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Page A8



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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 14

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 22, 2015

Christine Heard Retires from Swift River School Secretary Post



Christine Heard

By KATIE NOLAN

NEW SALEM – The Friday January 16 community sing at Swift River School was dedicated to retiring school secretary Christine Heard and to Martin Luther King, in honor of the Monday holiday honoring him.

The children sang and acted out “The Chicken Dance” in honor of Heard’s affectionate nickname “Cluckie” and then sang “Happy Trails to You.”

The cafeteria was decorated with student-designed multi-color paper chickens hanging from the ceiling. The children gave Heard a large banner covered with student-made fabric

see **HEARD** page A6

Questions, and Answers, Follow Immigration Order

By TIA FATTARUSO

TURNERS FALLS – President Obama’s November announcement of executive action on immigration policy, called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, known as DAPA, is not yet in effect. It appears the federal government will not issue application forms until May.

Russell Bradbury, executive di-

rector at the Center for New Americans (CNAM), cites this period of time between the announcement of the action and the application process as the main reason for a free informational meeting the group is holding at 5:30 p.m. this coming Monday, January 26, at the Brick House in Turners Falls.

“Here’s what we know, here’s how to prepare,” he said.

CNAM is accredited and authorized by the Bureau of Immigration Affairs to do paralegal work on particular questions or complications that arise during the application process. Monday’s meeting is intended primarily for immigrants with questions about the new laws, and is presented by CNAM and Best and Associates, LLP, Immigration Law Group.

Bradbury noted to be wary of unlawful legal practices by anyone – including “notarios,” who might be licensed attorneys in Mexico but may not be here – asking for a large fee for a service they cannot provide.

“When somebody promises you something too good to be true, it probably is,” said Laurie Millman, marketing and

see **DAPA** page A5



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The workshop will be held at the Brick House.

A Haven for Chinese Artists in Millers Falls?



LYN CLARK PHOTO

The Saint John’s Church, empty for years, is the focus of a new plan to engage an international art community in the renewal of the village.

By LEE WICKS

MILLERS FALLS – If a cross-cultural arts center in Millers Falls piques your interest, mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 24 at the Millers Pub, 5:30 p.m. There will be food, music from The

Last Shingles Band, and a presentation of the Millers Falls Arts Bridge Project.

That project aims to restore St. John’s Parish church into a multi-cultural arts center that will host visiting artists from China and

see **ARTS BRIDGE** page A4

Jake’s Changes Hands: Happy Retirement, Bill!



HARDING PHOTO

Bill Holbrook (second from right), with his son Jake, and their respective fiancées, Stacy and Brady Fabey, celebrate at Jake’s.

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – Thirteen years ago, Bill Holbrook’s sister Kathleen Burdette made him an offer he couldn’t refuse. She called him up one day and said, “How would you like to do your own thing? I’ll be your silent backer.”

Before long they purchased DJ Barrons, a small tavern in Turners Falls, owned by Shirley Johnson. He quickly renamed it Jake’s Tavern after his young son and he’s been there ever since.

Holbrook had been working in the food service industry since he was a teenager, slinging pizza at Weirs Beach in Laconia, New Hampshire, followed by several years

bartending in Florida and 15 years managing the Friendly’s at the Greenfield rotary.

He believes Turners Falls was the perfect place to run a tavern full of good people who care a lot about their friends and neighbors, and it didn’t hurt that the village reminded him of his hometown of Laconia.

Holbrook acknowledges that you don’t get much time off when you’re running your own business. While it’s been a great run, he says, he is looking forward to retirement – not to mention there are wedding bells in his future.

I’m sure all the regulars already know Holbrook and Brady Fahey got engaged over Christmas. Right now

their plans are a little vague, but they plan to spend more time with family and lots of time golfing when spring rolls around. Holbrook suspects that he’ll get bored eventually; when that happens he’ll start looking for a part-time job.

As many people know, Holbrook was always willing to let non-profit groups in to do fundraisers – especially ones that support children. He’s supported the Unity Skatepark Project, the Friend-to-Friend accessible swing project, numerous class field trips and many others, but it’s the Kacy’s Kids Christmas drive that is near and dear to his heart.

Bill has worked with Marie Putala and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) for the past three years to provide for children in need at Christmas. Begun in memory of his niece Kacy whose life was cut short at 18 years old, the drive is a tribute to her love of children.

MCSM provides the names, ages, and wishes of children in need and they are posted on the wall at Jake’s. Patrons pick up a name or two, shop for the gift(s) on the list and bring it back wrapped.

see **JAKE’S** page A5

Waiting... for the Ice to Melt

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT– At the height of every summer, a prime pastime for residents of Montague’s village of Lake Pleasant is watching grass grow in the Minnie E. Rutter Memorial Park.

But, as days begin to grow longer and temperatures ever-so-slowly warmer after Winter Solstice celebrates its birthday in December, the eyes of villagers turn to watching for ice to depart from the surface of Lake Pleasant’s namesake body of water.

Since 1977, that long-standing cyclical curiosity has become ritualized in an “Ice Off the Lake” rite of seasonal passage.

Interested residents ante up a dollar, take their chances with a blind-luck draw of a date for departure, then begin rooting themselves

on to victory for a small pot of gold on the day when a designated panel of judges declares that not an ice cube remains visible on the open waters of the lake.

The thirty-ninth annual contest got underway January 20. Last year’s winner was Fedya Michael, son of George Shapiro of Montague Avenue, and the winning date was April 11.

Tickets for 57 would-be winners this year are available from the Lake Pleasant Village Association, and can also be obtained at the Lake Pleasant Post Office.

The contest date range is February 22 through April 19. Those dates represent the earliest and latest dates ice has left the lake since the contest began.

The February 22 start date was

see **CONTEST** page A6



LYN CLARK PHOTO

The scenic lake is an emergency backup source for the Turners Falls Water Department. No swimming!



Compiled by DON CLEGG

There will be a **Wine & Canvas event to benefit the Montague Reporter** this coming Tuesday, January 27, at the French King Entertainment Center. We hope you will join us!

The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m., and tickets are \$45 per person. Adults with any level of experience painting (or drinking) are welcome. These things are a lot of fun.

See our ad on page B6 for more information.

Would you like to help support the Montague Libraries? Are you available for one or two evening meetings a month? Two interim Trustees are needed until the next town election in May.

If interested, please send a letter by January 31 to the Montague Public Libraries, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Last year the Montague Public Libraries gave out over 1300 **federal tax forms**, schedules, and instruction booklets. This year the IRS has

decided to slash this free program due to budget cuts.

As of this point, the Carnegie Library will only be receiving 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ forms, but no instructions or schedules. You must download your own forms

If you are having difficulty downloading IRS forms, free tech help and training are available by appointment at the Carnegie Library weekly on Friday mornings and on the first Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m..

The **Montague Center Fire Department** will have an Open House featuring the display of their brand new Engine #1.

The event is Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at the station at 128 Old Sunderland Road in Montague Center. Free and open to all with refreshments, and a special free kids raffle.

The **Winter and Spring Preschool Series**, “Who’s Been Here? Let’s Find Out”, at the Great Falls Discovery Center continues on Saturday, January 24, from 10:30 to

11:30 a.m.

Join Janel Nockleby for a tracking adventure to find out who has been outside in the snow at the center. Each program will feature stories, activities, and crafts for ages 3 to 6 with a parent or guardian. Siblings and friends welcome.

If you enjoyed the GFDC summer Kidleidoscope series, then you will not want to miss these programs.

For more info call (413) 863-3221 or visit www.greatfallsdiscovery-center.org This free, 6-part series is sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Come see “**Bag It**”, a humorous, award-winning film about how plastic bags and bottles affect our health and the planet’s.

Discuss what we can do, with Andy Fisk of the Connecticut River Watershed Council on Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on Silver Street in Greenfield. Admission and refreshments are free; donations accepted.

Organized by Greening Greenfield and the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.

Chase away the winter blues with an evening of inspiring music from many cultures with the **Wendell Community Chorus Winter Concert** on Friday, January 30, 7 p.m. at Wendell Town Hall. Some sing-alongs will be part of the evening as well.

Refreshments available. A donation of \$3-10 is requested, but no one will be turned away.

The **Erving Elementary School PTO** is hosting their Annual Family Movie Day at the Greenfield Garden Cinema on Main Street in Greenfield on Saturday, January 31, at 9:30 a.m.

This year’s movie is *Paddington*. This event is open to the public and only costs \$5 per person. Doors open at 9 a.m.

Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival shire cast auditions will be held on February 6 through February 9 the Montague Common Hall (formerly the Grange) at 34 Main Street in Montague.

For specific times, please email David Argo at Media@MuttonAndMead.org or call (413) 992-6572.

The shire cast is at the heart of Mutton and Mead’s interactive experience. Each cast member plays a character or role from the story of Robin Hood, played out at our beloved Mutton and Mead Tavern of Nottingham Shire.

Not interested in joining the shire cast? Mutton and Mead is also seeking stage & street acts, demonstrators & educators, support crews, vendors and general administrative help. Check out the website for details at muttonandmead.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

The Montague Reporter Wishes
Turners Falls RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto A Very Happy Birthday
January 23

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
week ending 1/16/15:
Grade 6
Catherine Reynolds
Grade 8
Rodney Duteau

Montague Reporter 2014 Revenues: Geographic Breakdown

	ads	subs	stores	donation			
turners falls	29,191.25	5,417.08	4,060.85	2,151.50	40,820.68	42.7%	
rest of montague	5,813.85	5,839.17	122.45	932.25	12,707.72	13.3%	56.0%
erving	448.00	1,265.00	213.75	265.00	2,191.75	2.3%	
gill	2,958.00	2,455.00	0.00	540.00	5,953.00	6.2%	
wendell	2,608.20	1,883.54	715.35	905.00	6,112.09	6.4%	
leverett	865.00	3,079.59	648.85	1,016.93	5,610.37	5.9%	20.8%
greenfield	10,164.20	1,213.20	528.20	36.80	11,942.40	12.5%	
elsewhere	6,711.65	3,159.21	0.00	367.52	10,238.38	10.7%	23.2%
	58,760.15	24,311.79	6,289.45	6,215.00	95,576.39		
	61.5%	25.4%	6.6%	6.5%			

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The newspaper in your hands is published by a nonprofit with a mission of community development. As its managing editor, I feel the community at large, and especially our readers, should have a sense of its finances.

