing society has something to do with what they are like. But it also has something to do with what the entire world is like, and what "we" are like.

And letting several million traumatized war survivors languish in camps and detention centers in a blanket attempt to throttle the mobility of Muslims *might* not be the best way to promote "Judeo-Christian values" – nor to prevent the next generation's terrorist attacks.



"Sorry, but you folks have a really violent history. We can't ensure our safety if we let you stay."

MADELINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

Letter to



the Editors

Montague Property Tax Hike: "A Big Jump"

Kudos to selectman Chris Boutwell for sympathizing with residents concerning the \$115 tax increase.

I am a senior on a fixed income, and my annuity does not increase. This is a big jump. I have a 5-room house and a half acre of land.

Here we pay for trash pickup (stickers), and we have a fire tax, all separate from our real estate tax.

When I lived in Florida I had a real nice home and one acre of land. We paid our taxes to the county. We didn't have trash pickup, but there were plenty of recycle and disposal areas around the county. We had a full-time fire department, too. All this was included in our real estate tax. I paid around \$1,300 for all of this. Why can't we do this here?

I understand the town has to pay its bills, but it would seem to me if property values go down, taxes should too. We seem to be getting back to "Taxachusetts"!

It's bad enough you buy a shorter loaf of bread and pay more, a box of cereal that is not filled up, and pay more – and the list goes on and on.

This town needs to go to an open town meeting where everybody can both speak and vote on how our taxes are spent, instead of elected representatives from each precinct which are never all filled. We are a town, not a city.

George L. Payzant
Turners Falls

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

This Saturday, November 21, certainly is shaping up to be a busy day in Turners Falls.

The **Gill/Montague Senior Center Christmas Bazaar** will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check out all the raffle prizes, crafts, gifts and white elephant tables. Held at the Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, in Turners Falls.

The **Little Drummer Craft Fair** returns to the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This juried craft fair features over sixty-five artists and craftspeople from throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond, presenting their unique handcrafted products.

You will also find raffles, as well as refreshments, luncheon items and

baked goods available, all prepared by our culinary students. Pick up a pie just in time for Thanksgiving.

This year, help support the Tech School food drive by bringing two canned goods to the Craft Fair, and receive a ticket for a special drawing. Help make this the biggest food drive ever.

All proceeds from this event benefit the FCTS Music Department and award-winning FCTS Renegades Drumline. Admission and parking are free.

The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will also be opening for the public the **used book room** in the basement of the Carnegie Library on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Books and DVDs will be priced individually at tag sale prices: paperbacks 25 cents, or 5 for \$1; hardcover, DVDs and audio books \$1 each.

Not to worry, the library will still have their "books by the bag" sales a couple of times a year. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All funds will be used to support all Montague libraries.

Get in the Holiday Spirit with the Spirit Shoppe on Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Come and learn from local experts Kate Phillips and Steve Schechterle of the Spirit Shoppe in Gill just how to pair cheese, wine and food for your Holiday party or lavish family dinner.

Eliminate the guessing by learning how the various foods and beverages join together to compliment, tantalize and satisfy even the most experienced connoisseur! The most elegant spread does not need to be your entire paycheck.

And the **Annual Beaver Moon Gathering**, co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and DCR, will be held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, from noon to 3 p.m.

There will be a guest speaker at 12:30 p.m., time for discussion and reflection after, and light refreshments. Visit www.nolumbeka.org or visit the Nolumbeka Project Facebook page for more details.

By the way – the **United States Armed Forces** will be holding drills at the Turners Falls Airport this weekend. So if you see transport helicopters hovering in the sky over Turners Falls, we are not under siege, nor are they looking for unleashed, street-pooing dogs. It is just a training exercise.

Why Turners Falls? Good question. Ought to scare the heck out of the attendees at the Powderpuff football game and folks attending the craft fair, both events being at the Tech School just down the road from the airport.

Alone on Thanksgiving? All are Welcome! Come to a free Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings at the Montague Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Avenue in Turners Falls.

The delicious dinner starts at noon and will continue through 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 26.

Bring a friend who might enjoy a hot meal on this day of giving thanks. Courtesy of those generous members of the Montague Elks Lodge #2521.

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) will be providing **free rides on all of its fixed route buses** throughout Friday, November 27. This "Free Day" coincides with the seasonal "Black Friday" shopping tradition.

This is an excellent opportunity for residents around the region to try out transit, shop locally, and not have to worry about parking.

The FRTA will be operating a normal weekday schedule for its Free Day, which can be found at: www.frtc.org. The FRTA would like to welcome new passengers, and thank all of the existing passengers for their loyalty.

The **5th Annual TFHS All-Class Reunion** will be held in the Extra Point Nightclub at Between the Uprights on Avenue A and Second Street in Turners Falls on Friday, November 27, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. – come on down anytime.

Alum Lew Collins has again generously offered the use of his facility.

There will be music, raffles, munchies, and lots of socializing and reminiscing. Plan to join us, and help get the word out to your classmates as we challenge all TFHS classes to see which class will have the most attendees at this event.

This is a great opportunity to see old friends, classmates, teachers, etc. – and remember, it's free.

All are invited to the 7th Anniversary Reading of the ongoing "**As You Write It: A Franklin County Anthology**," featuring Pushcart nominees Estelle Cade, Patricia Carlisle, Joan Coughlin, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Robin Panagakos, Joseph A. Parzych, and Pushcart winner Laura Rodley.

The reading will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Fifth Street in Turners Falls.

Also enjoy a "Celebration of Songs of Yesteryear" singalong, with raffles and more. Delicious refreshments will be served. This lively event is free, and wheelchair accessible.

Unfortunately, it is that time of year again: A reminder that Montague's **Winter Parking Ban** goes into effect on December 1 and lasts until April 1.

During that time, on-street parking is banned between 1 and 5 a.m.

Understanding the world of plants can help teach us about ourselves, expand our self-knowledge and lead to greater harmony with our environment.

Local author Val Vaughan will give a talk on the book, *For the Love of All Seasons: A Natural Guide to Human Nature* on Wednesday, December 2, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Griswold Memorial Library, Route 112, in the center of Colrain. The event is free. For more info, call (413) 624-3619.

Participate in **Project WILD Workshop**, a professional development workshop for educators of students in grades K-12, on Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Millers River Environmental Center, at 100 Main Street in Athol.

Don't miss the opportunity to receive training in this award-winning, interdisciplinary, nationally recognized program. One of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs, Project WILD emphasizes terrestrial and aquatic wildlife because of their intrinsic, ecological value, as well as their role in teaching how ecosystems function.

Participants will receive a copy of the guide and a certificate of completion. This hands-on workshop has applications for school teachers, scout leaders, camp counselors, nature center staff, home educators, after care teachers, etc.

Project WILD is sponsored in the state by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Contact Dawn Marvin Ward at dward@crocker.com or (413) 367-9562. **Registration deadline is November 24.**

There will be **no Montague Reporter published the week of Thanksgiving**. So no need to call the office wondering why your paper was not delivered – we won't be there!

Enjoy the holiday.

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 11/6/2015:

Grade 6
Hannah Warnock

Grade 7
Amber Taylor
Paige Bonarrigo

Grade 8
Joseph Kochan

Letter to the Editors

Taxes, Sewer Rates Must Cover Set Costs

Montague's selectboard recently held hearings for both sewer rates and town property taxes, to be applied for fiscal year 2016 (July 2015 through June 2016). The purpose of the rates is to generate enough income to cover the spending approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2015.

Treatment plant superintendent Bob Trombley and director of assessing Karen Tonelli provided the supporting information; property tax rates are still subject to final review by the state Department of Revenue.

At both hearings, selectboard member Chris Boutwell said he found the rate increases excessive, and voted against the sewer increase. I understand Mr. Boutwell's concern for the impact of higher rates on lower-income residents, but his response did not indicate what part of the supporting information he found inadequate.

In addition to the approved spending, the calculation reflects the "base value" that the rate is applied to. For the current year, these department heads expect little or no growth in water usage, or the assessed value of property. In response to this, the rates must rise, unless spending is flat or reduced.

Mr. Boutwell has not suggested a change in the cost, or level, of the services residents have requested. The basic services provided by both the treatment plant and town government cannot easily be reduced, or provided at less cost, in response to a lower base.

On the sewer side, we cannot realistically reduce the hours of operation or the miles of piping

to offset less water volume going to the treatment plant. Future increases might be softened by lower investment in the treatment plant itself, or in the sewer mains, but only at considerable risk to the system's adequacy.

On the town side, lower property values can't be offset by lower spending without reducing services or providing them in a different way. Some services are required by law (certain functions in town hall), and residents value highly other services (snow plowing, road repair, police and emergency services, libraries, and parks).

It is true that income tax payments consider our ability to pay, but sewer rates and property taxes are based only on water consumed, or the property value.

For ratepayers wanting to lower their bills, this poses a dilemma: reducing one's usage will lower one's own sewer bill, but not immediately. Property owners whose value dropped in the last year may see little change in their actual payment, but some of the tax burden will shift to those whose values did not drop.

At this time, if residents have suggestions of how services can be provided at less cost, or in a different manner, I encourage them to contact the town department involved. But a rate is "excessive" only if its foundation does not reflect town needs and values.

This is my own opinion, and does not represent the position of the finance committee.

John Hanold
Turners Falls

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LA BELLA from page A1

Pippin offers a do-it-yourself option for weddings, where the parties can come in and consult with her, pick out their preferred flowers and learn how to make their bouquets. This option appeals both to those who want to do their own flowers and those who need to save money.

She also plans to offer classes in floral arrangement and design, as well as wreath-making for both adults and children. Children are really interested in the process, and love flowers, she says. They can start by making simple arrangements like bud vases.

The other half of the business, the used furniture and household

goods, is a make-an-offer affair.

"It kind of fell into my lap," she says, explaining that she gets most of her merchandise for this venture from a friend who does moving and clean-outs.

She is interested in repurposing and "up-cycling" items, and points out some chairs and stools she has re-upholstered and tables she has painted.

Nothing is priced in this part of the shop. If a customer is hesitant to voice an offer, then she will make a suggestion. And, her prices are very fair. Energetic and positive, she moves about the shop arranging, moving things as she talks.

"I think I must be the fairest per-

son on earth," she says.

Pippin, who has been in the florist business for over thirty years, was not planning to open a new shop after moving to the area from Florida four years ago. But she saw an opportunity in Turners Falls and decided to jump on it. As a small business, she says, she cannot employ a lot of people, but does employ a few, and is providing a needed service as well as helping to make the downtown more viable.

"If more small people like me open more small businesses like this, we can help a community to

thrive," she says.

And she is, of course, right. The lively space, which she is clearly very happy with, sat empty for several years since its former occupant, 2nd Street Baking Co., moved to Fourth Street. Now, through Pippin's efforts, it offers downtown Turners Falls another vibrant and cool new shop.

LaBella Florist accepts all major credit cards and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 to 2 p.m.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Hears Estimate for Cleanup at IP Property

By KATIE NOLAN

The town of Erving heard on Monday about a potential quarter-million-dollar bill for environmental cleanup at the former International Paper property. Environmental consultant Tighe & Bond (T&B) provided a Pre-Demolition Hazardous Building Materials Assessment for the town-owned site.

State regulations require assessment of potential asbestos-containing material before redevelopment or demolition of buildings. Other hazardous materials, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and lead paint, require special precautions during demolition, renovation and disposal.

Building components at the site, including window frame caulking, fire doors, glazing compound and vinyl sheet flooring, either tested positive for asbestos or were assumed to contain asbestos. Based on this initial assessment, asbestos-containing materials must be removed before the town allows any activity at the buildings with the potential to cause disturbance of the asbestos fibers. T&B estimated the cost of asbestos abatement at \$150,050, with an additional \$50,000 for consultation and management during abatement.

T&B inspectors catalogued hazardous materials such as fluorescent light tubes, fire extinguishers, dock leveler oils, batteries and mercury switches in various buildings. Due to their age, window glazing compounds and frame caulking were considered suspect for PCB content. Six wipe samples were collected and analyzed for PCBs, but no PCBs were detected. According to the T&B report, interior painted surfaces at some of the former IP Mill buildings "are coated with vintage paint layers that are highly likely to contain lead."

T&B's estimate for site-wide hazardous materials abatement was \$48,000.

Vandalism, and Temporary Use

Northwestern district attorney David Sullivan sent the town apology letters written by two juveniles who broke windows at the IP property. The juveniles were apprehended after review of security camera videos from the property.

