



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 9

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 11, 2014

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Affordable Housing Lottery Coming Soon

By DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT – The details are not quite set, but after struggling for a number of years to find suitable projects to expand affordable housing in town with funds dedicated for that purpose from the Community Preservation Act, selectboard member Julie Shively said on Tuesday, December 9, that a lottery for assisting mortgage downpayments for qualified home buyers will soon begin in Leverett.

Shively explained the program would work with low to moderate income homebuyers, using funds set aside through the town's affordable housing trust, to provide mortgage subsidies for up to four projects a year.

The homebuyers do not need to be living in Leverett currently to apply, but the intent of the program is to set aside 50% of mortgage assistance for people who now live or work in town, Shively said.

The program will be administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. A deed restriction would keep properties permanently affordable, once subsidies from the town's affordable housing trust are applied to a home purchase.

see **LEVERETT** page A7

Old and New Unite For "Wonderful Night"



CLARK PHOTO

Turners Falls' newest shop, *Stuff*, will be open during Friday's event.

By LYN CLARK

TURNERS FALLS – They just keep happening, these fun Turners Falls events, and the kids will get as big a kick out of this one as you will. This Friday evening at 5 is when it all begins downtown.

In addition to Santa and his magic mailbox at Spinner Park (hot chocolate and music at 6:30 p.m.), and Welcome Yule at the Shea Theatre (see page B1), many downtown shops and restaurants will open their doors to the festive crowd for an evening of merriment, entertainment and bargains.

One of our newest gathering places, the Five Eyed Fox at 37

Third Street, will offer a free screening of the Frank Capra classic "It's a Wonderful Life" while you partake of food and drink.

Then step right across the street to Funk*Shun for some homemade cookies and \$1 grab bags.

Next door to Funk*Shun there will be an Open House with paintings by Third Street Artists and Friends.

Then, back to 62 Avenue A to check out the wide variety of oddities and reminders-of-our-past at LOOT, while enjoying swing jazz music from the 1930s and 40s by Kenny Butler on violin and Steve Alves on guitar.

see **FRIDAY** page A6

Board of Health Considers Tobacco Sale Restrictions

By MIKE JACKSON and ELLEN BLANCHETTE

MONTAGUE – Next Wednesday night in town hall, Montague's board of health will host an open hearing on a proposed regulation that would increase the legal age for all tobacco purchases, townwide, from 18 to 21.

Gina McNeely, the town's director of public health, says she has been looking at the issue of the age as it relates to tobacco use for some time.

She said most people will not start smoking at all if they haven't started by age 20 – only 10% of those who have not already started by that age will pick up the habit.

If they don't start by 25, only 1% will.

The trouble is, McNeely said, 15-year-olds get cigarettes from 18-year-old upperclassmen who are able to buy them legally. Raising the legal age reduces the number of cigarettes that trickle down.

She referred to Lester Hartman M.D., a pediatrician she heard speak in Greenfield recently on the issue. Considering how addictive tobacco is, limiting use before age 20 can have a significant effect on lifetime use.

McNeely said that the town of Needham put a similar law into effect in 2005. Within five years, the adolescent smoking rate had

see **TOBACCO** page A7

JACKSON PHOTO

At Connecticut River Liquors in Turners Falls, cashier Ethan Banash says he has not seen someone under 18 try to purchase tobacco, except during a sting, but that plenty of customers are in the 18- to 20-year-old range the regulation would affect.

MEMORIAL

Scott Klein (1955-2014): A Friendly Downtown Presence Passes Away



PHOTO COURTESY ABRAHAM KLEIN

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last Wednesday, Scott Klein, 59, well known to many residents of this village, was taken to Baystate Franklin, where he died of cardiac arrest.

On Sunday afternoon, about 20 of his friends and neighbors gathered in a freezing Peskeomskut Park to share memories, reflect on his life and passing, and offer their prayers and song.

A funeral service was held at the Green River Cemetery on Tuesday morning.

Born and raised in Maryland outside Washington, DC, Klein moved to Turners Falls in 1989 with his wife, Darlene, and two children, Abraham and Caylee.

Here, he worked as an electrician, and was known locally for supplementing his income by collecting redeemable bottles and cans.

Many at Sunday's memorial gathering spoke of a kind and gentle man who looked out for animals and kids, and always had time and a story for friends and strangers alike. He loved war mov-

ies and was a military history buff.

He was predeceased in May of 2013 by Darlene. His survivors include Abe and his partner Julie Luippold, of Turners Falls; Caylee, her partner Eric Coates, and their son Madden Klein Coates, of Shelburne; and his aunt Grace Kaminkowitz of Chicago.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society or to the family, and sympathy messages may be left at kostanskifuneralhome.com.

Mohawk Ramblers Hoping for a Deal

By DAVID DETMOLD

LAKE PLEASANT – "We're just a bunch of guys who like to get together and go on rides," said John Burek, Jr. He was sitting at the bar at the Rendezvous on Wednesday drinking a beer as the afternoon drew down toward dark, and he was talking about the Mohawk Ramblers, the 50-member motorcycle club that has enjoyed a 50-year residency at a modest clubhouse at the edge of the Montague Plains.

Last November, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), owner of that land and building, gave the Ramblers notice that their 40-year lease, after

a five-year extension, would be up in June of 2014.

The Ramblers, who have regularly allowed their leasehold to be used as a staging ground for Source to Sea Cleanups on the Plains, have enjoyed a good relationship with all the previous owners of the land – starting with the B&M Railroad, then Northeast Utilities, and – up to a point – with the DFW.

A spokesperson for that department, Marion Larson, told the *Reporter* in February: "They have taken very good care of the property." The problem, she explained, was that "State agencies, including our own, are getting out of the landlord business. Leases to private entities are

discouraged."

Even private entities like the Mohawk Ramblers, who have organized regular charitable runs for a scholarship at the Franklin County Tech School, fundraising runs for the Alpha-1 Foundation, clean-ups along Lake Pleasant Road, and many other events to support the community.

Their entrance to the Montague Plains, on Bartlett Road, has been kept free of illegally dumped trash and well-maintained. The same cannot be said of many of the other dirt road byways that wend their way through the 1500-acre conservation area known as the Montague

see **CLUB** page A7

SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

The clubhouse sits beside a DFW restoration project – and the proposed route for a major gas pipeline.

The Montague Reporter

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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

The Editor-In-Chief Says Farewell

In April 2013, I had the honor and privilege of becoming the editor of this paper. Over the last year and a half it has been a rewarding experience to see the paper grow, to see some semblance of financial stability begin to take hold, to provide weekly coverage of news and events that matter to our readers.

I am particularly proud of our in-depth reporting on a number of issues. We were the paper that first broke the news of the pipeline coming into the county; each week we have informed our readers about what their local government was doing through our reporting on each town's selectboard meetings; we have covered, without fail, local culture and arts and profiled a variety of individuals in our pages.

And you, our faithful readers, have consistently supported our endeavors through your lively letters, your financial contributions, and in many cases, with your own writing. We wouldn't have the paper we have without you.

We also wouldn't have a weekly of such distinction without our dedicated staff. Indeed, I am inordinately grateful for the dedicated band of skilled writers who week after week, despite innumerable obstacles, have always managed to get us their high-quality stories and columns that we have all come to expect from the *Montague Reporter*.

David Detmold, Josh Heine-mann, Jeff Singleton, Katie Nolan, Ellen Blanchette, Joe Parzych, Joe Kwesinski, Matt Robinson, John Furbish, Anne Harding, Lee Wicks, Pete Wackernagel, Leslie Brown and David Brule have consistently provided us all writing of true merit and interest. And David Hoitt's amazing sports photos have allowed our readers to see Turners Falls teams in vivid motion.

I also want to thank Thom Osborn, TFHS principal, for sending us our intern Maggie Sroka. Maggie will be giving us all an inside

look at what is happening in the high school. Thanks, too, to Emily Krems at Great Falls Middle School and her students for their insights and observations.

Our managing editor Mike Jackson steadfastly contributed his considerable and diverse abilities to ensure that we have a quality publication each week. And he will continue to do so in his new expanded role.

It is difficult to enumerate the ways in which Patricia Pruitt, our associate editor and writer, has made the *Reporter* what it is. She often suggested topics for my weekly editorial and cartoon. Her sharp eye ensures that every writer's i's get dotted and their t's get crossed.

And as editor of the "poetry page," she keeps poetry a vital part of the paper.

Emily Alling has faithfully transcribed and edited the Montague Police Log each week. Christopher Carmody has taken layout to a new level. Don Clegg, in addition to his demanding job as distribution manager, has kept us all abreast about local goings on.

Suzette Snow-Cobb has uncompromisingly compiled A&E announcements each week, and is now also contributing to the layout of these pages.

Our board, too, has supported our efforts in every way.

In short, I've been blessed as the editor of this paper.

Due to health issues, it is now time for me to step down as editor-in-chief. I do so with some regret but also with the knowledge that your newspaper is and will be in very good hands.

I look forward to the continued growth of the paper, and may even, from time to time, share a story or a cartoon with you.

It's been a great run. Thank you board and staff. But especially thank you readers.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR:

Oh, dear!
We will press on, as always, but while we assemble a new team behind the scenes, we ask readers to be even more forgiving than otherwise of errors typographical and otherwise, and also of course to bear us in mind in your year-end giving.

To Chris, we wish a timely return to strength, balance, and vitality. We have watched him shoulder many burdens, and weather many setbacks, in sparkling good humor, and we want him to know that the full support, gratitude, and love of the *Montague Reporter* community is with him always.

Gloria recommends fermented vegetables, not just yogurt, for their probiotic effect.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.
No paper last week of December.
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The Squirrel Who Stole Christmas:

*For two years
running, the holiday
lights at Spinner
Park have been
disabled by some
little treetop saboteur.*

NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS

Two Montague dump-related headlines in our last issue were misleading.

"Mount Refuse" traditionally refers to the old town landfill, which is capped, rather than to the old burn dump adjacent to it, which has not been. (*Progress Made on Shea Plan; 'Mount Refuse' Needs A Cap*, page A1.) Mount Refuse, which is capped, is again the proposed site for a solar project.

The current redevelopment proposal for the former Montague Center School is for rental properties, not

condominiums, which are independently owned units. (*In Minutes Dump, Clues About Stalled Condo Project*, page A3.)

Nor, according to sources at Town Hall, is that project stalled, anymore: an approval from the state Building Codes Board of Appeals has been granted for the sprinkler system, and the town anticipates a purchase and sale finalized soon.

We regret the headline.

Our apologies to our readers!

Letters to the Editors



Please Tidy The Berm

As Winter is here and the snow is flying, would it be too much to ask the Montague DPW to keep the end of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge sidewalk clear of snow and debris?

This morning, walking across the bridge to catch the FRTA bus, the sidewalk was clear of any obstructions until the last 2 feet at the Montague end. Whoever has been clearing the walk, human or nature, is very appreciated.

But on this last 2 feet at the end of the sidewalk going into the street, was piled a mound of very icy, crunchy, slippery snow ice formation.

As the sun doesn't melt this area very well, I ask the DPW to take the extra 10 minutes to clear any snow plow spillage whenever they are nearby. It would make the passage by humans on foot so much easier.

