



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 16

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

## Wendell: No Injuries in Total Loss Blaze

By MIKE JACKSON

An early morning house fire on Davis Turn Road in Wendell destroyed one residence, but firefighters from eight local departments were able to prevent it from spreading to a second nearby building. No one was in either building at the time.

A neighbor's 911 call shortly after 1:30 a.m. alerted first responders to the blaze. Departments from New Salem, Montague Center, Turners Falls, Erving, Athol, Orange and Sunderland assisted Wendell's department with mutual aid.

The cause of the fire was not immediately evident, and calls to the state fire marshal's office Wednesday evening had not been returned as of

press time.

The house's location at the end of a narrow, quarter-mile dead-end road, flanked by deep snowbanks, challenged firefighters' ability to supply water to the site.

Orange firefighter Jeff Hamberg said his department sent one engine to help with fire suppression and overhaul, and helped shuttle tankers for water.

"Everyone did a wonderful job," said Turners Falls firefighter Luke Hartnett. "By the time we got there the house was gone, but the Wendell firefighters had been able to save adjacent structures."

"Water supply was a problem," said Wendell's Josh Heinemann.

"It seems to be a problem around here."

Heinemann said he is see **FIRE** page A3

## Checking In with the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter



PHOTO COURTESY FCSO

Jackson is a current resident at the shelter's kennel.

By SHIRA HILLEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – Most people in the area are familiar with the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett. Fewer are aware that the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Regional Dog Shelter & Adoption Center opened its doors in May of 2012, and has been operating ever since.

The FCSO and Sheriff Christopher Donelan, not the town police, are in charge of jails and another

type of holding unit, the dog shelter. The Shelter director is Deputy Sheriff Leslee Colucci.

The FCSO has contracted with 17 towns within Franklin County to provide the housing and care of stray, abandoned and lost dogs.

The shelter offers 24 hour availability for new arrivals, basic dog care, as well as dog enrichment programs, vaccinations and licensing, vet services, spaying or neutering, micro-chipping, and basic

see **SHELTER** page A5

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Should Transfer Station Stay In Operation?

By DAVID DETMOLD

Three departmental hearings kicked off a season of budget deliberation at the Leverett selectboard on Tuesday, February 3. Building maintenance supervisor John Kuczek, library director Ashley Blais, and transfer station coordinator Neal Brazeau all presented budgets with 3.5% and 8% budget reduction scenarios at the request of the selectboard and finance committee.

Leverett's financial oversight boards are seeking across-the-board belt-tightening this year due to a number of wild cards, including possible cutbacks to state aid, a potential shift in the four-town assessment agreement for the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools, and two pending property tax abatement appeals, one of which could severely impact the town's revenue stream were it to be settled favorably for the property owner.

**Transfer Station**

Brazeau's presentation for the transfer station budget was the only one to generate significant discussion on Tuesday. He is planning to

see **LEVERETT** page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Offered New Conservation Land, Board Suspects Pipeline Politics

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard questioned Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust representatives about a potential donation of the Mackin family's Poplar Mountain property on Old Stage Road for over an hour on Wednesday night, tabling any decision about accepting the land until their regular Monday meeting on February 9.

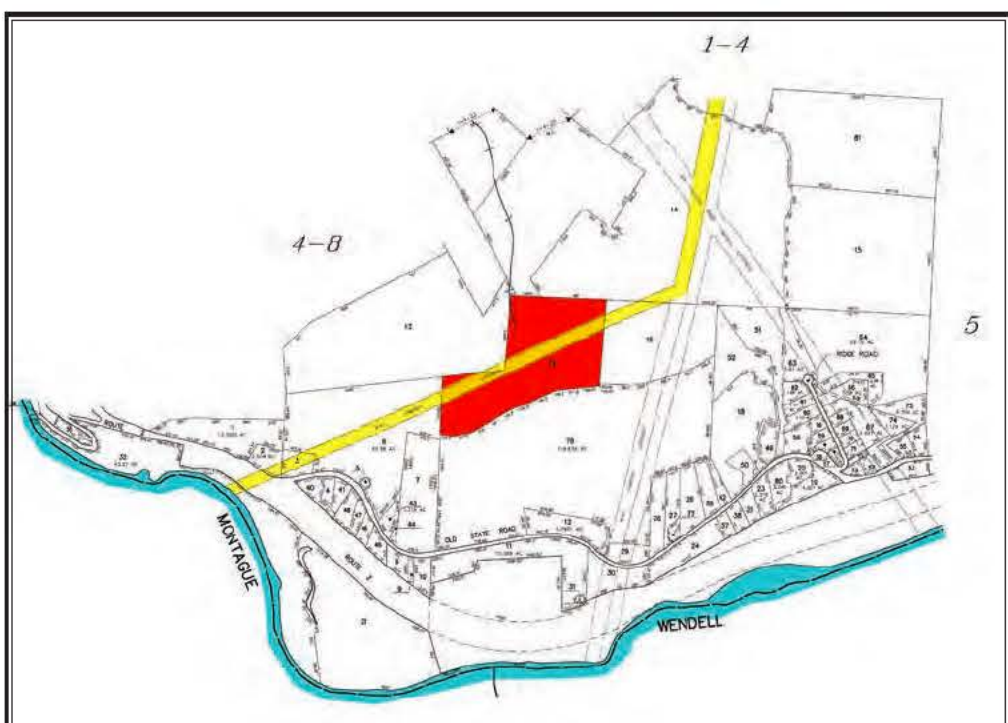
Mount Grace has proposed taking ownership of the land as a gift from the Mackin estate, clearing up title problems, and then donating the land to the town. Mount Grace would pay closing costs for obtaining the land from

the Mackins, and would pay real estate taxes while they own the land. The town would pay closing costs (estimated at \$2,000) for receiving the land from Mount Grace.

Mount Grace conservation specialist Matthias Nevin told the board that the landlocked 50-acre lot was originally considered part of the Guinesz farm property that the town accepted with a conservation restriction in 2006, creating Erving Town Forest.

However, in researching lot boundaries and titles, it was determined that the plot was owned by the Mackin family and not the Guinesz family. Nevin said the land provided

see **LAND** page A5



ERVING ASSESSORS MAP

The parcel in question (in red) is bisected by an existing transmission line right-of-way (in yellow). Kinder Morgan says it would follow existing corridors wherever it can to minimize new impacts.



SROKA PHOTO

## TFHS To Host Career Fair

By MAGGIE SROKA

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Ask any student starting high school what they want to do after high school.

Some have their careers set in stone, wanting to be a nurse or a mechanic or a lawyer. More often than not, however, you'll meet students like myself who change what they believe they want to major in at college several times throughout their high school career. To help us, Turners Falls High School is hosting a career fair on April 15, to show students the paths they may choose after college.

No teacher at Turners Falls High School understands the dreams and goals of students more than technology and woodworking teacher Jeffery Jobst. He has been teaching at the school for decades, and takes every student's best interest to heart.

Planning the career fair,

contacting local businesses, and making sure everything fits into a busy day at TFHS is no small feat, but Jobst understands that the outcome is worth the momentary stress.

"It's all about the students," says Jobst, "Anything to help them with their futures."

Several components go into the planning of the career fair to make it a success. One of the largest is getting area businesses on board. It is essential to have representatives from workplaces come out and talk to the students.

This benefits students, by giving them a chance to talk with potential employers, and develop a more guided path to help them in choosing a career. It also benefits businesses by allowing them to network with a large audience of young men and women who can become the futures of companies. It additionally gives businesses the opportunity to collabo-

rate with each other.

Some of the many businesses taking time to come down and educate students about their places of work are Food City, the Farren Care Center, The Country Creamery, Wilson's Department Store, and various restaurants and radio stations. The variety in workplaces helps broaden the scope of students' potential futures, showing them multiple career paths that they could follow.

The career fair is being opened up to the middle school, which is an awesome opportunity for younger students to begin thinking about their future. The last fair was in 2011, opening the doors for a new era of TFHS students to learn about the brilliant paths that lay beyond the stage when they received their diploma at graduation.

Giving students the chance to see what lies beyond high school assures

see **TFHS** page A3



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## Another Pacific Is Possible

For as long as there have been borders, our world has been shaped by flows across them – flows of people, of raw materials and manufactured goods, of ideas, and of disease.

Last year's Ebola outbreak is merely the latest reminder that we must think globally and work across cultures to stay ahead of epidemics. It is in my interest that a stranger on the opposite side of the planet enjoys good health.

But there is a significant global wealth gap. And the private patent system that fuels our own society's pharmaceutical research and development runs into problems when the world's majority cannot afford the medicine the companies bring to market.

The most glaring example of this is the cost in many countries of antiretroviral drugs to fight HIV – a barrier to supporting hard-hit populations and, indirectly, to containing that plague.

NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders have found ways to work around this monopoly system, supporting efforts to file "patent oppositions" that allow for production of generics at a fraction of cost.

Should a national government have the right to allow its chemists and doctors to treat its sick, even when that interferes with the profits of a multinational corporation that feels it has purchased a piece of intellectual property (IP)?

This is the kind of thorny issue hashed out in our time by the negotiators of "trade liberalization" deals, though we still treat their job as if they're simply shaking hands and agreeing to remove tariffs on imports.

What sort of environmental protections give a country an unfair advantage over its trading partners? What sort of guarantees of workers' safety?

For the last five years, representatives of the United States have been holding intensive closed-door negotiations with their counterparts in Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam and Japan to produce an agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The contents of the deal have so far been kept secret, but sections have been made public through WikiLeaks.

According to Doctors Without Borders, "the US government is pushing policies in the TPP that represent the most far-reaching at-

tempt to date to impose aggressive IP standards in a trade agreement with developing countries -- policies that further tip the balance towards strong IP regimes favoring commercial interests and away from public health."

The US is also seeking to establish a mechanism by which an investing company can sue any member country if it passes legislation that cuts into its profits in violation of the treaty.

Adding in labor and environmental concerns (as if our work and the air we breathe are special interests!), and issues that affect agriculture, the internet and energy, we can see that this is the kind of major, binding commitment that an advanced democratic society would want to at least publicly debate.

But the Obama administration, eager perhaps to build ties with centrist Republicans and shore up its support from Wall Street, seeks to prevent that from happening. It has asked Congress for "trade promotion authority" – fast track power – for committing to the TPP, and to a second deal between the US and European Union.

If passed, the administration's trade reps could return with an un-amendable, un-filibusterable done deal that each chamber could debate for no more than 20 hours and then pass by simple majority vote.

The public opposes this. So do we, to the extent that our opinion matters. What we find more interesting is what will happen next.