Jacqueline Boyden suggested that, if the juveniles are required to do community service, they should do it in Erving. Selectboard chair

William Bembury agreed to check with Sullivan.

Cornerstone Energy Services, a contractor for installation of the Eversource switching station in Northfield and Erving, toured the former IP mill, looking for a potential administrative office/equipment storage location. However, according to Bembury, Cornerstone decided the mill "was in total disrepair."

The company also toured the former Usher Plant property, and is considering installing a trailer at that property. Bembury said that Cornerstone understands that it would need to install electrical supply and would need to import water to the former Usher Plant property.

Trash Dumpster

In October, Jim Plourde, a property owner on North Shore Road, wrote the board asking the town to supply a dumpster for North Shore Road property owners for six months of the year. The road is not accessible for the Duseau Trucking trash haulers, so the property owners at the seasonal cabins on North Shore Road do not have trash pickup service as the rest of town does.

The selectboard discussed trash pickup at several meetings in early November, but has not made a decision.

Bembury reported that Plourde wrote a second letter to the board, asking them to take action on the request and suggesting he will take legal action if the request is not honored.

The board decided to check with town counsel about the town's responsibilities.

Other Business

The surplus 1978 fire truck was awarded to Richard E. Cornwell of Bernardston for the highest of the three bids received, \$6,005.

The board closed the two-article warrant for the November 30 special town meeting. One article will correct language from the May 2015 annual town meeting setting the fiscal year 2017 funding for POTW #1. The second article will reconsider the enhanced retirement package for former town employee Robert Miner.

Jacqueline Boyden has sent draft fiscal year 2017 budget worksheets to several department heads, and will be preparing and sending worksheets to committees and boards.

GMRSD from page A1

Sullivan said that because Gill-Montague had been one of the districts that used PARCC in 2015, it will give PARCC tests again in 2016 for grades 3 to 8, and the MCAS for grade 10. In accordance with the DESE's decision, the district would be "held harmless" from any negative outcome that could affect its status.

Tenth graders will continue to take MCAS math, English, and science exams as requirements for graduation through 2019.

According to the DESE, this spring's MCAS tests will be "augmented with a limited number of PARCC items in order to make statewide comparisons easier."

At this time it is difficult to judge the results of PARCC tests taken last year, because there is no historical record for comparison. DESE is committed to having all school districts administer the new test on computers by 2019.

Gill-Montague was one of only a few districts that took the test on computers in 2015. Since the other districts took a paper version of the test, comparison of those results are difficult to make.

Sullivan said DESE feels the PARCC has value for testing critical thinking skills, but they want more control over testing and scoring. The current version of the test is graded by the company that developed it, which retains control over the results.

The Department intends to remain a member of the PARCC Consortium, which will allow them access to high-quality assessment development and cost sharing with other states, and comparison with next-generation MCAS results with those of other state assessments.

Scores Reviewed

Results of last year's PARCC tests became available last week, and Sullivan discussed them with the school committee.

Overall, Gill Elementary test scores were higher in English and math than Sheffield Elementary's. Sullivan said that the district is working hard to address the literacy skills at the third grade level at Sheffield, and to overcome obstacles to learning in those early grades.

On the other hand, Sullivan argued it was important not to read too much into the PARCC results. "The tests are designed to measure student application of knowledge and critical thinking to a greater extent than the MCAS tests," he said, "so they do not assess the same things, and are not directly comparable to MCAS."

The results were also compared to statewide results. Gill Elementary scored equivalent to or higher than statewide scores, and the district as a whole scored lower.

Michael Langknecht commented on the timeframe of the future testing schedule. He noted there will be four years of being "held harmless," and then what follows is not clear either. He said, and Sullivan agreed that the tests could change again. Langknecht wondered how that could affect the students and the district.

Sullivan said with all the changes and uncertainty in the testing process, he was excited to be working for a district that is not so focused on testing, but rather on providing high-quality learning. "Teachers do not teach to the test," he said.

He reminded the committee of the discussion earlier this year that followed the PARCC testing, during which teachers expressed concern over the many hours spent on testing, and the stress on both students and teachers during the process. He also pointed out that 2015 MCAS scores for the high school were the district's highest ever.

Action Plan

Sullivan listed the following steps being taken by the district to address the elementary literacy challenges:

- Commitment of all classrooms to using the district's Houghton Mifflin reading program.
- Use of "Foundations," a program to teach phonemic awareness and phonics in grades K-3.
- Consistent use of instructional strategies that have teachers differentiating instruction to three small groups of students after a period of whole class instruction.
- "Push-in" reading support by reading teachers and paraprofessionals during small-group instructional time.
- Ongoing assessment of student reading progress using the "DI-BELS Next" method.
- Adoption of Calkins Writing as a writer's workshop approach to teaching writing across the elementary grades.
- Year two of having a full-time literacy coach to work with Sheffield teachers to implement these practices.

Other Business

- The computer server has been ordered, but the necessity of a new electrical service will delay installation.
- Receipt of a \$22,000 federal grant will allow purchase of new Chromebook computers and tablets.
- The school committee voted unanimously to add Valeria "Timmie" Smith to the Unit C negotiating team.
- The next regular school committee meeting will be held at Turners Falls High School on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.



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GOOD USED USABLES

ENGINEERING from pg A1

than 200 young women from 25 high schools in Massachusetts and the region explored the fields of engineering and computing through hands-on activities.

The goal of the conference was to excite, inspire, and encourage young women to pursue engineering or computer science as an academic track and career path.

Students participated in activities such as electronic storytelling with Chibitronics, which was led by UMass College of Engineering undergraduate students; engineering drug delivery, led by UMass College of Engineering undergraduate students; and the lotus effect and capillary origami, which was led by Professor Jonathan Rothstein of the Mechanical Engineering department.

Conference participants also saw demonstrations of state-of-the-art technology and talked with industry representatives from Raytheon, BAE Systems, Pegasystems, Cimpres, Tighe & Bond, Woodard & Curran, and the US Air Force.

Sara Powell, 17, of Hawley said she learned a lot of valuable information from mingling with the various representatives.

"A lot of the companies I talked to had chemical and civil engineers working for them," she said. "They all said that there are aspects of being a chemical or civil engineer that they can still learn. I want to be a mechanical engineer, so it was important to learn that even if you're not a chemical engineer, you can learn and grow into that."

FCTS lead science and engineer-

ing teacher Jonas LaPointe and programming and web teacher Cynthia Bussey accompanied the students on the trip. Bussey led a group of female students to the event last year.

LaPointe and Bussey both said there is a dearth of females entering engineering and computing classes and into related fields after graduation from college or technical school. Much of this shortage is due to stereotypes of women not being interested in the sciences and math, or being discouraged from entering those professions.

"By going to this conference I wanted to expose the girls to different types of teachers and other girls from different schools who are interested in technology," Bussey said.

In the near future, jobs in computing and engineering will be in even

higher demand than they are now, as professionals retire and companies ramp up production and research and development.

"It's important to offer this conference to younger girls because if engineering and computing are something they're interested in, then it's good that they become exposed to these fields early," LaPointe said. "We were very excited to be going to the conference. Seeing the volume of other young women interested in engineering from schools in our area had a big impact on our girls, which was part of the goal."

UMass alumna Carol Craig, CEO of Craig Technologies, was the keynote speaker and her story as a business owner and military veteran impressed the FCTS students.

"The keynote speaker did an in-

credible job," Landers said. "She talked about how engineering helped her in life. She was great at connecting with the audience."

Added Powell, "the keynote speaker put into perspective what it's like to own your own business."

Cassie Harris, 16, of Erving, was encouraged by the many possibilities there are for a career in engineering. "From where we are now you can go into any engineering field you can think of," she said. "I didn't know I could go that far, until I heard the keynote speaker. I want to be a mechanical engineer, and I think I'd like to go to UMass."

Michael Reardon works as a public relations representative at the Franklin County Technical School.

**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

Short Meeting Puts Water on Future Agenda

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of Monday, November 16 lasted barely twenty minutes, prompting board chair Michael Sullivan to note "that was the shortest meeting I can remember."

The meeting began with a brief moment of silence in solidarity with Paris, France, the target of recent terrorist attacks that killed over one hundred people.

There was no "public comment" from the public, so the board moved on to its next agenda item: two appointments to the staff of the town's water pollution control facility (WPCF).

At the request of John Little, who was filling in for WPCF Superintendent Robert Trombley, the board appointed Anthony Suprenant as a full-time plant trainee, and Albert Brule as a temporary full time laborer. Both appointees will work 40 hours per week, with Brule's position scheduled to last for ten months.

Next the board voted to execute an amendment to the state Hazard Mitigation grant funding the Millers Falls Road stabilization project.

The amendment will close out the project a year earlier than projected, in order to expedite a request for supplemental funds. The additional funds will pay for a \$25,000 cost overrun caused by the washout of the original design during a fall rain event.

The board voted to execute the annual state Recycling Dividends Program grant for \$4,400, and another Small-Scale Initiative grant for \$750. The latter grant helps finance recycling containers and other small items.

Under "Topics Not Anticipated," town administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz read an announcement from Mickey Longo, manager of the Turners Falls Airport. Longo informed the board that there will be "military exercises" at the airport this weekend, November 21 and 22, from 7 a.m. to noon.

Local residents should not be alarmed if they see military helicopters approaching town and landing during those hours. In fact, according to Longo, the public is invited to watch the helicopters at a nearby viewing area.

Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz stated that he would like to place the issue of the recent Montague Center Water District contamination on an upcoming agenda. Montague Center water in a holding tank tested positive for the E. coli bacteria last week. The water department issued a "boil order," in effect for several days, for that neighborhood.

Kuklewicz said that he had received a number of calls about the issue from constituents. He argued that while the water district is not part of town government, the contamination impacted town residents and involved the town's board of health.

The selectboard appeared to agree that the issue should be discussed with the board of health, although it did not take a formal vote. Chris Boutwell, a member of both boards, said that the health board would be discussing the issue at its upcoming meeting on November 18.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session, to discuss the purchase or lease of the current Senior Center building on Fifth Street.

SOLAR from pg A1

fostering the unprecedented expansion of solar, is coming to a standstill. The number of medium- and large-scale solar projects eligible for net metering credits are capped at a percentage of a given electric company's total production - 4% for private projects, and 5% for public ones. This cap does not apply to small-scale residential solar.

National Grid, which serves 171 cities and towns in the state, has already reached its cap. The other electric distributors, including Ever-source, will soon reach theirs.

The second issue involves the cost of net metering. The electric industry and manufacturing interests have argued that the current program is much too expensive, with the costs of subsidies to solar producers being passed on to non-solar customers. This position has been supported by Governor Baker and some key legislators.

Solar industry advocates have argued that the broader benefits of solar energy, which all ratepayers share, outweigh the costs. They have pointed to a variety of "value of solar" studies, including one by a technical committee of the recent Massachusetts Net Metering Task Force, that quantify these benefits.

Golden's Bill

This unresolved and highly contentious debate over net metering "reform" has stymied legislative action to address the cap problem. In July, the Senate passed a bill that would have lifted the current caps until total solar production in the state reached 1,600 MW. In August, Governor Baker presented a much more modest increase of 2% over the current utility-based caps.

Baker's proposal included significant reforms of the net metering program, including reductions in the payments to medium- and large-scale solar projects for sending energy into the grid. Both proposals were sharply criticized by solar advocates.

Why the House leadership waited until just before the holiday recess to address the issue is unclear. At the end of October, the *Berkshire Eagle* reported that Speaker DeLeo and

Thomas Golden (D-Lowell), chair of the House committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy, were "floating" a proposal to raise the cap to 2,400 MW.

But when Golden unveiled the leadership's bill on November 16, just two days before the legislature recessed, it called for raising the caps by 2%, as in the governor's proposal.

Golden justified the new bill as a stopgap measure to tide the state over until the legislature reconvened. "We're just looking to continue the growth of solar," he said. "We're doing another omnibus piece in February or March of next year. This particular piece is about moving solar forward and changing up some of the programs... this is not the last opportunity here."

But Golden's bill contained some key long-term policy changes that would have a significant impact on the net metering program. For example, it provided that solar power sold back to the grid would be reimbursed at wholesale, rather than the current retail, rates once the 1,600 MW cap was reached.

The bill also allowed the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to impose a "minimum bill" on solar generators, who currently are not charged for use of the grid.