Thank you,

**Claire Chang
Gill**



Open Letter from the Montague Energy Committee to Department of Public Utilities Chair Ann Berwick

Dear Chairwoman Berwick:

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and prompt reply to the Montague Energy Committee's July 21, 2014 letter concerning the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

It is good to hear that we agree on a deep commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy and on the need to repair or replace leaking gas pipelines.

We are pleased that the Patrick Administration, as well as the DPU, are reassessing Massachusetts's energy needs and studying a low energy demand scenario. The Montague Energy Committee would like to understand which specific items are being included in that analysis.

For example, in what way does the study include existing and projected energy savings from efficiency programs and renewable energy power? Will the study look at avenues to expand existing energy efficiency and renewable energy installations?

What strategies will the study explore for mitigating peak winter demand, such as market timing, allowing long-term contracts for Liquefied Natural Gas supplies, and demand response such as battery backups for large energy users to lower their consumption during winter peaks?

What generation capacity would

we need under a low demand scenario?

If the low demand scenario includes the addition of natural gas pipelines, will there be a plan to phase out pipelines as demand in Massachusetts declines with the expansion of energy efficiency, renewables, and other means of addressing short and long-term energy demands?

Until these issues are sorted out, we will continue to oppose a pipeline through the region because the expansion of such infrastructure will lock us into a long-term commitment to expensive, greenhouse gas producing fossil fuels and to MA citizens subsidizing a corporation's capital expense.

Lastly, even understanding the decision-making authority of FERC, we feel that Massachusetts's policies and communication with FERC will be significant in the final decision regarding the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, particularly as it relates to the re-evaluated generation capacity needs.

Thank you for your dedication to making your assessment of our energy needs and strategies thoughtful and inclusive.

Sincerely,

**Chris Mason, Chair
On Behalf of the
Montague Energy Committee**

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Poet's Seat Health Care Center is happy to announce that they will once again be hosting their annual 'Breakfast with Santa' this Saturday, December 13, from 9 to 11 a.m. at their facility, 359 High Street in Greenfield. Santa will be arriving at 9 a.m. to visit with and entertain families, and will be available for pictures with everyone. All children will receive a free gift from Santa.

Poet's Seat staff extends a warm invitation to all of the community, family and friends to join them for a fun-filled morning of great food and fun. Breakfast will include pancakes and sausage, complete with a "decorate your own pancake" station of chocolate chips, sprinkles, whipped cream, and other fun treats. Coffee, tea and juice will also be available to all of the guests.

Admission is \$3 for kids and \$5 for adults. All proceeds will benefit the Poet's Seat Health Care Center residents' fund. For more information, please call Zenaida at 774-6318 x 25.

Children of all ages and their families are also invited to come make easy gingerbread houses, at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, Dec 13, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Candy, graham crackers, and icing will be provided for this fun, free program.

The annual Make and Take Craft Fair will also be held Sat-

urday, December 13, at the Montague Common Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great event in which children make gifts for the holidays. In the past children have made bead necklaces, candle holders, picture frames, tree ornaments and more, all with the help of volunteers.

It's a fundraiser for the Grange (now called the Montague Common Hall). It's an event where you purchase tickets for children and they can use the tickets to make different crafts with the support of craft leaders. This is a great way to contribute to the community and connect with other families.

Please come and share some Holiday Cheer with Tabby Martinelli who will be the hostess of this morning tea and cookie event at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, December 13, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This will be a repeat of several past American Girl Doll shows Martinelli has organized, and all "mommies" will go away with a unique gift for their doll collection.

Martinelli is an expert with the total care of American Girl Dolls from the top of their cute little heads to their feet. She also creates her own line of fashions, creates matching clothing as a special order and was recently named Franklin County Home Maker of the Year, for her talents extend far beyond sewing.

And a fifth Saturday event! Element Brewing Company of downtown Millers Falls is cele-

brating their fifth anniversary from 6 to 9 p.m. The event is open to the public and will feature live entertainment, appetizers, raffles and of course beer tasting.

All proceeds will benefit the Turners Falls RiverCulture and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Take advantage of a chance to participate in a public habitat site walk at the Montague Plains on Friday, December 19, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Join MA Department of Fish & Wildlife Biologists and Restoration Ecologists for a walk through portions of a 200-acre pitch pine/scrub oak restoration project area that is scheduled for work this winter, and see portions of the project area that were treated during the winter of 2013/2014.

Learn about work that the DFW Biodiversity Initiative is doing through the new Key Sites effort to enhance habitat for multiple rare species in fire-adapted ecosystems like Montague Plains.

The Key Sites effort seeks to protect the Commonwealth's existing investment in land acquisition by improving habitat for the species these lands were originally purchased to conserve, and at Montague Plains this involves partial tree clearing and mowing to reduce fuel loads, as well as establishment of fuel breaks to facilitate prescribed burning.

In addition to benefiting rare species of moths, butterflies, and plants, this project also benefits declining songbirds like the Eastern

towhee and brown thrasher, and game birds like American woodcock and ruffed grouse.

Meet on Old Northfield Road between Turners Falls Road and Lake Pleasant Road beneath the large power line that crosses Old Northfield Road. Please wear sturdy boots and dress for cold weather.

From 6 to 9 p.m. that Friday, December 19, visit Wendell Town Hall from for a Medieval Yule Celebration to benefit the Wendell Meetinghouse. The celebration will include a feast, caroling and music by traditional duo Lady Moon featuring Kellianna and harpist Jenna MacDonald.

The feast will feature simple hearty local foods including Diamond turkey legs, Kathleen's venison stew, Eric Newman's vegan stew, and more. Dessert is potluck.

After dinner join in on the caroling, featuring local pianist Adam Bergeron and enjoy the enchanting harp and vocal duo Lady Moon performing seasonal, Traditional, and Celtic music to end the evening. Please feel free to wear your finery! Costumes, including medieval wear or any theme are welcome but not required.

Tickets are \$15-\$20 sliding scale at the door. Advance tickets for \$13-\$20 sliding scale are available at the Wendell Country Store. Concert only at 8 p.m. is \$8-\$10. \$5 for kids under twelve; infants free.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Trash to Treasure: The River's Song Project Art Exhibit

TURNERS FALLS — The River's Song Project, conceived as an innovative year-long study combining the arts and the environment, gives voice to a diverse constituency along the Connecticut River basin and highlights its ecology.

As part of The River's Song Project, artwork created from trash collected in the Connecticut River Watershed will be exhibited at the Great Falls Discovery Center during April and May of 2015.

Submission deadline is March 15, and there is no application fee. Simply submit your name, email address, and phone number, as well as the title, medium, and size of the work, to 2015Riversong@

gmail.com by March 15. Include a jpeg image, not to exceed 2 MB, and a brief artist statement. Selected artists will be notified by email before March 21, and asked to deliver the work, ready to hang or otherwise display, to the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center between 9 a.m. and 5 a.m. April 1, 2 or 3.

An artist reception is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, May 16, as part of the River's Song Project Celebration Day.

For more information or questions, please call the UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program office at (413)577-2486, or email aacp@acad.umass.edu.

Artist's Way Group Starts at Women's Resource Center

TURNERS FALLS — A new "Artist's Way" group is forming at Turners Falls Women's Resource Center (TFWRC) on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon beginning January 9.

Join peer facilitator Janet Di-ani as she guides you through Julia Cameron's 12-week program that will inspire you and lead you back to your true natural creative essence.

The Artist's Way has helped thousands to reclaim their creative spirit and awaken their playful inner child. Discover and recover your creative self in what Cameron

believes is the most important factor in an artist's sustained creativity: "a believing mirror, which is someone who believes in you and your creativity".

If you are interested and able to join us in this joyful journey, please contact Christine at TFWRC (413) 863-4804 x1003, or christine@mcscommunity.org.

The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center, located at 41 Third Street in Turners Falls, is open to all women and is a program of Montague Catholic Social Ministries.



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TOWN OF MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH

A Public Hearing will be held by the Montague Board of Health, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA on December 17, 2014, at 6 p.m. to consider adopting tobacco regulations entitled "Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products."

The first listed regulation amends the definition of tobacco, includes restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products, and increases the minimum legal sales age to twenty-one. The penalty section includes possible revocation of the tobacco sales permit after multiple offences. The regulation is available for inspection in the Town Offices during business hours.

Gina McNeely, Director of Public Health
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Helicopter Saga Continues

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Another letter came to the Wendell selectboard in response to its protest of the helicopter that made repeated circles over the town common during a memorial for a resident and former New Salem fire fighter.

That incident occurred September 26, and the selectboard sent letters of protest to organizations that they thought may be responsible or concerned, including the Massachusetts State police, state and national senators and representatives, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the flight standards office at Bradley Airport.

Colonel Tim Alben, superintendent of state police, responded in a letter, read at the November 5 meeting, that the helicopter flying that day was not a state police helicopter, and if it were, it would have been clearly marked as such.

His letter stated that the state police do not routinely conduct generalized searches (for marijuana cultivation) but have and will continue to use helicopters in "specifically directed criminal investigations that may involve the illegal cultivation of such substances." The letter's final paragraph said that in spite of legalization of medical marijuana, large scale cultivation is still illegal.

The DEA also sent Wendell a letter that said none of their surveillance helicopters flew over Wendell that day. The letter read at the December 3 selectboard meeting was forwarded from Representative Jim McGovern's office where the original was sent (see sidebar).

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that under current (medical marijuana) laws it is legal for someone who has a prescription, and no nearby state dispensary, to grow marijuana for personal consumption. However, he said, "Whether we want to educate the state police is a matter to discuss."

Board member Dan Keller noted that a conviction in Vermont was overturned because the evidence was gathered by a helicopter search done without a warrant. It is not certain that the Massachusetts courts would take the same view.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that Wendell should forward this letter to both the state police, and the DEA, and board member Dan Keller said Wendell's police and fire chiefs should get copies as well. The board also plans to draft a letter in response to the state police letter read at their November 5 meeting.

Septic Separation

Nan Riebschlaeger met the board in two capacities. As chair of the energy committee she had selectboard chair, Christine Heard, sign the annual Green Communities report, which tells the state what the town has done and is doing to reduce its energy use. The town will continue to file an update for four more years.

In her role on the meetinghouse committee, Riebschlaeger heard what Keller had learned from a Stantec engineer who he had spoken to about connecting the meetinghouse to the town septic system.

A connection was provided for during construction, but the DEP considers the town system a public system, and since the meetinghouse

is not a town building, connecting the meetinghouse would make the system a hybrid, which the DEP discourages.

The town would have to prove that this connection would be the most advisable way of serving the meetinghouse, show that the system has the capacity with reports of water use by the buildings already connected, and do a year-long sampling of the leach field, with a sanitary engineer observing holes dug into the system.

The town and the meetinghouse would have to write a legal agreement defining each party's responsibility for maintenance and expenses. The Stantec engineer said the meetinghouse lot is large enough to fit a well, and Keller said that a tight tank might be a cheaper alternative. Regular pumping of a tight tank is expensive, but meetinghouse use will probably be sporadic, and so the overall expense might be more manageable than that of connecting to the town system.

Keller added that the engineer said the town septic tank should be pumped out soon with the town health agent, Wibby, observing. Condition of the liquid pumped out tells how well the system is functioning.