Those of us worried that it will gut protections for the poor and enhance corporate property rights around the Pacific Rim can reach "across the aisle" to form a coalition with those in our country who hate our current president and oppose giving him fast-track authority for reasons of sovereignty, constitutionalism and spite.

Or we can take another path. It's 2015. Why not join with the Canadians, Mexicans, Peruvians, Chileans, New Zealanders, Australians, Malaysians, Singaporeans, Bruneians, Vietnamese and Japanese who'd be in the same boat?

If all these matters affect us all so much, why are we only interacting with each other through shadowy trade delegations?

Nothing is stopping us from building alliances that put prosperity, health, human rights and environmental well-being front and center.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Montague dog licenses** are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed and tagged each year.

A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5. A license for an unaltered dog is \$10. The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

There is a late fee of \$20 after Thursday, May 28. If you no longer have your dog, let the town clerk know by calling 863-3200, ext. 203.

License renewals may be obtained through the town's website, [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net) only if your dog's rabies vaccination that was used for last year's registration has not yet expired.

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

This Saturday, February 7, Tari Grimard of Tari's TLK (Tender Loving Kare) can **help with your pet's care** at Greenfield Savings Bank's Community Room from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Tari has been a local provider of pet care, boarding, and grooming for over 23 years. If it walks, crawls, slithers, flies or swims, Tari can help with your pet's care. There is no end to her talent!

It is especially important to trim cats' and dogs' toe nails and claws in winter as they have more indoor activity. Tari will bring a special four-footed guest, so please come and ask questions and get advice. Light refreshments provided by GSB. No reservations required.

An exhibit of historic photographs of villages, hamlets and hollows, reproduced from the collection of the Swift River Valley Historical Society, is opening at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 7. The public is cordially invited to an **opening reception** from 1 to 3 p.m.

The family-friendly exhibit includes an interactive area inspired by village schoolhouses and colorful 3-D art by Pioneer Valley Regional School District students under the guidance of their art teacher, Althea Dabrowski.

The exhibit is on view from February 7 through March 28 on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Great Hall is used for many community activities; to confirm the



exhibit is accessible on a given day, call 863-3221.

The community is invited to view "Guswenta: Renewing the Two Row Wampum Treaty" a 33-minute, **award-winning documentary** by Gwendolen Cates.

The film features stunning footage from the 28-day paddling journey from the Onondaga Nation to the United Nations during the summer of 2013, along with powerful words from Haudenosaunee leaders

Documentary showing, followed by discussion is on Tuesday, February 12, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Toby Friends Meetinghouse, 194 Long Plain Road, Leverett.

This event is the second this year in the Mt. Toby Peace and Social Concerns Committee film series. All are welcome.

**Just in time for Valentine's Day.** Chocolate Fantasy, with all sorts of chocolates for chocolate lovers. on Friday, February 13, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Baystate Franklin Medical Center to benefit the Transportation Department & Volunteer Services Media Lending Project.

Held in the conference rooms of BFMC located at 164 High Street in Greenfield. Sponsored by the Baystate Franklin Auxiliary and Department of Volunteer Services.

Sue Kranz and Ben Tousley have been bringing their uplifting voices and sweet harmonies to New England audiences for the past 28 years. Friday, February 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. this duo are performing at the **Great Falls Discovery Center Coffeehouse series.**

With flute and guitar, this lively and engaging duo offer heartfelt ballads, soulful love songs, social commentary and a delightful sampling of songs from various traditions, including Latino, Irish and Jewish.

The coffeehouse takes place in the historic Great Hall of the GFDC at 2 Avenue A, in downtown Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Coffee and homemade baked goods are available.

The Turners Falls High School **Hockey Cooperative is hosting a benefit breakfast** on Saturday, February 14, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Montague Elks Club located on the corner of Elk Avenue and L street, Turners Falls.

This full breakfast meal will include pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, hash browns, coffee, tea, juice, and milk. The prices are \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids under ten, \$5 for Senior citizens, three or under eat for free.

Dakin Humane Society has announced it will be holding a **Low-Cost Vaccine Clinic** at its Adoption Center, 163 Montague Road, Leverett on Saturday, February 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).



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TFHS from page A1

them a dream for a better future. Alumni of TFHS have taken jobs all over Western Massachusetts and beyond. I'm sure more recent graduates believe that their careers benefited from the jump-start provided by career fairs and similar events.

Turners Falls High School has also had college attendees come in and talk to the students about their personal experiences in college, offering advice for those who are considering the route of higher education.

The career fair, which puts students out there into the community to get a better feel for employers, is only one of the things that Turners Falls High School does to ensure that graduates have the best future possible after walking across the stage.

I hope that it also helps students like me, who are indecisive about our career paths, find more stability. Knowing TFHS, I know that this will shed light on my peers' futures, as well as my own.



NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# TFHS Principal Osborn to Resign; Sullivan Recommends Personnel Cuts

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The room was packed for the January 29 Gill-Montague school committee meeting at Turners Falls High School as the members discussed, then unanimously approved, a preliminary FY'16 district budget of \$18,347,688. Superintendent Michael Sullivan recommended cutting personnel to meet the budget, including a combination of the middle and high school principal positions, which he announced will both be vacant after the school year.

As committee member Marjorie Levenson said of the approved budget, "This is only a place-holder." The final amount to be presented at town meeting in May will most likely be changed after more information becomes available from the state, and a clearer picture emerges of the district's income and expenses.

One item the committee hopes to see change is the transportation reimbursement. The district is working with other school districts through the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to question the legality of the cuts. Chair Joyce Phillips explained the challenge is based on a state law that says cuts to transportation cannot exceed cuts to Chapter 70 funding: since there have been no cuts to Chapter 70 funding, argues the MASC, there should be none to the transportation reimbursement.

District business director Joanne Blier explained to the committee that all of the numbers on the budget breakdown provided by the business office and superintendent are very preliminary. Governor Charlie Baker, being newly elected, will be given an extra month to produce a budget, which means state funding information will not be available until March.

Nevertheless, superintendent Michael Sullivan, expecting reductions to be necessary for the coming fiscal year, presented recommendations for the FY'16 budget that include substantial reductions.

Proposed Layoffs

Sullivan proposed eliminations including six paraprofessional positions, one each in Hillcrest, Gill and Sheffield Elementary, two in the middle school, and one in the high school; a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Sheffield; teachers in high school social studies, math and English Language Studies; a high school graduation coach; an alternative learning classroom teacher; a middle school/high school guidance counselor; a maintenance person; one technology technician; and two administrative assistants in the department offices.

Sullivan also proposes combining the position of principal for middle school and high school. He would add a half-time Spanish teacher, a part-time elementary and middle school team leader; one full-time Gill/Hillcrest special education teacher; and one full-time high school interventionist. Savings of these combined cuts and additions, plus some other reductions throughout the district, add up to a total of \$878,000.

Committee member Sandra Brown of Gill expressed her concern that the proposed budget was "unsustainable."

Jane Oaks of Gill said, "It's not looking good, making cuts where we really don't want to." She suggested they look for grants.

Phillips said it was hard to see cuts to technology again. She added that many of the cuts are from unfunded mandates. Referring to grant programs that come with conditions, she said, "They offer a carrot of a grant, then the grant goes away, and they want us to keep the program but take their money and go home."

Sullivan assured the school committee that his approach was thoughtful and not arbitrary, and that many of the reductions in staff reflected changes in the needs of the student body. For example, he said, a student aging out of a special education program allows the district to cut the paraprofessional who has been working with that student. He

assured the members that the cuts would not cancel any courses, and that class size would remain small.

He also recommended eliminating the summer reading program and working with the parks department to provide one in its place.

Espinola, Osborn to Depart

The superintendent announced some additional changes. Marty Espinola will be retiring at the end of the school year and Sullivan has selected current middle school principal Donna Fitzpatrick to take over Espinola's position as the district's Director of Teaching and Learning, effective July 1.

"Donna and I are enthusiastic about this growth opportunity for her," said Sullivan. "Ms. Fitzpatrick is a talented veteran school leader who will be a great asset to our new principals."

Sullivan also announced that TFHS principal Thomas Osborn has submitted his resignation effective at the end of the school year. According to Sullivan, Osborn made this decision after the superintendent announced his decision to combine the middle and high school principal positions.

He said, "I will miss working with Thom as he is a strong advocate for meeting the needs of individual students and he brings many skills and much energy to the work." Osborn was initially hired in August 2013 on a three-year contract.

He said with the school committee's approval, they should begin a thorough and inclusive search for a new middle school/high school principal.

After a brief discussion the school committee voted unanimously to continue to participate in school choice.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the TV studio at Turners Falls High School. There will also be a public hearing held there at 6 p.m., to allow the public to ask questions and participate in discussion of the budget.

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Montague Nomination Papers Available For Annual Town Election

Nomination papers for the annual town election, Monday, May 18 are now available at the town clerk's office until Thursday, March 26. They must be returned no later than Monday, March 30 by 5 p.m.

Potential townwide offices need to obtain 30 signatures of registered voters from the "town at large" to be placed on the ballot. Potential town meeting members need to obtain 10 signatures from registered voters of their "home precinct" to be placed on the ballot.

- Offices are as follows:
- Selectman, Moderator, Assessor, Board of Health, and Parks & Recreation, each for a 3-year term.
- Library Trustees have 3 positions open, each for a 3-year term.
- Soldier's Memorial Trustees have two positions open (Veteran and Non-Veteran), each for a 3-year term.
- Montague Housing Authority has one position open for a 5-year term.
- Town Meeting Members are needed for all six precincts.

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 18. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, April 28.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue, 863-9324.

The Town Clerks office is open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

For more information please call the office at 863-3200, x 203.

FIRE from page A1

the furthest volunteer firefighter from the station, and as with many fires, was the last to arrive.

"The house was fully involved by the time we got called. When I got to the station, the tanker was charging up air in its brakes so it could go out."

Wendell's new fire chief Joe Cuneo, shared with New Salem, was out of town. "We got there with Engine 1, and put our 850 gallons on it."

At that point, they turned to the

3,000 gallons of capacity provided by the tanker shuttle. "Warren [Wildard] had to back it all the way down Davis Turn Road."

When that was done, Turners Falls arrived with more water, and the process repeated. Before long, there was a 4" hose line running down the length of the road, and another dump tank was parked up at the intersection with Morse Village Road.

"By the time I walked out to leave," said Heinemann, "there were six trucks full of water up there, all

lined up to dump. Once we had water, there was no problem getting the fire down."

On Wednesday afternoon, the structure's ruins were still smoldering and steaming, and Davis Turn Road was covered in slush and ice.

The house's owner, Jacqueline Tolzdorf, was not home at the time of the fire.

Additional reporting was provided by Tia Fattaruso and Josh Heinemann.



