



Turners Filmmaker At U.N.

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YEAR 11 – NO. 11

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 6, 2012



JOSH HEINEMANN PHOTO

First Snow of the Year

Winter has introduced itself gently this year. Fresh snow dusts barn and field on the Overing-Ryan property, on the town line between Wendell and New Salem.

Shop To Pop Until Summer

By PETER KOBEL

TURNERS FALLS – The Powertown Pop Up Shop, originally intended as a temporary holiday marketplace for local artists and artisans, will now stay in place until the end of June. Lisa Davol, director of Turners Falls RiverCulture, which had spearheaded the venture in the former Hallmark gallery on Avenue A, made the case for extending the market into summer before the Montague selectboard on Monday, Dec. 3. Board members enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

The creation of the Pop Up Shop aims to create opportunities for local artists to sell their work, to animate a vacant space in the center of town and to act as a pilot store for a longer term local arts store.

Davol arrived well prepared for her presentation, with what she called her “posse” in tow. They included Lynn Nichols and Don Kruger of Western Mass Arts, who partnered with RiverCulture to create the Pop Up Shop; Christa

see POP UP SHOP page 6

Turners Comes Up Short to End a Historic Season

By JEFF SINGLETON

WESTFIELD – The Turners Falls High School football team has learned many lessons this year about football and life, particularly about the emotional roller-coaster ride that is sports. They began the season with very high expectations, but lost two of their first four games to arguably inferior teams. At one point they went six quarters without scoring an offensive touchdown.

Then suddenly they sprang to life with a powerhouse offense that averaged over 30 points a game and a smothering defense. They crushed teams like Athol and Mahar, which had dominated them in recent years. They beat Frontier, which they had not defeated in over a decade. They scored 40 points in a win over Easthampton, which Turners had never beaten. In the Great Turkey Day Game of 2012, they beat Greenfield in a classic event before a record crowd. In the first round of the playoffs, they beat a tough Ware team 36 to 8. In that game, running back Ryan Wilder set the Franklin County single season rushing record. They were headed for the Division 4 playoffs, also known as the “Superbowl.”

So on the first day of December they met a team called Pathfinder, a Tech School located down in Palmer. The “Pioneers,” as they call themselves, are a big, tough smash-mouth football team that hadn’t lost a game all season. It was cold and snowy, the kind of late-season weather that benefits big, tough smash-mouth teams. Pathfinder took the opening kickoff and rumbled down field for a time-consuming but relatively easy score. Nothing flashy, just slam, bang, pow.

On its next possession Turners moved the ball but stalled on the Pathfinder 30 yard line. Turners then held Pathfinder to three downs and out, got the ball back, and drove again deep inside the Pioneers’ territory, only to have a potential scoring pass dropped on fourth down. That action took up nearly all the first half, which ended with Pathfinder leading 6-0. No one was going to dominate this game. It would come down to a few plays.

Turners took the second half kickoff right down the field for a score. The key was a Ryan Wilder run of 41 yards, caused by a gaping hole in the Pathfinder line opened by Turners’ blockers. (The run also gave Wilder over 2,000 total rushing yards for the season.) Turners then made the two-point conversion for an 8 to 6 lead that proved to be very brief. Pathfinder immediately drove down the field. On a third and thirteen from the Turners 23, they managed to convert a rather wobbly pass into a touchdown. The extra point was unsuccessful, so the score at this point was only 12 to 8 with an entire quarter left to play. Turners was still in it.

The Indians immediately shot back into contention with a strong kickoff return by Dan McCormack to midfield. But they stalled at that point, failing to convert on fourth down with just over eight minutes to play. This gave Pathfinder excellent field position. The Pioneers drove the ball down inside the Turners five yard line and were ready to ice the game. But they were stopped on a dramatic fourth-down stand by the Turners defense. The Indians took

see TEAM page 8

Does this Cat Have a Home?



Erin MacLean shows off a fully restored Peanut.

By SHIRA HILLEL

TURNERS FALLS – In the spring of 2008, Erin MacLean, then new to Turners Falls, couldn’t help but notice the many stray cats around town. A particular cat caught her attention, and while her heart went out to him, she didn’t know how to help. Curiously, one day she saw him with a collar on. Upon closer inspection, the collar tag read: “Does this cat have a home?” There was a phone number on the back.