Drozdowski Pinned

Earlier in the day board members paid a visit to Adam Drozdowski, Wendell's oldest citizen, and gave him a pin that is a replica of the Boston Post golden cane, the award given to a town's oldest citizen. Adam is living independently with his wife Lillian, who would be next in line for the cane.

Adam will turn 100 years old in March, and grew up in the same neighborhood where he lives now. He told board members stories from his youth, about cutting ice chunks from Ruggles Pond and bringing horse-drawn sled loads to a warehouse in Millers Falls where it was held until ice men sold the blocks to residents for their ice boxes.

Priorities Ordered

Keeping Wendell eligible for Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), Board members prioritized some unfulfilled initiatives in the town's development plan. First, but not the simplest priority is getting real high-speed internet connections to every household in town.

That is followed by housing rehabilitation, bridge repair in Wendell Depot, the town hall kitchen, a safe walking and bicycle path in the town center, fuel assistance, houses that are affordable for young people and manageable for old people, meetinghouse construction, supporting cottage industry and work, and a guide for people planning to build in town.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp has also suggested making cross-country ski trails and having the library rent out skis.

Farley Unrestricted

Board members signed an amendment to their order that all four of Yvette Segal's dogs be on leash whenever they are off her property. The amendment removes the dog Farley, who showed no interest in the dog fight that was taking place near him. The change does not supersede the state leash law, but is something that Segal asked for.

Wilder Restricted

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the state ethics commission would consider a trip to Alabama for highway superintendent Rich Wilder to inspect a used grader as "a gift," and so a breach of ethics.

However, the grader will be shipped north and Wilder can examine it without getting that gift and without getting away from winter, even for a day.

Other Business

Treasurer Carolyn Manley had an idea that might allow Heard to stay on the selectboard and receive selectboard pay after she retires from Swift River School and begins to collect from the Franklin County retirement plan; she asked for permission to call town counsel for their opinion. She also said she has ten or twelve properties that might be ready for a town auction in the spring.

The new Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Service sent Wendell a letter that announced they will open July 1, and asked what might need improvement in their service for veterans.

Western Massachusetts Electric Company sent Wendell their 2015 operational plan. They may work from May through November, and someone who wants to see where they will be clearing vegetation can look online for information up to 48 hours ahead.

The next selectboard meeting, December 17, will be preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a public hearing on the community development block grant application. At 8 p.m. that evening there will be a tax classification hearing. The snow date for those hearings is December 31, but if they take place as planned the selectboard will meet December 31 only to sign the warrant and authorize payment of bills.

National Guard Letter on Flights

Departments of the Army and the Air Force
Massachusetts National Guard
Office of the Adjutant General
2 Randolph Road
Hanscom AFB Massachusetts
01731-3001

Honorable Jim McGovern
United States Congress
94 Pleasant Street
Northampton, MA, 01061

Dear Congressman McGovern:

On behalf of the Adjutant General, Major General L. Scott Rice, I am responding to your recent inquiry on behalf of the Wendell Board of Selectmen concerning the interruption to the September 26, 2014 firefighter memorial on the Wendell Town Common.

The helicopter in the video is a Massachusetts Army National Guard that was conducting a joint drug interdiction mission with the Massachusetts State Police and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) which as lead agency identified the location and path of the flight.

The flight crew adhered to FAA and military flight regulations throughout the mission.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Horror Film

Dominique is Dead at the Wendell Free library, Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The wife of a greedy man comes back to haunt him after he scares her to death to get her money in this 1979 horror-thriller.

There will be a half hour short before the feature: Episode 12 of "The Phantom Empire: The End of Murania".

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

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit its web page at www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

Upcoming Movies in this series:

•January 24, 2015: *Twelve Monkeys*, starring Bruce Willis, Madeleine Stowe, and Brad Pitt.

•February 21: *Killdozer*, starring Clint Walker, Carl Betz, Neville Brand, James Wainwright, Robert Urich, and James A. Watson Jr.

•March 21, 4 p.m. Matinee: *Jets: The Movie*, starring the voices of Mel Blanc and Tiffany.


•April 18: *The Invisible Man*, starring Claude Rains and Gloria Stuart.

•May 17: *Short Circuit*, starring Ally Sheedy and Steve Guttenberg.

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. after a half-hour short serial film, unless otherwise noted.


RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of December 15
in Montague



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Surplus Trucks, New Job Descriptions at the Fire Department

By KATIE NOLAN

At its December 3 meeting, Fire chief Philip Wonkka and the Erving selectboard spent two hours discussing department job descriptions, surplus trucks, the new fire truck, ambulance service, and the department's capital improvement plan.

Wonkka presented draft job descriptions for probationary firefighter, firefighter 1, firefighter 2, firefighter 2/EMT, and captain. Under the new descriptions, all of the positions would require a high school diploma. The firefighter 1 and firefighter 2 positions would require completion of the appropriate classroom training or equivalent life experience. The captain position would require six years of firefighting experience and two years of supervisory experience.

The job description for the fire chief job was developed and approved by the selectboard in 2013, before Wonkka was appointed. Wonkka noted that he did not write deputy chief and lieutenant job descriptions; these positions are currently vacant.

The board asked Wonkka to make some changes to the job descriptions before they are approved.

At Wonkka's request, the board declared Engine 9 and Engine 4 surplus property, meaning that the town can sell or donate them.

Engine 9 is a 1978 standard truck with a 1,000 gallon tank. Wonkka said he had been approached by Montague Center fire chief John Greene about donating Engine 9 for use as a training vehicle at the Sunderland fire training facility.

Engine 4 is a standard GMC truck. Wonkka said that the cost of repairs to Engine 4 was greater than its value.

Wonkka reported that the new pumper truck, for which the 2013 annual town meeting approved \$490,000, was behind schedule, but

would probably be delivered in February 2015.

He and the board reviewed Erving's current ambulance service, with the Orange fire department ambulance covering the eastern part of town for a fee of \$10,000 per year and MedCare covering the western part of town. Both services charge the individual patients.

"Why can't we have paramedic service in Erving?" selectboard chair William Bembury wondered.

Wonkka replied, "We can, it would take time and money." He said that a paramedic service would require additional EMTs and the purchase and licensing of an ambulance.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan asked, "Is it time for us to have full-time staff?"

Wonkka replied, "I don't see the call volume." He said that the ambulance response time for Erving for Orange and Medcare is five to seven minutes.

The board agreed that there was no current need to investigate a town paramedic service.

As part of the capital improvement plan for future equipment purchases, Wonkka said that the department will request money for a thermal imager in the next fiscal year.

Library Feasibility Study

Library director Barbara Friedman updated the selectboard on the library feasibility study, saying the library feasibility committee was "making progress." She said the request for proposals for an owner's project manager was ready and would be advertised December 17.

A meeting for RFP applicants was scheduled for January 2015, and hiring of the owner's project manager by April 2015.

Friedman asked the selectboard to be clear in its communications with

the public that no decisions have been made about the future of the library. The purpose of the feasibility study is to provide options for the future of the library.

School Building Re-use

The former school building at 18 Pleasant Street has two floors. School Union 28 rents the second floor for administrators' offices. The first floor is vacant, except for a room used for storage of Union 28 documents.

The board has "set the process in motion" for the recreation commission to move into a portion of the first floor, according to Bembury.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan observed that renovations to make the first floor useful "will cost money" and asked, "Where is the money going to come from?"

Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp said that highway department employees can work on the building during the winter at times when they are not plowing or sanding roads.

Sharp said that the building inspector agreed that as long as the use of the building remains the same (administrative offices), there are no additional building-code requirements. However, if the use changes, for instance public functions including children, building upgrades would be required.

The board voted to repair the building "to allow committees to use the building safely." The board decided to schedule a joint meeting with the recreation commission to discuss use of the building and the schedule for making repairs and moving the commission into the building.

Clothing Allowance

The board voted to keep the current \$250 clothing allowance for highway and POTW employees, specifying that the allowance is only for work-

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Officer Locates Loose Dog

Monday, 12/1

10:15 p.m. Officers from the Erving police department assisted Northfield officers at the site of a car crash on Millers Falls Road.

Tuesday, 12/2

10 a.m. Caller reported a potential dispute between a tenant and the landlord on Forest Street. Officer found there to be no issues upon arrival, although the power was out in the surrounding area.

Wednesday, 12/3

2:25 a.m. Caller reported a suspicious person seen on Forest Street. Officer spoke with suspicious person who turned out to be the property owner.

9:35 a.m. An Erving resident came into the police station to report an instance of identity fraud. A report was taken and an investigation opened.

10:10 a.m. Officers assisted other emergency personnel at the scene of a medical emergency on Old State Road.

12 p.m. Caller reported a car accident on Route 2 in the area of Old State Road but officers found nothing upon arrival.

Thursday, 12/4

9 a.m. State troopers were advised of a tree down on Old State Road.

9:40 a.m. Caller reported a loose dog on Old State Road which was then located by the responding officer.

7 p.m. A criminal application was issued to [REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

Friday, 12/5

2:30 a.m. Officers checked out a suspicious vehicle on West High Street.

7 p.m. Caller reported a fallen tree limb and downed telephone or power lines on Old State Road. The power and phone/cable companies were advised.

Saturday, 12/6

10 a.m. Officer helped a resident on Sawin Lane who was locked out gain entry to their home.

3:35 p.m. A gas alarm went off at the Erving Senior Center and was responded to by the Erving Fire Department.

8:30 p.m. A criminal application was issued to [REDACTED] for a motor vehicle lights violation as well as its unlicensed operation.

Sunday, 12/7

12:15 p.m. Officer waited at the site of broken down car for the tow to arrive.

related boots, shirts, and jeans.

The personnel policy will be updated to indicate the restrictions on use of the clothing allowance.

Other Business

The board signed the taking order for the friendly taking of two parcels of land as a gift from Erving Industries, located adjacent to the former Usher Plant property. The gift was approved by the November 24 special town meeting.

The board approved the Community Development Strategy, a prerequisite for obtaining community development block grants.

The town approved the final bid package prepared by Franklin Re-

gional Council of Governments for bids for securing the former IP building.

A power outage debriefing with selectboard, highway department, fire department, and police department was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 10 am at town hall.

The board signed 2015 business licenses and liquor licenses. Selectboard member Arthur Johnson noted that one liquor license for a family business was in the name of a deceased family member. The board decided not to sign that license. Sharp will contact the business about correcting the license.

Make Less Trash! Holiday Recycling Guidelines

During the holidays, the average American family throws away up to 10 additional bags of trash! In towns that require "Pay-As-You-Throw" town trash bags, those 10 additional trash bags would cost \$15 - \$30, depending on the town. A large portion of this trash is generated from wrapping paper, boxes, tissue, packing materials and shopping bags. Save money on town trash bags, save money for your town, and be kinder to the earth by recycling or re-using your holiday waste.

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, which accepts recyclables from 75 communities in western Massachusetts, asks residents to keep the following recycling guidelines in mind.

Wrapping paper and tissue paper are recyclable, but only if they do not contain foil, metallic inks, or glitter. Tape is OK. Paper shopping

bags and gift bags are also recyclable, and any type of handle is OK to include.