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**PAPER**  
Week of February 9  
in Montague



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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Will Kitchen Committee Continue?

By JOSH HEINEMANN

With the budget season just starting, and a backlog of considerations dealt with at their January 14 meeting, the Wendell selectboard were able to get their business done in short order at their January 28 meeting. They spent more time discussing the design for the town flag than on any other agenda item.

### The Flag's Central Circle

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich had made a copy of the flag's central circle and cut it out so it could be placed over backgrounds other than the multi-color starburst of the original design.

She brought a white, a pale grey, and a cream-colored paper, and board members looked at each with circle turned so the words, "Town of Wendell," are right side up when the flag is flying from a pole.

After everyone looked at the possibilities, selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said he liked the original rainbow starburst the most. Pooser felt that the original design fits Wendell's unique character but it might look worse, or possibly better, on a 4'x6' flag. He said he was going to Amherst the next day and could make larger copies of the different options.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that some of the other town flags have their inner circles extending to the top and bottom border.

Aldrich did not object to any additional sewing of one design over another.

### Emergency Management

While board members were going over the bills, Aldrich said that emergency management director Lonny Ricketts was authorized a \$3,954 MEMA grant, but all three selectboard members had to sign an authorization for him to get that money.

They did sign, though unsure how that precise amount of money would be used.

### WiredWest

WiredWest representative Robbie Heller sent board members an email stating that every household in town will get a request to sign up and give a \$49 deposit for the WiredWest fiber optic internet connection.

In order to proceed, 40% of the households must sign up with that deposit, and then a 2/3 vote for a bond will be needed at the annual town meeting.

Later in the meeting, finance committee member Doug Tanner said he wanted to speak with a WiredWest representative until he completely understands the financial aspects of the whole process.

### Clearwater Liberty

Wendell's citizen of the year is often on the cover of the town's annual report, but librarian Rosie Heidkamp asked that a picture of Clearwater Liberty be in the next annual report.

Liberty passed away in 2014, and met her end with grace and humor, but before that worked for years in the town library, and worked well beyond her paid hours.

### Town Hall Kitchen

Eric Newman has assumed responsibility for overseeing the town hall kitchen construction which is being done mostly by the students of Franklin County Technical School. He has visited the work site regularly, helped with decisions that have to be made on the spot and he stays in contact with the kitchen committee.

When construction is over, he plans to be the contact person for anyone who wants to use that kitchen, but it is not clear whom he will report to after construction.

Keller was not sure whether kitchen committee members wanted to keep meeting after the construction, or if they formed a committee just to get the kitchen built. He said that committee would make a logical group to oversee his work if it

stays together. Otherwise Newman would report directly to the selectboard.

The kitchen committee was meeting elsewhere on the same night, and at least two members said they had formed an ad-hoc committee for building the new kitchen, and when construction is done they are done. But they acknowledged the need for some continuing support, and other committee members were not so fast to comment.

### ZBA Member to Take a Hike

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that Beth Erviti wants to resign from the Zoning Board of Appeals, which would leave Don Bartlett as the only member. She has not written the formal resignation letter.

Board members discussed possible replacements, unnamed here so they may be contacted by a selectboard member first. Heard said the ZBA is one of the less demanding committees in town, and meets only as called for.

Erviti, retired, wants to hike the Appalachian Trail.

### Earlier On

At least two items were missing from the January 14 selectboard report:

The first was that Helen Williams, the town's administrative assessor was ready to resign. Pooser reported at this January 28 meeting that she would stay on. Finding a replacement for her would be difficult.

Secondly, Keller told a not-quite-human-interest story at the meeting's start: He and some friends were ice skating on Fiske Pond and they saw a box turtle on top of the ice. The turtle had pulled head and legs inside its shell and did not respond to any attention.

Keller's friend brought the turtle home and let it thaw slowly. After some days the turtle put its head out and began to move. The friend plans to keep the turtle until spring and then release it.

## Full Snow Moon Gathering Features Presentation on Nipmuc Culture

David Tall Pine White, Tribal Council Vice-President of the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians and a language consultant and actor in the 2009 PBS series "We Shall Remain," will offer a two-hour interactive presentation "The Language Belongs to the Land Itself" on the Nipmuck Presence and Persistence in Southern New England at the Full Snow Moon Gathering.

The Gathering takes place at the Great Falls Discovery Center, at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, on Saturday, February 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. A community activist and teacher of Nipmuc language, history and culture, White states, "There's a lot of wisdom and knowledge in our language. Based on the observations of nature over thousands of years, it shows how our surroundings are alive and an important part of life itself. It teaches an appreciation and purpose of

each living thing."

The Full Snow Moon is the name given by the tribes of the Northeast to the full moon of February, a month when heavy snows are common. It was also known as the Hungry Moon by some tribes because of the harshness of the weather and lack of game.

The Full Snow Moon Gathering joins the Great Falls Massacre Commemoration, Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, and Beaver Moon Gathering in a series of events celebrating Native American history and culture to be presented in Turners Falls during 2015.

The event, co-sponsored by Nolumbeka Project and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, is free and open to the public. Doors open at 12:30. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Light refreshments will be provided.

## WENDELL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Dog Licenses Available

Dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's office. The fee is \$4 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$8 for an intact dog. Every dog must have a valid rabies vaccination certificate presented to the Clerk at the time of licensing.

If we have your certificate on record from last year, and it is still valid, you do not need to bring in the paperwork again this year. All dogs six months and older must be licensed and tagged by May 31 to avoid a late fee.

The office is open from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, and 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

### Annual Street Listing

Please return your signed Annual Street Listing form to the Town Clerk asap. Correct any mistakes, provide forwarding addresses for anyone who has moved away, and add the names and birth dates for any new family members.

State law requires the Board of Registrars to verify and update the name, address, age, and occupation of all residents every year. Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights and veteran status, and to assist the Council on Aging and Swift River School with service projections.

Census data is also used to update the annual street list which is, in turn, made available to our Police Chief, Fire Chief, and our Emergency Management Director to aid them in the performance of their duties. Census information about children under the age of 17 is not made available to the public.

If you did not receive a form, please contact the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102 and leave your name and mailing address so we can mail you a blank form to complete. Please help us make the Annual Town Census as complete and accurate as possible.

### Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on Monday, May 4 are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. The last day to obtain papers is March 12, and the last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is March 16. Papers must be signed by candidates for re-election as well as new candidates.

The list of offices that will be on the May 2015 ballot are as follows:

Selectboard, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Commissioner, and Road Commissioner all have one position open for a 3-year term; Planning Board has one position open for a 5-year term and one to fill a vacancy for 1 year; School Committee has one position open for a 3-year term and one to fill a vacancy (also for 3 years); Library Trustees has two positions open for a 3-year term; Moderator and Tree Warden each have one 1-year position open.

Please consider submitting your name to the Selectboard for consideration of an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Community Garden Committee, Historical Commission, or Open Space Committee.

Now is the right time to decide to get more involved in making our town work. For more information on elected and appointed positions, call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102.

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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a hearing at 6:30 pm on Thurs, February 12, 2015 at the Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls to review a Notice of Intent #2015-01 filed by Mass Department of Fisheries and Wildlife for a proposed resource improvement project in the Montague Plains off Plains Road. Portions of the above-referenced activities will occur within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and the Bank of an intermittent stream. Applications and plans describing the work may be examined in the Planning and Conservation Office, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, during regular working hours Monday-Thursday.

### SHELTER from page A1

obedience training. They have a volunteer-run dog fostering program, and provide counseling on animal emergency preparedness, and they work with the MSPCA on animal cruelty cases.

Some dogs are brought in to the shelter by local animal control officers, while others are surrendered by owners who can no longer care for them for whatever reason.

Last year, 234 dogs were serviced by the facility. The average stay is 1 to 3 months. Although some dogs are too aggressive to be adopted out, the FCSO shelter has a 92% successful adoption rate.

Many dogs are brought to the facility by animal control officers working in the Franklin County area.

One well-known officer is Ed Grinnell. Grinnell and his wife Leslie own and run Eddie's Wheels for Pets in Shelburne Falls, an animal service company that designs and manufactures custom wheelchairs for handicapped pets.

Grinnell's work as an animal control officer covers Shelburne, Buckland and Charlemont, and he supervises animal control for the towns of Heath and Rowe.

When he picks up a dog roaming free, and the dog has tags, he usually holds the animal at his home for up to one night, while he tries to contact the owners. However, if the dog has no tags, he brings it immediately to the FCSO shelter.

"It gets very expensive very quickly to spring your dog free," said Grinnell. There are a slew of possible individual fines that must be paid before owners can retrieve their dog.

These include fines for allowing the animal to roam free, for not wearing tags, to pay for immunization shots, licensing fees, overnight fees, animal control gas mileage, to name a few. They can add up. And dogs will only be returned to their rightful owners after they are vaccinated against rabies and licensed with their town.

Grinnell described the rigorous training he underwent at Boylston Police Academy while working toward his animal control certification. Because animal control officers are law enforcement officers, they must first receive basic police training including laws, proper arresting procedure, restraining and handcuffing and more, before they can specialize in animal-related issues.

Grinnell was also taught animal rights and laws, basic animal behavior, common animal diseases, how to trap and contain animals, and how not to get hurt, or hurt the animals.

In small towns, unlike big cities, the work of the animal control officer is only part-time. "I've gotten calls about dogs, horses, sheep, skunks ... anything."

Is it hard to adopt a dog from the FCSO? "Though we are not as invasive as some of the rescue organizations out there in our application process, we definitely screen prospective dog owners. We check references and call up the vet they list," director Colucci explained.

At the shelter, I noticed how protective the staff feels about their charges. They don't give away their dogs lightly. I overheard Colucci ask her staff about how a visit of a prospective owner who came to meet a large boxer named Jackson went. "Did she like Jackson?" That question was followed up with a more pointed "Did you like her?"

The FCSO dog shelter has initiated the beginning stages of a move to a larger facility with more capacity to accommodate the great need. Land has been chosen in Montague for the future site, but there is no timeline yet for the move.

The current shelter in Turners Falls is a small, cramped space that can only accommodate 10 dogs at a time. With the volunteer foster program they run, more dogs can live at people's homes, rather than in the kennel. Once they move, the FCSO shelter hopes to take cats as well.

The shelter has only two paid positions, with much of the work done by an essential corps of volunteers. The county sheriff's office pays for the shelter's staff salaries and building utilities. They need donations to support day to day expenses, such as food, vet fees and office supplies.

Several fundraisers are held every year. The next is a small one; they hope it will yield \$500. On Sunday, February 28, the third annual Midwinter "PETicure" Doggy Day fundraiser takes place, in which Mighty Clean Mutt in Greenfield offers dog nail trims for only \$10; all proceeds will benefit the dog shelter. Call (413) 676-9182 for an appointment.