Both provisions would have significantly reduced the payback for generating solar, and have been staunchly opposed by solar advocates over the past few years.

Advocates, who held a number of state house rallies last week urging the legislature to lift the caps before the holiday recess, reacted with extreme dismay to H3854. One solar company official said the bill pointed the state in the direction of "the most regressive net metering policy in the country":

"Although we're grateful to the House for trying to move legislation before the end of the session, in terms of the objective of raising the caps, it's really too little and only addresses the projects on the waiting list... [By the spring of next year] we'd be back in the same position."

Rep. Thomas Calter (D-Kings-ton), who eventually voted for the

bill, also criticized the modest cap increase:

"The reality is that the [solar] industry is very fragile, by increasing the caps only two percent... there is a real argument that investment capital and angel capital will dry up... The two percent may get us through mid-[2016], but then this industry will come to a screeching halt."

Downing's Amendments

H3854 traveled to the Senate on Wednesday morning, where it became S2508 after amendments from Senator Benjamin Downing (D-Pittsfield).

The Downing amendments, sponsored by other senators, maintained the House's 2% increase in the existent caps, but significantly modified the cut in rates for solar generation that was in the House bill. The Senate bill also eliminated the provision that encouraged the DPU to establish a minimum bill for producers.

The Downing amendments have been supported by many solar advocates as the best they can get at this point. The theory seems to be, in the words of one desperate, last-minute email, that the Senate bill "will allow the [solar industry] to survive and push for improvements when the Legislature reconvenes in January."

That seems to be the attitude of solar advocates in the legislature as well. Rep. Calter and a number of other members withdrew amendments to the initial House bill and later voted for it because, they claimed, they had received a promise from Golden that the core issues would be revisited early next year.

That did not seem to be what an exasperated Golden told his colleagues on Tuesday.

"Why we're here today," he said, "is because over a year ago this was extremely contentious. The committee worked on this for close to ten months, and many of you have been in my office with folks that are extremely concerned about this."

"Truthfully I believe this is a very, very balanced approach. But some people aren't going to be happy with any type of change at all."



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PICKED from page A1

motors, projectors, and a 1948 tractor he picked up at a farm auction in Wendell.

But the shop is also filled with quality furniture, art and collectibles. Young and Grenier hand-pick them from sources all over New England, and artfully arrange them in the airy, well-lit shop.

"We go to auctions, estate sales, barn sales, and people's houses," Jeremy says. "And we pick up some storage units now and then."

They do not sell on consignment, but will buy merchandise outright, offering fair prices, if they think they can resell it. They also buy and sell online, on Etsy, eBay and Craigslist. What they cannot accommodate in the shop, they donate, being mindful to not create waste.

And they are moving more into offering repurposed items made from some of their finds.

Jeremy credits Lauren with the artful arrangements in the shop and many of the creative ideas on the repurposed items. "She has a great eye for finding quality," he says, "and for the displays."

A set of vintage ice cream parlor chairs found in a free pile at a tag sale have been sanded, repainted and freshly upholstered with brightly-colored fabric seats. Some industrial work stool legs have been married to a tractor seat to create a comfortable stool, much admired by Jeremy Young's mother, Diane Hansen.

"It fits me just right," Hansen says, squirming up into the form-fitting tractor seat and smiling, legs dangling. Hansen loves the shop and helps out there when needed. She also shops there, finding little treasures for her own home in Montague Center.

Asked how he feels about his location up the hill, Young is very enthusiastic. "I love it!" he

says. "The space is great, there is plenty of parking, the rent is great, the landlord is happy to have us, it's easy to find."

He explains that they have customers who come from a distance after they find some of their pieces online, to see what else they can find in the shop. "No one has had any trouble finding us," he says.

In fact, Young is already planning to expand into the adjoining empty space.

"We just love finding random stuff," Young says. It's enjoyable finding good, well-made things, things with age, and being able to tell a buyer how and where he found it.

Like a hand-painted sign reading "Millers Falls Power Tool Center."

"I was way up in the woods of Maine, and this guy says, Wait, I have something here from down near where you come from." Young says that the man went rummaging around and came back with the sign. "Of course I had to buy it," he adds.

At PICKED, there is a story behind most items.

The chainsaw-carved wooden police officer standing outside the entrance? "Well, I was driving along and I saw it standing outside this house. I thought it was really cool. So I stopped and asked if they wanted to sell it."

The 1948 Ford 8N tractor came from the estate sale of a Wendell man who had loved collecting and refurbishing old tractors. It had been sitting in a barn for years, but when Young went in there to check it out, it started right up, and he was able to drive it right out and onto his trailer.

"The tractor works awesome," he says. "I was just out driving it around the parking lot today. I think I just sold it to a guy - he's coming for it tomorrow."



This life-sized police officer stands guard outside the new PICKED shop on Millers Falls Road.

Well, forget the tractor, but you may still find the life-sized, chain-saw carved, wooden police officer standing outside the door, if you hurry.

And you can pick up some free books.

Hours of operation are Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 11 to 4 p.m.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Digging at Riverside Building OK'ed

By AIDAN BELANGER

This past Monday, the Gill selectboard meeting began with a visit from Ivan Ussach of the Gill Historical Commission. Ussach sought the town's permission to survey on the Riverside Municipal Building property during the upcoming Phase II of the Battlefield Grant project.

He informed the selectboard of the successful turnout at a recent landowners' meeting, stating that "at least eight or nine" people had given permission for surveying on their land, and went on to say that it would be good for private landowners to have other members of the community involved, and that since the town is the owner of the survey policies it would be symbolically powerful for it to approve the preliminary survey.

Ussach added that the power company FirstLight owns a significant stake in the land in question,

and that Montague town planner Walter Ramsey has made promising contact with them.

In response to his request, the selectboard motioned and approved the preliminary survey.

Ussach also informed the selectboard that many local towns, including Deerfield and Erving, want more oversight with archaeological researchers. Deerfield has approved an Archaeology Accountability Policy requiring archaeologists to seek approval from the town historical commission, not just the state, before digging. Erving drafted a similar policy which was recently approved.

Both towns are writing letters of support of the Archaeology Accountability Policy, and Ivan asked that the Gill selectboard do the same. The selectboard also approved this proposal.

School District

Resident Bill Tomb visited the meeting to express his views on a few recent issues, including the question of whether former district teachers should serve in negotiations over teachers' contracts.

School committee chair Sandy Brown had initially proposed former teachers be excluded from the subcommittee that negotiates with the teachers' union, and at their October 5 meeting, Gill selectboard members expressed their support for her proposal.

The school committee eventually approved Jane Oakes, the only member who would have been excluded by the guideline, to serve on the subcommittee in question.

"My feeling is that it is sad that people would feel that perception is reality," Tomb said. "There was no conflict of interest, because the individual who was concerned is no longer a teacher in the district."

Board chair Greg Snedeker re-

sponded, "As a teacher, I could see the possible perception of a conflict of interest. We are not pointing a finger, but we have to think about the possibility of a conflict of interest. We have to respond to this issue."

He added that he felt reporting in the *Montague Reporter* did not "jive with" what had been said at the October 5 meeting.

Sewer Rates

Earlier this month, Montague voted to raise sewer rates by 10%. Wastewater from Gill's Riverside neighborhood is pumped under the river to Turners Falls, and the town of Montague bills Gill's sewer district as a whole.

In continuation of deliberations over Gill's sewage rate next year, Ray Purington presented data on the past seven years of Gill's sewer expenses, and three possible new rates.

The current rate costs the town \$0.15 per cubic foot of sewage. Scenario A would raise that to \$0.16 (not quite meeting the projected need), scenario B would raise that rate to \$0.162 (closer to the potential need) and scenario C would raise the rate to \$0.165 (more than what is needed).

Selectboard member Randy Crochier responded that he felt conflicted over making decisions on the new sewer rate, as he himself is not a sewer user, and that in the past the town of Gill had not put enough money in the sewer fund when needed.

He advocated for scenario C, which would amount to a 10% hike.

John Ward, a selectboard member who does live in Riverside, added that he, too, was not a "major" sewer user, and felt in a similar position.

Ward said he was worried about large capital expenses related to the

system in the future, and also indicated that he would lean toward the higher rates.

Both agree that since the community's bills will be the ones affected it would be good to hear from them. They expect to hear about this issue at the next meeting on November 30.

Other News

Ray Purington announced that the town of Gill has no more housing funds available except for emergencies, and that the Housing Authority would like to hold an informational meeting at 6 p.m. on November 30, the same day the selectboard will be tackling the sewer budget.

A public hearing for the town's community development block grant (CDBG) application will be held December 14.

Due to Northeast Utilities' work on the high-tension lines, more revenue from growth is in play in the current fiscal year than initially budgeted. No action on this would cause tax rates to go down. The board could either use this money to stabilize the tax rate - last year it used \$68,000 from free cash to do this - or for other capital expenses.

The board may set a special town meeting for this between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Randy Crochier can no longer be the town's representative to FRCOG, because he has accepted a job as a health agent in the FRCOG Public Health Services. Greg Snedeker may step in next year.

"Someone" is interested in becoming the editor for the town newsletter, a currently unfilled position, but is continuing their "research" into it and has not made a definite decision.



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FOOTBALL from page A1

2-yard line, down by 8.

Turners got the ball first on their own 28. Jalen Sanders, Quinn Doyle and John Driscoll carried the ball into Tech's territory, but when a pass failed on third and 8 from the 44, Turners was forced to punt.

The Eagles took possession on their own 39, and the Blue D stopped them three times. But on fourth and 2, second effort gave Tech a first down on Turners' 46.

A QB keeper on second and 3 got the rock to the 27, and Tech scored on the very next play, putting them up 6-0 at 2:48 of the first quarter. The Eagles went for 2 points, but the Tribe's goal-line defense held, and the margin remained at 6.

Not to be outdone, Turners instituted a scoring drive of their own on their very next possession. The Indian drive began on their own 38. Doyle carried the ball three times and Jack Darling once, and suddenly, the ball was on the Eagles' 20.

On the next play, Doyle ran the ball into the end zone to put the Tribe on the board. But the kick went wide, knotting the score at 6-6 with 52 seconds left in the first quarter.

The Eagles then executed an 18-play drive which chewed up most of the second quarter. On this drive, each time the Tribe forced a third or fourth down, Tech got just enough to keep going. On third and 9 from the 40, Tech ran a QB Boot-

leg which got them 10 yards, just enough to move the sticks.

Then on third and 8 from the Indians' 48, Tech got 8, and the drive continued. Turners forced a fourth-and-2 on the 32, but the Eagles went for it and again got the first down. Then a penalty moved the ball to the 10, giving Tech a first and goal. Worse yet, Tionne Brown was knocked out of the game when he made the tackle.

Turners' goal-line D held Tech three times inside the 10. Then on fourth and 2, an illegal procedure penalty moved the ball back to the 7, and in the key play of the first half, the Eagles moved the ball eight yards and dove into the end zone. Their 2-point attempt failed, and Tech took a 12-6 lead with 2:53 left in the half.

Trevor Mankowsky replaced Tionne under center but the Tribe came up empty in their next series. The Eagles got the ball back with 44 seconds on the clock. They managed to run seven quick plays, moving the ball from their own 31 to the Indians' 33, but time ran out and the teams went into the locker room with the score 12-6 Tech.

Second Half

The Eagles received the kickoff in the second half, but a fumble gave the ball to Turners on the Eagles' 31. Tech's stingy defense made the Indians fight for every yard and as the Indians got closer to the goal line, the Eagles dug in.

Then on fourth and goal from the 8, Trevor completed a pass to Jalen, and the game was tied again. The kick again failed, and at 3:26 of the third quarter, the score was 12 all.

Tech got the ball back on their own 45, but the pass-defense of Turners held them and the Eagles had to punt the ball away.

Quinn Doyle was the workhorse on the Indians' next drive. On one play, he twisted ahead; on another, he bulled forward. Doyle's rushes were supplemented by runs by Jalen Sanders and Jack Darling and passes to Sanders and Owen Ortiz.

And while Trevor was moving the offense down the field, Tionne Brown was his biggest, loudest supporter.

Then, on first and 10 from Tech's 12, Doyle hit pay dirt. He was hit several times but managed to follow his blockers into the end zone, and Turners took their first lead of the game. He banged into the end zone for the 2-point conversion and Turners took an 8-point lead, 20-12.

Tech got the ball back on their own 35 with 7:49 left in the game. Trailing by a touchdown, late in the game, Tech was in 4-down territory.