I will try to share pertinent details from time to time. This week, I broke down our 2014 revenues by major category and location.

Totals, and total percentages, are given for each place and category (advertisement, subscriptions, newsstand sales, and donations).

This data isn’t perfect, but I did brush it up as well as I could. For example, I initially counted everything originating from a “Millers Falls” address under the “rest of Montague” location, but then went back and shifted some of that to Erving, where I know subscribers or donors reside in Erving.

Money raised at fundraisers or

booths was logged as a donation at the event’s location. We had two fundraisers this year – one at Great Falls Harvest restaurant here in Turners, and an All Small Caps event in Wendell. We also tabled at Old Home Days in Montague and Wendell, and the Franklin County Pumpkin Fest.

A substantial portion of our donations came in the form of “extra” sums added on to renewal checks. We know that not all our readers are in a position to do this, but we take it as a vote of confidence and support from those of you who do.

Advertisers were located by local branch rather than home office. This meant that we counted Baystate Medical as being located in Greenfield, rather than Springfield, and the advertising by Greenfield Cooperative Bank after they opened a branch across the street from our office in Turners Falls is counted here rather than in Greenfield.

Certain newsstand locations re-

pay the drivers who stock them, in tiny sums not reflected here.

We did make out with a small surplus this year, but generally all the money we take in is reinvested into the operation.

In 2014, we spent a little over \$20,000 on printing the paper, and a little over \$20,000 in mailing and distributing it. Another \$8,000 went into rent, insurance, phone and internet, supplies and other overhead expenses.

That left us just about \$1,000 an issue to work with to produce the paper: a sum split each week among all of our editors, layout staff, and writers. Operating on a shoestring in this respect is very difficult for everyone involved, and it has taken careful teamwork and dedication to pull it off.

We’d like to increase our revenue in the coming year, so we can increase that \$1,000 figure. In a county like this, it may seem like drawing blood from a turnip, but we

know the resources are there as long as our paper grows to meet them and makes itself useful. Consider this an opportunity for a community-wide brainstorming session.

If you think one or more of these fields should be easy to increase in 2015, we want to know. Does one look lower than it should, to you?

If you have an idea, or want to volunteer to try to take on one of these 32 figures (setting up store sales in Greenfield, selling subscriptions in Gill, soliciting advertisement in Erving, fundraising in Montague, etc.), let us know. Get in touch with me at mjackson@montaguereporter.org, or call 863-8666.

We may not be a perfect paper, but we want to be your paper, and with your help, we can improve. We know that every dollar we receive is an investment in the project of building local community through journalism, and we are determined to spend it wisely.

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ARTS BRIDGE from page A1 around the world, and serve as a local community center for creative exploration.

Richard (Rick) Widmer, the building's new owner and project director, will share his new vision for a space that was once at the heart of the community. On the Millers Falls Arts Bridge website, he writes,

"Millers Falls was once a robust industrial village. But today its mills have ceased to function. In 2009, the St. John's Parish church closed its doors. What happens to a community when it loses so many jobs and part of its spiritual core?"

"In Millers, I see a great opportunity. The town needs new life. Chinese artists seek creative freedom, professional development and international experience. MFAB (Millers Falls Arts Bridge) will serve to facilitate this collaboration, to build this community, and to promote understanding across diverse beliefs and traditions."

I first heard of this endeavor from a former colleague who is now working in China. Imagine getting a message from so far away informing me of a project of this magnitude right up the road.

I followed up and found that Mr. Widmer was in China this week. We therefore conducted an interview via email.

MR: *First of all, what brought you to Millers Falls?*

RW: Personally, I have long family roots in New England. I grew up in Somerville, MA. My parents grew up in Connecticut. Their parents grew up in Vermont. My grandfather and namesake, Richard Martin, passed along a good family philosophy: "work hard, do good."

New England is my home. I went to school at Somerville High School and NMH (Northfield Mount Hermon), graduating in 1986 from the latter.

MR: *When did you become interested in China?*

RW: It was an NMH summer trip that first brought me to China in 1985. Both NMH and China were full of inspiring experiences. Later, I studied history and art at

Hartwick College, where I began making simple short films. After graduation from Hartwick, I drove across country and north to Fairbanks, Alaska where I lived for four years.

Then, on a photo expedition to Xinjiang, China, I fell in love with a woman in Beijing, my wife of 19 years and mother of our two sons.

MR: *What about your background as an artist?*

RW: I have worked in broadcast television, editing programs for History Channel, Discovery Channel, and the WGBH NOVA series.

I have made three full-length documentary films: *American Fair*, about a farming community in York County, Maine, *Dance Language*, about four deaf dancers in Shandong China, and *Legend of the Stone*, about a Chinese artist and his plan to explode a 500-ton rock as a way to understand the origin of space and time.

For the past seven years I have been working with artists in the Chinese contemporary art world, making short films about creative process, thought process and Chinese art, culture and society.

In 2013, I created a retrospective exhibition of twenty years of participation of Chinese artists in the Venice Biennale. Through a series of over 80 interviews, I represented the Chinese experience of Venice for the Western art audience.

MR: *Did this experience lead you to think about cross-cultural immersions for artists?*

RW: I thought: how could I make my unique, intimate experience of the thoughts and creativity of Chinese artists meaningful to others? What purpose was I serving?

MR: *And that led you to Millers Falls?*

RW: Yes, I decided that I was going to create an arts and cultural connection between US and Chinese cultures – to build a bridge.

As soon as I made this declaration, an Internet search led me to the 5 and 7 Church Street properties in Millers Falls – the former St. John's Parish – and the concept of an artists residency program was

conceived.

MR: *What has been the reaction from your friends in China?*

RW: There are two pieces of the Millers Falls story that have caught the imagination of Chinese artists.

The first is the beauty and energy of the St. John's church building. The second is the concept that the Chinese creativity can contribute to the economic revitalization of Millers.

If we can get the resources together to repair the church in time for July, I feel very good about our ability to bring artists from China into the project this summer.

These artists seek freedom, nature, opportunity, professional development, and experience of the world outside of China.

MR: *Can you describe your specific plans for the program and the building?*

RW: MFAB will form a community of artists who share the facility as a studio for painting, sculpture, photography and film. The "Arts Bridge" will initiate an overseas artists residency program, offering studio facilities, interaction with area universities and museums, and exhibition of artworks.

We plan to organize "Feast Days," hosting a series of cultural events and performances, and we will also open our doors to the needs of the Millers Falls community, welcoming local individuals and groups to share their interests and activities.

MR: *Have you thought about the number of artists who will participate and the number of exhibitions you will prepare?*

RW: Once in operation, MFAB will invite the participation of 120 artists over three years' time, prepare two exhibitions each year, present a series of cultural performances, and organize regular community events.

Funds for annual programs and operations will be raised from the membership fees of artist-participants from China and around the world. Over time, as the MFAB project matures, we will look to the public and private sectors for partnership and support.

MR: *You have said you need \$100,000 by February 15. How do you plan to achieve that?*

RW: One hundred thousand in 40 days is a large number in a short amount of time. To reach this goal will take support from many people.

Though I am new to Montague, I am hopeful that I can answer questions, earn people's trust and gain support from the community towards this goal. Our website, www.millersfallsartsbridge.org, is up and running, and our Facebook page has been activated. We are using Kickstarter, an online crowdfunding resource, to achieve our first fundraising goal.

Here's the MFAB project on Kickstarter: www.kickstarter.com/projects/100355657/millers-falls-arts-bridge-the-resurrection-of-st-j

MR: *When will you begin the renovations?*

RW: With faith and support, and by meeting our fundraising goals, we will commence construction in February 2015 and begin our mission in July, with a grand opening and two months of artist residency projects.

MR: *How do local people get involved?*

RW: Come to the event on Saturday night. Check out the website and the Facebook page. Enjoy the video on Kickstarter and share it with friends.

The largest reward for joining together in support of the repair of St. John's, and the creation of a home for the Millers Falls Arts Bridge is the act of participation itself – the knowledge that our collective action will have a positive impact.

I believe that MFAB can serve as a catalyst for economic and cultural activity in Millers. I want MFAB to be part of making Millers shine again.

Rick Widmer signed off then, to get some sleep, meet with just a few more people, and catch a plane home to Millers Falls where he will be ready to answer questions on Saturday night.



Free Introductory Shintaido Class, Dinner, and Hospice Singing Presentation

A free introductory Shintaido class will take place on Saturday, January 31 at the Shintaido Center on River Road in Deerfield. The class is scheduled to start at 3:30 pm.

It will be followed by dinner, and presentation by a representative group of the Hallowell Singers, including founder Kathy Leo and musical director Mary Cay Brass.

Hallowell has been serving the community through the practice of bedside singing for the dying for 12 years. They also continue to be a model for other hospice choirs through workshops that offer both musical and spiritual support. They return to the Shintaido Center to share music and wisdom.

They will attend the free introductory class, and after dinner will lead us in the exploration of Transformation through song and stories based on their experience.

Shintaido is a moving meditation and peaceful martial art that emphasizes spiritual connections – with ourselves, each other and

nature. The Hallowell Singers constantly learn about and explore a profound time of transition that is full of the unknown.



PIERRE QUETTIER PHOTO

Kathy has written: "The bedside of a dying person is a shimmering place rich with mystery and wonder. Grief is a time of deepest change, a place where the ground beneath our feet shifts and moves, offering a time of instability when we are called to be our highest selves, to stay present or to allow change to bring us to our heart center."

"Hallowell's service has become a true practice, as is the practice of Shintaido. We have learned how to be grounded in times of instability. How to stay present when grief arises. How to welcome what comes and what simply is."

"We respond to what is before us with songs and with presence. And we take from our practice what we remember into our daily lives where change and transformation are constant companions on our life journey."

For additional information, visit www.sne.shintaido.org or contact Stephen Billias at sbillias@comcast.net; (413) 475-3745; or by cellphone at (413)773-1926.

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GOOD USED USABLES

DAPA from page A1

development coordinator for CNAM. "People are so eager for work authorization and drivers' licenses. We want to make sure [they] do not spend hard-earned money with unauthorized practitioners."

Millman said the center will continue to keep people informed as the process progresses.