Check out cute pictures of the current FCSO residents at: [www.ferdogkennel.org](http://www.ferdogkennel.org). Be careful - you might fall in love!



### LAND from page A1

"wonderful wildlife habitat," and an important historical and cultural resource. He pointed out that it is adjacent to the town forest, and shares a trail system with the town forest.

Mount Grace director Leigh Youngblood said that during a site walk she was impressed that it includes the ridge of Poplar Mountain, which includes flat land. She saw many animal tracks there, including clear bear tracks.

But selectboard members were skeptical about the reasons Mount Grace might have for owning the property.

"And you have no other ulterior motive?" selectboard member Margaret Sullivan asked.

Youngblood acknowledged that the lot "is in the path of the proposed [Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct] pipeline," but said that the timing was coincidental. The trust, she said, has been working with the Mackin estate on about a half dozen parcels.

But, she said, the motivation was that "everybody thought this land was conserved in 2006," and the Mackin family wants to simplify their parents' estate.

Sullivan was not satisfied with Youngblood's answer and asked if the most important motivation was "being able to sue the pipeline?"

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson suggested, "Mount Grace wants to use it, then when done using it, give it to the town."

Conservation commission chair David Brule told the board that the Guinesz property was passed through Mount Grace ownership before it became town property.

Youngblood said that it was common for property to pass through Mount Grace ownership before going to a final owner. She said that the Mackins were well aware of the position that Mount Grace has taken against constructing the pipeline through conservation areas.

Johnson reacted against a "talking point" in the conservation commission's report on the property that said that ownership of the lot would give Mount Grace legal standing in working against construction of the pipeline. "That jumps out at me," he said.

Johnson said he did not want the town to be in the position of giving Mount Grace "leverage to

fight the pipeline."

Selectboard chair William Bembury said, "A number of people in the town of Erving are looking to the board to make a statement on the pipeline. Personally, I take a 'wait and see' attitude, to see how it is going to affect the community."

But, he continued, "that's a separate issue from the land donation."

"We all understand the desire of people who want the selectboard to make a statement," Brule commented, "but we [the conservation commissioners] want to protect the town's resources." He said that it is not necessary to be opposed to the pipeline to want to understand how resources will be affected by it, adding, "Mount Grace will help us get answers."

The board voted unanimously to table the decision until February 9, after they have heard from town counsel about the contract proposed by Mount Grace.

### January 28 Business

F.A. Moschetti and Sons, Inc., low bidder for the contract to secure windows and doors at the former IP Mill at \$45,750, was awarded the bid at the January 28 selectboard meeting.

At an earlier meeting, highway foreman Glenn McCrory had told the board that Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) procurement officer Andrea Woods, who has been advising the town on the bidding process, recommended eliminating Moschetti and Sons from consideration because they did not have sufficient qualifications for boarding up windows and doors at the former IP Mill.

Moschetti later provided additional references and posted a 100% performance bond, to assure that work would be done to the town's satisfaction.

At the February 4 selectboard meeting, McCrory said that Moschetti staff had started measuring windows at the buildings. Boards will be cut to measure at the Moschetti shop, then brought to the site for installation.

McCrory told the board that there were two applicants for the 8-hour per week highway secretary position and that he would be conducting interviews. On February 4, on the basis of

the applications and interviews, McCrory recommended Julie Wonkka for the position, and the board appointed her. Wonkka already works 25 hours per week in the treasurer's office.

Police chief Chris Blair told the board that there is a shortage of police officers. He recommended posting internally for a full-time officer, who would attend the state Police Academy at the town's expense, in return for a 3-year commitment to Erving.

Blair told the board that the cost for attending the Academy is \$5,000. The board voted to add the \$5,000 expense as an article on the warrant for the February 23 special town meeting.

In December, the board declared the fire department's 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. Engine 4 is a standard GMC truck.

Wonkka said that the cost of repairs to Engine 4 was greater than its value. At the January 28 meeting, the board asked Wonkka and administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to post information about the surplus trucks and put them out to bid as surplus.

The board appointed the following citizens to the senior center director search committee:

Selectboard chair William Bembury, Council on Aging member Robert Turner, recreation commission clerk Alison Rollins, Erik Semb, Denise Maynard, Barbara Friedman, and Sarah Meuse.

Senior center director Polly Kiely is retiring, with February 27 as her last day. There are three applicants for the



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**LEVERETT** from page A1

leave his post as transfer station coordinator this year.

He said he has had trouble finding reliable attendants to cover the station during open hours, since the rate of pay – \$14.07 per hour – has not proved a sufficient incentive to convince workers to give up weekends and pay for gas to drive to and from work for three hours a day each Saturday and Sunday.

Due to the staffing difficulty, the selectboard has raised the possibility of closing the station and switching to a private waste hauler to handle residents' trash and recycling pickup needs, as towns like Shutesbury and Erving do.

According to town administrator Margie McGinnis, Shutesbury spends about \$78,000 per year for townwide waste hauling, and Erving spends \$68,000, including an annual "anything goes" bulky waste pickup. Leverett's FY'15 budget to maintain the transfer station was \$70,817.

In his presentation, Brazeau emphasized that revenues generated from the sale of transfer station stickers, bags, and scrap metal returned revenue for the town roughly equal to the cost of operating the station: "I would have a zero budget if we were able to keep the revenue," he said.

He also spoke of the positive benefits to the community of maintaining book and clothing recycling depots at the transfer station, along with drop off points for electronics, construction debris, batteries, and scrap metal, and annual hazardous waste disposal, amenities which private haulers would not offer to the town.

The Rattlesnake Gutter Trust also maintains a returnable can and bottle center at the station, to benefit the Trust's land conservation efforts in town.

Local resident Roy Kimmel took issue with the idea of closing the transfer station.

"The transfer station is something practically everybody uses," Kimmel began, but members of the selectboard contradicted him, noting that only about 400 transfer station stickers are sold each year, about half the town's households.

Apparently, half the households in town already contract for private hauling, or undercut the town service by using a neighbor's sticker. "I think we are the only household on Richardson Road that doesn't use a private hauler," said Julie Shively.

Kimmel proposed raising the salaries for station employees, and raising the annual cost of stickers from \$25 to perhaps \$50. "If people want the transfer station, bring it up at town meeting: pay for it!" Kimmel said.

A former bus driver for the PVTIA, Kimmel has been active in the effort to bring affordable fixed-route bus service to Leverett, citing demographic data that he has said would someday make more senior citizens in town favorable toward foregoing private cars.

But he did not accept the analogy of town-wide waste hauling as a convenience residents might come to welcome. "Garbage trucks going up and down the little dirt roads of town? That would be a disaster," he said.

"But they're already driving up and down the roads," said Shively. The selectboard has suggested that one private waste hauler, hired townwide, would eliminate much if not all of the duplication of waste haulers currently emptying dumpsters in Leverett.

Peter d'Errico said, "There is a theory that one waste hauler operating townwide would cut down on greenhouse gas emissions com-

pared to hundreds of private vehicles making round trips each week to the transfer station."

On this basis, the selectboard has asked the town energy committee to weigh in on the future of the transfer station prior to this year's town meeting. They emphasized they were not seeking a definitive vote on the future of the station at town meeting. They agreed to survey residents in an upcoming town newsletter to gauge residents' current practices and future preferences.

Brazeau said his 3.5% and 8% budget cut scenarios would limit the times residents could bring construction debris to the transfer station, eliminating winter drop-off of bulky debris.

#### Buildings

In his presentation, town building supervisor Kuczek said the current decline in oil prices would more than pay for 3.5% and 8% reductions to his \$167,384 budget.

The town orders 17,000 gallons of fuel oil annually, Kuczek said. If he locks in the price for next year's shipment at or below \$2 a gallon, he said the town would realize a one time savings over last year's

expenditure of \$62,300 of at least \$22,935.

On the other hand, electricity rates are climbing steeply. The board cautioned him not to use up the entire windfall that may result from temporarily cheap oil in one fiscal year.

Kuczek pushed the board to consider capital planning for future building needs, such as new roofs for the police station and elementary school addition, which could need replacing in four or five years.

The selectboard welcomed his suggestion, noting that the current capital plan focuses almost entirely on scheduled vehicle replacements for the highway, fire and police departments.

Kuczek asked for special articles, including repairs and refinishing to town hall floors, and \$75,000 to renovate the old highway garage, used as storage for those same three public safety departments.

This is the second year in a row Kuczek has made that request; the board and finance committee did not move it forward last year.

The old garage needs some structural repairs to the roof system, a new roof, siding repair or replace-

ment, and some window repair or replacement too, Kuczek said.

#### Library

For the library, director Blais offered cuts to her \$73,129 budget. But with more than two-thirds of the library budget devoted to salaries, she said the cuts would have to come almost entirely from the materials line item, which would jeopardize the town's standing with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Without a waiver from the MBLC, Leverett residents might then lose access to the interlibrary loan system known as CWMARS. "Leverett borrows more books from other libraries than other libraries borrow from ours," she noted.

Library trustee Elaine Barker said, "We spend a lot of money on education for our children, compared to the money we give for continuing education of our adults – that's the library. If we get decertified, it would be disastrous."

"The state expects a town to maintain a library. State aid helps us buy new materials. The ability to get materials from other communities is very important to people in this town."

## FACES



ROBERT CLICHE PHOTO

Leverett fire chief John Moruzzi and firefighter Steve Fleiner celebrate their retirement. Moruzzi, who spent 41 years in the department, received commendations from the state fire marshal and the state and federal Congressional delegations for his dedication and outstanding service. His last day was Saturday, January 31. Fleiner, retiring after 22 years of service, was also honored at the January 15 party at Johnny's Tavern in Amherst.

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YEAR 13 – NO. 16

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FEBRUARY 5, 2015

## THAT COME- HITHER NOOK

By TIA FATTARUSO

**TURNERS FALLS** – The fourth annual *SSS: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* erotic art show opens this Saturday, February 7 at Nina’s Nook, 125A Avenue A. There will be a reception at 6 p.m. across the street from the cozy little gallery, hosted at Madison on the Ave, 104 Avenue A, where one can expect piano music, food, art bras, erotic drums, and a toy basket door prize from Adam & Eve.

Nina Rossi’s gallery and shop will be filled with art from more than two dozen local and regional artists, working in a wide array of materials along the erotic spectrum “from mild to wild.”

One will find Belinda Lyons Zucker’s Venus of Willendorf soaps, elegant stained glass from Gina Vernava, the silly yet serious pen and ink drawings of Linda Baker Cimini, and the female flower paintings of Christine Gusek – among many others that shan’t be described here.