Also recyclable are greeting cards (except those with foil, wire, glitter or button batteries), envelopes (plastic windows are OK), catalogs, calendars, corrugated cardboard boxes, and paperboard gift boxes. When opening or wrapping presents, keep paper grocery bags, a paper lawn and leaf bag, or a recycling bin handy to collect mixed paper recyclables.

Please *DO NOT* include the following items in municipal recycling: ribbons, bows, tinsel, holiday lights, bubble wrap*, packing peanuts*, polystyrene (Styrofoam)*, plastic bags, and plastic "blister pack" packaging (that's the type that requires scissors to open).

*Clean, dry packing materials such as peanuts and bubble wrap, inflatable "air pillow" packaging,

and Styrofoam sheets are accepted free for reuse at The UPS Store, 21 Mohawk Trail, Greenfield: (413) 772-2523.

Holiday light strings are accepted for scrap metal recycling at WtE (the former Kramer's), 28 Montague City Rd, Greenfield. They pay per pound. Earn a coupon for 15% off energy efficient holiday lights by mailing in old light strings for recycling: www.holidayleds.com/holidayledscom_christmas_light_recycling_program

Reduce waste by wrapping gifts in tins, cloth or paper gift bags, stockings and baskets. Make the wrapping part of the gift; use a kitchen towel or oven mitt to hold kitchen gifts, a bath towel to hold bath gifts.

Creative reuse is another way to cut waste. These items can be used to wrap gifts inexpensively: reused wrapping paper, newspaper, old

calendars (perfect for CDs), sheet music, fabric, scarves, maps, brochures, posters, wallpaper scraps, or kids' artwork. If gifts are unwrapped carefully (savor them!), then gift-wrap, gift boxes, ribbons, bows and gift bags can be re-used next year.

When the holidays are over, check with your town about Christmas tree recycling. Your tree may be recycled as mulch this spring!

Please see the new "Recycling on the Holidays" download available at: www.springfieldmrf.org.

For more information, please contact Franklin County Solid Waste District at: 413-772-2438, or info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD) The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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FRIDAY from page A1

You'd be advised to bring your dancing shoes.

Do you like *stuff*? Well, now there's a store just for you on the corner of Avenue A and Third St. The new kid on the block, Stuff carries a little of everything. Recently renovated, the space is airy and light, and is filled with a wonderful mix of modern and antique, practical and whimsical.

"When we look at Stuff, we see it, as it is, right now," says full-time store employee Deb Brown. "But [owner] Steve Vogel, being the visionary that he is, sees Stuff as it will be three years from now."

While it may be a work in progress, Stuff already fits right in with the other intriguing shops on the Avenue.

And while you are looking for the *right stuff* to gift someone on your list, you might enjoy the free popcorn on offer.

Tired of the same old boring selfies? Try taking one at the photo booth at Avenue A and Third Street complete with winter holiday backdrop and ambience. Perfect gift for that distant (in miles) family member who so misses you.

Why not bring the kids (under 12) to eat for free to Jakes Tavern, 66 Avenue A, or for music, specials and give-aways at the Black Cow Burger Bar at 125 Avenue A?

Another yummy option: Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, just off the Avenue at 50 Third Street where jazz will be provided at 7



Some of the stuff at Stuff, including home decorations, furniture, and whimsy, much of it made by local artists and craftspeople.

p.m. by Ken Forfia on keyboard and Vernon C. David on cello.

It will be virtually impossible to go hungry in Turners Falls on Friday evening.

Don't miss a visit to Nina's Nook, that eye-popping, tiny in size, huge in talent, quirky gem tucked next to the Black Cow.

Here you will find the perfect, one-of-a-kind gift for that picky-picky person you've never been able to please and so want to impress. And check out the metallic tattoos by Melissa Drake. And yes, they are temporary.

For more information, go to www.turnersfalls-riverculture.org.



LYN CLARK PHOTOS



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

New Solar Facility On The Landfill?

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the December 8 Montague selectboard meeting, town officials sought to revive the negotiations for a new license agreement with the cable company Comcast and also to revive the idea of a solar array on the capped landfill, also known as "Mount Refuse," off of Turnpike Road.

(The Reporter incorrectly reported in its last issue that Mount Refuse was a reference to the uncapped burn dump next to the landfill.)

Cable Advisory

The Comcast strategy session took up more than an hour at the beginning of the board meeting and featured a teleconference with lawyer Peter Epstein who handles cable issues for the town.

It also featured participation by Jason Burbank and John McNamara, members of the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), whose ranks have been reduced significantly by the resignations of former chairs

Garry Earles and Eileen Dowd, and three other members.

The discussion focused on approximately ten issues that seemed to separate the two sides.

These included: the request for an additional public access channel; making one of the access channels high definition; the amount of capital funding the local access station MCTV would receive (the town has requested \$150,000 while Comcast has proposed \$100,000); expanding the number of buildings that are wired to originate broadcast; maintaining a local Comcast office (there is presently one in Greenfield); a senior discount; and expanded service to residents, including those living on Meadow Road, Chestnut Hill and Taylor Hill.

Epstein focused on the issues of a high-definition channel, which he says some other license agreements allow for, the amount of the capital grant, and expanded service to residents. He also advocated that the town "push" Comcast on the senior discount and the issue of the high

definition channel.

On the question of expanding the number of "points of origin," he advocated that the CAC and the local access station prioritize locations.

He noted that making the Montague Center library an origination point was estimated to cost approximately \$70,000 which would be passed through in increased rates to subscribers.

License negotiations have been at a standstill for over fourteen months but Epstein suggested, perhaps optimistically, that it might be possible to come to an agreement by the end of January.

To this end, Epstein himself will participate in the next session with Comcast.

Solar Dump

The proposal to put a solar array on the former town landfill resuscitates an idea put forward in 2011. At that time four companies responded to an open bidding process (RFP) but none of the proposals seemed advantageous to the town.

Since then, the former landfill has been placed within the industrial park, and Montague town meeting has given the selectboard the power to negotiate a lease without an RFP.

Monday night an energy com-

pany called Revio Energy requested that the board initiate a process that would lead to a lease agreement.

Charles Jenkins, representing Revio, stated that his company had talked to a number of local businesses that had expressed interest in purchase agreements for any power produced by the proposed 750-kW array. He had also stated that he had a potential agreement with the Franklin County Technical School.

A representative from Australis Aquaculture, a barramundi firm located in the industrial park, stated that his company was having discussions with Revio and was enthusiastic about the project.

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother asked Jenkins if he had looked at the site. Jenkins responded that he had only seen a satellite photo. Fairbrother noted that one of the obstacles to previous development was that the former landfill, although capped, may be unstable. Jenkins seemed to feel that this would not necessarily be a great obstacle to development.

The discussion revealed little information about Revio Energy, which, according to its website, has developed three solar facilities in Massachusetts.

Other Business

Next, Robert Trombley of the Water Pollution Control Facility came before the board with six requests for abatements for first quarter water bills. He advised the board to accept three and reject three. The board voted to accept Trombley's recommendations.

Michael Longo of the Turners Falls Airport requested that the facility be exempt from a building permit fee to reshingle the roof on a building on its property. The board agreed.

Town Planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board approve its Green Community Annual Report to the state Department of Energy Resources. Ramsey said that the town has achieved an overall reduction of fourteen percent in energy use.

He noted that the Shea Theatre had been added to the town's baseline for this calculation, which also included school buildings owned by Montague. He also noted, however, that the town had not purchased any vehicles that contributed to the reduction. The board approved the report.

The board also approved Ramsey's request to appoint Kevin Hart and Peter Vichi to the town's Broadband Committee.

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The Fears Of Our Friends

TURNERS FALLS – Join the dancers of Awesome Art In Motion, a children's dance company based in Turners Falls, for their upcoming performance, "The Fears of our Friends". The show will take place

Thursday, December 18 from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in the Front Room of the Brick House Community Resource Center, at 24 Third Street.

Inspired by the question, "what are you afraid of?" the performers collected a list of the fears of their friends and family and deposited them into a "box of fears".

On the night of the show, who knows what kinds of crazy things may emerge from this box!



LEVERETT from page A1

According to the town's affordable housing program website, the median price of a single family home in Leverett has declined from \$325,000 in 2007 to \$258,375 in 2010.

Nearly \$900,000 has built up in the town's Community Preservation Fund, from a 3% surcharge on property taxes above a \$100,000 valuation approved at town meeting in 2002. The state has provided 100% matching funds for Leverett's Community Preservation Fund.

Money from the fund must be spent on either open space, recreation, historic preservation, or affordable housing. At least 10% of CPA funds in any community that adopts the Community Preservation Act must be spent on affordable housing, though town meeting can vote to expend more of the CPA balance on affordable housing at any given time.

The size of the Community Preservation Fund balance has been the topic of discussion lately at selectboard meetings, as the town struggles to set aside money to cushion the assessors' overlay account against the possibility of a favorable ruling on two pending property tax abatements at the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board.

One of those, for a property owner seeking an additional abatement of more than \$6.5 million, after already receiving a \$3 million abatement from the assessors, could cost the town up to \$125,000 to settle should the ruling entirely favor the property owner, whose name has not been released. Town departments and the elementary school have been asked to prepare budget cutback scenarios of between 3.5% and 8% for FY'16 in anticipation of a possible favorable ruling in that case.

Given the budget exigencies the town is facing, and the large amount being held in reserve by the Community Preservation Fund, Joanne

Mulley told the selectboard on Tuesday, "a lot of people are going to be looking at this (surcharge) to come down from 3%. How much open land do you need?"

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said town meeting could reduce the percentage of the surcharge, or eliminate it entirely, should voters so choose. But he emphasized that Leverett is one of the fortunate towns to have steadily received 100% matching funds from the state for all of its Community Preservation Fund. He noted in a previous meeting that funds once set aside through the Community Preservation Act cannot be expended for any other purpose than the categories prescribed by state law.

Shively said some of the projects the town has funded in the recreation or historic preservation categories, such as the new playground at the elementary school or the new windows and siding at town hall, might otherwise have had to be funded from the town's general operating budget.

Leverett town meeting has approved spending CPA funds to preserve open space on Brushy Mountain and Cave Hill, to protect a working farm on Teawaddle Hill Road, to repair town cemeteries, improve access to the Leverett Pond, and to renovate the exterior of the old box shop in the center of town, now the Leverett Crafts and Arts Association, among many other projects.

The selectboard will encourage an overview and discussion of the town's participation in the Community Preservation Act at the next town meeting.

In other news, the selectboard received the resignation of firefighter Steve Fleiner, who wrote that he was no longer physically able to perform the duties of his role, and the resignation of Andrew Sieracki, a part-time police officer who has served the town for many years.

TOBACCO from page A1

dropped from 13% to 6.7%. In surrounding towns, it dropped from 15% to 12.4%.

At this point, over forty Massachusetts towns have adopted the new regulation, though most of them are east of Route 495.

Mary Kersell, coordinator of the Franklin/Hampshire Substance & Tobacco Prevention Partnership (FH-SToPP), said that many towns in the western part of the state are considering the change, and that Hatfield recently approved it, without much local debate.

"It's part of a comprehensive strategy that the boards of health are undertaking to prevent youth from starting to smoke," said Kersell, whose organization runs on a Department of Public Health grant.

"The research from addiction science says the longer you delay using an addictive substance, the better chance you have of not becoming addicted... Neuroscience indicates adolescent brains are not fully developed until about 25."