And on fourth and 2, Tech went for the first down: a rush of bodies, the Tech runner desperately inching forward behind his wall of blockers, the crowd eagerly anticipating the spot of the ball.

But it was too close to call. The

sticks came on the field, and when the standards were stretched out, the Eagles were mere inches short, turning possession over to Turners on downs.

The game still wasn't over. Tech's defense bent, but didn't break. Turners moved the ball all the way to the 10 but were knocked backwards, and on fourth and 13, an incomplete pass put the ball back in Tech's hands.

The Eagles used strategic time-outs to keep the clock from ticking away, and they got the ball back with 1:52 left, on their own 18. Two quick completions got them to the 41, and a throw-down stopped the clock at 1:17.

Another incompleteness and a gain brought up fourth and 6, with 1:09 left. Tech got the first down, but three more incompleteness brought up another fourth down with 35.2 left.

Then a QB run got the ball all the way to the 20 with 19 seconds on the clock. Tech crashed forward, but were halted again just 2 yards short of pay dirt, with the clock stopped at 10 seconds.

"We need a play, gentlemen," Turners' coach Chris Lapointe calmly called from the side line. And the Blue D came through.

As Tech's quarterback sprinted to the outside, he was met by a swarm of Indians, and as he hit the ground, the final seconds ticked away.

After the game, pockets of opposing players and their parents just

stood and talked. It was a reunion of sorts. Kids who grew up together reminisced, shook hands, and wished each other good luck in their upcoming Thanksgiving games.

Quinn Doyle gained an amazing 154 yards on the ground, scoring two touchdowns in the process. He also got a 2-point conversion.

Jalen Sanders also scored a touchdown. He gained 43 yards on the ground and caught 3 passes for 29 yards. Jack Darling added 35 rushing yards, and John Driscoll and Trevor Mankowsky also carried the ball for the Tribe.

Mankowsky, who came in for Tionne Brown, completed 4 passes for 40 yards and a touchdown. Sanders and Owen Ortiz caught his passes.

On the defensive side of the ball, both Nick Croteau and Ricky Craver knocked down passes. Tahner Castine caused a fumble which was recovered by Sanders, and Tahner also led the Tribe with 16 solo tackles. Ricky Craver had 6 and John Driscoll and Cullen Wozniak each had 5.

Brown, Darling, Croteau, Will Roberge, Sanders, Colby Dobias, Doyle, Mankowsky, and Ortiz also had tackles for the Blue D.

On Turkey Day, Franklin Tech travels to Northfield to play Pioneer, and Powertown hosts Greenfield, their perennial rival, in hopes to extend their winning streak in Thee Game.



If You Had to Choose... **Which GOP Candidate Would You Vote For?**

Photos and Interviews by **MARK HUDYMA**

We got bored, so we sent Mark outdoors to ask people who they'd pick for president in 2016, if their options were limited to the current GOP primary field.

"Nobody wants to talk to me," he texted us at the Reporter office. "It's never been this bad before... As soon as they hear 'elections,' it's all 'I don't want my political opinions out there.'" We told him to quit his whining and find people willing to answer

the question. Eventually, six of you obliged. Thanks to everyone pictured for being a good sport and talking to our reporter.

This was an unscientific poll, with suspect methodology. None of the answers should be taken for actual endorsements. — Eds.



"I don't normally vote Republican. Are there still 11 candidates? Carson, because I'm not gonna vote for Trump."
Shaun Regan



"If I had to, I would vote for Trump. We have no say anyways, so what does it matter?"
Virginia Haskell



"None. I abstain. My wife would kick me out if I voted Republican. Some bad experiences have soured me with the Republican party — I am automatically suspicious of them. Kasich has some of the right ideas, but Trump is just..."
John Speek



"Maybe Bush, but not Trump — anybody but Trump. I don't think he would do us justice; he's out for himself."
Sherry Lenois



"Trump. He's got his shit right, and he's trying to rebuild the country."
Hector Santiago



"Honestly, I would vote for Trump. At least he would do something; then we'd have to deal with what he did. But he's a chauvinist pig, too."
Melissa Pippin

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ADVICE WITH PURPOSE

WATER from page A1

date, the selectboard has not been notified” of the contamination.

The water in an above-ground storage tank tested positive for *E. coli* on Tuesday, November 3. The water department issued a “boil order” on November 5, and opened a connection with water from the Turners Falls district, which was presumed uncontaminated.

Many Montague Center residents received flyers about the problem in their mailboxes on that Thursday, but may not have collected their mail until the following day. McNeely stated that she took the initiative to put the document on the town website, although initially only on the somewhat obscure board of health page.

The health director stated that she also took

NINA ROSSI PHOTO



The Montague Reporter wishes our readers a very happy holiday. We will return to publication December 3.

the initiative to request that police chief Chip Dodge send out a telephone alert to Montague Center residents using the emergency CodeRED system.

According to McNeely, when she asked permission from Montague Center Water District to make the announcement, commissioner Gary Dion said he was not aware of the emergency system.

No representative of the Water District attended Wednesday’s discussion, and apparently the district officials were not informed of the agenda item. Chris Boutwell did announce at the November 17 selectboard meeting that the health board would be taking up the issue. Boutwell is a member of both boards.

The discussion turned to who had “oversight” over the water district, and the relationship between the district and the board of health. McNeely said that the district was answerable to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In fact, she said, it was the DEP that informed her that there was a contamination problem.

Montague Center residents Emily Monosson and Leigh Ray said they felt there were issues “beyond this particular situation that need to be discussed.” Monosson asked what the rationale was for having a separate water district in her village.

“Is there a benefit to having pond water?,” she asked, as opposed to being connected to the Turners Falls department, which pulls out of the Montague Plains aquifer. In response to a suggestion that the water district itself meet to discuss these issues, Monosson said she would like to have a representative of the Turners Falls Water Department attend such a meeting.

Nelson moved that the board invite the water district commissioners in for a “friendly discussion” in such a way that they will “not feel targeted.” The board voted to arrange a meeting in early December.



Gill's Clifford Hatch and Patricia Crosby consult the Reporter in Long Island City, Queens back in July.

Going somewhere? Send your photographs to editor@montaguereporter.org!

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YEAR 14 – NO. 7

B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Jinx: Stockings, Pillow Fights, and Marbles

These excerpts from "Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin's Life, the Depression through 1952" was written by Jerry "Jinx" Collins about his youth growing up in Turners Falls. In this installment, we hear more about his early life during the time he and his family lived "on The Block" on Third Street.

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present "not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren't so favorable." We hope you enjoy the trip through time that these excerpts provide. A copy of his book is available at the Carnegie Library.

—Eds.



Children have played marbles since ancient times. This stereo photograph is dated 1891, originally copyrighted by the Fellows Photographic Co.

By JERRY COLLINS

Because his mom and dad had to be at work by 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, they always awoke at 5. By 5:30, breakfast was ready; and, as Jinx's dad insisted that the whole family eat breakfast together, the boys were called down from their upstairs bedrooms to eat.

As school did not start until 8, it gave the four boys extra time to review their previous night's homework before leaving for the day ahead.

Until he graduated from high school, Jinx can't remember a day that they were allowed to sleep past 5:30 a.m. Even on Saturdays, their dad insisted that chores be started early, and on Sundays, it was first Mass at 7 a.m. at St Mary's.

5:30: "UGH."

Stockings

From the earliest years of Jinx's memory, on Sunday evenings the family would congregate in the living room of their Third Street block tenement apartment. His dad sat in his favorite chair, reading the paper, while his mom, in hers, would crochet, and the four boys would sprawl across the living room rug with the "funnies."

All of the family listened to radio programs, such as "Fibber Maguee and Molly" and "The Shadow." Television didn't arrive on the scene for another seven years or so.

The most favorite activity of those Sunday evenings occurred whenever "Jo" (Jinx's mom) got a "run" in her silk stockings and it would be time to dispose of them.

She'd let the younger boys

see JINX page B4

True to Their Musical Roots

By JOE KWIECINSKI

BERNARDSTON – The Falltown String Band has played together for some 28 years now, but current manager Marvin Shedd feels that his popular group keeps growing and evolving musically.

"I love our folks," said Shedd, who took over the job six years ago from his cousin, band founder Ed Phelps. "We have only one original member, Jack Arensmeyer, who's 80 years old, plays with us part-time, and lives in Vernon, Vermont."

The Falltown String Band's original mission was to play six or seven square dance gigs a year. But as time passed, old Appalachian, old and new country, roots, rock, folk, bluegrass, rhythm and blues, straight blues, and folk-rock have been blended into its rich and diverse canvas of Americana music.

"All of the players in our group love to be on stage with each other," said Marvin. "We think of ourselves as keepers of the torch."

To illustrate FSB's versatility, one of their most played songs over the years is Thomas Jefferson's campaign song, "Jefferson and Liberty." The troop recorded it on their CD last year.

The Falltown String Band is putting the finishing touches on a new

CD. All the music and vocals have been recorded, and it'll come out just in time for stocking stuffers.

One of the cuts on the new CD is "Pickin' Apples with Jesus," written and sung by Dave Detmold. Dave is a full-time carpenter and still writes now and then for the *Montague Reporter*, where he was a founding editor.

"I wrote the song about 35 years ago when I first came to Franklin County," said Detmold, "and was working in Apple Valley for Rick Smith in his little apple orchard. It's kind of a folk hymn."

He added with a smile, "I was born in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and possibly picked up folk

hymn traditions when I was a baby and may have mixed them with the living tradition of the land here in the hilltowns of Franklin County.

"Working with the Falltown String Band was a real honor for an unschooled singer like me, particularly with Wayne Helms' lovely intro on his Martin guitar and Sue Shedd came up with a lovely melody on flute behind the vocals."

The five full-time members of the band are Jason Burbank, Marvin and wife Sue Shedd, Jack Nelson, and Wayne Helms. Marvin and Sue, of Bernardston, have played with the group for a quarter of a century along with Jason, a

see FALLTOWN page B5



Falltown String Band plays at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

As You Write It

This is just one of the stories included in the *As You Write It: A Franklin County Anthology* published earlier this year, the fifth collection of essays written by a writing group led by Laura Rodley.

Estelle Cade, Patricia Carlisle, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Robin Panagakos and Joseph A. Parzych have been meeting with Rodley weekly at the Gill/Montague Senior center to write essays and poems about their lives.

On Sunday, November 29, the Pushcart Nominee writers will read their work at the Senior Center, at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, at 1 p.m. There will be a "Celebration of Songs of Yesteryear" Singalong, raffles, and refreshments. The event is free and wheelchair accessible.

By JOE PARZYCH

Johnny's Overcoat

My older brother, John, served in the CCC, the Civilian Conservation Corps, founded by Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression to put young men to work and to offer them classes to graduate from high school.

When Johnny's second 6 month enlistment ended, he was discharged in Maine and decided to hitchhike home, wearing the surplus WWI Army uniform that the CCC issued to enlistees. A warm woolen overcoat was part of the

military style uniform.

The overcoat came down to mid-calf and the wide collar reached higher than the top of Johnny's head when he turned it up. The coat protected him from the cold Maine wind as he hitchhiked home.

Sometimes, little boys would run after him, pointing and chanting, "See? CCC." For that reason, he hung the overcoat in the dark recesses of an upstairs closet and never wore it again.

When he left home, he didn't take the overcoat with him. It hung there in the closet long after he'd left home.

One day, I explored the back of the closet and reached inside the deep pockets where I found a treasure trove of pennies. A penny, then,

see WRITE IT page B5



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Easing
Toward
Winter

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGE CITY – November lets us down easy. We extend the lovely fall days another week. A couple of gray, rainy days are flushed out by north winds and chilly temperatures, and we are back in the balmy mid-fifties sun again.

This is good. There are garden tasks yet, and we do not feel ready for the push of the holidays.

The voles are still tunneling in the lawn, and it's clear that the ground is still soft. We do a little late season transplanting of two evergreens while they can still settle in. We dig a good root ball and make sure to keep them moist as the roots find purchase in a new home.

The low angle of the sun helps us further. It is relatively warm, but not so hot as to further stress the plants.

It should be easy to set in a few more bulbs for spring, if we have the yen. It's not a big chore with

a bulb planter, and we only need to bury them the depth of the bulb size. Daffodils and crocus give so much pleasure and require little pampering.