Most work is for sale, and ranges in price from \$5 for soap or \$8 for dirty words (branded on wood by Charlie Shaw) up to about \$700 for large paintings. There will be many good potential Valentine’s gifts in the \$15 range.

Due to the limited space of the gallery, Nina’s husband, Caleb Wetherbee, will be the “door-man,” letting in batches of about 5 people at a time.

It was Wetherbee who originally conceived of the show, knowing, as Rossi said, that she already had a lot of her own work that doesn’t otherwise get seen. Often, “regular galleries don’t know what to do with it,” Rossi said, adding that erotic subject matter ends up being explored in art as it is “part of being a whole human being.”

Edite Cunha has been contributing art since the show’s inception and made the vintage valentine art bras that will be modeled at the reception. “It’s a cool show, partly because there aren’t that many opportunities for expressing the erotic. For me, it’s had a kind of liberating effect.”

Of her first year’s contribution, “Our Lady of Multiple Orgasms,” a sensual extension of the alter-virgins (alternative saints and virgins) she was already making, Cunha said, “it changed me, not only making that piece, but putting it out in the world.”

“There is so much joking around the subject of sex – lots of laughter to be made,” Rossi said about having a little excitement in what can begin to feel like a dead time of year.

“February is a weird month: there’s Valentine’s Day, and people have recovered from the holidays.”

Rodney Madison, of Madison on the Ave, agreed that the show is “waking up a little bit of winter,” and said that last year’s reception was “a lively event with nice turnout.”

“I admire Nina’s artistry and see **NOOK** page B6

## Louise Minks: Portraits in Celebration of Black History

By ANNE HARDING

**LEVERETT** – Twenty-five years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (April 4, 1968), Leverett artist Louise Minks embarked on an incredible artistic and spiritual journey that began with a friend’s suggestion to paint portraits of African-American people.

She ultimately painted 10 life-size, full-figure portraits of “people who were important to me, whose ideas or lives influenced me.” The paintings took a year and a half to complete, and evolved into a lengthy project that continues to resurface from time to time.

Minks has lived and painted in Leverett for more than 25 years. She is well known for her role in the Sawmill River fine arts collaborative in Montague Center at the Montague Bookmill, and for her vibrant landscape paintings.

Outside of her family, Minks claims to have three passions in life: art, history, and spiritual growth. She says, “I find they complement each other well and each affects how I approach the other.”

As the suggestion of her friend started to percolate, Minks’ graduate degree in American History, art experience, education connections and religious affiliations coalesced into a much



Minks’ painting of John Lollar, Jr. Courtesy of the artist.

more expansive endeavor. She introduced herself to John Lollar, Jr., an African American woodcarver whose mirror frames seemed to reflect her passions. He was living in Greenfield at the time.

His carved works included themes and images of struggle, hope, belief and enlightenment. Their initial collaboration culminated in a show at Greenfield Community College (GCC) in October 1994, and led to a 15-year partnership bringing their art and its stories to schools, churches and libraries. More than twenty years after the opening exhibition, the story is still relevant.

Minks credits the Memorial Hall Museum/Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) in Deerfield with providing her the space that facilitated the large scale paintings. Her own tiny 10’ x 12’ studio barely fit her and an easel, let alone a live model and a life size canvas.

She had worked for both Historic Deerfield and PVMA and at that time, the Old Grammar School was not often in use. Tim Neuman, executive director of PVMA, offered Minks the space as a studio and allowed her to use it for the duration of the project.

Minks chose five historic figures, and five people from her 1993 present for the portraits. They all had connections to the Connecticut River Valley; some of the contemporary subjects were residents she knew through her church and others she had heard speak. The historic figures all had some connection to the region.

All of the contemporary subjects came to see **MINKS** page B4

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Our Northern Florida Adventure, Part 2



By LESLIE BROWN

**FLORIDA** – January 23: Today the wind is from the Southeast. The usually placid lake is building up a good chop. It was grey, cloudy and rainy when we arrived on January 15, and the temperatures hovered in the mid-fifties. Since then it has been at least partly sunny with temperatures in the sixties and seventies. Today we are in for a little

weather, but it is very mild, 68 degrees at 8 a.m. Some areas expect rain but mostly a shower or even a thunderstorm although it is partly sunny now.

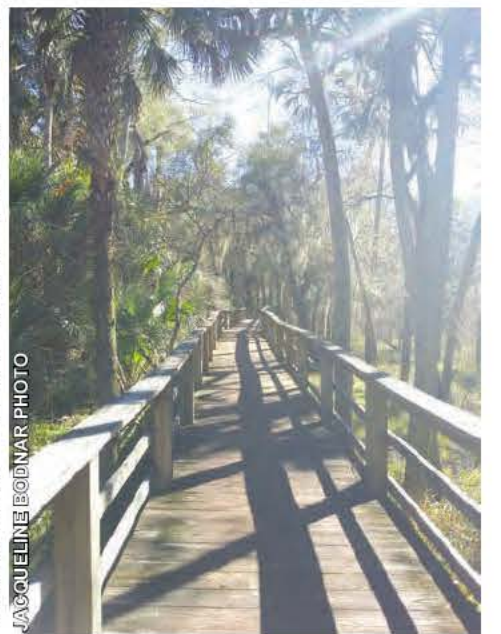
These bright, sunny days have ended in sunsets with a huge red globe sinking to an orange and peach glow in the west. Shortly afterwards as the sky darkens we see the slim crescent moon and the bright gleam of Venus. One night recently we watched the launch of a naval satellite. The rocket glowed a bright gold briefly, then arced downward, leaving a round shooting star heading into the clouds.

Our neighbors to our right, who we’ll call “PJ and Millie,” drove down from Ohio in their white 1998 Lincoln with their two Pomeranians. PJ is a tall, lanky ambler with a bit of a beer belly. He is one of nine kids raised in southern Ohio and he sounds to me like the same accent we are hearing from our neighbors

from Kentucky and Georgia, but not quite as pronounced a drawl as the Floridians.

PJ is mainly a gentle soul, a ponderer who sports a silver stud in his left ear and who confesses to have been a Harley rider with a short fuse a few years ago. Now he carries his mini Pomeranian around like a baby. He fusses over the dog, which he had bought from a long hauler who had found it wandering at a truck stop.

After taking our measure for a day or so PJ has warmed up so far as to tell us what he’s about to do and to recommend a local restaurant. He appeared quite crestfallen the other night asking if we had gone to Corky Bell’s yet, before divulging that there had been a murder in Corky’s parking lot the night before. Something about a woman, her boyfriend, and her ex, he said. “No



The boardwalk at Hawk Creek Preserve State Park.

woman is worth that.” He shakes his head dolefully and then adds, “I can’t imagine killing a man.” After

see **GARDENER** page B4

## TURNERS FALLS CONTINUES “THE STREAK”

By MATT ROBINSON

Back-to-back home wins against Lee and Greenfield have brought the Turners Falls boys basketball record to 12 and 2.

On Wednesday January 28, the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team defeated the Lee Wildcats, 70 to 54. Liam Ellis led the Tribe with 19 points. He had 6 2-pointers, a free throw and sunk 2 from 3-point land. Jalen Sanders finished with 18 points, including a 3-pointer and a foul shot. Nick York had 15 points, 3 of which came from the foul line. Tionne Brown added 6 points and Nick Croteau crushed a 3-pointer.

Two days later, on Friday, January 30, the Indians beat the Green Wave of Greenfield, 58 to 47. The win gives Blue a record of 12 wins and 2 losses. The victory also improved the Tribe’s Conference record to 11 and 1. More importantly, Turners continues to keep pace with Hopkins Academy, remaining a mere half-game behind the Golden Hawks.

Sports stories have many threads: injuries, rivalries, home records, rebounds, streaks, outside proficiency, and droughts. And within the



Eulalio Veras looks for an open teammate.

“streak” thread is the “team winning streak.”

After starting with a respectable 4-and-2 record, the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team went on to win 8 straight.

Another story within the “streak” thread is the scoring of Liam Ellis. Before Friday’s game, Liam has scored in double figures in all 13 games.

However, basketball is a team sport and in the Greenfield game, the rest of the Indians stepped up to win.

Friday’s game was rough. Bodies crashed into one another, scrambling for loose balls and players crashed into picks and traps. And over-exuberance led to travels and missed shots.

The first quarter was relatively low-scoring, with the Tribe holding a 12-to-9 lead.

In the second quarter, every time Turners had a steal, a sweet layup, or a pass to score underneath, Greenfield answered with a three-pointer, keeping the score close.

“We knew they could hit three pointers.” Coach Gary Mullins said see **BASKETBALL** page B4



# Pet of the Week

Hey there! My name is Gilda! I can be a tad on the shy side when I first meet new people, but reach in

and give me a pet and you will see what a sweetheart I am!

I open up pretty quickly! Another fun fact about me, I am a Jersey girl. That's right, I came to Dakin all the way from New Jersey!

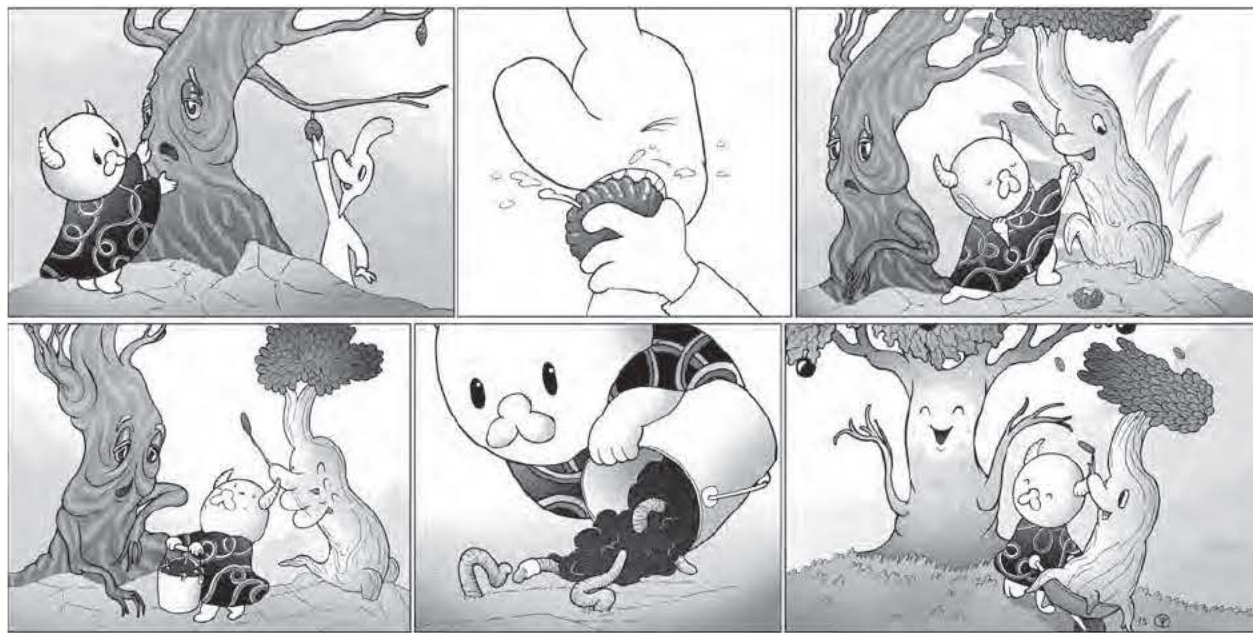
I have travelled far to find my new family and I hope it happens soon! I have lots of love and cuddles yet to give. Won't you come meet me? I bet you will fall in love with me in no time!