Once it is closer to the time application forms will be available, CNAM will hold another set of workshops, Bradbury said. Until then, they suggest it is a good idea for those interested to get these documents: proof of identity for parents and children, entry and continued presence in the U.S., payment of taxes, work history.

Last week the Mexican government began issuing certified copies of birth certificates at their embassies and consulates around the world, making it at least a little easier for Mexican nationals to acquire the documents needed to apply for deferred action as well as for passports, driver's licenses and work permits.

Previously, immigrants born in Mexico were only able to get birth certificates from the towns and cities where they were registered as

newborns, often leaving the task of obtaining documents to friends or family.

While DAPA will not provide green cards, or even a path to citizenship, it should give those who qualify three years' insulation from the risk of deportation, and the ability to work legally in the U.S. for the same amount of time.

Who Will Qualify?

According to *thinkprogress.org*, DAPA could potentially extend relief benefits to about 4.9 million of the approximately 11.3 million undocumented aliens currently residing in the U.S.

It appears that in order to qualify, one must have a child born in the U.S., have been continuously present here for five years, pass a background check and pay a fee. However, information about who will qualify is coming slowly, said Teresa Cordoba, Latina outreach coordinator at the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition in Greenfield.

"People are anxious to see if they qualify and it's important to know they have the right person giving them the answer," Cordoba said. She emphasized that the "good

character" qualifier is particularly confusing.

"What is a crime," she asks, that would disqualify an applicant? She doesn't know.

Though she works directly with the Latina community, Cordoba expressed that men and women of any nationality are welcome to come to her with questions.

"These are the dirty hands that make 'America the Beautiful,'" Cordoba said, mentioning the hard work that immigrants do in restaurants and in the fields.

I asked Cordoba about several law enforcement agencies in Vermont adopting "bias free" policies, which recommend that police not try to identify people whose only suspected violation is their presence in the U.S. without proper documentation.

She said, "Here [in Massachusetts], they stop people left and right. It's nerve-racking, anything can happen to them. They're vulnerable."

Vermont, along with several other states, now also offers a driver's privilege card, in compliance with federal REAL ID requirements, which asks for proof of address rather than citizenship.

Cordoba praised this move, saying that public transportation in Franklin County is very limited, making it hard for unlicensed drivers to go to work, pick up their kids or shop for groceries without fear of being stopped.

A Lot to Take In

Rebeca Escalona Rosas is the parent and family services coordinator at the Brick House, where among other things she helps provide interpretation and transportation to parents accessing government and nonprofit services. She said that she, and people she's spoken with, are unclear what the new policies will mean.

"Folks are generally hoping it will affect them positively, that they'll be able to qualify," said Escalona Rosas, noting that when reading through the new measures there is a lot of information to take in.

DAPA expands upon the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), for the so-called "dreamers," already in existence for two and a half years.

Those immigrants who qualify for DACA must have arrived in the country before age 16, been

here continuously for five years, and graduated from high school, or must be working toward an educational program.

In the U.S., public school education for grades K-12 cannot be denied to immigrants regardless of status, but that does not apply to higher education.

"We are excited about this particular act, and this change of policy that will help families in the area step out of the shadows. We can only see good things happening — we've seen that already with DACA," Bradbury said.

Nationally, Judge Andrew Hanen, a George W. Bush appointee to a federal trial court in Texas, was slated to hear a challenge last week brought by officials in two dozen states that object to Obama's policy, though nothing as yet has come of that.

For more information from the Center for New Americans, call (413) 587-0084 or email maureen@cnam.org. Teresa Cordoba can be reached at (413) 772-0871 ext 109 or at latina@nelcwit.org.

The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. Find out more at brickhousecommunity.org.



Longtime employee Sam Escott, behind the bar at Jake's.

JAKE'S from page A1

The first year there were 33 names on the wall, the second year 96 names, and this Christmas there were 150. He credits MCSM with organizing a great event, and plans to stay involved. It saddens him that the need grows greater, but he is happy to be able to help. The tavern's new owner, Shawn Hubert, has committed to continuing the event. Holbrook believes he's leaving the place in good hands.

I talked to Sam Escott on Monday night. She's been working at the tavern since 1987 — long be-

fore Holbrook's reign — and says Holbrook has been a good boss, and over the years became a good friend and occasional golf partner. He's got a great sense of humor and always sees the good in people. He looked out for her during some difficult family losses.

Escott says, "Bill deserves time to relax and enjoy life." She will continue to work at the tavern when it reopens next week.

I fondly remember my own first meeting with Holbrook during the 2010 Olympic gold medal hockey game between Canada and the U.S.

I was the lone Canadian supporter, and it didn't take him long to figure out I was watching the game as a way to share my mother's love of the game.

When the match went into sudden death overtime, I was going to run home and give her a call during the break. Holbrook got wind of that, and insisted I use the bar phone, in spite of the long-distance charges. When the Canadians got the first goal, he was back with the phone making sure I called her right away. It was the kindness of that gesture that I remember so well.

Patrons young and old had good things to say about Holbrook, and wished him a happy and healthy retirement. Christa Bingnet and Kathy Webber called Jake's the Turners Falls version of "Cheers," and said Holbrook had the gift of making you feel welcome.

Mark Galvis has been coming to the tavern since he was a kid, when he and his dad came to Carney's. Red Sox legend Jimmy Fox used to come in here after a day of fishing, and it's rumored that Ted Williams was here too. Galvis maintains the planter out front with plantings he took out of his grandmother's house before it was sold.

Everyone had stories about Holbrook's generosity and love of children. He often covered the cost of meals for children, and kept a drawer full of small toys in the back to give to small diners.

Loot owners Erin MacLean and John MacNamara reminisced about their time next door to Jake's. Calling Holbrook a big-hearted, stalwart pioneer and constant stabilizing in-

fluence on the Avenue, they said the first "It's a Wonderful Night" would not have happened without his financial help and enthusiasm.

They say they will miss his "What can I do, how can I help?" attitude. Although they knew the tavern was changing hands, the reality has caught them unprepared and they're going to miss Bill.

Like many patrons, Intha Lepkham, Jr. and Toryen Hadfield said Holbrook is just one of those "all-around good guys," and that they'll miss him. Lepkham talked about dinner with his girlfriend just before Christmas where Holbrook generously paid for their dinner. He gave him a little retirement advice:

"work has just ended, and life is just starting over".

Pam Allan says, "Thanks for all the haddock sandwiches in the courtyard!" I wonder if she knows the courtyard used to be a barber shop. Back in the 1950s there was a gas leak at the barber shop and the resulting explosion blew one of the customers right out into Avenue A. Fortunately there were no major injuries, but the barbershop was torn down and became the patio.

There have been many changes with the building since it was built in 1905, and I'm sure there will be changes in the future.

Best wishes to both retiring and new owners.



Toryen Hadfield (left) and Intha Lepkham, Jr., were two of the many patrons who stopped by to wish Bill Holbrook a fond farewell.

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Are you interested/willing to help the Town hire a new Director for our Senior/Community Center?

Volunteers needed to interview/screen applicants. If interested, please call Erving Town Hall @ 422-2800 x102. Need to call by January 26th.

Erving Board of Selectmen

HEARD from page A1

chicks, each chick hiding a personal message under its movable wings.

Heard spent her last day on the job at Swift River tying up details and giving last-minute advice to Ariel Barilla, who will succeed her as secretary. Teachers, staff, parents and students stopped in all day to wish Christine well and give her hugs.

In the late afternoon, the cafeteria was filled with staff, students, parents, school committee mem-

bers, retired teachers and staff members, family, neighbors and friends wishing Christine a happy retirement.

School staff presented her with a handmade quilt, with an overall chicken design.

Christine told the crowd that school secretary was the best job she ever had, and it was a joy to come to work each morning to work with "smart and funny people and adorable children."



CONTEST from page A1

established in 2012, supplanting the previous beginning date of March 6 which had reigned since 2002.

Because the 2012 contest was over before it began, due to the non-cooperation of Mother Nature, ticket holders got their money back and had to be satisfied with living to draw another year. The April 19 end date was determined by results in 1978, the second year of the contest.

The Ice Off the Lake contest began during the reign of long-term and long-retired Postmaster Alfreda Casey. Native daughter, the-late Joyce Cote, inherited contest management when she became Postmaster in 1987, and coordinated the event until 2008, the year after her retirement.

The ice-off torch then passed to this writer, David James, a Postmaster relief/replacement contract worker and sole employee of the LPPO.

Traditionally, as the ice begins to disappear from the middle of the lake and recedes toward its edges, contest judges gather at 5 p.m. daily in front of the Raisin Rosen picket on the Bridge of Names, a wooden walkway which joins the two halves of the village. With naked eye, as well as aid from a pair of powerful bird-watching binoculars, judges survey as much of the surface of the lake as is visible from that vantage point.

If no ice can be seen, according to the rules, no ice exists, and the contest is declared done... no matter that the judges may have passed ice pockets near the shore as they wended their way from one end or the other of the bridge to arrive at the judgment picket, dead center above the middle of the sluiceway that carries overflow from the lake to a stream which empties into the Sawmill River and thence into the Connecticut River.

According to historical records, the late Varion Hicks of Montague Avenue is the all-time contest champion. He drew the winning ticket three times, in 1987, 1994, and 1998. Since Hicks's death in 2002, an anonymous Lake Pleasant has annually purchased a ticket in the name of "Spirit of Varion Hicks," but no further victories for Hicks have yet occurred.

Another historical tidbit of interest, perhaps, is that of the 38 previous winners, only 37 have been human beings. The 2010 winner was the late Goose Levenson, at that time a 13-year-old Dandie Dinmont terrier owned by Marge Levenson of Turner Street.

According to the village grapevine, in the aftermath of Goose's victory, his winning wad of George Washingtons got converted into a very large mound of dog biscuits and bones.

Judges this year include me, Patrick Otto, Sr., and Lahri Bond, LPVA president, who will declare a 2015 contest winner at a date yet to be determined.



HAVING SOME BRIDGE WORK DONE



STERLING CLARK PHOTO

Sterling Clark sent in this picture, dated to 1991, of the rehabilitation of the bridge over the Sawmill River at Montague Center. (Look older than that? The world was actually already in color in 1991 but we have made the picture black and white so we could put it on this page.)

As some of the Reporter staff was not yet driving, or in town, in 1991, this picture makes us curious as to how traffic was detoured around the project. Seems like a pain. Thanks Mr. Clark!