MacLean called the number, and Nicole Watson answered. Watson is a veterinarian technician with the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, and she has a wealth of knowledge.

Together, they named the cat Stanley, and made an appointment to get him adopted through Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society. There was no immediate opening, so MacLean fostered him for several weeks. MacLean, co-owner of LOOT and the apartments above it, had space at the time because some of those apartments were not yet ready to be rented out. Stanley was ultimately adopted.

Watson and MacLean’s collaboration over Stanley’s

care marked the beginning of their ongoing stray cat project. The two struck up a friendship based on their shared loved of cats. Between the two of them, MacLean and Watson have cared for over 20 stray cats, and have significantly reduced the feral cat population in Turners Falls.

Watson is moving to Austin, Texas later this month. Before she goes, she says, “We want to educate people. It is not sustainable to have only certain people do this work.”

“It feels good to help cats,” Watson added.

Cats sometimes exist in a nebulous area in the public mind. Treated like communal property, they are too easy to lose and too hard to find.

Leslie Harris, executive director of the Dakin, said that in most towns, officers are forbidden to help cats because the towns don’t want to spend money on the felines.

From a pragmatic standpoint, it’s understandable that stray dogs have received more attention; large animals traveling in packs are more threatening than solitary creatures roaming on the fringes. But the underlying

see CAT page 6

PETS OF THE WEEK

Sweet Cookie



Oreo

Well, the source of my name ought to be obvious. I am just as sweet as a cookie, and some say that I am beautiful as well, but I do not like to brag. I am a 6-year-old female, a nice age in cat years.

I will sit on your lap to be petted and stay forever if you let me. I am shorthaired, and, like all cats, I keep myself very neat and clean. I get along with other cats. So if you already have one, maybe we could become friends.

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

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY EVENTS

Annual Paper Follies: Paper Cutting and Weaving

Expert paper artist Luc Bodin will demonstrate how to make greeting cards, ornaments, and decorations at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, Dec. 15. Bodin's paper folding, cutting and weaving holiday workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn to create paper spirals, snowflakes, birds, and stars.

The workshop aims to inspire creative craftsmanship, to recycle paper, and to encourage people to make, rather than buy.

Participants will leave with a sense of having mastered new paper skills. People can join the drop-in workshop for as long as they like. The program is appropriate for adults, teens and older youth accompanied by adults. No prior experience is necessary. Paper will be supplied. Bring your own scissors.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By Fred Cicetti

Leonia, N.J. – Q. What exactly is a "floater" that you see in your eye?

Floater create images that look like specks, filaments, rings, dots, cobwebs or other shapes. Floaters are most vivid when looking at the sky or a white surface such as a ceiling. They move as your eyes move and seem to dart away when you try to look at them directly. Some biology first.

The lens in the front of the eye focuses light on the retina in the back of the eye. The lens is like the one in a camera, and the retina



What is missing from this picture?

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Email your answer to editor@montaguereporter.org.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

No, You're Not Seeing Things; Yes You Are

is like the digital sensor that records the image. The space between the lens and retina is filled with the *vitreous*, a clear gel that helps maintain the shape of the eye.

Floaters occur when the vitreous slowly shrinks over time. As the vitreous changes, it becomes stringy, and the strands can cast shadows on the retina. These strands are the floaters.

In most cases, floaters are just annoying and are nothing to worry about. When discovered, they are very distracting. But, in time, they usually settle below the line of sight.

Most people who have visible floaters gradually develop the ability to make them *disappear* by ignoring them.

Over seven in ten people experience floaters. Floaters are more likely to develop with age.

When people reach middle age, the vitreous gel may pull away

from the retina, causing *posterior vitreous detachment*. It is a common cause of floaters, and it is more likely in people who are diabetics, nearsighted, had eye surgery, or suffered inflammation inside the eye.

These vitreous detachments are often accompanied by light flashes. The flashes can be a warning sign of a detached retina. Flashes are also caused by head trauma that makes you *see stars*.

Sometimes light flashes appear to be little lightning bolts or waves. This type of flash is usually caused by a blood-vessel spasm in the brain, which is called a migraine. These flashes can happen without a headache and they are called an *ophthalmic migraine*.