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



**GILDA**

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## Senior Center Activities February 9 to 13

### 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.

#### Monday 2/9

8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic (Appointment)  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday 2/10

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Valentine's Lunch

#### Wednesday 2/11

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting

Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 2/12

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Tech Tutor

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday 2/13

8 a.m. Reflexology (appointment)

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Noon Pizza Party

1 p.m. Writing Group

### WENDELL

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

and upcoming programs.

Call the Center for a ride.

### ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 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 to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

#### Monday 2/9

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12:30 p.m. Quilting

#### Tuesday 2/10

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting

10 a.m. Zumba Fitness

#### Wednesday 2/11

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo

#### Thursday 2/12

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

Noon Cards

#### Friday 2/13

9 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Out To Lunch

### LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

*Q. Are older people more anxious than younger people?*

Because the stresses of health problems, losses and other major life changes build up as we get older, we tend to become anxious. Some surveys suggest that one in five older adults suffer anxiety symptoms that require treatment.

In addition to psychological causes, medical disorders common in older adults can be directly responsible for the anxiety we feel. These include heart disease, neurologic illness, thyroid and other hormone problems. In addition, anxiety can be a drug side effect. And seniors take a lot of medicine.

Until recently, anxiety disorders were believed to decline with age. There has been more research into depression and Alzheimer's than anxiety among seniors. But mental health experts are altering their views about anxiety.

Anxiety disorders in seniors have been underestimated for several reasons. One of the main reasons is that older patients are more likely to emphasize their physical complaints and downplay emotional problems.

Anxiety disorders are serious medical illnesses that affect approximately 40 million American adults. They all involve excessive, irrational fear. Anxiety disorders are chronic and can worsen if untreated.

Panic disorder brings on sudden, unpredictable attacks of terror. These attacks create additional anxiety because victims worry about the next one. Older adults who get panic

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## More Anxious With Age?

attacks usually had them when they were younger.

The following are some symptoms: pounding heart, perspiration, dizziness, fainting, numb hands, nausea, chest pain, feeling that you're smothering, fear of loss of control, a sense that you're losing your mind or about to die.

If you have obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), you may be haunted by unwelcome thoughts or the need to engage in rituals. You may be obsessed with germs or dirt, so you wash your hands repeatedly. You may feel the need to check things repeatedly.

The disturbing thoughts are called obsessions, and the rituals that are performed to try to prevent or get rid of them are called compulsions. Victims of OCD consume at least an hour a day with their compulsions.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can develop after a frightening experience. Often, people with PTSD have repeated memories of the experience both during their waking hours and in nightmares. A person having a flashback may believe that the event is real.

Victims of PTSD may have trouble sleeping, feel detached, or be easily startled. They may have intimacy problems. They can become aggressive or even violent.

Social phobia, also called social anxiety disorder, involves excessive self-consciousness in social situations. People with social phobia are afraid of being judged by others and being embarrassed by their own actions.

Social phobics can be afraid of one type of situation or they may experience symptoms almost anytime they are around other people. Symptoms include blushing, sweating, trembling, nausea, and difficulty talking.

A specific phobia is an exaggerated fear of one thing. Some of the more common specific phobias are

triggered by heights, animals such as snakes, closed spaces, and flying.

Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) means excessive worry about a variety of things or life in general. People with GAD expect the worst and seem unable to relax. Often, they have trouble falling or staying asleep.

Anxiety disorders are treated with medication and psychotherapy. Both approaches can be effective for most disorders. Anxiety disorders are not all treated the same, so it is important to determine the specific problem first.

Although medications won't cure an anxiety disorder, they can keep the symptoms under control and enable people to have normal lives.

If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com).

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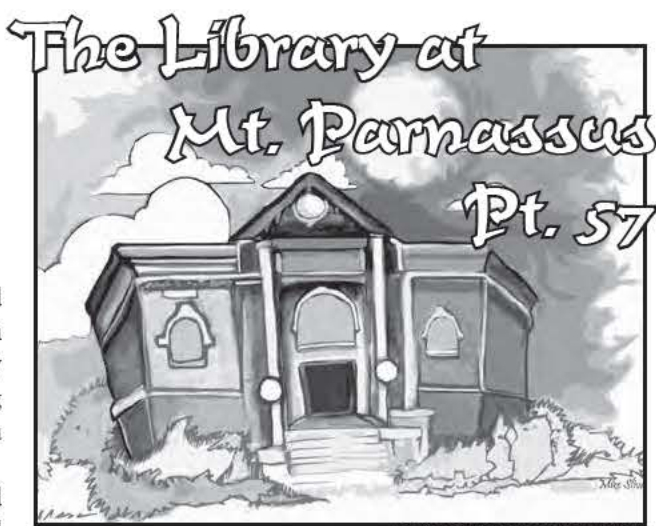
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"Klee stormed off into the dusk..."

By DAVID DETMOLD



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

I watched him careen down the icy steps, taking them three at a time.

The day had faded, and a cold mist was rising.

I peered down at the narrow gap between the top step and the library's marble landing. A warm, sulphurous breath came from its depths.

I felt dizzy and elated from my brush-up with Klee.

"He's such a wild man," I said swinging the doors closed and coming back into the lobby. "He really knows how to fly off the handle!"

"He's a bear of very little brain," said Melantha. She picked the back cover of the ruined Atlas off the floor and handed it to me. A few pages were still attached, beginning with 282, Patagonia.

"Heard anything from Clio lately?" I asked. Clio, the day librarian, had gone away on a long sabbatical to the Atacama Desert, for a self-guided poetry tour, and to get away from our northern winter.

"She sent a few poems," remarked Melantha absently. "In Tehuelche. Utterly obscure."

She began to gather up the smashed tea cups and scattered maps. I peered through the archway to the reading room where all was quiet.

"Where's Cadmus?" I asked. "And Ulysses?" I felt chilly. Had I failed to latch the outside doors? "For that matter, where is Lucius?"

"He's been out all day." "That's strange. What about Cadmus?"

"He left town this morning," said Melantha, reaching over to pluck a map of Thrace off the recent arrivals shelf. "He came by to pick up Ulysses before he left."

"He left town? For how long?" "He went up north," said Melantha, leveling her gaze at me for a moment. "He's gone."

I said, "He hinted at it, the other day. But I thought he was only mauling. Why didn't he say good-bye to all his friends?"

"Perhaps he didn't know how," said Melantha, not unkindly.

I went over to the reading room and sat down. In the aftermath of Klee's outburst, Orville was standing in the corner, staring straight ahead at nothing. Eddie, too, looked mildly shocked by the strong display of temper.

I missed Cadmus. "Cadmus is gone, Or," I said to him. "Cadmus is gone."

"I know," said Orville. "It was his fate. Dammit."

I looked at Orville. His open, sincere face, his ravaged brow, his close-cropped sandy hair. He was

hardly more than a boy, really.

"Or, that's the clearest thing I've ever heard you say."

"N-no it isn't."

Smoke was curling from the fireplace. I rubbed my eyes and looked around for the paper.

"Where's the Times, Eddie? Have you got it?"

"Nope," said Eddie. He was sitting in an armchair looking out the window at the night. "Sun's gone down again," he added, morosely.

"So where's the paper?"

"It's Valentine's Day."

"Hey, that's right!" I suddenly remembered it was one of those odd half holidays. There'd been almost no one at work all day. My supervisor had left me some files to review, but the holiday had slipped my mind entirely.

"Good thing the library's still open," I said to no one in particular.

"Yeah," said Orville. "It's a d-d-d-darn good thing."

"At least you guys are still here." "Why would we ever leave?" said Eddie.

The *Attic Times* would take any excuse for a day off, but last week's edition was still on the rack. I opened it to the local section and found another short article about the library.

"Did you see this?" I spread the paper out on the table. "It's about the library again."

*"In a letter to the selectboard, Euripides Metaxas, proprietor, of the excavating firm Metaxas and Sons, sole bidder for repairs to the front steps of the Mt. Parnassus library, announced yesterday his firm would decline to sign the contract at the quoted price."*

*"After a thorough site review, Metaxas had concluded, 'The crack in the library's landing is more serious than first reported. It extends beneath the foundation to an indeterminate depth.'"*

*"Originally estimated at \$2,697, repairs are now expected to carry a price tag far in excess of the \$18,779 recently approved at town meeting to remove, backfill, and replace the stairs. A new estimate has yet to be arrived at."*

"G-g-g-gosh."

I went over to the desk, and brought the paper with me. "What about this, Melantha?" I pointed at the headline: *Stair Repair Declined.* "Have you seen the latest?"

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Heavy Snow and Ice Do Not Put A Damper On Interpersonal Conflicts

Monday, 1/26

5:08 a.m. Alarm at Thomas Memorial showing "liquor motion." All appears secure. No fresh prints in snow.

6:58 a.m. Caller from Montague Center reports that her daughter is verbally and physically out of control. Officers checked in, provided courtesy transport to a male party.

4:35 p.m. Shoplifting reported at Food City. Officer viewed tape and brought subject back to store, where he paid for items and received a verbal trespass order. No charges.

6:58 p.m. Caller from West Chestnut Hill Road reports a SUV arrived at their house, and a "younger looking female" stepped out and walked around the house looking in windows. Advised to call back if this happens again.

7:31 p.m. Several calls relating to a car off the road near the bike path on Montague City Road. Arranged own tow.

Tuesday, 1/27

12:13 a.m. Walk-in requested assistance contacting a tow company. Rau's contacted.

7:40 a.m. Female party reported harassment by a male party, including over 25 phone calls and threats. Referred to an officer.

8:05 a.m. Officers attempting to serve a warrant engaged in a foot chase down Fourth Street.

██████████ was arrested for resisting arrest, assault with a dangerous weapon, disorderly conduct, and a straight warrant.