"A lot of things have already been done in Montague," she pointed out, including rules about cigar packaging. "This would align the age with alcohol. A lot of merchants sell both tobacco and alcohol."

Connecticut River Liquors, on Avenue A in Turners Falls, is one such merchant. Store cashier Ethan Banash said that while plenty of

18- to 20-year-olds do buy tobacco products at the store, he has yet to encounter anyone under 18 trying to do so.

"The only time I've ever seen someone try [that] is when they're doing some kind of sting," he said, adding that he would wait and see: "I don't have a strong opinion... I think it's a good idea overall – keep kids from smoking longer, and maybe less will end up smoking."

But store owner Melissa Winters expressed concern about the proposed regulation.

"I just have a lot of questions – I need more information before I make up my mind," said Winters, who said she would be attending the December 17 hearing.

"But I don't like the idea... I understand what they're trying to do, but I think it's a bad way to go about it."

Winters' concerns focused on her role as a retailer. "Are they still going to let 18-year-olds smoke? Can someone just buy cigarettes at my store, and then hand them to someone under 21? Where does my responsibility begin and end?"

According to Winters, by federal law, her employees must card any customer they believe might be under 27 who tries to purchase tobacco products. "We do that job very well," she said, pointing out that similar regulations do not even exist for alcohol.

CLUB from page A1

Plains.

Early in 2013, "just in case we got booted off the Plains," according to Burek, the Ramblers bought a 20-acre plot of land at the base of Pisgah Mountain Road in Gill as a possible site for relocating their clubhouse.

But 8 out of 10 abutters who appeared at a public hearing opposed the move, citing their fears of motorcycle noise, and perhaps motorcycle club activity. So the Ramblers dropped that plan.

"They made a hasty decision based on stereotypes," said Burek. We figured, 'Hey, why do we want to move into a neighborhood where we aren't wanted?'"

That was back in spring. In summer, the Ramblers met with three suits from Fisheries and Wildlife at the Montague town hall, along with state representative Steve Kulik, to see if a deal could be struck for the club to remain at the Montague Plains.

The Ramblers are either the oldest or the second-oldest motorcycle club in Massachusetts – the Quabog Riders down around Munson, in Indian territory, dispute them for that title. Over 1,300 signatures had been collected in support of keeping them at their home on the Plains. The Montague selectboard also supported the Ramblers' bid to remain at their longtime home.

The Ramblers emerged from that

summer meeting with state officials with an agreement for a two-year extension on their lease with the DFW – until December of 2016.

But that's not good enough for Burek, or the rest of the club.

"We want to stay where we are," he said. "You know, it's a fraternity. That's what's so hard about letting go of the place. We've been there half a century. We've celebrated birthdays, weddings, funerals. We really have roots there."

Burek, the club's treasurer, is a big man with a grizzled beard, a construction supervisor for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, like his father before him. He rides Harleys – his 1450cc 2003 Touring Electra Glide took him and his seven-year-old son on a two week trip to Milwaukee and back through Canada not long ago.

Club members think nothing of running up to Laconia for Bike Week, the preeminent gathering for bikers in New England. Other members ride BMWs, and patronize AJ Cycles in Gill, now that Aldo's Harley-Davidson in Bernardston has been buried forever in the scent of Kringle Candles.

Burek said, "Our clubhouse is a tiny speck on the edge of the Plains. We have no environmental impact whatsoever on the land."

He said the state's philosophy seems to be, "We have to save the Plains for the people. But little by little, they are separating the people from the Plains. First they banned

"If the state tried to do it, that's one thing, but trying to do it town by town is too confusing."

"This is how we frequently do public health law in Massachusetts: city by city, and town by town," said Cheryl Sbarra, senior staff attorney at the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, a nonprofit that gives support to local boards of health.

"The more municipalities pass something like this, the more interest there is in the legislature," Sbarra cited the state's Smoke-Free Workplace Law of 2004 as an example of legislation that caught up with local regulation. She said she would be in Amherst next week for a similar hearing.

"It's very simple to enforce in Massachusetts: it says on their license when they turn 21," Sbarra said, adding that the Department of Public Health would supply signage to local merchants wherever such a regulation takes effect.

She pointed to a few states, including New Jersey, that have already raised the age to 19 statewide. A study from the Institute of Medicine, due this winter, will be the first rigorous look at the effects of these state and local regulations on populations' smoking behavior.

The public hearing will be held next Wednesday, December 17 at 6 p.m. at the Montague town hall.



ATVs and cross-country vehicles. Then they banned all motorized vehicles. Then the Ramblers.

"What's next? Horseback riders? Mushroom pickers? All through history governments have moved people off the land."

Burek added, "I also find it interesting that the [Kinder Morgan] pipeline is going right through the sacred garden of theirs. Looking at the map, it appears to go right by our clubhouse. Perhaps there is a hidden agenda we don't know about."

Burek said the Ramblers proposed swapping an area of land abutting the Plains and equal in size to their clubhouse leasehold to the DFW managers in the summer meeting with Kulik.

They have been there for 50 years, and they want to be there for 50 more. "Keep the faith," said Burek. "Hopefully, the community can come together and let these people from Boston know who they are working for."



Curious about this section of the Plains, where bikers, conservationists, and a major proposed natural gas transmission pipeline all intersect?

Next Friday afternoon, December 19, the DFW is hosting a walking tour of their pitch pine and scrub oak restoration project. See our Local Briefs column on page A3 for details. – Eds.

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YEAR 13 – NO. 9

B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

DECEMBER 11, 2014

THE TENTH ANNUAL LOST AND FOUND SHOW

By HALEY MORGAN

TURNERS FALLS – On Saturday, Suzee's Third Street Laundry hosted the tenth annual Lost & Found Fashion Show. The spectacle, which showcased some of the area's brightest designers and models over the past decade, has become one of the most highly anticipated events of the season. This year was no exception, with strong designs from both veterans and fresh faces, and an atmosphere of cheer throughout the night.

Suzee's transformed for the event, with the existing counters pushed together as the runway, positioned in laundry carts, and a video camera perched on top of a row of dryers. The runway was lit by bright work lights and a bar was set up in the top of an old TV. A young customer showed up at the beginning of the night to retrieve his luggage, his eyes bewildered as he walked past the smiling fashion enthusiasts readying their cameras and each other's outfits.

The night kicked off with some "fashionably loud rock n roll" from local heroes Rebel Base. This was the duo's second appearance at Suzee's, performing last year with Benjamin Miner as Iggy Pop and the Stooges.

This year they performed all originals, driving metallic songs about "starship troopers and coupons". Anika's drum thumps were like sneakers in a dryer, rhythmically bouncing, while JD's guitar drenched the room in sound, hot and foaming at the mouth. Their raucous metal sound merged with the scent of fabric softener to set an appropriately edgy atmosphere for the night's punk approach to couture.

As the room started to fill, organizer Chris Janke scurried about, talking with people and adjusting the sound and lights. After ten years of producing the event, he and his partner Emily Brewster have a lot of the nuts and bolts of the night under control. However, with some last minute adjustments to the line-up, he confided that things felt a bit more chaotic this year.

Improvisation proves to be one of the best ways to inject fresh ideas and enthusiasm into an old routine, and this year's show benefited from a healthy dose of chaos.



Ms. Monique Belmonte emcees from atop the machinery.

event for the first time was Ms. Monique Belmonte, a.k.a. regional radio personality Monte Belmonte. Donning a blonde bouffant 'do and shimmering backless gown, Ms. Monique poised herself on top of an industrial dryer and began her hilariously over-the-top and totally point presentation of the show.

RETROSPECTIVE

on the runway was a nod to the past ten years, with a five looks retrospective presented by design veterans Mary Buckley and Duchess Von Pruitt.

Mary herself opened the show with an outfit from the very first year, a baggy off-the-shoulder jean dress, complete with heart patches on her derrière. Following this was a look she designed two years ago from her "comforter series", a two piece cream and scarlet set made from upholstery and modeled by local painter Scout Cuomo.

The third look in the retrospective was a fitted striped mini dress with one strap from the 2009 collection of the Duchess Von Pruitt. Next, the Duchess presented two more of her former designs, both incorporating plastic elements for a trashy-chic look. The first was a goth dress with puff sleeves from 2010, made with trash bags tastefully styled with a black ribbon choker.

The time warp concluded with a glittery black sweetheart dress paired with a clear plastic raincoat, looking like something out of Rocky Horror Picture Show.

COSMIC

The next collection was presented by the mother-daughter team, Hannah and Celeste Fuller-Boswell. Their three looks bridged retro 70's aesthetics with a minimalist futuristic feel, coolly conjuring up The Jetsons.

First to hit the runway was Stash, the only male model of the evening, bearing a tasteful amount of chest hair and spandex and donning bell bottoms, platform shoes, and a backwards swimsuit.

see FASHION page B4



Celeste and Hannah Fuller-Boswell ready their makeup.

Stash works it on the catwalk.

... and the thirtieth WELCOME YULE!

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – When Hattie Archbald was just four years old, she watched the Cambridge Revels, accompanied by her grandmother and mother. She is said to have pointed to one of the children on stage and predicted that Hattie herself would be onstage next year.

Montserrat, Hattie's mother, learned that this area had a comparable show, so the two Archbalds and younger sister Blythe joined the group. Hattie is serving this season as Artistic Director. She's been a performer for 18 years now and, in this edition of the venerable show, she becomes the initial mentor who has grown up with the production.

The 30th annual edition of "Welcome Yule: A Midwinter Celebration" takes the stage at the the Shea Theater at 71 Avenue A Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30, along with Sunday afternoon at 2.

"I wrote the show," said Hattie Archbald, "selecting songs and creating the storyline. I watched DVDs



Margaret Christie, Hattie Archbald, Montserrat Archbald, and Rick Rabe sing in the 2005 Welcome Yule. Nine years later, Hattie is Artistic Director.

of other years and came up with a list of my favorite songs from past productions. Above all, it's a family show, truly terrific for all ages.

"We interact with the audience. Many of the folks know the songs and sing with the cast. There are always songs that are repeated

along with those that are new to the show."

Archbald stresses that "Welcome Yule" does not hold auditions. "Everyone is welcome," said Hattie. "Often we have multiple generations in a cast. It's a lot of fun.

see YULE page B6

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The Season of Traditions

always a friend or two with no family to turn to. We shared a hefty feast and then a long walk in the cold to work it off.

We have always preferred the joyous celebrations which bring in the Yuletide to the actual day of Christmas with its worries about weather, the choice of gifts and the preparation of yet another feast with the pleasing of many tastes.

Our parents are gone. The remaining cousins have spread afar. Our children have their own lives. Still, we cherish the old traditions and the new ones we are making.

When my family moved from the Chicago suburbs we left behind the yards of pre-cut trees already shedding needles. In far rural Vermont we were invited to hike the woodlots of the gentleman who owned

the local general store.

Depending on the snowfall we went out on snowshoes or not, armed with a sled and a saw. There was always snow in those Christmas times and many, many Balsam firs. We hiked and looked, admiring many likely too tall for the living room, circled and caroled for a small, misshapen tree we would not cut, and at last chose one.