Have a picture you want people to see? Send it in to features@montaguereporter.org; we love pictures!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Crashes, Alarms, Reports...

Tuesday, 1/13

9 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle at French King Bridge. Gone on arrival.
5 p.m. Took witness report of motor vehicle accident at Mass Highway garage on Route 2. No collision: one vehicle almost hit another and went off the road; both continued on without stopping.

Wednesday, 1/14

4:30 a.m. Alarm at French King Restaurant secured.
10:50 p.m. Assisted on scene

of medical emergency on East Main Street.

Thursday, 1/15

7:45 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with securing alarm on Alexander Hill Road.
10:15 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for revoked license, license not in possession, and a motor vehicle lights violation.

Friday, 1/16

6:45 p.m. Took report of a phone scam on Prospect Street.

Saturday, 1/17

12:02 a.m. Report of a possible breaking & entering in progress, Church Street, Millers Falls. Assisted Montague PD. Report unfounded.

2:30 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with disturbance on Bridge Street in Millers Falls. Peace restored.

Sunday, 1/18

11:38 a.m. Property found at Erving Library turned in to department.
11:40 a.m. Assisted

Northfield PD with crash on Gulf Road.

2:06 p.m. Crash with personal injury on Route 2. State police took report. Assisted on scene.

3:31 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with motor vehicle crash with rollover at Pisgah Mt. Road.

4:45 p.m. Dispatched to three-car crash at Route 2 rest area. Nothing found.

5:45 p.m. Single-car crash at Route 2 bypass. Report taken.

Monday, 1/19

9:43 a.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash on North Street.

11:45 a.m. Report of past breaking & entering on French King Highway. Under investigation.

1:30 p.m. Took report of annoying telephone calls to North Street resident.

Tuesday, 1/20

9:45 p.m. Disabled vehicle on Route 2 near River Road. Stood by for tow.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Communications Upgrades Proposed: “Reverse 911” and More Internet

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard had their first regularly scheduled meeting of 2015 on January 14, a cold evening with an overcast sky. Lights in the room gave the meeting a bit of cheer and more cheer came from the cranberry orange bread that town coordinator Nancy Aldrich had baked and brought in. Only a small piece was left by meeting's end.

A long list of agenda items awaited the selectboard, but they persisted and considered each item on that agenda and ended their meeting by 9:00. Outside the air was still cold.

Reverse 911

Fire Chief Joe Cuneo was not scheduled to meet the board, but he came in. He and fire captain Asa de Roode requested that the board consider funding a reverse 911 system in town.

That system would allow someone to make a telephone call to everyone in town with only one call.

It would be useful to tell the town's people about any emergency that might affect a broad group, to let people know if and where fresh water or a warming center is available, what roads are open or blocked, and, when electric service has been interrupted, and a projection of when it is likely to be restored.

The list of telephone numbers would come from the Verizon land line directory, but a person could sign up with a cell phone number, or could choose to be taken off the list. Shutesbury and New Salem both have reverse 911, and Aldrich said it costs New Salem \$1,100 or \$1,200 a year.

The price is based on the number of subscribers, and so Wendell's cost would likely be lower.

Board members liked the idea, and selectboard member Dan Keller suggested bringing the idea to the finance committee for their consideration, and that it should be an article on the annual warrant.

More Flag Talk

Betsy Ames met the board next as they considered the design for the town flag. She continued to press for including the words “Algonquian People” on the flag, as she did in December.

Board members said they were more inclined to keep the design simple: to remove words, not add them, and even to replace the multicolor radiating background with a single color, keeping the colorful inside circle with its surrounding circle of diverse people holding hands but replacing the radiating

colors outside that with a single color background.

Ames said that without the added words, the flag would reflect the excesses of the European takeover of North America.

But selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that to single out the Algonquian people would neglect the other groups that have lived in, passed through, or used the area and that some of the art on the flag speaks to a variety of people. He contrasted a minimalist approach that suggests the reality and the history of many people, versus the literal adding of a specific people by name. He said, “What about the Italians?”

He also said that he would like to see the flag with different single color-backgrounds before he voted for any one color, and Aldrich answered that would be easy to arrange with a pair of scissors to cut out the center and pieces of colored paper to show the choice of backgrounds. She said the artist, Donna Horn, was willing to accept changes to her design.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that on a flag, words are the hardest thing to make look good.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that currently what we are is the town of Wendell.

Pooser suggested that Ames could talk with the artist directly by getting a cup of coffee at the Wendell Country Store when Horn was working and just having a conversation. Heard thanked Ames for coming in.

February 14 Concert

Marianne Sundell reserved the town hall from 8 to 11 p.m. on the evening of February 14 for a concert benefitting the meetinghouse. Crazy Diamond, Shelly Hines and Ray Grigonis, will perform, and there will be a bake sale similar to those that take place during the Full Moon Coffeehouse.

Sundell cautioned against serving a full meal at a benefit, and following the meal with dancing, and said that the benefit medieval dinner held in December was not as well attended as she had hoped, but that should be expected in the holiday preparation month.

Because the evening will benefit a town group the selectboard waived the normal fee.

School Board

Dick Baldwin came in briefly and brought Jack Radner as a nominee to replace Sarah Chase on the school board. The selectboard appointed Radner in short order for a term that will last until the spring election when he will have to run

for re-election if he wants to stay on the board.

His nomination gives the school board its full complement.

Chapter 90 Funding

A letter from Governor Charlie Baker said that Wendell's Chapter 90 highway money will increase from \$190,397 to \$285,596.

Baker said he would increase Chapter 90 aid “before he took off his jacket” in his office as governor.

Two More Letters

A letter from W.D. Cows told the town not to use Cows' land for trails within the town.

Board members agreed to sign a letter in support of funding for the substance abuse prevention collaborative.

“Mini-Auction” Anyone?

Treasurer Carolyn Manley came in asking about the advisability of having a “mini-auction” of two town properties that have attracted some interest.

One is a lot south of the country store that has a condemned building on it and is below the standard lot size. Manley said she thought it unlikely that the lot can be grandfathered as a house lot, because the building has been vacant long enough to have a tree growing through it, and the lot has no septic system or well.

The other property is the former Stowell house and land on Locke Hill Road. Its lot is 0.998 acres and the building is far enough from complying with codes that dismantling is probably the best option for it. She said abutters are not interested, and Heard said that it should be clear at the auction that it is not habitable as it is.

Dogfight Mediation

Board members also approved a request to use the town mediation account to help resolve the difficulties that still are present following a September 26 dog fight that injured one resident, and was the subject of a selectboard hearing and aftermath that extended through several meetings.

Keller said that the Orange mediation group has rates as good as you can get, and difficulties are usually resolved in two or three sessions at \$140 a session. The mediation account is funded at the annual town meetings and is not used every year.

In approving this use, Keller said this issue has risen to a town level.

Library Internet

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp asked

Live or Work in Montague?

The Tobacco Free Community Partnership for Hampshire and Franklin Counties is trying to gauge the level of support for the Montague Board of Health as they are considering raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products.



www.surveymonkey.com/s/DTL8TFP
This survey should take less than 1 minute.

to double the town's Access Plus internet connection which would raise the cost from \$150 a month to \$250 a month. Heidkamp said that there are times that library use of the internet stretches the connection.

The board approved that request, and Pooser said that some homes that can receive the signal from the police station antenna may be getting home internet service from the town's fiber optic connection. Access Plus can tell from their end when use here is high and that is part of a larger discussion of how much free service the town should provide.

Letter from Colrain

A letter from the town of Colrain suggested that since the cost of last-mile internet connection is so high that the state should pay for it.

Board members did not argue with that concept but had little faith that it would happen.

Electricity & Heat

National Grid sent letters asking the Wendell and New Salem selectboards for an easement that will allow them access to the Swift River School property to maintain and repair the underground wires that supply the school with electricity.

While the work is going on, electricity will be supplied by an above-ground wire that will need a pole, and the new setup will include a conduit so that repairs can be made with less disruption. Both selectboards have to sign, and notarize, their approval.

The energy committee sent the selectboard a letter asking for approval to upgrade the town hall heating system. Heard said she spoke with energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger.

The town will wait for facilities manager Jim Slavas to give an estimate for the overhaul, and then will submit a grant application.

Gas Pipeline

Aldrich said she had a list of the

times and locations of Kinder Morgan presentations about their proposed pipeline. Keller said he witnessed one and it was “very slick.”

Enter the FinCom

The finance committee, Doug Tanner, Ray DiDonato, and Garrett Sawyer, came in and selectboard members told them about the issues that would cost the town money that they had discussed earlier, i.e. the proposal to double the town's internet capability, and reverse 911.

Keller mentioned that Slavas as facilities manager earns less than \$5 an hour for his efforts. He suggested the stipend be raised to \$3,000 a year, and Aldrich said that at least some of that could come from her pay as financial director. She said in the beginning the job of finance director took more time than it does now, and her hours could be reduced.

Last-Mile Internet

Wired West will prioritize towns for beginning construction on the last mile of internet connection at least partly by the amount of interest the towns' people demonstrated. Construction will be expensive because of western Massachusetts geography, and Tanner said 65% of households subscribing is the projected break-even point for building and financing the system.

Philadelphia provides internet service to every home as a public utility on the basis that it is a part of contemporary education, and Wendell could make the same claim.

Houses and apartments here are less attractive because they lack internet service. Having real internet access in town would increase property value and decrease the tax rate (but not the tax bill).

He suggested that each household that signs up for the last mile could put in \$49, or the annual town meeting could authorize the equivalent into an escrow fund so that Wendell could move toward the front of the list for construction.

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This Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Montague Center Fire Department will host an open house at their 128 Old Sunderland Road firehouse.

The star of the day will be the brand-new Engine #1 replacement, pictured here with Chief John Greene.

Memorabilia and photographs will be on display, and refreshments will be served. Kids can enter a free drawing to win a fire truck, much smaller than the one pictured. For more information, call the department at (413) 367-2757!



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A NEW GENERATION OF ART ON THIRD STREET

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Meet Max Armen. He's an intense, modest young artist whose family and he own the building which is the site of his bustling Third Street Studios.

Currently, Armen is in charge of a cooperative work space where he labors along with three other artists who rent space from him at the stu-

dios.