10:51 a.m. A caller reported being off the road, unclear of location. Referred to Shelburne police.

12:38 p.m. A motor vehicle violation on Third Street resulted in a party being taken into custody.

2:01 p.m. A female party called to complain a neighbor was plowing several houses on Fifteenth Street and pushing the snow into her yard. Subsequently, a call from the other party reported the first caller was standing in the middle of the road

and not allowing him to pass. Both parties advised to wait in their homes for an officer to arrive. Second caller explained the snow first caller was objecting to came from DPW road plowing. Officer confirmed with DPW employee.

Wednesday, 1/28

6:28 a.m. Caller reported two dogs running loose on Route 47. Officer unable to locate.

7 to 9:15 a.m. Assisted DPW with 4 tows due to snow removal.

9:22 a.m. Alarm sounded at Yankee Environmental Systems. Received a call en route from key holder requesting response be canceled, stating the alarm has been malfunctioning.

9:42 a.m. Man called regarding a tenant involved in identity theft and assault and battery in Greenfield. Was already reported to Greenfield Police, and caller was unsure if identity theft had occurred. Advised to call back if he should discover unauthorized transactions on his account.

1:15 p.m. Caller reports seeing unknown items exchanged through a vehicle window. Officer found the car parked but empty.

2:03 p.m. Complaint of low visibility due to snow banks and dangerous road conditions at a bus stop. Officer left message with DPW.

5:46 p.m. Car slipped off road due to ice and struck utility pole on Millers Falls Road. No injuries were reported. Officer notified WMECO of damage to pole.

9:04 p.m. Several calls complaining of the slow light at Avenue A and Eighth street. DPW advised.

9:35 p.m. Assisted TFFD and Medicare with two car accident, with injuries, on Route 2.

10:13 p.m. Tractor trailer briefly stuck on Millers Falls Road. Officer canceled en route.

Thursday 1/29

1:12 p.m. Caller received phone she believed was a scam concerning the "Mass State Group" and requested it be documented. Advised of options.

2:58 p.m. Officers called to Turners Falls High School to assist with disorderly student refusing to get into her great grandmother's car. Student eventually got in the car.

5:20 p.m. Report of glare ice on North Leverett Road. Officer says it is "no worse than any other back road."

6:14 p.m. Man reports being beaten up by a male party after attending a party with him. Advised how to press charges.

8:17 p.m. Citation issued for failure to stop at a stop light. Driver accused the officer of profiling.

8:47 p.m. Male and female party reported to be "yelling and screaming" at one another in Second Street alley, were seen getting into a vehicle. Officer unable to locate.

10:32 p.m. Report of man sleeping in the lobby of Powertown Apartments. Officer was unable to locate on arrival. Party returned, giving name of ██████████ was arrested on four default warrants.

Friday 1/30

12:44 a.m. Officers assisted Sunderland Police Department at Seven O's bar. ██████████ was arrested on a default warrant.

1:07 a.m. Loose dog in the vicinity of Second Street, owner located.

9:05 a.m. Vehicle off the road on Park Street. Slid off the road but did not hit anything. A truck was on scene to pull the car back to the road.

11:17 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls reporting harassment by neighbor and neighbor's guest, did not want officers to speak to neighbor. Advised of options.

11:24 a.m. A spider plant, a table, and several blinds were reported stolen from the Montague Center post office during the night.

3:25 p.m. Officers called to pick up drugs and paraphernalia that were confiscated from students at Turners Falls High School.

Saturday 1/31

11:53 a.m. Request to remove unwanted person from the Great Falls Dis-

covery Center. Subject was drinking what appeared to be vodka from a glass bottle. He was transported to Montague Police Department for protective custody. Later given courtesy ride home to Greenfield. Subject expressed he wanted help for his alcohol abuse but was unable to find a program with room for him. He was later brought to Baystate-Franklin Medical Center.

4:56 p.m. Complaint of opossum living under caller's porch on Newton Street. Animal control officer advised to "not leave food out, as that would be why the animal is there."

Sunday 2/1

1:10 a.m. Shoplifting reported at F. L. Roberts. Three parties each took multiple items and walked out. Caller recognized two of them. Report taken.

2 a.m. Female caller reporting noise and perfume odor coming from downstairs apartment belonging to her brother (landlord), claims the perfume was intentional to bother her allergies. Party called back to advise that she believed it was friends of her brother that sprayed the perfume to cover up other activities. No assistance needed.

2:31 p.m. Report of several kids running back and forth shaking caller's Central Street apartment. Caller had "even sounded her fog horn to let them know they were out of control." Officer responded, but was unable to hear any loud noises.

10:40 p.m. Several calls complaining of fireworks on G Street. Officer advised "all is quiet in the Patch."

11:13 p.m. Police advised by Medicare crew of sedan striking the canal bridge, blowing out a tire, and driving away. A car matching its description was reported at F. L. Roberts later. A final call placed the car on Third Street. The stop resulted in the arrests of ██████████ for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and ██████████ on a straight warrant.

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**BASKETBALL** from page B1

after the game.

Mullins wasn't able to send in his first sub until 2:41 left in the half. Turners kept stealing and scoring, and Greenfield kept answering — and the half ended with Turners holding a slim 25-23 lead.

During the halftime break, the Blue coaches changed up their strategy. "We ran a zone trap," Coach Mullins explained. "We ran run-outs and the kids worked harder. We were able to get the ball inside."

It paid off. Turners pulled away in the third period, outscoring the Wave 19 to 4. When the buzzer sounded, they were ahead 46 to 27.

Turners maintained the point spread in the fourth quarter, and with two minutes 20 seconds left in the game, leading 56 to 37, Coach Mullins emptied his bench. The Tribe went on to win 58 to 47.

Although Ellis ended his double-digit streak on Friday, he just missed a triple-double. He scored 9 points, had 12 rebounds and gave 8

assists.

Nick York stepped up with 19 points. He also had 3 rebounds and 2 assists.

Tyler Charbonneau was a monster on the boards, pulling down 9 rebounds, 8 from the Greenfield glass. He also scored 13 points, 10 of those on layups and gave 3 assists.

Jalen Sanders scored in double figures with 11, snagged 7 rebounds and contributed 3 assists. Tionne Brown scored 4, had a rebound and an assist.

Spencer Hubert came off the bench to score 2 points. Eulalio Veras grabbed 2 rebounds. Colby Dobias also had a rebound. Emmett Turn had an assist. Nick Croteau also saw playing time.

Turners next plays conference-leading Hopkins Academy on Tuesday, February 3 in Hadley. On Thursday, February 5, they travel to Mt. Greylock. And on Friday the 6th, they host Smith Academy.

**MINKS** from page B1

studio sessions with Minks, and she used re-enactors and friends as models for the historic figures. The exception was Martin Luther King Jr., who was painted from a photograph.

Following the GCC show, Minks and Lollar were approached by teachers, deans, librarians and religious leaders who wanted to bring the show to their facilities. The story spread through word of mouth, and the show traveled for 15 years throughout Franklin and Hampshire counties, typically during Black History Month.

Sometimes it took almost two years for the show to reach the site. Typically an interested teacher would give Minks a call; then they would meet together with an administrator, decide on a scope, and wrestle with funding sources (PTOs, Massachusetts Cultural Council grants, fundraisers etc.).

The simplest program was hanging the show and leaving it on display for a month or two. In some instances, it was expanded to include an all-school presentation. The most in-depth version included artist residency sessions where Minks would teach charcoal portraiture, and Lollar would teach carving via Ivory soap and butter knives.

Minks says, "the impact of painting these figures with their powerful stories will never leave me, and is part of my personal spiritual journey."

We will share some of the paintings in this month's issues of the *Montague Reporter*, in celebration of Black History Month.



Minks in the studio with a model for her portrait of Frederick Douglass.

**LOOKING BACK****10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was on February 3, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Upgrade For Peske Park**

On January 31 the Montague selectboard held a public hearing on an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to fund improvements to Peskeomskut Park, design work to upgrade downtown crosswalks to enhance wheelchair accessibility, a low and moderate income housing rehab program, and grants to fund programs at the Brick House and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

The grant, designed to remove blight and improve infrastructure and services in low and moderate income communities, will be administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The centerpiece of this year's CDBG proposal will be the remodeling of Peskeomskut Park. The park, the closest thing to a central town common in downtown Turners Falls, was created in 1965 by the Turners Falls Young Women's Club, according to club member Barbara Thurber, on the site of a vacant gully between 6th and 7th Streets, on the northwest side of Avenue A.

A decade later the Montague Bicentennial Committee paid for the installation of a fountain, and community groups have added other memorials to the park over time, including the Boy Scouts, Korean War Veterans, Students Against Drunk Driving, and the Downtown Neighbors Association that planted trees in memory of four Montague

women who were murdered by their partners in the late 1980s.

The memorial stones and plantings will not be moved during the improvements, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said. The redesign is the implementation of years of planning by a town-appointed committee representing various interests that use the park.

**Restaurant Forced to Close**

The Chinatown restaurant on Avenue A in Turners Falls was forced to close on January 26 by the Board of Health, which cited 14 violated provisions during a routine inspection, according to the six-page document displayed in the restaurant's front window.

The order is signed and dated by director of public health Gina McNeely, who was unavailable for comment. Chinatown is owned by Lin De Xiong, who could also not be reached for comment.

Chris Boutwell, chair of the Montague Board of Health, said the inspection originated with a call from a customer "regarding a snowblower with a gas can with gasoline in it located next to the salad bar inside the building."

According to the detailed report, there were 14 violations designated critical, which means they must be corrected immediately or within 10 days, as determined by the Board of Health. Boutwell said that in addition to correcting all of the violations, Xiong must pass a reinspection and then meet personally with the Board of Health. "I think things just got out of hand for him."

**GARDENER** from page B1

a couple of seconds he says, "Unless he raped my daughter."

Millie is short and a little round with a shy smile, but PJ says she was a redhead before she turned grey, and that she is a feisty woman who only pretends to agree with him. They are not married but have been together for twenty-five years. PJ was four when his father died and he was raised by his much older brother who made him "walk the chalk line."

In addition to the resident Great Blue Heron, we have an egret and numbers of pelicans who cruise in at the end of the day's fishing and wait for the scraps. At the head of the camp in a huge pine tree is the splendid Bald Eagle who has also made this lakeside spot his home. And no wonder: the fishing is good, the sun bright, and the temperatures warm.

January 27: Today we hiked our fourth state park and by far the most interesting one. Ravine Gardens was beautiful with its displays of azaleas. We walked the perimeter road only because, while many trails crisscrossed the ravine, I for one would have wanted a hiking pole for the abrupt ascents and descents.