We enjoy the daffodils, particularly, as they can be naturalized throughout the yard, giving pleasure for years. I decide to skip the crocus bulbs, as I have not really enjoyed the humor in the antics of underground critters who move them around to random spots in the lawn. These tiny bulbs are planted so shallowly; maybe they interfere with mole and chipmunk passages.

If you have a bit of bone meal on hand, you can sprinkle it in the bulb hole, but if you don't, they'll still reward you with lovely blooms just when you are heartily sick of winter.

We are lazy composters, but do manage to add mulched leaves and grass to the bins. The fall mums

see GARDENER page B5

Here's My Van Gogh

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – The Sawmill River Arts Gallery at the Bookmill in Montague Center could not be a better spot for an exhibit inspired by Van Gogh's sunlit palette. But "Here's My Van Gogh!" is no ordinary exhibit: it's a treasure hunt.

Tucked among the usual display of paintings, photographs, pottery, jewelry and fabric art are hidden gems, all inspired by Van Gogh. These are not forgeries, such as those exhibited at the Leverett Library last winter. The artworks are surprises: a gourd carved in the swirls of a Van Gogh landscape and painted in his signature blues and greens, a hooked rug inspired by the master's irises, and more.

I do not want to provide any additional hints, because the scavenger hunt runs through the end of November. People who find and identify all the pieces inspired by Van Gogh will be eligible for a gift basket that contains contributions from all nine participating artists.

Louise Minks, one of the founding members of the collaborative gallery, said:

"While participating in this, I became aware that my own work actually has a lot of Van Gogh influence already, and this just pushed me further along – it was very fun!

"His work was all about strong and defined brush strokes, uninhibited color and personal interpretation of a scene or subject. I'm always interested in not copying a subject in front of me, but creating a strong

personal response to it.

"While I paint sometimes from photographs, both Van Gogh's and my work is usually painted primarily

see MY VAN GOGH page B8



"Starry Night at the Sawmill," an acrylic painting by Sharon Loebr-Lapan, at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery this month.

Pet of the Week



“CALLIE”

Hi, I'm Callie! I'm an easy-going gal who has lived with everyone from babies to senior citizens, dogs, cats, well everyone! As you can see, I will do well in just about any household.

My family loved me so much that they decided to give me a chance at a new life since they were unable to take care of me.

I'm a gentle, loving girl. I'm playful but I also like to put my paws up and just hang out while you go about your day. Come down and ask an adoption counselor about me!

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week: Beaver Moon Gathering, Selectboard Meeting, Church Service

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

November is flying by fast. Upcoming events near you include the Beaver Moon Gathering at the Great Falls Discovery Center on November 21 (from noon to 3 p.m.) and the annual Thanksgiving football game between Turners Falls High School and Greenfield High School on November 21 at 10:30 am.

Hosted by the Nolumbeka Project, the Beaver Moon Gathering is named in honor of the full moon on the 25th which traditionally marked the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Doors open at 11:30.

It will feature a half-hour of "Giving Thanks," an hour in which

Billy "lahte:tas" Myers of the Kanien' ke'ha (Mohawk) Bear Clan will speak about the challenges faced by American Indians in the 21st Century, and a period for discussion and a reflection. Raffle drawing & refreshments, suggested donation of \$2-5.

MCTV staff have been working hard to provide you with current local programming. Check out these new additions to the TV schedule & available online:

- Montague Selectboard Meeting 11/9/15: Agenda items included a memorandum of understanding between participating towns in Franklin County related to the Northeast Energy Direct Gas Pipeline Project, further business related to the Avenue A Streetscape enhancement project, and a Professional Ser-

vices Agreement with FRCOG for the Historic Preservation of Millers Falls contract.

- Montague Congregational Church Service 11/8/15: Now you can learn more about First Congregational Church by viewing last week's church service from your own TV or computer screen.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Call (413) 863-9200, email infomontaguestv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Senior Center Activities November 23 to 27

GILL and MONTAGUE

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 our machine when the Center is closed.

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch

Monday 11/23
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/24
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday 11/25
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 Monthly Health Screening
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 11/26 CLOSED
Friday 11/27
Reflexology by Appointment
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in ad-

vance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Beters, 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 11/23
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday 11/24
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting, Friends Meeting
12:45 p.m. Jewelry Class
Wednesday 11/25
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks
Thursday 11/26 CLOSED
Friday 11/27
9 a.m. Quilting Class
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Movie

LEVERETT

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

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

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

[This is the last in a three-part series on smoking.]

If you smoke, you owe it to yourself to quit. And I believe you have an obligation to try to help others to quit. I'm doing my part by offering this unusual series of columns. No scolding or exaggerated scare tactics. I'm giving you just the facts in a chain of bulletins.

You can stick these columns on bulletin boards and refrigerators. I recommend giving them to a smoker you love.

Here are more: Cigarette smokers die younger than nonsmokers. Smoking shortens lives by about 14 years.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing 443,000 deaths each year.

Because of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke ("second-hand smoke"), an estimated 3,000 nonsmoking Americans die of lung cancer every year.

Tobacco use accounts for about one third of all cancer deaths in the United States.

Smoking causes almost 90 per-

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Up In Smoke: Part III

cent of lung cancers.

More than 7 million current and former smokers suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the name used to describe both chronic bronchitis and emphysema. About 85 percent of COPD deaths are caused by smoking.

About 80 percent of all smokers would like to quit.

It's never too late to quit. It doesn't matter how old you are or how long you've smoked.

Within minutes of smoking the last cigarette, the body begins to restore itself. After two weeks, circulation and lung function improve.

A year after quitting, the risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker's. At 10 years, the lung cancer death rate is cut in half. At 15 years after quitting, the risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker's.

Some smokers can just stop "cold turkey." Others need help with drugs and behavior modification. Relapse rates are the highest in the first few weeks; they go down substantially after about three months.

One study found that the greatest reductions in cigarette use were achieved when smoking became more expensive and alternative recreational activities were provided.

Nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) are medicines that relieve a smoker's nicotine withdrawal symptoms. NRTs are available as patches, gums, inhalers, nasal sprays, or lozenges. NRTs should be used with behavioral modification.

Bupropion (Zyban) is a pre-

scription antidepressant that affects brain chemicals involved in craving nicotine.

Varenicline (Chantix) reduces the pleasurable effects of smoking and helps reduce nicotine withdrawal symptoms.

If you want to quit smoking and need help, contact one of the following organizations:

American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org; American Heart Association, www.amhrt.org; American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org; National Cancer Institute, www.cancer.gov; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking & Health, www.cdc.gov/tobacco; Smokefree.gov, www.smokefree.gov.

If you have used tobacco, you should have regular oral exams by your physician or dentist. These exams will detect changes that could be cancer or a precursor of cancer.

Cancer and other conditions of the lung have the following symptoms: a new cough, a change in cough, coughing up blood, hoarseness, difficulty breathing, wheezing, headaches, chest pain, loss of appetite, weight loss, general fatigue, and repeated respiratory infections.

However, many lung cancers have no apparent symptoms until they are advanced.

If you have been a tobacco user or continue to smoke or chew, it's critical that you get regular medical attention.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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Saturday, November 21: Charles Neville in Wendell!

It'll be history in the making when Mr. Neville brings his swinging quintet to Wendell.

Featuring "Neville Brothers North" with Khalif Neville on keys, Talyn Neville on drums, the enchanting violin of Sarah Hubbard and Mike Marida on bass. Bring a friend up to Wendell for an evening of world class jazz in the heart of small town New England.

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offering multi-generational co-

mingling, with the one and only Desert-O-Rama.

Celebrating 40 years, New England's longest running volunteer run coffeehouse is always a benefit for a local service or environmental organization. This particular night it is a benefit for the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse. The show is \$7 to \$15, sliding scale.

The show starts with an open mic at 7:30 p.m. For open mic sign-up, directions, and further information please visit our website at www.wendellfullmoon.org.

Get New Direction for the New Year

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Institute for New Directions (MIND), a program that helps women identify strengths, set personal goals and identify the steps to attain them, will run on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., January 11 through April 11 at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries Women's Center.

MIND is a twelve-week training program for women who are ready to take the next step in their lives, whatever that step may be. For some, it could be continuing their education, entering or re-entering the workforce, or starting a business.

Women who feel ready to take their next step but are unsure of what that step is may also participate. MIND can help them define their course, and set attainable goals.

"In MIND we work toward discovering, acknowledging and embracing each woman's own strengths, wisdom and life experience," says Christine Diani, MCSM Women's Center Co-

ordinator and facilitator of the MIND training. "We take the time to build confidence and self-esteem and then to identify, set, and work toward long and short-term goals. We work on communication, basic computer and leadership skills."

MIND also helps women access local resources by inviting representatives from the community – Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Greenfield Community College, the Career Center, and others – who can help women build personal and professional support networks.

There is no cost to participate. Sign up now. Program fills up fast.

For more information contact Christine Diani, Coordinator, MCSM Women's Center, 41 Third Street, Turners Falls at (413) 863-4804 ext. 1003, or christine@mcsmcommunity.org. See www.mcsmcommunity.org for more details.

Thanksgiving at the People's Pint

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The People's Pint, located at 24 Federal Street, is a restaurant that is open for lunch and dinner daily. They support an organization called MassBike, which encourages people to use bikes instead of cars, by giving them 25% of the profits from a beer tasting event they held out of Newton.

Another charitable event they are having is their third annual "pay what you can" Thanksgiving dinner, on November 26 from noon till 5 p.m. It is called "Thanksgiving for the People."

Traditional Thanksgiving food will be served, and none of their regular items will be on the menu.

"All of the tables are put together – we make a bunch of long tables," said Josh Breitner, the general manager for the past 3 years.

Many local businesses donate food for the meal. "We got Diemand Farm, Pine Hill Orchard, Squash Trucking, Snow's Ice Cream, and Girard's Valley View Farm," said Josh, when asked where they would be getting food for the dinner.

Last year, some of the same places gave food, including Squash, Pine Hill Orchard, and Diemand Farm, with the rest of the donations coming from the Gill Tavern. Beer was for sale last year.

"People really like it – it's a nice way to bring families together," Josh said, when asked why the restaurant was continuing to do the dinner. "It's a lot of fun, and we raise money for charity."

One of those charities is the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Josh said they have gotten "about 300 people to show up" for the meal in the past.

"Do you hope to feed a lot of people this year?" I asked.

"Oh yeah, probably more than that," he replied.

I learned from Josh how the event started.

"Three years ago, our chef, David "Byrd" Sargent, came up with the idea. He saw a lot of people with nowhere to go for the holidays, and thought to give them somewhere to go."

An article in the *Recorder* newspaper website described what happened the first time they hosted the dinner. About 200 people showed up, and halfway through the day, \$500 had been raised. Along with the chef whose idea it was, ten other staff members of the restaurant volunteered to help out.

I was told by Josh that community people come to help, too.

That sounds like a five-star rating for the event to me.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Shooting Flames at Hardware Store; Duck Hunters On Migratory Way; Racist Symbol At Railroad Salvage

Monday, 11/9

11:10 a.m. While blowing leaves on J Street, caller discovered several syringes; requesting that officer dispose of them. Area checked; unable to locate.

4:32 p.m. Request for Officer Ruddock and Artie to assist with a lost/missing child case in Sunderland. Child located; response canceled.

9:27 p.m. Caller reports that she passed by what she thinks is a dog that was struck and still in the road near the Rt. 47/63 crossover. Caller observed blood; unsure if animal is still alive. Area checked; unable to locate.

12:01 a.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle parked in handicapped spot on Sixth Street. Officer clear; occupant staying warm in vehicle.

6:45 a.m. Report of injured raccoon on front lawn on Federal Street; caller concerned about safety of children in area.

Responding officer advises that animal was put down; three .22 rounds discharged. DPW will be by to pick up animal.

7:32 a.m. Officer found six bags of trash dumped on the back side of Newton Street. Inside one of the bags was a receipt from Stop and Shop with a customer number. Officer will try to identify customer.

9:51 a.m. Caller from Pioneer Aviation requests to speak with officer about trucks disregarding no trespassing signs on the property. Report taken.

10:25 a.m. Caller from Wentworth House reports seeing flames shooting up from the propane tanks next to Aubuchon Hardware. TFFD advised; captain reports that he was just contacted by the company there that is burning off some excess fuel.

4:40 p.m. Caller from N Street report that her neighbors' aggressive dog is in her yard and she is afraid to leave her house. Ongoing issue. Officer located animal, who was back inside, and advised owners that they may have to get a run or something

if the dog does not stay in its own yard.