The scent of the tree, the baking of special treats, the music sacred and traditional bring back the memories of those days, long washed of any sorrows. We want to recapture all of this.

Today we go to Ashfield to choose and top a tree. The lot is full of trees which sprout new tops in place of the old, and the farmer will lend us a

see GARDENER page B2



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – The wistful leave-taking of summer weather gave way to the splendor of Fall: the brilliant colors, the crisp air, the clarity of light. Then the pleasures of hearty foods: warming soups, roasted vegetables, apple pie. Now the season of traditions.

All families have their own. In my parents' home, Thanksgiving meant the gathering of the clan of relatives, great aunt and uncles not seen for a year since, cousins, and

RECOGNIZING SUCCESS: THE 2014 NOVAK AWARDS

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The 56th Annual Cannon Novak Awards were held at the St. Kazimierz Society on Sunday December 8. It was filled wall-to-wall with supporters, cheerleaders and the players themselves. The head table included the coaches, Chris Lapointe (Head Coach), Jay Wonsey, Adam Graves, and Jay Niedbala.

Bill Brown, the MC, gave a brief history of the award and told the players that even if they hadn't had one win, the Awards ceremony would still happen.

Matt Yvon was the guest speaker. He spoke about his own gridiron experiences and memories, and empathized with the players about winning and losing.

The seniors in attendance were Trent Bourbeau, Alex Carlisle, Tyler Charboneau, Emmett Turn, and Spencer Hubert.

Coaches Chris Lapointe and Jay Wonsey presented the Coaches' Awards. Chris spoke about how hard it was to select just one player for each award because of the plethora of talent on the team.

The **lineman of the year** was

Tyler Charboneau. Tyler has been a starter for all four years and works both sides of the ball. This year, he had 41 solo tackles, 39 assists, two interceptions and a sack. On the offensive side of the ball, he was an integral part of the Front Five which opened up holes for the running backs and allowed the QBs time to set up the pass. But Tyler doesn't just play in the trenches, he also ran the ball 3 times and threw the ball twice.

The **Offensive MVP** went to Trent Bourbeau. Trent didn't get much playing time until his junior

year and he missed a couple of games that season due to injury. This year, however, Trent started all 11 games. In all 11 games, Trent gained more than 100 yards, ending the season with 1586 total yards and 14 touchdowns. He returned 3 kick-offs for 60 yards and had 94 punt-return yards. He ended the season with 84 points. On defense, Trent made 40 solo tackles and assisted on 34 other tackles.

The **Defensive MVP** was Alex Carlisle. Alex was a leader on defense and a workhorse on offense.

see BANQUET page B4



Trent Bourbeau, Jalen Sanders and Tyler Charboneau accept their trophies.

Pets of the Week

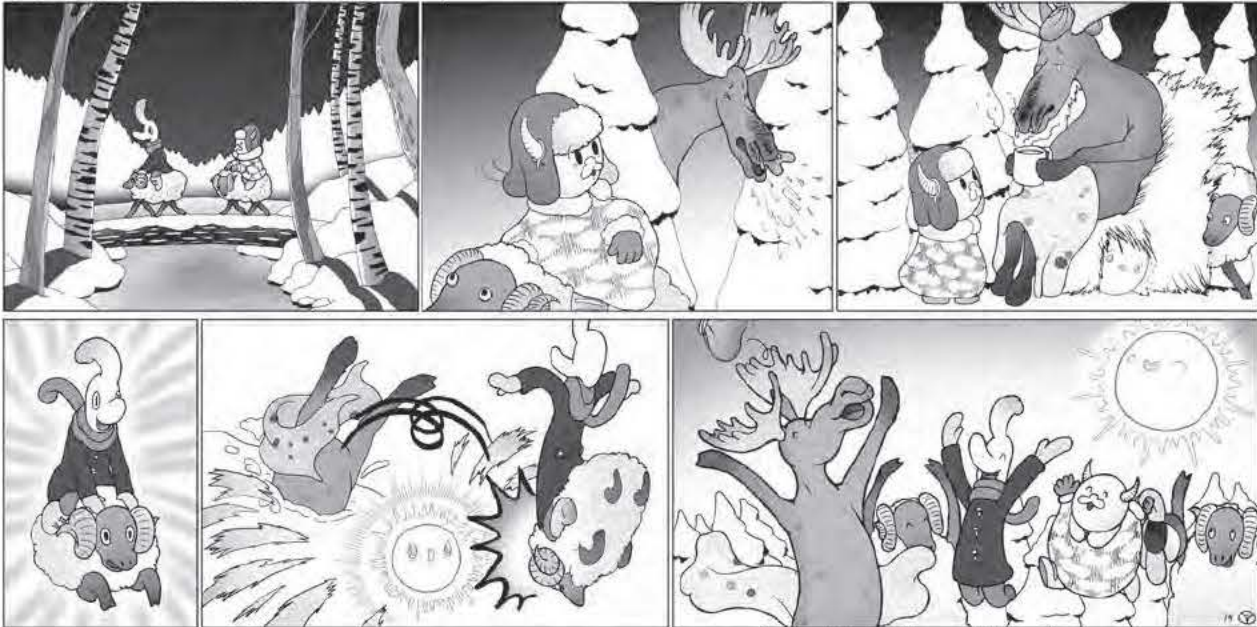


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GARDENER from page B1

saw and encourage us to choose one.
As usual, when we pull in, there are the saws and a jar for the money. Soon the farmer himself comes out to greet us. A light misty rain is falling, but it isn't really cold. We have the place to ourselves and wander out a bit weighing our choices before topping what must be the fullest, roundest Balsam there ever was.
Later we'll decorate. I've planned to make gingerbread cookies to hang along with some old family ornaments which have survived many moves. Tonight we'll rock comfortably in front of the woodstove, sip a little wine and make colorful paper chains.
Since the end of summer we've noticed the first almost imperceptible change in the sunset time. Now since the end of Daylight Savings, the dark drops sooner and sooner. Like many of our ancestors we will celebrate the Solstice which for centuries has marked the return of the light after the long darkness.



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Is ALS an old-person's disease, or does it affect every age group?

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) usually strikes between the ages of 40 and 70, but there have been cases of it in young adults, children and older people. The average age for getting ALS is 55.
ALS is known as Lou Gehrig's disease in the USA. Gehrig, who played baseball for the New York Yankees, died of the disease in 1941. In other countries, ALS is often called motor neuron disease. It is not contagious.
ALS destroys nerve cells – motor neurons – that control muscle cells. In most cases, the cause is unknown. As the motor neurons are lost, the muscles they control weaken. Eventually, people with ALS are paralyzed.
Amyotrophic means “no muscle

This year the shortest day of the year falls on Sunday, December 21. This also the longest night of the year and thus the beginning of the return of the light. We'll cheat a little and gather old friends on the prior Friday to share food and drink and to reminisce about the year past.
This party warms us up for our attendance at Welcome Yule at the Shea. This annual evening of song, dance and stories weaves early traditions about the dangers and dragons of the dark season and of the warmth and light of yule log, togetherness and friendship and the return of the light.
Bring the garden in with boughs of green, a tree or a bowl of forced Narcissus blossoms with their intense scent. Light the fire and some candles. Be thankful for life and light and the warmth of family and friends. We wish you the joys of the season and the coming year.
Welcome Yule!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

nourishment.” *Lateral* identifies the affected areas in the spinal cord. *Sclerosis* refers to the scarring or hardening in the region.
ALS doesn't directly affect involuntary muscles, so the heart, digestive tract, bladder and sexual organs continue to work. Hearing, vision, touch and intellectual ability generally remain normal. Pain is not a major component of ALS.
The most common form of the disease in the United States is “sporadic” ALS. It may affect anyone, anywhere. “Familial” ALS is inherited. Only about 5 to 10 percent of all ALS patients appear to have the inherited form of ALS. In those families, there is a 50 percent chance each offspring will inherit the gene mutation and may develop the disease.
Respiratory problems usually kill those with ALS in three to five years after diagnosis. About ten percent of those with ALS live more than ten years. Some survive for many years. For example, the famed British physicist Stephen Hawking has had ALS since the 1960s. In a small number of people, ALS mysteriously stops.
The usual early symptoms of ALS are weakness or spasms in a limb, and trouble speaking or swallowing. After the initial symptoms, the disease may progress in the following way: cramping of muscles, demitted use of the limbs; thick speech and difficulty projecting the voice; difficulty breathing.
Doctors begin testing for ALS by checking muscle and nerve function. The next step is usually an electromyogram (EMG). This test measures the signals that run between nerves and muscles and the electrical activity inside muscles. Additional tests may include a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, a spinal tap between two lower vertebrae, blood tests and muscle biopsies.
The drug Rilutek (riluzole) and the NeuRx Diaphragm Pacing System have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating ALS.
The NeuRx Diaphragm Pacing System™ is a medical device used to help ALS patients breathe.
However, there are other treatments to help people with ALS. These include physical and occupational therapy, respiratory therapy and assisted ventilation, speech therapy, nutritional and emotional support. There are devices, too, such as special grips for writing implements and eating utensils, canes, supportive braces, walkers, wheelchairs and scooters.
If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

Senior Center Activities December 15 to 19

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.	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 congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 12/15 8:30 Foot Clinic by appointment 10:10 a.m. Aerobics 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday: 12/16 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Lunch 1 p.m. Holiday Party Wednesday 12/17 10:10 a.m. Aerobics 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise Noon Lunch 12:45 p.m. Bingo Thursday: 12/18 9 a.m. NO Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation Noon Lunch 1 p.m. Pitch Friday: 12/19 10:10 a.m. Aerobics 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Writing Group	Typical weekly schedule: Monday 12/15 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Osteo Exercise 12:30 Movie Tuesday 12/16 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Dance Fitness 12:30 p.m. Painting Wednesday 12/17 8:45 a.m. Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo Thursday 12/18 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones Noon Cards Friday 12/19 9 a.m. Bowling
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Well, at least she remembered my name.

The Library at Mt. Parnassus

Pt. 51



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

Seated at a table at the Spotted Pig, I tried without success to put my thoughts in order, to quiet the disorder in my chest.

“Something to drink?” asked the hostess.

“What do you have on tap that’s dark?”

I wound up with an acrid draft called Rakehell Porter, and regretted every swallow. Cream sherry would have more nearly matched my mood.

The place sprawled out in various directions, with small adjoining rooms tacked on at angles, and tattooed waitstaff wandering by in endless rotation clutching empty trays like purgatory ghosts.

One approached me, she looked like a martial arts combatant from Papua New Guinea, and her hair stood up straight from her scalp in a stiff three inch comb dyed tiger yellow on top, jet black below. Her sleeveless top emphasized her powerful build, the musculature of her shoulders and biceps, and she moved with a boxer’s sliding grace, confident and menacing. She had a linked chain hitched to a belt loop of her cargo pants, dangling keys that jangled as she walked, and she slapped a menu on the table and glared at me for a brief moment as if trying to decide whether or not to immediately throw me out.

“Do you know what you want?”

“Not really,” I admitted. “Give me a minute.”

She turned on booted heel and stalked away.

At the large table in the middle of the room students from the university were scattered about, in no obvious pairing or configuration, passing small plates of appetizers or tapas to and fro at random. They looked hale and overeager and fresh faced and adrift on an ice floe slipping into tropical waters and I envied them their oblivious good humor and their charm.