"What Max is really doing," said Turners Falls RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, "is re-inventing his family's building, responding to the demand in Turners Falls for work and exhibition space. Over the last year, he has expanded the number of studio spaces, hosted art shows and musical performances, and attracted other people to work in the building. Third Street Stu-

dios has become a hub of creativity downtown."

Readers of the *Montague Reporter* will soon have an opportunity to view samples of Armen's work. A series of Max's drawings, using childhood illustrations as subject matter for new material, will appear on these pages. In addition, the 24-year-old artist will explain his process.

"I'm constantly working on several fronts," said Armen as he talked about his different duties. "My work as a professional artist, my relationship to the community and other artists working in the area – as well as local businesses and the town itself – all connect with one another."

And Armen has a special objective with his own gallery. "The goal of the gallery at Third Street Studios," he said, "is to one day be open to the public, so people can view art on business days. It would be an area where local artists would have the opportunity to display their work in a formal gallery setting."

"I would also like to bring in international artists at some time. As our community of arts grows, Turners Falls is on track to be a major center for the arts. The facilities that I'm in a position to set up will play a supportive role in this development."

In the past, Max has sponsored several art openings in conjunction with RiverCulture's art walks downtown on the third Thursday of the month.

"I'm taking everything one step at a time," said the detail-oriented

see ARMEN page B4



Max Armen, with some of his paintings.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Our Northern Florida Adventure

By LESLIE BROWN

GEORGETOWN, FL – We are writing on the picnic table of our cottage at Georgetown Marina on the Saint John River where it opens up widely as Lake George. The resident Great Blue Heron strides delicately but purposefully near the fishing boats, ready for her daily hand-outs. It is a warm and sunny 65 degrees.

After three winter getaways in Mexico, we chose to stay stateside and to explore northern Florida. We are driving, as well, so we can explore when we arrive. We were intending to leave on Monday, allowing plenty of travel time before our reservation beginning on January 15th, but the forecast for snow, sleet and freezing rain upped our start to Tuesday.

Day One: Leaving Greenfield at 8 a.m. we take Route 91 to the Pike and pick up the Taconic Parkway. It is, indeed, a park-like trip running north and south in eastern New York State. We pick up Route 84 and then 81 which takes us through Pennsylvania. Not so scenic as the Taconic, but faster. Five hundred miles from home, we find a motel in Martinsburg, West Virginia at 6:30 p.m. It's been a long



Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka, Florida



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

day, and we are glad to stop.

After a bright and brilliant day, we wake to sullen skies, and leave West Virginia in light snow and freezing rain. Happily, the road stays clear and when we reach Virginia, the temperature has risen to 40 degrees.

My recollection of Virginia is huge ranches of beef cattle, churches (mostly Baptist) and flea markets. We descend Virginia in a valley edged by the Blue Ridge mountains, which are veiled in snow, pass a long and foggy road and enter North Carolina to cheers from both the driver and the passenger.

We ease around Charlotte and drive over the state line into South Carolina (more cheers). Route 77 takes us to Columbia where we pick up 26. Almost another 500-mile day, and we stop in Orangeburg for the night. The temperatures are holding in the low forties although it is still steely grey in the sky.

Day Three: We are on the road at 7:30 and soon are leaving Route 26 for Interstate 95. We have been a long 1031 miles.

At 10:15 we cross the Georgia line. It is 44 degrees as we drive through flatlands edged by swampy areas of loblolly and slash pine and palms, eucalyptus and yucca. The Sweet Gum trees have burst their bulging buds into red leaves!

We pass many areas where the slash pine has been clear cut. It is a relatively fast growing

see GARDENER page B4

Working on the Common Hall

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – The good news first: the cupola on the Montague Common Hall has been repaired, and roof leaks are no longer threatening the archives of the Historical Society. Hours of labor, both volunteered and paid, have resulted in a new entryway floor, new doors to the main hall, and a fresh coat of paint in the coat room over the now repaired walls.

The downstairs kitchen has also been scrubbed and will soon be painted with a mold-inhibiting paint. The Montague Common Hall is more welcoming than ever, poised for any number of community activities.

A "visioning" session has been scheduled for Sunday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hall. The session hopes to encourage people to share their hopes and ideas for the future of this lovely historic building gracing the village common. It is truly a "common space," and is no longer associated with the Grange. It's an ideal spot for a wedding, family reunion, birthday party and more.

More is the operative word at the moment. Annual fundraising, plus rentals from contra dances, yoga classes, the annual Mutton and Mead rehearsals, the Historic Society and an occasional wedding rental do not cover ongoing expenses, not to mention major repairs.

see HALL page B4



The Montague Common Hall used to be the Grange.

TURNERS TAKES OUT PIONEER, MOVES TO FIRST

By MATT ROBINSON

NORTHFIELD – On January 13th, the Turners Falls Boys Basketball team defeated the Pioneer Panthers 86 to 79. The win improved the Indians' record to 7 and 2 and moved them into a statistical tie for first place in the Hampshire League.

Teams win for various reasons: Talent, size, spirit, coaching, teamwork and the luck of the drop. But in this game, I think the reason that the Tribe prevailed is sheer determination.

The score was close the entire game. After one quarter, the Panthers led by 2. At half time, Turners edged ahead by 3. And after three, the game was knotted at 56 and then came the fourth quarter. In the final quarter of the game, even though Pioneer chalked up 23 points, Blue put up an incredible 30.

You do the math. 30 points a quarter equals 120 at the end of the game. And in a tie game, with everything else being equal, Turners Falls was determined to win.

"We made a few BIG plays in crunch time!" Coach Gary Mullins explained after the game. "A huge rebound by Jalen (Sanders) and a great steal by Liam (Ellis). Tionne (Brown) nailed a big 3 and then relied on Yorkie (Nick York) to make foul shots."

Liam had the hot hand in Tuesday's game. He scored a career high 31 points and sunk four from 3-point territory. But Liam didn't win the game by himself. Nick York put up 19, Tyler Charbonneau scored 13, Jalen Sanders sank 11 and Tionne Brown also hit double figures with 10. And Eulalio Veras added 2 points.

But Coach Mullins wasn't satisfied – not completely. Although Turners was able to put up an incredible 86 points, Pioneer was able to sink 79. "Yes, we need to get back in the gym tomorrow and work on defending," he said. "We shot very well tonight, and we

also finally shot better from the line. [But] we need to defend."

Turners Outlasts Mahar, 52-47

At the midseason mark of the 2014/15 season, the Turners Falls boys' basketball team sits in the catbird seat. They have won 8 of their first 10 games, and with 9 games left, they look to solidify their postseason position by continuing to play strong in the back half of the regular season.

On Friday January 16, Turners Falls overcame an early deficit by defeating the Mahar

see BASKETBALL page B6



Liam Ellis gets some air as Pedro Mattos defends.

Pet of the Week

Some cats are House Spirits - very shy with people. They live in your home, but are rarely seen -- visitors will never see them. They are cats who live with you, and who do important work on their own.

These special cats are excellent companions for other cats. Over time, they will most likely accept one or two people who will be al-



TUXIE

lowed audience with them.

They may choose to hang out near you, or sleep on the bed with you at night.

They are a great choice for **patient, kind people** with a quiet household, who want to make a difference for an individual cat - one that few people have the patience to help. They are a fine choice for situations where you don't have a lot of time to devote to a pet -- most of these kitties do not need or want much attention from people.

Although magical, they won't magically turn into normal acting cats. Some will change more than others, but be prepared for what you see now. They won't like busy homes or homes with children.

If you are interested in meeting our House Spirits, an Adoption Counselor will be happy to assist you!

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

Senior Center Activities

January 26 to 30

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 1/26
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 1/27
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Lunch
Wednesday 1/28
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 1/29
9 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns
Friday: 1/30
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
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, Ervingside, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at 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 1/26
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
Tuesday 1/27
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. ZumbaToning
Wednesday 1/28
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo
Thursday 1/29
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
Noon Cards
Friday 1/30
9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or 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.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse COMBUSTIBLE DANCE PARTY with rising stars LUX DELUXE

February marks the 30th anniversary of the one and only Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, the longest running nonprofit venue in New England, where every show is for the benefit of local environmental and service organizations.

What better way to celebrate than with rising stars **Lux Deluxe** who bring a new zest to classic Rock N Roll! Catch 'em while you can!

The Springfield Republican calls Lux Deluxe "a near-perfect sound for just about anyone with ears." Fun for a good cause.

Proceeds will help **Unity Skate Park** build a safe, fun, and permanent concrete skatepark in Turners Falls.

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offering a lively night out for music, fun and dance, always in support of a good cause.

Come experience the Valley's only **Dessert-O-Rama** in an affordable, family-friendly venue.

Open Mic begins at 7:30. For Open Mic sign-up, directions and further information please visit our website at www.wendellfullmoon.org, or call (978)544-5557.



Saturday, February 7, 2015 7:30 p.m.
\$7 to \$15 (to benefit Unity Skate Park Turners Falls)

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Why Worry?



Q. Should I be worried about bird flu?

The risk from bird flu is low for most people, because the viruses do not usually infect humans.

Animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans are known as "zoonoses." Seniors are among the most vulnerable to zoonoses. You can get one of these diseases from a household pet.

Speaking of birds... Psittacosis is a common bird disease known as "parrot fever." It occurs frequently in birds such as parakeets and cockatiels. Bacteria in bird droppings and nasal discharges can be inhaled. Psittacosis can develop into pneumonia and other health problems.

To help prevent transmission of psittacosis, don't let birds fly around the house. Wash your hands after contact with birds. Wear a dust mask and gloves when cleaning a bird cage. Antibacterial drugs are used to treat the disease in birds and people.

Cats can carry a parasite that causes the disease toxoplasmosis. You can get it from cat feces. Wearing gloves while gardening or changing a cat's litter box is important.

Washing your hands afterward is advised.

Few people who carry the toxoplasma parasite become ill. Those who get sick may suffer from swollen glands and muscle aches. Antimicrobial drugs are available to treat infected people.

Worms can infect dogs, cats, and humans. Worms live in the intestines of animals and are expelled in the stool. Yards and homes can become contaminated from worm eggs that are passed in animal feces and hatch in the soil.

Just one roundworm larva has been known to damage the retina of the eye and cause blindness. Hookworm larvae can cause painful inflammation where they crawl just below the skin's surface. Drugs are available to destroy worms that infect dogs, cats and people.