6:38 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road advises that neighbors' aggressive dog is outside of their house again; she cannot put her own dogs outside as the other dog will attack. Caller stated that on Saturday the dog attempted to bite her. Officer and animal control officer advised; ACO advises he has already spoken to this caller and has set up a trap today to catch this dog.

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

Wednesday, 11/11
12:55 a.m. Caller from Avenue C reports a loud party at a neighbor's house. Responding officer warned all parties to keep it down and advised that action would be taken if MPD had to respond again for similar.

3:18 a.m. Officer checking on pickup truck parked on the Avenue A extension. Male occupant is asleep in front seat. No police action needed.

1:41 p.m. K9 unit requested by Greenfield PD to assist with an investigation.

3:25 p.m. 911 caller reports that while outside at St. Kaz, he witnessed a black Chevy Impala back into the Aubuchon store building then take off up Seventh Street. Caller from Aubuchon advising of same; states that there is slight damage to building and she has incident on video. Report taken.

4:10 p.m. Caller reports that there is an open gate at Railroad Salvage and people walking in and out; feels this is unsafe. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 11/12
4:22 a.m. [REDACTED]

39, of Turners Falls was arrested on one straight warrant, two default warrants, and one count of illegal possession of a Class A substance.

8:40 a.m. Caller from Kingsley Avenue reporting a potentially injured hawk in his backyard. Referred to environmental police.

10:59 a.m. Caller reports that approximately 20 minutes ago his wife was driving on Montague City Road near Farren Care Center when someone threw a pumpkin at her vehicle. No damage to vehicle, but operator fairly shaken up by incident. Officers checked area but did not locate any pumpkin remains.

Friday, 11/13
5:21 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that he was just assaulted by a wooden board by the upstairs tenant. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

7:21 p.m. Request from Sunderland PD for K9 unit to assist with track. Female party, possibly intoxicated, took off on foot after being involved with a disturbance. Officer en route.

8:10 p.m. Caller advising of "after hours activities" happening on the Unity Park basketball court. Responding officer advises nobody on court at this time.

Saturday, 11/14
7:02 a.m. Report of hunters with a hunting dog shooting at ducks approximately 150 feet off the road halfway down Migratory Way. Officer advises that hunting is legal in this area and duck hunting is in season.

7:31 a.m. Report of hunters in the woods near Rock Dam. Officer advises that area is legal to hunt in and duck hunting is in season. Caller advised.

10:42 a.m. Car vs. deer accident on Millers Falls Road. No injury/smoke/fluids. Report taken.

4:18 p.m. Caller reports she was walking in the

area and noticed someone has painted a large swastika in the parking lot of the old Railroad Salvage. Caller also reports that the fence that surrounds the hydro station has a lock or chain that she thinks was cut. Report taken.

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

10:32 p.m. Officers came across several parties, one photographing another juggling fire, on G Street. This was a Hallmark student.

Sunday, 11/15
11:34 a.m. Copied via radio as Greenfield PD responded to accident on Mountain Road, below the hill, initially reported as 2 vehicles racing, one vehicle off the road head on into the guardrail. Update: 2 vehicles involved, one left the scene heading uphill towards Maple Street. MPD officers on scene diverting traffic. GPD advises accident not caused by racing; one vehicle was trying to pass illegally, and the operator of the other vehicle panicked and swerved into the guardrail.

4:04 p.m. Officer reports argument between two parties at the Pizza House. Officer witnessed male party get out of the car and punch a nearby trash can, knocking off the top. He was made to replace the item. Female party advises this was verbal only.

7:06 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive reports that someone at a red house on this street is "sawing into the door," stating he believes the party is using a saw to get into the house. Officer checked area; party was found to be replacing the lock on his house door.

8:54 p.m. Officers checking on a male party behind the Salvation Army. Party was looking for returnables.

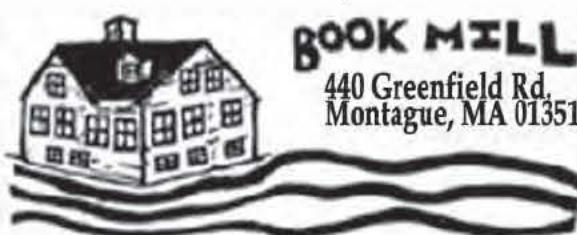
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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was November 17, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

about the reason for the article.

Wendell Pays Its Bills

A cheer went up in Wendell town hall on November 9, a few minutes after 7 p.m., when a tenth person walked in from the rainy night, making a quorum of the special town meeting.

Two more townspeople entered in the next few minutes, but they received no cheer, as business was already under way.

The entire warrant was passed.

Montague Hangs Ten

After two years of neglect, the skate park in Turners Falls may soon be open once again.

Suffering from neglect, a shortage of funds and a decline in inter-

est on the part of volunteers, the site now features ramps covered with peeling paint and a few broken benches. Only the weeds and the youth who climb over the fence to do kick flips, breathe a sign of life into the place. One of the fences has toppled over.

"The lease has a maintenance clause written into it which the town is responsible for," said current park landlord Tim de Christopher. "Next to nothing has been done to restore it or keep it intact."

"Do you have long-term use for the parcel?" asked Pat Allen, selectboard member. "A sculpture project," de Christopher replied.

Anyone interested in volunteering to work on refurbishing the skate park or in finding out more should contact the selectboard's office in town hall.

Roger Salloom and Band
with Charles Neville
The Arts Block
289 Main Street, Greenfield, Mass
(413) 774-0150
www.theartsblock.com
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JINX from page B1

(mainly Jinx) kept picking at them until there were so many runs that they would simply unravel.

She said it felt good. To the youngest of the boys, watching the unraveling process seemed almost magical.

It doesn't take much to entertain a boy between five and seven years of age, does it?

The Needle

One of the pleasures the boys had while living on "The Block" was having pillow fights quite often. The four of them would get on Bud's bed and flail away at each other, trying to knock each other off the bed.

The last one standing was the winner. Jinx was too little (or too dense) to realize that he was always saved for last. When he and only one of his brothers remained on the bed, he would be pummeled, and end up wedged between the bed and the wall.

Jinx's brothers would then break out in laughter as they watched him struggle to extract himself. Years later, he found out it had been their plan all along; *Jinx guesses he was too dense.*

One of the best pillow fights happened on a summer evening when Bud, the oldest brother, wasn't home yet. The usual flailing went on with the remaining three brothers, except that this night the pillow split, and feathers flew all over the place.

Panic struck the three of them as they expected their mom and/or dad would not really be pleased.

A plan was hatched, whereby one of the older brothers would sneak downstairs and get a needle and thread to repair the now-unstuffed pillow. Son number two was chosen for the task, and stealthily proceeded downstairs to get the tools so as not to make their parents aware of the situation.

While he was obtaining the implements, son number three and Jinx were busy gathering the strewn feathers and re-stuffing the pillow.

When number two returned, they proceeded to sew up the tear, but ended up stitching the pillowcase cover to the pillow (probably should have had a sewing class); and then, OOPS, son number two dropped the needle.

After searching for over an hour, without success, the boys gave up, made Bud's bed, and retired for the night, satisfied that they had fooled their parents and that Bud would not discover the damage to his pillow when he went to bed later that night.

Morning came, and when Bud woke up and was getting dressed to go down to breakfast, he was complaining that he had not slept very well. He thought he had been bit-

ten by bugs, as he saw quite a few marks on his upper body – the boys always slept in just their undershorts in the summer, as the third-floor bedrooms could become stifling on humid summer nights.

Upon seeing the marks, the three younger boys could not contain their laughter. Bud had Found The Needle!

Forgotten

Jinx had been told this story many times, by his mother and oldest brother Bud and his brother Royer, about the time Jinx was a little baby in a carriage.

Apparently, Bud had been put in charge of watching Jinx one afternoon and decided to go to the park and play ball with his friends, so he took the baby with him. So, what was the problem with this?

When he finished playing, he went home and left Jinx there alone – carriage and all.

Needless to say, "Jo" and "Bimp" (Jinx's parents) did not appreciate this, and let Bud know it. So as not to have this happen again, they relieved him of the responsibility for watching out for Jinx in the future.

Instead, they turned over the task to poor Royer. Henceforth, whenever Royer went to play, his baby brother went too. Maybe this is why he and Jinx have been so close throughout their lives.

Playing Marbles

When growing up, Royer was so devout that everyone in the family, as well as his friends, thought that he would become a priest. He never smoked or drank, and went to church at every opportunity.

In all the years he has known him, Jinx only remembers once hearing him even come close to profanity.

Royer had been playing marbles in the alley behind "The Block" when suddenly he came running up the back stairs and, rushing into the house, ran to a corner of the kitchen, where he knelt down and started praying.

He had tears in his eyes (Royer had never been known to cry) and, until son number three came in, they didn't have the faintest idea what had happened.

He related that when "Crazy Joe," a neighbor boy, had won all of Royer's marbles, Royer became so upset that he called Joe a "s**t house."

Realizing what he had done, there he knelt, asking God for forgiveness.

Jinx was about five or six years old when he witnessed this, but he'll never forget it, and he never saw Royer cry again, no matter how hurt he might physically be, or over any sad situations.

OYSTERGIRL'S

guide to

REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

When I first experimented with making my own tooth powder and toothpaste, I expected a transitional period, during which I'd have bad breath. Not so. I've been using "natural" toothpastes for years anyway, which is maybe partly why the transition was easy.

If anything, my mouth felt fresher, less filmy, when using a simple mixture of baking soda and peppermint essential oil to brush my teeth, and a simple mixture of water, baking soda, peppermint essential oil, and tea tree oil as mouthwash.

One day, after having done this for about a year, an absolutely brilliant idea occurred to me: lemon essential oil! After all, lemon is freshening and cleansing, right? I drink freshly-squeezed lemon water every morning to cleanse my liver and strengthen my immune system; I have always found it to be curative of my "morning mouth," more so than plain water.

And you see lemon, real or artificial, in cleaning products everywhere, so it must be true, right?

I went out and bought lemon essential oil immediately, and now I use that instead of peppermint oil in the tooth powder, while maintaining the peppermint oil in the mouthwash.

It's tasty and refreshing and works like a charm.

A big box of baking soda is cheap and will last a loooooong time. Essential oils can get pricey, but you use so little of them per batch that they, too, last a long time.

It's definitely cheaper than toothpaste – cheaper still than "natural" toothpaste – and if you reuse the same glass jars for your potions, you're saving the waste of all that plastic packaging.

I have yet to work up the courage to replace my toothbrush with a tooth twig. Maybe one day...

Here are my recipes for tooth powder and mouthwash, adapted from *Making It: Radical Home Ec For A Post-Consumer World* by Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen, a book I can't recommend enough.

All measurements are approximate; experiment and find your own ideal concoction.

#10: Tooth Powder and Mouthwash

Homemade Tooth Powder

Ingredients:

- small jar with lid, maybe 4 ounces, preferably glass. I use a baby food jar.
- 1/3 cup baking soda
- peppermint and/or lemon essential oil

Method:

Put the baking soda in the jar. Add essential oil to taste, starting with maybe 10 or 15 drops. Shake jar or stir with the handle of your toothbrush to distribute the oil. I've found that occasional stirring throughout the course of the batch's life is helpful, too.

To use, wet your toothbrush and dip it in the jar. Brush your teeth!

Homemade Mouthwash

Ingredients:

- medium-sized jar with a lid, maybe 16 ounces, preferably glass. I use an old olive jar.
- 1 3/4 cup water
- 2 T baking soda
- peppermint essential oil
- tea tree oil (optional)

Method:

Use about a tablespoon of baking soda for a cup of water. Again, experiment with the peppermint oil – start with maybe 20 drops. Only use a TINY BIT of the tea tree oil. Like, a drop. Two, max. For the whole jar. Really. It's very strong and can be toxic.

Put it all in the jar, and shake well before each use.

Also, in case you need it, here's a freebie, a home toothache remedy. Because, despite your best efforts at dental hygiene, DIY or otherwise, you might still be plagued (not to be confused with "plagued") by the occasional toothache. Have no fear. Getting rid of that is easy peasy, no chemical painkillers necessary.

Home Toothache Remedy

I've heard that this is a traditional Chinese remedy.

Ingredients:

- clove buds. Seriously, that's it.

Method:

Simply remove the bulbous head of the clove from the stem. Get maybe 5 or 6 of them – fewer, if you have sensitive taste buds. Chew them near the toothache. You'll get all numb. Repeat as needed.