One young golden boy with curly hair, like some goat god dancing to a piper of his own, made his way round the table, lighting briefly in each empty seat to chat up whatever young woman or man happened to be beside him at that instant, before blithely moving on. The calyx of their yearning lives was open and flush with dew.

A waiter brought a slice of birthday cake, and the students burst into song. By all appearances they were fully engaged as they cheered the celebration of another year for a small, fiercely concentrated girl who sat smiling tightly in the middle of the crowd. She may yet have

been the youngest of the party.

The walls were spotlit, bringing into bold relief strange posters of old movie stars, photo-collaged into interesting new presentations: Jean Paul Belmondo and Brigitte Bardot, in thigh high black leather boots, seated in tandem on a rocket launcher; Sophia Loren clutching a food processor to her ample bosom; Marlon Brando pouting in a pigeon coop on a starlit roof. They all seemed oddly familiar.

A metallic remix of Afrika Bambaataa was straining through the sound system, producing a julienned mashup with the cacophony of the university crowd.

“Yeah?”

“I’ll try the gado gado,” I said. “Please.”

The waitress intimidated me a little. I thought she had a switchblade sticking out of her back pocket.

“We’re out of that,” she snarled.

“What do have for specials?”

“Everything’s in flux,” she said, looking off toward the door.

I thought about that as I swallowed the last of my beer. It tasted like fermented coffee.

She looked down at me. “You can’t be sure of anything these days,” she said, collecting my menu with an air of sadness. “The permafrost is melting. The coasts are sinking. The social order, such as it is, is breaking down. People are living in Roman caves to avoid incoming ordnance. We have automatic weapons in the hands of adolescent school boys with incurable acne and a chip on their shoulders.”

I looked up at her. She was staring off into the distance by the front door again.

“What do you recommend?”

“Try the lentil loaf. It’s best to live as far down the food chain as possible.” She sounded surly again, and unwilling to admit defeat.

“I’ll have that. And some other kind of beer. Any other kind of beer.”

She laughed, a short, guttural barking sound, and walked back through the darkened hall to the double kitchen doors.

I listened to the college kids talk about their student loans and summer internships. They were of myriad ethnicities, blended races, and they wandered around the tables flirting with each other without regard to gender.

I tried to make my way as quietly and unobtrusively as possible through my meal.

Then suddenly, without fanfare, Iona walked by and disappeared into the kitchen, through the swinging doors. Had she seen me?

Before I had time to lower my

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Tip Your Drivers

Monday, 12/1

9:38 a.m. Caller reports that as she was driving by F.L. Roberts this morning, there was a group of kids waiting for a bus, and one threw a chunk of ice at her car. Report taken.

11:38 a.m. Caller from East Main Street complains of fumes coming from upstairs, where her neighbor is spray painting the third floor hallway. Neighbor spoken to; TFFD advised.

5:14 p.m. Request for officer to pick up syringes found in Great Falls Discovery Center parking lot. Services rendered.

8:19 p.m. Caller, who is a delivery person for a Chinese restaurant, reports that a customer on Crescent Street gave her \$40 for a \$49 order and then “slammed the door in my face and hit my stomach and I’m 3 months pregnant.” EMS offered, but refused. Officers visited residence, where party reported confusion about the cost and whether or not a tip was included. Party gave officer \$10 to give to the driver; officer will drop money off at restaurant.

8:45 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts reports that a party has been “following him around;” party is reportedly now at the laundromat and intoxicated. Officers checked laundry; parties there report that he may have headed to F.L. Roberts. Officers checked F.L. Roberts and location on Avenue A; party not located. Subway employee reports that party may have thrown a partial cup of beer on their window earlier, a mess they have since cleaned up. Clerk from CT River Liquors called to advise that party was just in store; clerk would not sell to him, as he could barely stand up. Party located in L Street alley and taken into protective custody.

Tuesday, 12/2

10:56 a.m. Caller was leaving her apartment when she overheard her neighbors saying that they were going to beat her dog and her with a baseball bat over an incident that happened a few days ago. Services rendered.

7:29 p.m. Caller reports seeing a person sitting on the top railing of the bridge overlooking the canal. Officers got the party down; she was out “looking at the water.” Party advised that this activity is not safe and sent on way.

7:46 p.m. Report of attempted dumpster break-in on Fourth Street. Investigated.

9:18 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and charged with possession of a Class B drug.

9:47 p.m. Disturbance on Seventh Street. Advised of options.

9:59 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street asking advice about her dog, who has been “aggressively barking” at her children. She is afraid for her children’s safety. Animal control officer had previously spoken to this caller and advised her that at the next sign of aggressive behavior, she should bring the dog to the vet and have it put down. Caller will contact animal control officer and vet in the morning.

Wednesday, 12/3

9:57 a.m. Two snowmobiles parked on side of Turner Street in Lake Pleasant creating a hazard. Owner located; snowmobiles are having mechanical issues. They should be moved by tomorrow.

1:23 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Third Street; ongoing issue. Services rendered.

1:47 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on Avenue A; party called MSP 911 to report that he was trying to nap, and a tiny red car outside his apartment was playing music so loud that a picture frame fell off the wall. Area search negative.

5:27 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Thursday, 12/4

1:58 a.m. 911 caller reports that her uncle just came to her apartment on Fourth Street and says that he was robbed at gunpoint at the Greenfield Cooperative Bank ATM on Avenue A. Investigated.

8:12 a.m. Detail officer on Avenue A reports about a dozen needles/syringes in the area of the old Greenfield Savings Bank property. Items retrieved.

9:38 a.m. Caller reports seeing a car stolen from her son at Cumberland Farms. Investigated.

10:32 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports that neighbors are piling up their garbage on the back porch; concerned about safety and odor. Message left for Board of Health.

1:17 p.m. Shoplifting at Family Dollar. Party had \$47.30 worth of merchandise; clerk believes they have it all back.

Friday, 12/5

7:10 a.m. Fire alarm on Avenue A. TFFD on scene. Building evacuated.

11:29 a.m. Report of ongoing harassment in Avenue A apartment building. Advised of options.

1:44 p.m. Caller from K Street reports that both of the taillights on her vehicle were smashed out. Officers will be on lookout in area.

6:29 p.m. Employee at Rendezvous reports that an elderly woman with canes is in front of the establishment asking patrons to buy her drinks. Party moved along.

11:12 p.m. Three calls reporting loud noise disturbances in Turners Falls. Areas around Central Street, L Street, and Fourth Street checked; unfounded.

Saturday, 12/6

1:00 a.m. Report of disturbance at Between The Uprights. Units clear; unable to locate.

9:32 a.m. Two-car accident at Seventh Street and L Street; one operator unable to stop coming down hill and rolled into intersection. Minor damage to both vehicles. Citation issued to one operator.

2:23 p.m. Caller reports that a box truck on the side of the road near Greenfield Road and Ferry Road is “smoking really bad.” Officer advises this is a mechanical issue with a Red Fire Farm truck; gave operator a ride back to the farm.

9:39 p.m. Caller from Doyle’s Car Wash reports that there are several people walking towards the golf course, two pushing shopping carts full of items and one carrying what looks like a canoe. Officer spoke to parties, who advised that they had put in a canoe in Vernon and were now looking for a place to put it back in the water.

Sunday, 12/7

1:22 a.m. Officer checked on suspicious activity in Third Street laundromat; found to be employees.

11:41 a.m. Female calling on behalf of male party who was reportedly approached outside the Shea Theater by two men who reportedly walked up on either side of him and, as if talking to each other, threatened to rob him. Officer located the two male suspects; was advised that they had been joking around to each other about a tabloid involving a celebrity. Officer spoke with male party and explained the situation.

5:52 p.m. 911 call reporting loud music on Seventh Street. Caller advised regarding proper use of 911. Units advised. Music turned down.

6:29 p.m. Caller reports erratically operated vehicle near Fairway Avenue and Walnut Street; was able to provide plate number. Several reports/incidents involving this vehicle identified over past six months. Referred to an officer.

10:03 p.m. Unwanted person on L Street. Report taken.

10:44 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that there is an odd odor permeating into her adult son’s bedroom. Caller could not liken the odor to anything she had ever smelled before but speculated that it might be from downstairs neighbors smoking pot. Caller advised to evacuate apartment, but opted to stay in living room, where odor was faint. Officer and TFFD advised.

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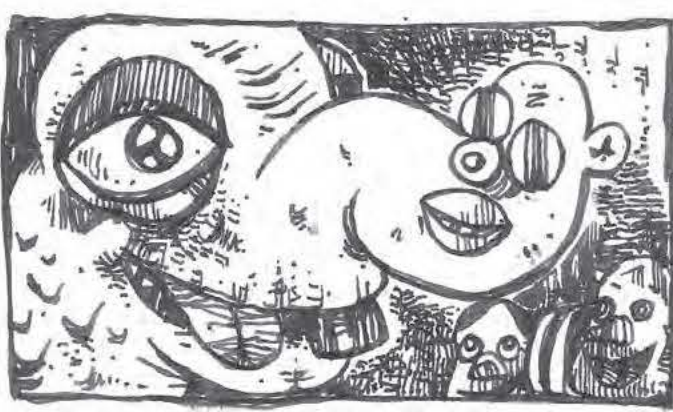
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FASHION from B1

Next walked Celeste in her own creation – an asymmetrical, off-the-shoulder, and understated number sewn from a single big black t-shirt. At 11 years old, this designer showed impressive talent and imagination, and her look was perhaps the most innovative and chic of the night.

The third look from the pair was also out of this world -- a sculptural circular skirt paired with a toddler vest modeled by Hannah. Both of the last two looks included stiff rings sewn into the fabric around their shins, creating a sort of orbital effect. Blue lipstick and abstract shapes painted on all three of the models' foreheads helped complete this cosmic collection.

Fancy

The third collection of the evening were two looks presented by Linda Gilcreast. The first was a two piece refreshingly bright yellow outfit, with hand painted blue waves and white birds. The second look was a denim dress made of one large pair of jeans, painted with red, white, and blue starbursts.

Strutting past washers and dryers to "Fancy" by Iggy Azalea, both young models were styled with black long sleeve layers underneath their streamlined dresses.

Ripped or Stained

Mary Buckley presented her 2014 line next, a collection full of whimsy and character. First down the runway was a "funky denim cowgirl," wearing short shorts and a headband. Next, Mary modeled a red, white, and black striped ensemble cleverly made out of a de-



Drae Malliaros is given a hand up onto the runway.

constructed sweater, featuring leg warmers and short shorts.

Following her was a look dedicated to one's "inner infant." Donning rosy cheeks, a long blue cap, patchwork shirt, and red shorts with "little princess" sewn onto the seat, the model toddled down the runway in platform blue & pink patent leather shoes sucking her thumb and deviously tossing dryer sheets from a lunchbox to the crowd.

Ms. Monique scolded her for littering, to which she responded by throwing even more dryer sheets at laughing onlookers while running back down the runway.

Mary's collection ended with a "dryer sheet bride" – a theme the designer had revisited from years past.

The bride wore a white quilted cape made from an old mattress pad, trimmed with feathery dryer sheets and a matching crown.