People usually get salmonellosis by eating contaminated food. But it can also be transmitted to people through pets, particularly reptiles, baby chicks, and ducklings, which commonly pass the Salmonella bacterium in their feces.

People have to be especially careful around reptiles. You should not let them roam freely through the house. Always wash your hands with hot, soapy water after handling reptiles or anything they contact.

Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps. Most victims recover without treatment. The elderly are more likely to have more severe symptoms.

Ringworm, a skin and scalp dis-

ease, is caused by fungi. People get it by touching an infected animal. Ringworm can infect cats, dogs, horses and other animals. In humans, ringworm may produce ring-shaped, reddish, itchy rash. Topical and oral medications may be used to treat ringworm.

Cat-Scratch Disease (CSD) may cause fever, fatigue, headache and swollen lymph glands. Most people get better on their own in about three weeks. Most cat scratches don't develop into CSD. If you are bitten or scratched, wash the area immediately with soap and water.

Rabies, a deadly viral disease, is transmitted through the saliva of a rabid animal, usually by a bite. Domestic animals account for less than 10 percent of the reported animal rabies cases. If you are bitten, immediately wash the wound with soap and water, let the wound bleed, and get medical help at once.

Mycobacterium is one of the main infectious germ families associated with fish and aquarium water. A common route of this infection in humans is through cuts or scrapes on hands or feet. People should wear rubber gloves when cleaning the fish tank and wash their hands well afterwards.

If I haven't mentioned this before, wash your hands often when you are around animals.

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

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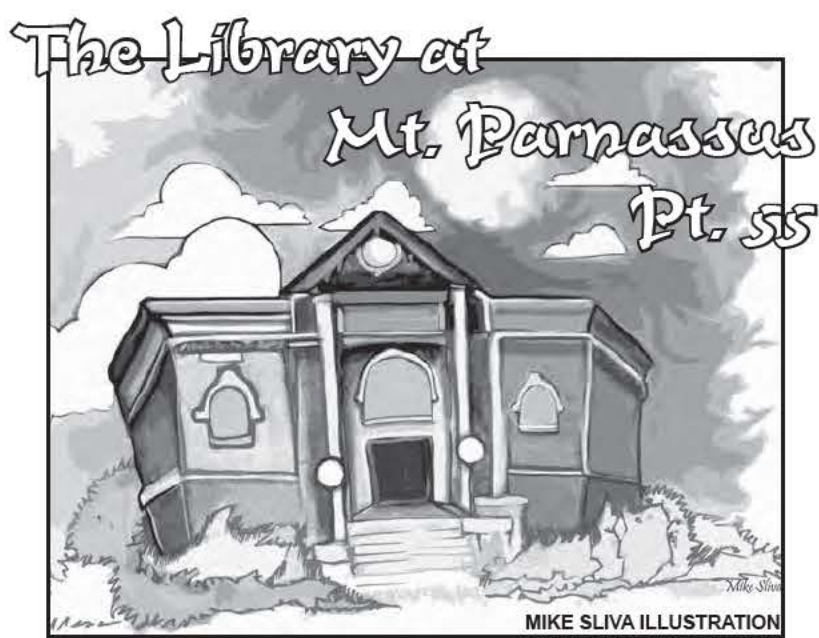
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At the last possible moment, I'd gotten up the nerve to ask Iona out.



By DAVID DETMOLD

It was a question, and she seemed affronted by it, and she took off for the other end of the bar like a silver ball up the shoot of a poorly lit pinball machine, leaving me with only her hurt words, trailing in the air where she had been standing a moment earlier. She said, “I don’t know.”

“That could have gone worse,” I thought.

I decided to stay and finish my beer before I went out to find a sewer grate.

She said, “I don’t know.”
You could take that several ways.
At least she hadn’t started laughing.

At least she hadn’t said, “Are you joking?”

But her tone had hardly been encouraging.

Still, it was only a minute later that Iona returned, determined to be kind, at least, for old time’s sake, or actually curious about what I could be thinking. How many times did she have to give me the hint before I took it?

Iona looked hard at me. Neither one of us said anything for maybe five seconds. Her look was not hostile. More baffled than anything.

I asked about her new job, harmless small talk, I thought, about horses and how to exercise them when the weather turned this cold.

Did she like the people she worked with at the riding stables, I wondered. “Are they good to work with?”

“Yes,” she said, and then added, “I’d rather just work with horses.”

This was problematic and called for some witty response but I was unable to come up with one just then.

I took another sip, and Iona turned away.

She put her nose in the crook of her arm and inhaled in a preparatory stutter of breath.

Like a fool, I grabbed her other hand, which she had left lying on the bar in front of me.

“Don’t sneeze,” I implored her.

She obeyed, in a stifled burst of exasperation.

Then, in a dramatic voice, as if her next move would be to place the back of her hand against her forehead, she said, “I really wanted to sneeze.”

Next day, stumbling down the Avenue in the malarial haze of a full winter hangover, I passed the Moldovan church that was the spiritual home for the many families from that distant land who had recently moved to join us here in Mt. Parnassus.

I saw three girls skating toward

me on roller skis – Aglaia, Eugenie, and Thalia – lovely in their lycra leggings. As they went skating by, the wind that followed bore a sweet scent of wheat fields and autumn rain. They veered off into the empty parking lot of the abandoned Iris Paint store, with its rainbow colored window displays gathering dust, cutting pretty figures in the halite crystals scattered on the icy blacktop.

I felt around in my pockets, trying to remember what it was I’d wanted at the market. I decided I would stop by the library for a minute first, to see Melantha.

“Just for a minute,” I told myself. “Then I’ll go shopping.”

Outside, on the darkened sidewalk, Creon was waiting for a lift. He was a fiercely self-sufficient man, who had marked his habitual passage around the uneven sidewalks of downtown with fingerholds gouged in the bare metal of cast iron lamp-posts and even on the roughened brick corners of alleyways and the battered facades of the old commercial buildings. But the steep stairs up to the cracked landing of the library defeated him.

As he waited in the freezing cold, I saw Herr Klee and Jack Coughlin come hurrying out of the building to offer him a hand. I hurried up to join them and together we lifted him, wheelchair and all, up the treacherous icy steps, one by one. Klee began to get impatient with our progress, and when we got to the landing, the awkwardness of our triumvirate in negotiating the double doors became apparent.

“Just hold the doors!” barked Klee. “I’ll carry him myself.”

“There will be no reward for your labor,” remarked Creon.

“There never is. For any of us,” said Jack taking one door, as I held the other.

“Out of my way,” said Klee. With hydraulic force, he lifted Creon in his chair and brought him quickly into the lobby, where he set him nicely down before the desk.

“The title you requested has come in,” said Melantha, turning to the cart behind her. She picked out a large volume bound in tattered green leather. “The complete works of Aristophanes, a very rare volume.”

“I’ve been trying to decide whether to hang myself, take poison, or push myself off a cliff. This should help,” said Creon with a bleak smile.

“Spring’s coming,” said Melantha. She turned back to her filing.

Creon rolled into the reading room, where the others had resumed their seats.

Continued next week

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Ice Formed, Peace Restored, Threats Made

Monday, 1/12

10:19 a.m. Officer reports additional graffiti on the side of a building on Third Street. Will follow up with DPW.

10:53 a.m. Officer reports vehicle parked on Avenue A with the stereo blasting music; could hear a lot of profanity. Vehicle moved along.

1:02 p.m. Report of subject stomping on ice below the dam, possibly trying to make holes for ice fishing. TFFD advised subject to get off the ice.

3:08 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on J Street. Operator was checking on the wellbeing of an animal that is believed to be underneath the dock behind the Salvation Army.

3:25 p.m. Caller reports that he was followed into the Food City parking lot and yelled at by the operator of another vehicle. Info given to patrol officers, who will be on lookout.

4:52 p.m. Party into station to report that he was assaulted by a person known to him two days ago. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 1/13

6:50 a.m. Report that a bottle of Tropical Fruit Arbor Mist was stolen from F.L. Roberts by a habitual shoplifter. Caller followed party out of store and was able to retrieve the stolen item. Officer followed up with suspect, who denied the incident. Summons issued.

10:27 a.m. 911 call reporting unwanted person acting belligerently in an office on Montague City Road. Subject moved along. Peace restored.

2:15 p.m. Caller reports that 5-8 minutes ago, a white minivan struck 2-3 vehicles in the Food City parking lot then left the scene. Officer spoke with registered owner of vehicle and advised him of the call. No damage to suspect’s vehicle. Investigated.

2:19 p.m. Caller reports that a vehicle “smashed through the gate” and struck several guardrails on Migratory Way. Plate comes back to a couple out of Bellows Falls, VT. Bellows Falls PD provided additional information. Vehicle owner eventually contacted MPD. Report taken; citation issued.

4:17 p.m. Disturbance/landlord-tenant dispute on Montague City Road. Investigated.

5:31 p.m. Caller reports feeling threatened by comments made to her by her boyfriend about her driver’s license photo. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 1/14

12:02 p.m. Drug/narcotics violation at Turners Falls High School. Services rendered.

2:07 p.m. Complaint that area of Avenue A is very

icy. DPW notified.

4:45 p.m. Caller reports that he can see two youths on the ice near the town hall/fish ladder area and they are pulling what appears to be skate ramps onto the ice. This was found to be adults that were on the river bank filling plastic containers with water. Subjects warned of danger due to the ice and dam so close by.

6:29 p.m. Caller reports dog struck by car on Central Street. Could not locate owner but did locate a friend of the owner who agreed to take responsibility for the dog. Officer transported dog to emergency vet, where it was found to have a broken back and had to be euthanized. Animal control officer located dog’s owner and left note at the residence.

Thursday, 1/15

10:28 a.m. Request for officer to assist with a student who is “refusing to comply” at Franklin County Technical School. Officer was able to help mediate situation.

11:23 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reported excessive noise and possible child abuse/neglect in the apartment upstairs from her. Advised of options.

1:21 p.m. Caller reports that there is new graffiti on the side of the Colle Opera House. Officer found that the graffiti appears to be in chalk; “Love,” “Justice,” and flowers. Pictures taken.

2:18 p.m. Building inspector reports that an unknown person appears to have entered the old Strathmore building through a window on the river side and shut off several heating valves, causing broken water pipes. Requested DPW to board up possible entry window. Patrols asked to keep eye out in the area.