Then we walked into both Mud Springs and Blue Pond along wide rooted, sandy trails covered with pine needles at least ten inches long. These trails accommodate the golf carts used by park personnel.

Mud Springs is unusual out in the middle of nowhere. The park is populated with turkey, armadillo, deer and black bear. We saw none of these, although we heard a gaggle of turkeys and the rustling of an armadillo in the dry grasses. These

creatures depend on their noses to find their diet of insects as they have notoriously poor vision, and neither visitors, nor even park staff, see deer or bear except on the night cameras.

Blue Pond is a similar hike but is an astonishing deep blue again right in the middle of nowhere.

We had two missions Tuesday: locate the famous fish sandwich restaurant in Bunnell and find Haw Creek Preserve. We drove about fifty miles on some of the flattest country you'll see with beef and horse ranches, nurseries and farming (cabbage and broccoli) on this trip.

In Bunnell we took a turn to park at the library hoping someone there could help us find Haw Creek. We'd already questioned a gas station owner, a state cop and a voter in the city hall to no avail. As luck would have it, the library was closed, but right next to the parking lot was the fish sandwich spot.

The famous sandwich consists of an enormous mound of lightly fried fish fillets with onion, lettuce and tomato on a huge hamburger bun. One half of this creation easily put us back on the road in search of our goal. We stop once more at a tiny general store in Cody's Corner and get explicit directions from a fortyish man and his daddy.

After taking the prescribed route, passing two curves and hanging a left on a long dirt road, we easily found Haw Creek Preserve, an extraordinary 1005 acres of swamp and river land made special by the construction of raised walking platforms which allow the visitor to walk deep into the preserve.

About a half mile of walkway with many scenic overlooks to the

creek takes us through palms, sweet gum, and pine in the eucalyptus scented air.

We saw animal trails into the swampy land at Mud Springs, but were not tempted to walk those unmarked and unknown paths. Now we went easily into the heart of things. It was a magical journey with no sound but that of the wind, the birds and our footsteps. Easily our favorite hike so far!

Back at the cabin I go online, curious about the Haw, and find it to be a short version of the Hawthorn tree, the haw being its fruit, about the size of a large blueberry.

Here in the south these berries are food for the birds, but I read that in England they used to be harvested for jelly and wine making and are reputed to taste like rotten apples. I realize from the picture of the small white flowers of the Hawthorn that we saw a small Haw Tree near the edge of the swamp.

The "bit of weather" forecast for January 23 turned into a vigorous lightning display followed by six inches of down pouring rain which this already soggy area could not take in. Now there is standing water everywhere, although still a far cry from the mounds of snow in eastern New England.

We have spent so much time tuned to the Weather Channel following the news at home that it is startling to awaken in the morning to sunny skies and temperatures already in the fifties.

It is pleasant but a bit surreal. We are happy to hear that, although the snow was inconvenient back home, it was nothing like many places.

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**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**

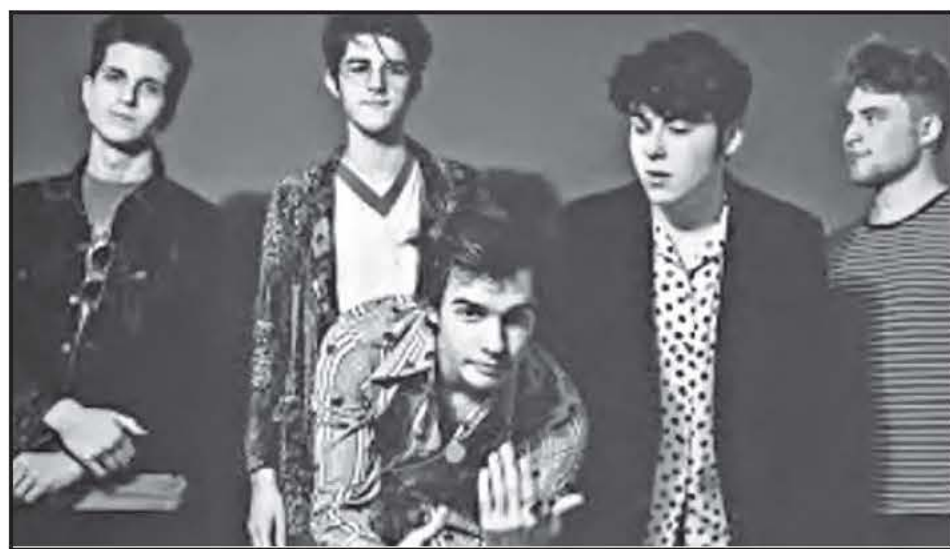
Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

**EVERY FRIDAY**

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

**CALL FOR POETRY:**

*The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library* are seeking poems for the 24th annual *Poet's Seat Poetry Contest*, which is open to all Franklin County residents and students. Submit up to three poems. **Deadline 3/9/15**. The competition is held in honor of Frederick Goddard Tuckerman who lived in Greenfield from 1847 until his death



*Lux Delux performs a benefit for Unity Skatepark at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Wendell Town Hall, this Saturday, February 7. Shows Start with Open Mic at 7:30 p.m. Decadently Delicious Dessert-o-rama available.*

in 1873. Awards will be given in adult and youth categories. Awards ceremony and poetry reading April 28th. Info contact Hope Schneider, 772-0257.

**AUDITIONS:**

Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival: Shire cast auditions on **February 6 through February 9** at the Montague Common Hall. For specific times, please email David Argo at [Media@MuttonAndMead.org](mailto:Media@MuttonAndMead.org) or call (413) 992-6572.

**EXHIBITS:**

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *The Fourth Annual Erotic Art Show*. The tiny and intimate gallery filled with the art of more than two dozen local and regional artists working in a wide array of materials from the erotic spectrum from \*mild\* to WILD. Opening reception Saturday night February 7, 6 p.m. held across the street at Madison's on the Ave. Exhibit runs until March 14. Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Mary Bauermeister: The New York Decade* This exhibition is the first to concentrate on the work of German artist Mary Bauermeister (b.

1934) during the decade she lived and worked in the United States from 1962 to 1972. Featuring her signature optical lens boxes, assemblages, stone reliefs, drawings, and other works. Free admission 2nd Friday of each month, 4 to 8 p.m. On view through May 24.

**EVENTS:**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ja' Duke presents *The Wizard of Oz*. \$, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Tony Vacca and the Impulse Ensemble*. Electric violin, vocals, percussion, spoken word, laoutar, with special guest from Senegal: Massamba Diop. A fu-

'n roll dance party! Proceeds go to the Unity Skate Park in Turners Falls. Open mic begins at 7:30 p.m. \$, Dessert-O-Rama!

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Yani Batteau*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jukin*, rock/reggae/funk, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Turners Falls: *Fifth Annual Peskeomskut Noisecapades*, noon.

Fiske Pond Conservation Area, Wendell: *Animal Tracking Workshop*. Join Paul Wanta for a tracking workshop, 1 to 4 p.m. Space is limited, contact Ray DiDonato to register: [rdidonat@hotmail.com](mailto:rdidonat@hotmail.com); 978-544-8270.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Twin Peaks Season One*, 1 to 4 p.m., *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ja' Duke presents *The Wizard of Oz*. \$, 2 p.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Valley Time Trade* orientation. Required to become a Valley Time Trade member. Bring your laptop or tablet if you have one, 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern string band, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ja' Duke presents *The Wizard of Oz*. \$, 6 p.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Love Your Food, Love Your Coop* poetry reading with featured poet Marion Kelner. Free refreshments, valentine's making, on the mezzanine, 6 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Sue Kranz and Ben Tousey perform at the Great Falls Coffeehouse*. \$, 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lauri McNamara & the Carbuncles of Pioneer Valley, Bob Fay & Jennifer Gelineau and The*

*Bunwinkies*, 9:30 p.m.


**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ja' Duke presents *The Wizard of Oz*. \$, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton* sings 1940's love songs for lovers, 7 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: Community gourmet dinner and dance concert with *Dysfunctional Family Jazz Band*. Celebrate both Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., music and dancing begin at 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love Band*, 60's & 70's gold, 9 p.m.



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**NOOK** from page B1

life as a whole," he said. "I'm glad to be a part of something she's doing."

Rossi added that, while her hands are full curating, she'd like to see the show expand to have a performance aspect, and said she's put feelers out to different shows and performers who do humorous and/or educational sex positive acts.

"It would be great to work with someone who has experience," she said, mentioning *The Wonderful World of Boning: Sex Ed With a Sense of Humor* as an example.

A previous SSS shows featured erotic literature reading, but Rossi said expanding the scope of the show would be dependent on having more space and more helpful hands.

Rossi receives submissions for the show throughout the year, and said it is never too early or late to submit. Among artists featured are Jeremy Hawkins, Laura Bundesen, Christina Nieves, Wayne Gagnon, Dan Overton, Stephen Schmidt, Robert Bent, Alan Hopkins, Lew Holzman, Jackie Luchesi, Peter Monroe, Melissa Benoit, Bryant Stewart, Jacobie Zaretsky, Marcia Hendrick.

The exhibit will run from February 7 to March 14. Hours at Nina's Nook are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment. See [www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com) for more information.



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**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**

**A Quiet Month**

**Friday, 1/2**  
2:15 p.m. Caller reported people on the ice at Leverett Pond, and was concerned there was not enough ice. Officer checked. All OK.  
2:25 p.m. Report of a minor car vs. bicycle accident on Shutesbury Road. Bicyclist refused treatment.  
**Saturday, 1/3**  
8:42 a.m. Assisted Leverett FD with a chimney fire on Dudleyville Road.  
**Sunday, 1/4**  
11:52 a.m. Assisted

Leverett FD with a chimney fire on Camp Road.  
3:40 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with a motor vehicle accident on Route 63. No injuries.  
**Monday, 1/5**  
10 a.m. Leverett FD reported two broken windows at the North Leverett Station. Under investigation.  
**Tuesday, 1/6**  
11:35 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Shutesbury Road. No injuries.  
**Friday, 1/9**  
8 a.m. Medical

emergency at an Amherst Road residence. Subject transported by Amherst FD.  
3:30 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Teawaddle Hill Road. No injuries.  
**Thursday, 1/15**  
8:30 a.m. Alarm set off at the Leverett Library by operator error.  
**Saturday, 1/26**  
2:51 p.m. Assisted Sunderland PD with a motor vehicle accident at Route 116 and Plumtree Road.

**Gabriel Lee Mason 2/5/1984**



Happy 31<sup>st</sup> Birthday to the adventurer who still travels through our thoughts every day. Thank you for the priceless memories you have left so many of us with. Missing you every day, and hoping to see you again.

Love Mom, Jim, Molly, Zack, family & friends.

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