In speaking with the veteran designer after the show, Mary explained her approach to the mystery bag of lost clothing handed out to designers to work from. Ripped or stained items excited her the most, while nicer usable items she often skipped incorporating into her looks and donated instead. She also explained that in the past she's ditched old designs at Suzee's so that they could be recycled and redistributed to designers in the next year's fashion show.

Mary excitedly tells me that a decade of designing for the annual show has been super fun and inspiring for her. "And over the past ten years, my sewing has improved a lot," she said, laughing and referring to the baggy jean dress she opened the retrospective with that night.

Priestesses

The final five looks of the evening were designed by Duchess Von Pruitt. Her collection, entitled "Rhapsody in Blue", was very cohesive, sewn entirely of blue patchworked material and accented with intricate gold coin body chains.

The collection reminded me of an array of sapphires, regal and expertly cut. Her models embodied the designs well, like priestesses parading down the runway.

All five dresses were very similar but distinctively different. One had a peek-a-boo cut out back, another had a peplum waist, and another dress had fringe made out of blue fabric remnants. One had a more

bohemian edge, while another dress felt very mod.

The workmanship of the entire collection was admirable, as all the dresses were flattering and fit very well.

Encores

The enthusiastic crowd cheered as the models and designers took to the folding table runway one more time. The energetic and elated participants worked the crowd, their pride contagious, feeding off the palpable energy reverberating throughout the room.

Seeing all of the designs together, I was struck by the creativity of the designers, as well as some aesthetic themes echoed throughout the runway. A lot of blue denim, a lot of stripes, and many nods to 70's style. Was this coincidence, or creative resonance, or are these just the most commonly left behind garments at the laundromat?

Ms. Monique shimmied her sparkling self off of the dryer and reminded the admiring crowd that there was to be an encore runway show and party next door at the Rendezvous.

I joined the herd heading towards the door, my eyes wider than ever before, taking in all the folks who came out on a cold, drizzling night to hang out in a laundromat.

And as I left the room, my head spinning in the presence of so much talent and beauty, I couldn't help but crave more. My eyes were still hungry and wanted more looks to digest! More designers to share their visions! I craved more variety in the bodies I saw represented on the runway! More diversity in the crowd in at-

tendance! More weirdo art happenings in unlikely spaces!

Not only platforms for expression, bodies can be sites of political and social revolution. Fashion is a constantly changing physical reaction and adaptation to the world around us. How we express ourselves and embody our imaginations makes a big difference in how we feel, not only how we look.

Fashion is fun, sure, but it also has the potential to open up dialogue and expand possibility.

The Lost & Found Fashion Show happens the first Saturday in December, so mark your 2015 calendars now! And if you're interested in getting involved next year, email turnersfallsfashionshow@gmail.com and let Janke know.



This Linda Gilcreast piece featured hand-painted birds.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on December 9, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Choosing a Chief

Three candidates for Montague chief of police appeared before the seven-member selection committee on Tuesday, December 7.

They were Sgt. Chris Williams, with 12 years on the force, who scored highest on the civil service exam; Sgt. Gary Billings, 28 years on the force, acting chief for the last three, who scored lowest on the civil service exam of the three; and detective Ray Zukowski, with 29 years on the force, who scored below Williams and above Billings. Each was interviewed for an hour; each responded to the same list of questions. The committee will meet on December 14 to decide on the recommendation to the selectboard.

The selectboard conducted separate interviews with the candidates, and will examine their personal files, and review the results of their performance on the assessment center exercises. Their decision is

expected December 20.

Wendell Library Forum
Opts for Depot Road Site

More than 40 Wendellites gathered in the senior center in the sagging town office building on December 4 to consider the future location of a new town library.

"Maybe soon we will be fortunate enough to have a pub that's been proposed at the Wendell Country Store," said librarian Rosie Heidkamp, but until then, "the library is the only game in town" for gathering with friends.

In the end, the group preferred a site on Depot Road where the town offices are currently located – but not unanimously – because the lot was on the common, more convenient, with a better orientation for solar panels, and with a safer entry and exit from the road.

Erving Paper Mill
Treatment Plant

The selectboard is working on setting a meeting with Erving Paper Mill (EPM) to discuss renewal of

the treatment plant contract between the mill and the town for 2006.

Because the EPM treatment plant was funded with federal money, the town was required to submit the application and holds the permit. The town pays EPM one dollar per year to operate the treatment plant.

Diemand Daughters
Prepare For Holidays

Many hands make light work around the holidays, and no family knows that better than the Diemandas of Mormon Hollow Road, who have only recently been able to catch their breath after dressing and delivering nearly 3,000 turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Things won't really calm down until after Christmas, but in the meantime Elsie, the matriarch of the clan, was able to relax and enjoy a chocolate mouse-making workshop this past Monday with her six daughters. Chocolate mousse? No, chocolate mouse, hundreds of them, with heads fashioned out of chocolate kisses and bodies out of chocolate-covered maraschino cherries.

FOOTBALL from pg B1

On Defense, he made 48 solo tackles, 46 assists and a sack. On offense, Alex supplemented the 1-2 punch of Trent and Jalen Sanders by carrying the ball 20 times for 80 yards. Alex caught the ball 7 times, scoring 4 touchdowns, including a critical score against Frontier. He also had a 17 yard punt return.

Most Improved was Tionne Brown. With both Ricky Craver and Trevor Mankowsky out with injuries, Tionne took over under center with no QB experience. And Tionne was named to the Inter County League. Simply because Tionne excelled on the field. His speed, skill and determination made up for his inexperience. Tionne threw 17 touchdowns, had 651 passing yards, and rushed for a TD against Athol. On Defense, Tionne had 20 solo tackles and 14 assists, 3 interceptions and 10 passes defended.

The season's **Rookie of the Year** was Emmett Turn. Emmett came to the Football squad as a senior because there was no soccer team. With his soccer experience, Emmett added another Dimension to the Offense. Turners now had the luxury of

going for the one pointer and Emmett came through, kicking 31 PATs. Emmett also caught the ball 5 times, scoring 2 touchdowns. On defense, he snagged 4 interceptions, recovered a fumble, had 13 solo tackles and 15 assists.

Three players won the **56th Cannon Novak Award**: Trent Bourbeau, Tyler Charboneau, and Jalen Sanders.

Sanders, although only a Junior, consistently played above expectations this season. He ran for 835 yards, including 3 plus-100 yard games and scored 6 rushing touchdowns. In the air, he had 19 receptions for 445 yards and 12 Touchdowns.

He also converted 3 two-pointers. He returned a kickoff for a touchdown to put Turners ahead of Easthampton and against McCann Tech, he instituted a fake punt, completing an 18 yard pass to keep a drive alive. On defense, he had 9 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries, and 6 pass defended.

Brown concluded the ceremony by thanking the cheerleaders, the Novak family, and all the others who made the 2014 football season such a success.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

Leverett Library *Spanish Conversation Group*. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

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.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

ART SHOWS & MUSEUMS:

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: New work by professional photographer *Stephen Petegorsky*, of Northampton. The ten works on display are based on stained animal skeletons from the Biology Department at UMass. Photography Exhibit in the Marion Herrick Room through January 3, 2015.

Smith College, Northampton, Oresman Gallery, Hillyer, Brown Fine Arts Center: Work by *Sasha Rudensky*, Russian-born artist living in New York and Connecticut. Her photos focus on the slow dissolution of Soviet consciousness, the ideological vacuum left in its wake, and reconstitution of new post-Soviet Ukrainian and Russian identities. On display through 12/19.

CALL FOR ART:

Call for art submissions for the Fourth Annual *Triple S: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* show. Looking for a wide spectrum of erotic art from regional artists, previous participants encouraged. Exhibit opens February 2015 at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls. Send to naban@verizon.net before Jan 23. www.ninasnook.com

AUDITIONS

Arena Civic Theatre auditions for the musical "Irma La Douce," on Sunday, December 14, 1 p.m. at the Arts Block Café, Greenfield and Monday, December 15, 7 p.m. at the Bangs Community Center, Amherst. Come prepared to read, move, and perform a song (bring sheet music). Performance dates will be in late April and early May in Greenfield. For more information call (413) 772-6077.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield:

Hammond Organ/Guitar Duo. Local musician and Hammond Organist Ted Wirt will be jazzing the Christmas Classics with NYC transplant/Jazz Guitarist. Free, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Turners Falls: *It's A Wonderful Night* presented by RiverCulture. Holiday activities for the whole family, art exhibitions, live music, restaurant specials, performances and unique gift buying opportunities. Children and adults alike

are encouraged to put a wish list in the Magic Mailbox, as well as notes of hope for themselves, friends, family and the world! See page 14 for more info, 5 to 10 p.m.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Swing Jazz* with Kenny Butler (violin) and Steve Alves (guitar), 6 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Film adaptation of a John Guare play which was inspired by real-life con artist David Hampton. 1993 American comedy-drama, Stockard Channing, Donald Sutherland & Will Smith. R. 7:30 p.m.

Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, Turners Falls: *Ken Forfia* (keyboard) and *Vernon C. David* (cello), Jazz Standards, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule- Midwinter Music, Dance, Songs & Stories*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Five Eyed Fox, Turners Falls: *It's A Wonderful Life* movie, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kristen Ford*, 9:30 p.m.



Betsy-Dawn Williams, aka BeeDee, performs at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m. with Lil BeeDee and the DooRites.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Make & Take Fair*. Make gifts for your family and friends, teachers and neighbors. Craft projects for all ages, refreshments, 10 to 3 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Gingerbread Party*. See Local Briefs. pg. A2. Free. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live broadcast from the Met-

ropolitan Opera. *Wagner's Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg*, \$, noon.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Herbal Approaches to Insomnia*, Community Clinical Herbalist Patti Williams presents this free workshop, 2 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance*, 6 p.m.

Deerfield Academy, Deerfield: *Pioneer Valley Symphony Annual Family Holiday Concert*, \$, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule- Midwinter Music, Dance, Songs & Stories*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls: *Recital Chorus 19th Annual Holiday Concert*. Vocal and choral music directed by Margery Heins, 7:30 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *L'il BeeDee and the DooRites*, rockabilly, rhythm & blues, \$, open mic at 7:30 p.m. with main act at 8 p.m.

Smith College, Northampton: *Celebrations, Dance Performance Works*, choreography by artistic directors and Smith College seniors Jessica Goudreault and Twyla Marr, and student choreographers within the company. Limited seating, Scott Dance Studio, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, not your father's Blues Band! 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Home Body with Shampoo & Semicircle*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Boiler Bar and Grille, Orange: *Zydeco Connection*, 6 to 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, Steve Crow (electric guitar, vocal), Peter Kim (bass) and Joe Fitapatrik (drums). - Warped Americana, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BINGO!* 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting & Crafts Night*. All welcome, any skill level.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Geothermal and Economic Impact*, talk by David Reynolds 7 p.m.

Northfield Coffee and Books, Northfield: *Slate Roof poet Ed Rayher, haiku poet Vincent Tripi, & jazz trombonist Jeremy Starpoli*, 7:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, original guitar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Wendell Meetinghouse: *Medieval Yule Celebration* benefit. See Local Briefs, pg. A2. \$, 6 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levan-gie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw country! 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lisa Marie Ellingsen and Lexi Wee-gee*, 9:30 p.m.



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