7:25 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street, screaming, reports an unwanted male party who is drunk and “getting in people’s faces.” One party removed to hospital.

7:26 p.m. Complaint regarding soliciting by an energy organization on Park Villa Drive. Parties sent on way; supervisor advised that proper paperwork must be completed at MPD.

9:10 p.m. Complaint from Bernardo Drive regarding noise caused by neighbor leaving his older Peterbilt idling at night. Advised of

options.

Friday, 1/16

10:16 a.m. Report of suspicious activity at an apartment building on Central Street.

1:06 p.m. Caller reports that squatters have been entering a Millers Falls property; extra patrols requested.

1:20 p.m. Report of illegal dumping near Bookmill. Officer obtained information about suspect and will follow up.

1:53 p.m. Off-duty officer reporting suspected water main break at the Route 63 end of Highland Avenue. Water Department, TFFD, and MedCare notified. Highland Street closed while situation was addressed.

10:36 p.m. [REDACTED]

was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license; possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; and a motor vehicle lights violation.

Saturday, 1/17

2:30 a.m. 911 caller reports disturbance in her apartment building: banging, yelling, and dogs barking. Quiet upon officers’ arrival; couple admitted to having a verbal argument earlier. Peace restored.

11:12 a.m. Greenfield PD requested that Montague PD meet them at Fifth and J Streets, where a stolen vehicle was found. Officers attempted to locate a suspect from an armed robbery in Greenfield this morning. State police en route to assist. Suspect apprehended.

[REDACTED] was arrested on probable cause for an outside agency.

4:18 p.m. [REDACTED]

was arrested on a straight warrant.

4:25 p.m. Two-car accident near youth sculpture park on Third Street. No injuries.

9:45 p.m. Report from Second Street of suspicious auto whose operator threatened to kill the caller’s dog. Investigated.

11:51 p.m. Complaint from Bernardo Drive that neighbor has left tractor trailer parked outside and it has been running since 8 p.m., shaking the caller’s house. Officer spoke to party with vehicle. He will try to find an alternative solution to having the truck run all night.

Sunday, 1/18

2:02 a.m. Caller reports that a front porch light on Federal Street is blinking continuously. He thinks that the house may be vacant. Officers checked exterior. All appears to be secure; may be a faulty motion light.

2:41 a.m. Disturbance on H Street as a result of an altercation. Parties separated; neither wanted to pursue charges. All went their separate ways. Report taken.

9:56 a.m. Report of icy conditions at Turnpike Road and Millers Falls Road. DPW contacted and advised that main roads are getting slippery.

10:06 a.m. Three vehicle accident near the airport. Responding agencies advised to use caution due to reports of black ice. Two vehicles towed; MedCare asked to return for one passenger reporting neck pain.

All day: Numerous additional reports of accidents/cars off road and hazardous driving conditions.

11:03 a.m. Caller from Groat’s Corner advises that his business was broken into; when he came in this morning, he noticed that things were out of place and/or missing. Owner of Miller’s Pub also reports an attempted break-in. Investigated.

11:23 a.m. Caller reports that a vehicle was tailgating her on Montague City Road. When caller pulled into a parking lot, the other vehicle also pulled in. The operator of the other vehicle exited the vehicle, approached the caller, and pulled a Taser on her. Operator has since left in his vehicle. Referred to an officer.

3:37 p.m. Officer requests DPW with a loader as there is a large lake of water forming at Turners Falls Road and Hatchery Road.

4:06 p.m. Request for assistance with water pouring into the basement of Our Lady of Peace Church on Seventh Street.

9:20 p.m. Caller advised that Third/Fourth Street areas are very icy; she fell and struck her head. Medical attention refused. DPW advised; will call in a crew to sand.

9:23 p.m. Report of basement flooding on N Street. Services rendered.

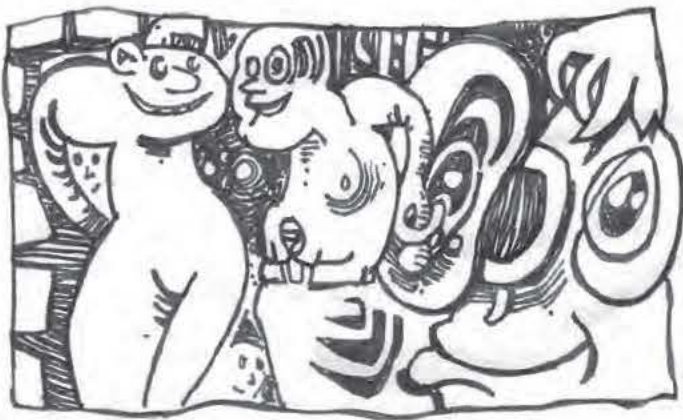
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LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on January 20, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Seasonal Alcohol

Calculating the total population of Montague for the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, for purposes of determining how many seasonal alcohol licenses Montague is entitled to, the town clerk's office forwarded a population estimate of 8482 souls residing in our five villages. There is only one seasonal alcohol license currently issued in Montague, to the Thomas and Thomas golf club.

Apollo's Well Located on Town-Owned Land

At Wendell's January 12 selectboard meeting, Francesco Compagnone, known locally as Apollo, met with the board over a property line difficulty. The recent survey of the town center, done in preparation for construction design work for the proposed new library, shows that Apollo's fence is 20 feet inside the lot where the town offices are presently located.

On town land, but on his side of the fence, are four peach trees, nut trees he planted, a mushroom garden, and the well Apollo uses to water his garden.

Selectboard member Dan

Keller said the final library plan is due by February, and once that information is in hand, the board could possibly find a solution that works for everyone. Apollo offered to walk the property in the daytime with board members. He said several times he wanted to work things out in the easiest way possible.

Biosolids Disposal Costs in Montague

Biosolids disposal is a big expense, according to Bob Trombley, superintendent of Montague's Water Pollution Control Facility. It accounts for 9% of the requested 17% increase in operations budget. He pointed to the Esleek Manufacturing Company in Turners Falls as a business that has increased the amount of disposal, so the amount of dry tonnage from Esleek has increased by 33%.

Selectboard member Alan Ross asked if the increase in solid waste disposal at Esleek is an indicator of the amount of business the company is doing.

Trombley said the increase is an indicator of increased production 90% of the time, though sometimes it results from mistakes in the manufacturing process. He said Esleek does not reimburse the town for the solid waste disposal.

GARDENER from page B1

tree and will create pulp or firewood or railroad ties in about thirty years. Much of the swampy growth is draped in Spanish moss, a flowering plant which, while not parasitic, can reduce its host tree's growth by blocking the native tree's source of light. This moss also increases wind resistance, making the tree more vulnerable in hurricane season. We reach Florida at noon. It is a balmy 53 degrees. We have been 1218 miles. Our drive leaves the interstate for local state roads. At 1:30 we drive through Palatka on the Saint John's River. It is still in the high fifties.

We drive by lettuce fields, orange trees laden with fruits and migrant workers harvesting full-sized cabbage. In Crescent City we stop at a Winn-Dixie for groceries. We are a few short miles from our destination.

At mile number 1340 we arrive at the Georgetown Marina and cabins. It is mid-afternoon and cloudy but mild. We are reassured that we have brought the sun with us, and

that tomorrow and the weekend will bring fine weather in the high sixties to low seventies. We eagerly settle in, welcomed by our host Adam, an energetic fellow with a charming drawl.

Friday is a lovely sunny day, breezy with projected high of seventy. Perfect. We didn't travel to Florida to bake on the beach. We came for a break from winter, to be outside all day, to enjoy a full month of days with no appointments, no meetings, no agenda and certainly no "have to" list.

After breakfast at Florida's oldest diner in Crescent City, we drive north to Palatka to walk in Ravine Gardens state park. Ravine Gardens is a 146-acre park developed during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration, and is one of nine such parks in the state. It was planted with some 25,000 azaleas blooming now in pinks, magenta and red.

We walk the two mile circle road. Below, the ravines are traversed with many hiking paths, a suspension bridge, and a feeder stream of

the Saint John River. There are alligators in these waters but we didn't see one. Apparently they are shy of humans, with good reason, no doubt.

The Saint John and Lake George where we are staying is called the Bass Capital of the World. Our cabin is part of a fishing camp. There are some snow birds like us who come just for the weather but mostly our neighbors are fishermen who have trailered their boats and parked their RVs. We do not speak their language and they are a bit leery of us at least at the outset.

One neighbor who is from Ohio confides that he is a foreigner here too. We expect that, like many groups of immigrants, we will gradually assimilate. Maybe we'll return as drawling fishermen!

In the meantime we are enjoying sightseeing and soaking up the warm breezes of what is already spring-like weather here. Think of it: when we return home in mid-February, it will be time to start tomato plants!



HALL from page B1

So here's the bad news: the Friends of the Montague Common Hall just found out that the work on the cupola cost \$12,770 instead of the estimated \$8,700. Ouch! Perhaps some readers have noticed the bright blue cherry picker parked in front of the building? Unfortunately, that piece of machinery rents for hundreds of dollars a day, and it's the only way to get to the cupola.

It's not an unusual story when you're working on an old building. Stosz Construction, a family-owned company from Amherst, started tearing off roofing boards and found rotted boards beneath them. There's no easy answer after that!

But there is a crisis. The budget is precariously balanced, and there is a desire to not raise rental rates in order to sustain the Hall as an affordable community resource.

Chris Wise, president of the Friends of the Montague Common Hall Corporation, said, "Our immediate need is for about \$8,000 to pay for the cupola repairs" — they already made a down payment of \$3,900 — "but we also need to rebuild our cushion, because with a building this big and old, there is always something."

He's proud to announce that an anonymous donor has offered a challenge grant to match any donation up to \$1,000.

Yes, the Friends of the Montague Common Hall are looking for angels, but small donations, ideas and commitment to this facility matter, too.

For instance, the annual December "Make and Take" sale, in which children created holiday gifts and ornaments, earned \$1,200 for the Hall. Perhaps those organizers might consider another event in the spring around Easter.

A year ago, who could have

guessed that many of us in the neighborhood would be able to walk to yoga classes? Nadya Tkachenko thought of it, and her yoga classes offer something great to the community, while helping to sustain the Hall.

Cooking classes, a knitting group, a small theater company; those are a few ideas that come to my mind, but it will take the creative energy of a group to think of all the ways to fully utilize the space and produce the much needed revenues.