QUERY PHOTO

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the paleo/ancestral movement.

She writes about food and philosophy and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.

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GARDENER from page B1

were done in by the frost so we have let them go, but not before adding the earthy contents of the pots to the compost.

We also add any seed starter or potting soil we have left. These products are expensive, but it is not worth trying to save them for next year, unless you are willing to spend the time baking the soil in small batches to kill any mold spores which will give you problems next time you want to use them.

There are always a few more leaves as the trees do not drop conveniently at the same time, and some always blow down our way from up the street. At some point we cry uncle and refuse to do any more raking.

Then it's time to run the lawn mower over them and leave them to enrich the lawn. Of course, it's also good maintenance to finish off the tank of gas before storing this noisy machine.

After all this, if you still have patience, it's a **great time to throw** some lime on the garden plots and on the lawn as well. If you like, you can have your soil tested at UMass, or buy an inexpensive test kit at the

garden store, but chances are, you can always use more lime. Spread now, it will leach in slowly and help to improve the soil for next season.

If you have moss growing in your lawn or garden, then you are like most New Englanders, living in acid soil.

We've drained the hose and stashed it away. Once these last few garden tasks are finished, we'll clean and put the garden tools away in some orderly fashion so when we are looking forward to using them, they'll be handy.

After all of this, we can begin to look forward to the holidays. We so enjoy these times for closeness with family and friends, special activities, music and foods, but it's hard to get into the spirit when it all has become highly commercialized and Christmas appears right after the Halloween candy has been pulled from the shelves, and the focus on gift buying and receiving has grown so exponentially.

Still, as the dark falls ever earlier and we spend more time inside for warmth and light, we will rediscover the pleasure of sending baked goods and notes to those we stay in touch with only once a year, the de-

light of finding that one small gift that will pleasure the giver as much as the one receiving it.

We'll bask in the annual traditions of cutting a tree, baking seasonal foods, making eggnog and gathering friends. We'll decorate with lights and greenery both indoors and out, go caroling, attend Christmas concerts and contribute to those in greater need.

But first, we'll savor the bright morning hours, the roseate sunsets, the passage of the geese over the river, and the expanding views of our world.

We'll make time for a walk in the woods to search for bits of Partridge Berry, small ferns and moss to set into dirt or small rocks in a glass container creating a small indoor garden for friends and family members confined to one room.

Bring in the garden wherever you can, in small terrariums, by forcing bulbs or creating sprays or wreaths. You'll be glad of them when the days shrink to the shortest and the long nights come. Then you can set out the candles and sit by the fire savoring the light.

As always, happy gardening!

**FALLTOWN** from page B1

Montague resident who plays keyboard and fiddle along with being a vocalist. Sue is a flutist, while Marvin plays rhythm guitar and does vocals.

Burbank sings in the Leverett chorus and the United Church in Bernardston. A gifted musician, he has a deep love of melody. "We can play Jason a new song two or three times," said Marvin, "and he already can add a harmony part to it. He's **amazing**."

Nelson, of Turners, has performed with the group for 22 years. He handles the standup bass. Jack was part of the Rochester rock and roll-folk scene as a member of Bat McGrath's well-known group. This

band included Don Potter, who went on to be a session player in Nashville and is credited with "discovering" Naomi and Wynona Judd.

Meanwhile, Helms is from Montague, is a two-year veteran of the FSB, and does vocals and some lead work on guitar. "He's a very good player," said Marvin. Helms played in "roots" bands in Delaware during his formative years. He, too, sings with the United Church choir in Bernardston.

Marvin said, "People in the audience have come up to Wayne at least half a dozen times after a show to tell him he sounds like Neil Young."

The Falltown String Band plays on the first Thursday of the month at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls

from 8 to 10 p.m. The FSB has appeared there for 10 years and has always been a favorite.

Another regular gig is Cameron's Winery of Northfield, formerly of Swanzey, New Hampshire. The winery has named a maple apple wine after the Falltown String Band called "Falltown Bliss." The band was honored at an August ceremony during their monthly appearance at Cameron's.

Looking ahead to the release of the new album, Jack Arensmeyer, the group's **only part-timer**, wrote a song for the CD. There are 19 tunes on the CD – five of them suggested by Marvin's 21-year-old son, Danny. Paul Interlande, a well-known local drummer for the band Sledge, is producing.

Despite the introduction of new genres, the Falltown String Band still plays some 10 square dances per year: six regular performances at Chesterfield Community Hall in September, October, and November; the Heath Fair; Cummington Fair; and two in Williamsburg.

"Yes," said Marvin Shedd, "we've changed, and we've evolved. But through it all, we've **stayed true** to our roots."

For more info, contact Marvin Shedd at (413) 648-9151.



The Falltown String Band.

WRITE IT from page B1

would buy six or eight penny candies at D.O. Paul's **country store**.

I couldn't wait to tell someone about my new-found wealth. I showed one of the pennies to my older sister, Emmy.

"Those are Indian head pennies," she said, "They aren't any good. Stores won't take them. **Real pennies** have Lincoln's head on them, like on this penny," which she held beside Johnny's **Indian head penny** in comparison. "Put it back, and leave them alone."

After much thought, I decided to see if I could slip one past old D.O. Paul. I trudged the mile or so to his store. After asking for some penny candy, I held my breath as I handed him an Indian head penny.

D.O. had a glass eye. He squinted with his good eye, cocking his head to one side, as he carefully looked

over the penny. I gave a little sigh of relief when he didn't question me about the penny, though I felt guilty for putting one over on poor old half blind D.O.

I was a bit puzzled when he slipped the coin into his pocket instead of putting it into the cash register.

A week or so later, I tried my luck again. D.O. didn't spend any time examining the penny but simply slipped it into his pocket, again, without question. After the third or fourth passing of yet another of these worthless pennies, D.O. asked, "Where are you getting these pennies?"

I confessed that I was taking them out of Johnny's **overcoat**. D.O. didn't reply. He simply slipped the Indian head into his pocket.

When I got home, I told my sister Emmy how I'd fooled D.O. into

taking the worthless pennies.

"Joey, you need to stop taking those pennies out of Johnny's **overcoat**. He's **collecting them** because they aren't making them anymore and each one is worth a lot more than a penny."

"So, why did you tell me they were worthless?"

"I said that, so you wouldn't try to spend them."

Emmy went to see D.O. to try to get them back, but I don't think she had any luck getting them returned. She just confessed that she shouldn't have told me the Indian head pennies were worthless.

Johnny came home to visit and took the overcoat and pennies with him. I never saw another Indian head until years later when I sent away to a coin dealer to buy one.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**Male With No Shirt Or Shoes Flees****Monday, 11/2**

1:35 p.m. Alarm at Lester Street tripped by employee, all set.

Wednesday, 11/4

9:05 a.m. Alarm at Old State Road, all set.

1:30 p.m. Report of unregistered vehicle parked on West High Street, report taken.

5:40 p.m. Male subject reported walking on Route 2 with no shirt or shoes who was seen fleeing into the woods. Officer was unable to locate.

Thursday, 11/5

7:25 a.m. Standby for fire at Erving Paper.

6:19 p.m. Report of

a vehicle ramming an abutment on the French King Bridge, officer investigated.

Friday, 11/6

7 p.m. Report of two car motor vehicle crash, gone on arrival.

9:10 p.m. Noise complaint on North Street. Advised to turn down for the night.

Sunday, 11/8
Report of disturbance at French King Highway, peace restored by officer.

Monday, 11/9

8 a.m. Assisted Erving Fire Department with report of fire on Church street. Unable to locate fire.

10 a.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on Ridge Road.

Tuesday, 11/10

9:30 a.m. Report of a vehicle playing loud music and peeling out of Weatherhead's convenience store.

Wednesday 11/11

4:40 p.m. Noise complaint on Lester Street. Caller called back to say noise subsided.

Thursday, 11/12

5 p.m. Report of vehicle without headlights heading east on Route 2, unable to locate.

Friday, 11/13

3:05 p.m. Officer assisting with unhappy customer at Tim's RV.

5:50 p.m. Motor vehicle struck a deer on State road.

Saturday, 11/14

11:40 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on North Street.

Montague Reporter Holiday Gala

Thursday, December 3
Cocktail Hour at 5:30 p.m. – Buffet at 6:30 p.m.

French King Restaurant
French King Highway (Route 2), Erving

You are cordially invited to attend, support, and celebrate the many years of service of Patricia Pruitt and Chris Sawyer-Lauanno at this very special event.

Over the years, Patricia and Chris have written for, advised, and served as editors at the paper. Patricia continues in her role as the editor of our monthly Poetry Page. Come one, come all – show these two how much their service has meant to our community paper!

Entertainment provided by guitarist Ed Shamo, and singer Dusty DuFresne.

Reservations requested:

To pay by check, write "c/o MAG - Gala" in the memo line, and send to:
Montague Reporter, 177 Avenue A,
Turners Falls, MA 01376

To pay online, go to montaguereporter.org and press the Donate button. This will bring you to our PayPal – make sure you include "c/o MAG - Gala" and your name(s)!

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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



La clase de inglés



La clase de Taryn: La atmósfera es relajada, lo que crea un inmejorable ambiente de aprendizaje.

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

TURNERS FALLS – Todos sabemos que aprender inglés es importante para integrarse en la sociedad estadounidense, para lidiar con la burocracia y por supuesto para conseguir un trabajo.

La organización sin fines de lucro *Center for New Americans* ofrece clases gratis de inglés para todos aquellos que estén interesados. Las clases se ofrecen en dos niveles diferentes y los cinco días de la semana.

Tuve el honor de sentarme en una de las clases hace unas semanas. Debo decir que la clase se desarrolla enteramente en inglés, puesto que los estudiantes tienen diferentes nacionalidades y lo importante es manejar la lengua meta que es el inglés.

La profesora es Taryn Amina que después de graduarse de *Holyoke Community College* y *Hampshire College*, empezó a enseñar en 2009 como profesora de ESOL (Inglés para hablantes de otras lenguas). Taryn me presentó al resto de los estudiantes y me permitió compartir el resto de la clase.

Empezamos con la fecha del día y a continuación Taryn explicó a los estudiantes que no tendrían clase ese miércoles puesto que era *Veteran's Day*. Acto seguido se inició un diálogo para saber si los estudiantes conocían qué se celebraba ese día.

Explicar hechos culturales es importante para entender la historia del país al que han llegado y más aún si se hace en la lengua meta.

A continuación la clase pasó a explorar el tema del día, todo lo relacionado con la mudanza y encontrar apartamento. Los estudiantes repasaron vocabulario para usar en esa situación como: anuncios por palabras, contrato de alquiler, caso, cargar muebles, hacer cajas, etc.

En la siguiente actividad Taryn leyó dos veces en inglés una pequeña historia que contenía algunas de estas palabras usándolas en conceptos más desarrollados. La historia terminaba con unas preguntas que los estudiantes debían responder y con ellas se abría el debate, siempre en inglés.

Los estudiantes ávidos de mostrar sus conocimientos participan y ayudan a los compañeros que no entienden completamente. La atmósfera es relajada, lo que crea un inmejorable ambiente de aprendizaje.

Una vez expuestas las ideas, Taryn distribuyó la misma historia, esta vez por escrito a cada estudiante y tuvieron tiempo para leerla con atención y fijarse en los detalles.

La profesora usa la pizarra y rotuladores de diferentes colores para clasificar las dudas y las respuestas, con paciencia explica una y otra vez los conceptos que no han quedado claros.

Taryn usa gestos y dibujos para ayudar con sus explicaciones en inglés. La siguiente parte de la clase se dedica a la pronunciación, y todos leemos juntos la historia en pequeñas partes.

La última actividad consistió en practicar los pasados y su pronunciación. Los estudiantes debíamos usar el pasado en frases que tuvieran relación con nuestra vida real y los acontecimientos vividos en el pasado.

Al final hicimos una puesta en común donde compartimos las frases que habíamos elaborado con los verbos propuestos por Taryn.

Durante la clase se practicaron las cuatro habilidades: expresión oral, expresión escrita, comprensión oral y comprensión escrita, además de la interacción social, la motivación, y competencia intercultural.

La clase llegó al descanso y tuve

unos momentos para charlar sobre la experiencia con los estudiantes.

Todos estaban de acuerdo en que el inglés no es fácil, pero es necesario aprenderlo para conseguir una mejor integración y conseguir llegar lejos en sus objetivos personales y profesionales en los Estados Unidos.