If your floaters are just bothersome, eye doctors will tell you to ignore them. In rare cases, a bunch of floaters can hamper sight. Then a *vitrectomy* may be necessary. A vitrectomy is a surgical procedure

that removes the vitreous gel with its floaters, and replaces it with a salt solution.

The vitreous is mostly water, so patients who undergo the procedure don't notice a difference. However, this is a risky procedure, so most eye surgeons won't recommend it unless the floaters are a major impediment.

Many new floaters can sometimes appear suddenly. When this happens, it usually is not sight-threatening and requires no treatment.

However, a sudden increase in floaters could mean that a part of the retina has pulled away from its normal position at the back wall of the eye.

A detached retina is a serious condition and demands emergency treatment to prevent permanent impairment or even blindness.

Send questions to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – December 10th to 14th

GILL-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 by 11 a.m. the day before. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call (413) 863-9357. Leave a message if the center is not open.

Monday, 12/10

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment
10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, 12/11

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Solstice Concert with Roger Tinknell

Wednesday, 12/12

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment
10 a.m. Aerobics

11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 12/13
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 12/14
10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday, 12/10

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:30 p.m. Quilting
Tuesday, 12/11
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 12/12
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Yoga
12 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 12/13
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Posture Perfect
Friday, 12/14
9:00 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT Senior Activities

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 \$4 (first class free).
- Senior Lunch – Fridays at 12. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

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Local Briefs

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Welcome Yule returns to the Shea Theater, Turners Falls, on Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., with a Sunday, Dec. 9 matinee performance at 2 p.m. Performances include music, dance, songs and stories to drive the dark away.

Meet **Massachusetts artist Christine Winship** at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, during an open reception on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Winship's artwork, including landscape paintings and pet portraits, will be on display through January in the Great Hall.

Come celebrate **Gifts of Art** holiday festivities at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery on Saturday, Dec. 8, from noon to 8 p.m. Soak up the gallery's warm cheer and enjoy a cup of hot cider and a cookie while viewing paintings and prints. Keep family and friends warm with shawls, hats and scarves. Delight your family and friends with fantastic jewelry, dragonfly pottery, and more, all locally

made.

Saturdays in December will feature free refreshments, demonstrations and an opportunity to meet many of the artists. Regular hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. Call the gallery at (413) 367-2885 for more information.

The eighth annual **Wendell Holiday Fair** will be held on Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at Town Hall. Local crafts people and musicians will gather to celebrate the season and support the music and arts for local children. The fair is a fundraiser for the Swift River School Music and Art departments.

TFHS Class of 2015 will hold its annual **Breakfast with Santa** on Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Montague Elks in Turners Falls from 8 to 11 a.m. Students will serve pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, coffee, cocoa and juice. Advance tickets can be purchased from members of the class of 2015 or at the door. Breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students/seniors and \$3 for children under 10.

The Scottish Rite Masons in the

Valley of Greenfield will be **assisting Santa Claus** as he makes personal calls to local children on Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. Parents may pick up a form at the following locations: in Turners Falls at the Carnegie Library, Scotty's on the Hill and 2nd Street Bakery on Fourth St. and in Greenfield at Foster's Super Market, all branches of Greenfield Cooperative Bank, the Greenfield Public Library and the Garden Theater Cinemas. Completed forms must be mailed to the Masons no later than Friday, Dec. 14, so they can be forwarded to Santa Claus. For more information, call (413) 863-4982.

The Turners Falls High School Rise Up Class is spreading the word about a **Dodge Ball Tournament** to benefit the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Shelter in the high school gym on Friday, Dec. 14, starting at 6 p.m. General admission is \$1.

Send local briefs to reporter-local@montaguema.net.