It will take fundraising ideas, people with expertise in grant writing, and folks who simply like to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. Once the urgent need to pay for the roof repairs is resolved, the Hall is not that far from realizing a sustaining budget.

Creating economic security is not a Sisyphean task, and people should not turn away, thinking it is hopeless. Last year's total expenses totaled \$21,517, and last year's income \$19,233. Of that income, rentals brought in \$12,958, donations \$4,699, and fundraising events \$1,566.

The "cushion" the organization needs could be generated by more rentals, more fundraising events and more donations. Closing the gap between income and expenses

and putting aside that cushion does not seem hopeless. It appears that there's enough energy and goodwill in this village to address urgent needs and then also to sustain this terrific resource.

The building, kitchen and all, rents for \$25 an hour with a two hour minimum. Anyone who has hosted a birthday party in the winter for a group of ten-year-olds might want to find the rental forms online right now at www.montaguecommonhall.org. People interested in updates, can also seek out the Facebook page.

At this point the Common Hall is not fully accessible; the kitchen and bathroom are down stairs. Architectural plans exist to address that issue, along with energy conservation efforts, but right now the money is not there to put these plans into action.

A small but devoted group of people has been grappling with these questions and more for a long time, firm in their commitment to care for the Hall so that generations to come might enjoy it.

It is time for others to step up. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 25, and come with your ideas to share while admiring the recent renovations.



ARMEN from page B1

artist. "Building and nurturing an artistic community is something that takes time and patience while making connections throughout the community that fall into place."

Armen earned an associate's degree in art from Greenfield Community College. Professor Budge Hyde, noted for his superlative teaching abilities, was Max's mentor. "I continue to meet and have discussions with him even now," said Armen.

After GCC, Armen won a transfer scholarship to Massachusetts College of Arts and Design in Boston and obtained a bachelor's in art. "I was again lucky to have an outstanding professor, named Kofi Kayiga, working with me along with a comfortable work space."

Suzanne LoManto admires Armen's work immensely. "What you first notice about Max's work," said LoManto, "is the unaffectedly direct style and childlike perspective. By utilizing the naive, he expresses many different moods, and a great deal of humor."

LoManto's organization, Turners Falls RiverCulture, is funded

by the town of Montague, a grant from the Adams ArtProgram of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and civic-minded local businesses. It aims to enhance and promote cultural programming in Turners Falls.

RiverCulture has experienced much success in this mission, winning the 2011-2012 Massachusetts Commonwealth Award for Creative Community, and drawing tens of thousands of visitors near and far each year to Turners Falls. In 2007, the organization's total economic impact on the region was estimated at \$785,399.

"We're always on the lookout for volunteers," said director LoManto, "and artists and other performers for our events. If you'd like to exhibit art, we have galleries downtown." For more information, call her at (413) 835-1390.

"Anyone who would like to publicize anything," she added, "in Montague and Turners Falls — cultural events, fundraisers, school events, or any other community endeavor — may send the information to us at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org."



WICKS PHOTO

The kitchen of the Common Hall will be repaired and repainted.

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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.

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CALL FOR POETRY:

Call for original poetry submissions. "Love Your Food, Love Your Co-op" theme. All welcome to enter, all styles. Falling near Valentine's Day, the event's theme includes love, friends, romance, or an ode to your favorite food. Poetry Reading on **Friday February 13, 6-8p.m.** at Green Fields Market Co-op. Audience to vote for people's choice award; prizes will be given. Send up to 3 poems to event coordinators Laura Rod-



ROBERT CORWIN PHOTO

Kim and Reggie Harris perform as part of the People's Music Network Winter Gathering concert on Friday, 1/23 at the Greenfield Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

ley at laurarodley@hotmail.com or Faith Kindness at fdk617@gmail.com. By 2/1/15.

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

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

People's Music Network Winter Gathering held at the Greenfield Middle School. Kick off concert featuring Kim and Reggie Harris and many others, starting at 7:30 p.m. Throughout the weekend: educational workshops, songswaps, one-on-one

mentoring sessions with Kim and Reggie. The PMN Winter Gathering brings together a rich blend of activists and artists using music for social change. Workshops, skills sharing, peer support and performances. \$, continues 1/24 & 1/25. Info: peoplesmusic.org

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Roman Holiday*. Romantic comedy classic with Audrey Hepburn as a bored and sheltered princess on a whirlwind tour of Rome with debonair reporter Gregory Peck. Cole Porter songs provide the soundtrack. Shot on location. 1953. B & W. NR. \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Misty Blues Band*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Who's Been Here? Let's Find Out!* Join Janel

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Shetland Fiddle Workshop*. Mary Lauren Fraser, who was traveling in the UK for several months in the fall, collecting and learning the different styles and tunes from Ireland, the Highlands, Isle of Skye, and the Shetland Isles, offers this workshop in Shetland fiddling for intermediate players who want to learn a tune and get some style on it! Donations go to the Grange fundraiser for repairs on the cupola and roof. 3:30 p.m. Potluck at 5:30 p.m., followed by a *Contra Dance*.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *Danse Café*: French & Breton dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience. 3 to 6 p.m., \$

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

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

French King Bowling Center, Erving: *Wine and Canvas fundraiser for the Montague Reporter*. 6 to 9 p.m. For tickets contact Kathleen, (413) 367-2867, Lyn (413) 863-4779 or Margaret, (413) 768-8533.

Madison on Avenue, Turners Falls: *Bork-Tinen-Kahn & Caleb Wetherbee*. The music starts at 6 p.m. acoustic folk, country-blues, sensitive ballads, Latin love songs, etc.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Community Chorus Winter Concert*. Chase away the winter blues with an evening of inspiring music from many cultures. Some singalongs, refreshments offered, \$, 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *The Lentils, Grape Room, Rabbit Rabbit, and The Carbuncles*. All ages/substance free, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Makaya McCraven*. Chicago-based jazz percussionist, \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *All Too Human, Adam Buynicki*, tuba-driven rock and more, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Gender Role*

Free Contra Dance, caller and band TBD, \$, 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Multimedia Album Release Show for Basement Suite, The Ambiguities, Rebel Base*, and more, \$, 9:30 p.m.

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BASKETBALL from page B1

Senators 52 to 47. The win improved the Indians to a record of 7 and 1 (8 and 2 overall) in the Hampshire League, a mere half-game behind highflying Hopkins Academy. It was cold night, not as cold as it had been, but cold. And Turners Falls played cold, and the Senators took advantage.

Mahar got off to a 4-nothing lead, and led 9 to 3 with 4:16 left in the quarter. It took the Tribe a full quarter to take back the lead, and after the buzzer sounded to end the first quarter, Turners took their first lead of the game, 15-13.

The first quarter was aggressive. With missed shots came bodies fighting for the rebounds and with all those players jockeying for position and scrambling for loose balls, the fouls racked up. By the end of the quarter, Turners had amassed 7 fouls.

And as the first quarter wound down, Coach Gary Mullins sent in the substitutes. "I did it so they rest." He explained after the game. "They could sit for the last minute of the quarter, the break between the quarters and when they came back in the second, they would be rested."

Only 2 starters remained on the court at the end of the first quarter and into the second.

But Turners continued to shoot cold in the second quarter, and both teams piled on the fouls. Coach

Mullins was forced to make more substitutions and when the midgame buzzer sounded, the game was knotted at 26. That's when Coach Mullins changed his strategy.

In the second half, Turners instituted a full court press. And each time Mahar tried an inbound pass, Turners contested it. At times, it took them two or three tries just to get the ball in play.

And when they did get the ball inbounds, a swarm of Indians would go for the ball, waving their arms and going for the steal. Mahar no longer had the luxury of slowly dribbling the ball up-court to set up a play.

From line to line to line, Turners harassed the man with the ball and if he tried to pass the ball, someone else would go for the steal. And when they tried a shot, the paint became a mosh pit. But with this aggressive play came more fouls. And some of the starters were getting into foul trouble.

Then Nick York got hurt. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Nick York went down. He was helped to his feet, hobbled off the court and took a seat. Assistant coach Ed Marvell inspected Nick's ankle and the two of them left. When Nick returned, he donned an ankle brace and late in the game, he returned to the floor.

With 4 minutes left in the game, it was all tied up at 43. And at two

minutes 50 seconds, it was knotted at 45. But that's when the Tribe pulled away. Turners was able to put Mahar away 52 to 47.

Teams win for various reasons. I think in this game, the key was communication. With cold shooting, foul trouble and a bevy of substitutions, the coaching staff were forced to adjust to the situation. Throughout the game, all three of the coaches had continuous communication with the players.

From yelling "Ten" when the shot clock ran down, to pointing out any open Mahar player. And during timeouts, while Coach Mullins was mapping out his strategy to three of his players, Coaches Eddy Marvell and Jay Liimatainen were advising others.

After it was all over, Liam Ellis processed the game with Coach Mullins. They spoke about the game for a full five minutes. I won't divulge what they were talking about, but rest assured, it was helpful.

Tyler Charbonneau led the Indians with 20 points, 8 of those came from foul shots. Liam Ellis had 17 including three 3-pointers. Jalen Sanders added 7 and both Nick York and Tionne Brown scored 4.

On January 20, Turners hosts Athol. On Friday the 23rd, they travel to Mohawk, and on the 28th, Lee comes to town.



Alyiah Sanders gets some air on the way to the hoop.

DAVID HOIT PHOTO

On Monday, January 19, the Turners Falls Girls basketball team was edged out by Greenfield, 42 to 39.

The entire game was close. Turners trailed by 1 point, 23-24, at halftime, and when the buzzer sounded to end the third, they found themselves leading 33-30. Greenfield outscored them 12 to 6 in the final period.

The loss gives Turners a 4-and-6 record, only 1 game out in the Franklin South standings. In Monday's game, Maddy Chmyzinski and Alyiah Sanders each

got 12 points. Maddy had a 3-pointer and sank an amazing 9 free throws. Alyiah scored 3 field goals and 6 from the foul line.

Abigail Loynd contributed 7 points, including a shot from behind the three-point line. Haleigh Basset contributed 4 points and Chloe Ellis and Alysha Wozniak scored two each.

The Girls' next game will be at home against Smith Academy at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 22. They host St. Mary on Friday, January 23, and then travel to Mohawk on Monday, January 26.

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