Noticias del mundo

Traducido por VICTORIA MAILLO

Diversos ataques terroristas en París con explosivos y armas dejaron una cifra de 132 fallecidos y más de 300 heridos de diversa consideración.

- **Argentina** se prepara para las elecciones presidenciales que tendrán lugar el próximo 22 de noviembre. Los candidatos que aparecen con mejores posiciones en las encuestas son el moderado Scioli y el conservador Macri.

- **México** está preparando una ley para legalizar la marihuana apoyada por la mayoría de los partidos políticos que creen que puede ser beneficiosa en la lucha contra el narcotráfico.

- El recién llegado presidente de **Guatemala**, Jimmy Morales, quiere iniciar un programa para regalar celulares a los niños de bajos recursos e incorporar GPS a los maestros para saber dónde se encuentran.

Fuente: Agencia Reuters

Licencia para manejar y transporte público

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

MONTAGUE Y TURNERS FALLS – Si vives en los Estados Unidos y no manejas la vida es complicada. Más aún si no vives en una gran ciudad con transporte público. Si vives en una zona rural donde el transporte público no tiene una gran frecuencia y no llega a muchos lugares o emplea horas en llegar a un sitio al que llegarías manejando en unos diez minutos, estás perdido. Y esto es lo que ocurre en Montague, Massachusetts.

Si eres inmigrante en Massachusetts contribuyes a la economía pagando tasas, pero te enfrentas a la imposibilidad de obtener tu licencia de manejar debido a tu estatus migratorio. Acogiéndose a la décima enmienda, doce estados y el distrito de Columbia permiten a inmigrantes indocumentados obtener permisos para conducir cualquiera que sea su estado migratorio.

Dentro de estos doce estados cada uno de ellos regula la normativa con requisitos diferentes desde una prueba de haber vivido en ese estado por lo menos dos años, un pasaporte extranjero hasta una prueba del pago de impuestos. Massachusetts no es uno de ellos.

El estado de Massachusetts no permite a los conductores indocumentados conseguir su licencia de manejar. En mayo de este mismo año grupos de inmigrantes y sindicatos se congregaron ante el Parlamento de Massachusetts como muestra de apoyo a dos proyectos de ley a favor de inmigrantes indocumentados.

El primer proyecto abogaba por la posibilidad de permitir a inmigrantes indocumentados solicitar la licencia de conducir. El segundo proyecto quería negar el permiso de detención a la policía local por delitos federales de inmigración. Ninguno de estos dos proyectos de ley siguió adelante.

Y aquí es donde se origina la polémica.

Grupos de defensores de los inmigrantes opinan, por una parte, que la licencia de conducir contribuiría a una mejor seguridad vial, a un descenso de automóviles sin seguro, a huidas del conductor después de los accidentes, mejores conocimientos del código de circulación, un sistema más seguro de pago de multas, y revisiones de los automóviles. Por otra parte, la obtención de la licencia de manejar es crucial para la participación en la vida cotidiana

y las tareas diarias. No poder conducir agrava la situación de muchos inmigrantes para poder mejorar sus condiciones de vida.

Pongamos algunos ejemplos: En general en el estado de Massachusetts el 85 por ciento de los residentes necesitan un carro para llegar al trabajo. Esta cifra aumenta cuando el domicilio o el puesto de trabajo se encuentran en zonas aisladas.

No poder conducir impide que se pueda encontrar un trabajo mejor, en ocasiones perder horas de trabajo que luego no se pagan, no poder alargar las horas de trabajo si fuera necesario para conseguir horas extras, o incluso perder tu trabajo si no consigues llegar a tiempo por problemas del transporte público.

Muchos de los inmigrantes trabajan en áreas remotas donde es imposible llegar con el transporte público existente.

Otro ejemplo que afecta a la vida diaria es el de los padres y madres que no pueden manejar.

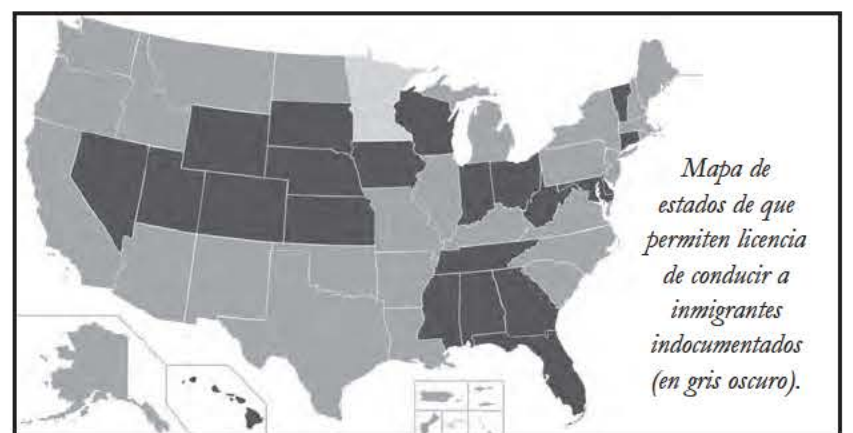
En Montague el transporte escolar no recoge a estudiantes que vivan a menos de una milla y media del centro escolar. Caminar una milla y media en pleno invierno, con nieve y niños pequeños no es tarea fácil e incluso puede resultar peligroso.

Otras tareas como ir a comprar, ir al médico, acceder a servicios sociales se hacen muy complicados si no tienes la posibilidad de manejar. Todos estos factores hacen que la situación de desamparo social, desconexión, y falta de recursos económicos se agrave añadiendo una nueva capa a su situación de desventaja.

Las opiniones en contra de este proyecto de ley también existen. Hay personas que piensan que no se debe recompensar a los inmigrantes que han atravesado ilegalmente la frontera ofreciéndoles la licencia de conducir.

Algunas voces opinan que si se concediera el permiso para obtener la licencia de manejar para inmigrantes indocumentados, esta dejaría de ser válida como identificación para el resto de los ciudadanos con el problema que esto conllevaría en los aeropuertos u otros espacios donde fuera necesaria una identificación segura.

Aun así los detractores del proyecto de ley no pueden negar que el acceso a la licencia de manejar a todos los inmigrantes que lo soliciten generaría unas ganancias de unos 7 millones de dólares.



Mapa de estados de que permiten licencia de conducir a inmigrantes indocumentados (en gris oscuro).

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH

Montague Center Library: *Outside the Lines!* 1st Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

People's Pint, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Inside Art ii*, and *Reflections from Inside*. Exhibit of photography and a display of writings from men incarcerated in the Franklin County House of Correction. Exhibit through 11/20.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *Portraits: Revealing & Concealing*. 36 local artists explore the puzzle of the portrait. Opens 11/15 through 1/14. Reception 11/19, 6-8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Nature of Life*. Group art exhibit by the Artists of Franklin County. Photography and multimedia with reflections on nature. Curated by Ellen Blanchette. Through 11/30. Hours for Discovery Center have been expanded (yay!) to Wednesday-Sunday for the winter, 10-4 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *LCA Residents Group Show*.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *The Erection*. Ongoing exhibit chronicles the creation of Glenn Ridler's Little Big House. Photographs, printed text and video help tell the story. info@littlebighousegallery.com

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Silvia's Exotic Fashions*. A lifetime of world travel as represented in fashions from Silvia's closet: vintage dresses, jewelry, accessories and clothes of impeccable taste. 11/13-12/1.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Peggy Hart: Wool Gathering*. Collection of local wool and linsey woolsey blankets woven on antique industrial looms. Exhibit runs through 12/31.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Fine arts and crafts by

member artists. Check website for seasonal hours: www.sawmillriverarts.com

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Follow the Thread*. A group show by fiber artists who are members of the cooperative. Show runs through 11/23.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: Seeking artwork for their Doug and Marty Jones Art Space. Artists of any age from Franklin County can submit application found at bit.ly/1SFZz78 or contact library.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-

opert: Mt. Toby Concerts presents *Tom Juravich*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Equalites*. Reggae. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mr. Noisy & The Spark Plugs*. Rock and Roll for your Soul! 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove night w/DJ Drew*. (hip-hop/funk/r&b) 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Sunday Improv Fun Time*. Open improv jam. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Dean Kennedy*. Contemporary piano. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lexi Weege*. Sassy Jazzy Blues. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic Cabaret*. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *After-Glo and Sledge*. Free pre-Thanksgiving event.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Roger Salloom & Charles Neville*. With 5 piece studio backup band. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. Not your father's blues band! 8:30 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Aileen Valca (Earnest's Liver), Jesse Mosher, The Pistoleros*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: Arena Civic Theatre auditions for April 2016 production of *Spring Awakening*, a rock musical. 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*. Guitar, up close and personal. 8 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. 60's and 70's gold. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Asphalt Jungle*. John Huston's classic noir crime. 7:30



Tom Juravich, singer, songwriter, and labor activist, will perform at the Mt. Toby Friends Meeting in Leverett on Saturday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m. This concert is a part of Mt. Toby Peace and Social Concerns Committee's monthly concerts, featuring singer-songwriters of music for social change.

operative gallery. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music w/Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*. Blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Outlaw Country. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Howlie - Silver Lake*. Acoustic/indie/ '60s vibe. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Book and media sale*. 10-2 p.m.

Mt. Toby Friends Meeting, Lev-

ett: *Citrus & the Fruitbowl*. A cappella. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
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Saturday: Jim Eagan. Folk & Blues.
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MY VAN GOGH from pg B1 directly from life, whether outdoors or in the studio.”

People familiar with Minks' work will have no trouble spotting two paintings with strong echoes of Van Gogh. Minks said, "In creating *A Van Gogh Sunset and Storm* I used my own sunset photograph, but painted in a Van Gogh style. I love painting cars and trucks, so I also painted *Rusty Old Car* with Van Gogh brush work."

The show was inspired by visits this summer by the artists of the Sawmill River Arts Gallery to the large Van Gogh exhibit at the Clark Museum.

The idea that artists working in a variety of mediums might interpret Van Gogh in their individual ways in a show unified by these efforts captured their imaginations, and they began their work.

Chris Mero, another member of the collaborative, said, "I've always loved and been inspired by Van Gogh's work, but I never actually saw his influence in my work or purposefully tried to incorporate some of his elements."

"My 'Cat Van Gogh' painting was a challenging and fun attempt to incorporate some of his signature style. I used some of his brilliant colors – intense greens, oranges, blues. I used dark outlining, and I used



Van Gogh-style sunflowers in a vase. Painting by Kerry Stone at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery.

pattern on the wall behind the cat figure.

"In my 'Forest' painting, which is a copy of Van Gogh's *Forest and Undergrowth*, I copied his small repetitive brush strokes throughout, and his wavy tree patterns."

All right, that's more than enough information to set a reader on a successful hunt.

The drawing for the gift basket will be on November 29, and with these cues it should not be hard to find all the Van Gogh inspired works.

But don't stop there. The gallery is filled with lovely things, from warm winter hats to silk-lined glasses cases to children's

all-cotton tee shirts painted with dragonflies and birds.

There's jewelry, photography and more. Some of the artwork has been reproduced in prints and cards so that for a small sum, you can have something unique while supporting a local artist.

While some people brave traffic and crowds at the mall, another way to tackle the season would be by making a trip to the gallery, stopping for coffee and something to eat, then browsing through the books at the Bookmill.

Minks said, "Most of my regional sales come through Sawmill River Arts. We are all very proud of Sawmill River Arts, we work hard to make it successful and love staffing there."

"Interacting with customers from all over the U.S. and other countries as well is a great joy."

The day I was there, the parking lot was packed, and I saw license plates from all over New England and from New York.

The river was sparkling in the sun. I thought about times that I have visited new places and wished I lived there.

Someone asked me where he could find the nearest gas station. I directed him to Rau's, with delightful pride in being a "local."



Karen Evans of Turners Falls, at the opening reception last Sunday for her joint exhibit with Jenny Tibbetts of Northfield, "Contemporary Landscapes," at UMass' Hamden Gallery. Seen behind her are two of the many local scenes that Evans has painted in the past two years: a view of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge, and houses on Prospect Street as seen from below the ridge.

At right: Evan's painting of the bridges into the Patch.

Tibbetts shows local views, as well as scenes of Brooklyn, NY.

The exhibit may be seen Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.



The gallery is on the campus at 131 Southwest Circle. "Contemporary Landscapes" is on view until December 13.

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