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

GRADE 6

First Honors

Madison Adams
Samantha Bocon
Lindsey Bourbeau
Reilan Castine
Kyle Dodge
Rebecca Harrell
Jenna Jacobsen
Anna Kochan
Mireya Ortiz
John Putala
Hunter Sanders
Kelyn Socquet
Holly Tetreault
Victoria Veaudry
Sarah Waldron
Cassidhe Wozniak

Second Honors

Ryan Campbell
Dominic Carne
Ryan Kucenski
Jacob LaBelle
Alexis Lacey
Danielle Lively
Dizarre Lopez
Julia Massey
Bryce Waldron
Hannah Welles
Amelia Worden

Third Honors

Katherine Moreno-Sibrian
Will Turn

GRADE 7

First Honors

Malik Baker-Gore

Alora DeForge
Sienna Dillensneider
Adrianna DiMaio
Chloe Ellis
Hannah Graves
Maya Hancock-Pezzati
Samantha Kolodziej
Carlie Kretchmar
Kyle Kucenski
Snejana Lashtur
Simon Lorenzo
Abigail Loynd
Aliyah Sanders
Kaeden Socquet
Jeremy Towle
John Wheeler

Second Honors

Hannah Bogusz
Branden Chapin
Madison Chmyzinski
Amanda Cooke
Michael Dobias
Kasia Dobosz
Sahaley DuPree
Kaylee Jackson
Kurtis Kuenzel
Daniel Momaney
D'ahnee Smith
Madison St. Marie
David Tricoli
Samuel Yolish

Third Honors

Samuel Adams
Lynn Arsenault
Ian Cecchi
Kylie Fleming
Zachary Lastowski
Kylee Mason

Kayli Messenger
Hadyn Patenaude
Jacob Sisson
Rachel Tucker

GRADE 8

First Honors

Gabrielle Arzuaga
Tionne Brown
Tahner Castine
Simon Lorenzo
Nicholas Croteau
Jemma Rose Dickson
Savannah Donahue
William Doyle
Stone Dresser
Hunter Felix
Jordyn Fiske
Ryan Howard
Bryn Kruzlic
Michelle Leh
Kaili Lynch
Ian Moriarty
Nicholas Morin
Owen Ortiz
Will Roberge
Patrick Salls
Amanda Savinski
Yanira Smith
Kate Sprinkle
Kortney Thurber
Riley Wood
Jordan Wyman

Second Honors

Tommy Bocharnikov
Jaynise Burton
Jordan Cornish
Sabryna Crafts
Richard Craver

Madison Currier
Cassandra Harris
Jillian Harris
Melissa Hersey
Tess Hunter
Claire Johnson
Madelyn Johnson
Clarissa Levin
Austin Reid Lastowski
Robert Rinaldi
Miguel Russell
Frederick Smith
Nicole Thibeault
Hailey Trott
Mark Waite
Brianna Wilder
Jeremy Wolfram
Third Honors
Michael Babcock
Timothy Black
Brittany Budrawich
Nolan Courtemanche
Christian Diaz
Jenna Hackett
Hattie Harvey
Calley Hubert
Corey Johnson
Alyssa Kordana
Kieran Masson
Alison McKenna
Nicole Peralta
Luis Vega Morales
Mitchell Waldron
Alysha Wozniak
Jacob Wright
Dimitrios Zantouladiis

~Looking Back: 10 years ago this week~

Here's the way it was 10 years ago this week: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Building a Future

A local woman and a man from the Boston area have submitted proposals to renovate a building slated for demolition in the 2nd Street Alley in Turners Falls. Montague Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio said two proposals were submitted to the town by the Nov. 4 deadline to restore a brick structure located behind the Cutlery Block. Denise Dipaolo's plan is to convert the building into a multi-use commercial space. Richard Becker's plan seeks to convert the building into a residential/business space.

Couture Bros. on the Move

There have been a lot of rumors about all the activity in the vicinity of the offices of the Franklin County Housing Authority, across from Esleeck Paper Company in Turners Falls. One of those rumors

is true: Couture Bros. Inc is moving out. They were the owners and landlord of the upper offices, using the lower part of the former Montague Paper Mill for the paint contracting business. The landlord is Rural Development Corporation, with the Franklin County Housing Authority remaining a tenant.

Open Space Meeting in Lake Pleasant

By the warm glow of the pot-bellied stove, a dozen denizens of Montague gathered on Monday night, Dec. 2, in the hallowed hall of the National Spiritual Alliance in Lake Pleasant for the fifth and final in the series of village open space and recreational meetings, organized by the town Planning Office. Residents from each village were encouraged to attend the informational meetings to help shape a new five-year plan for preservation and use of open space, including an inventory of species observed in town and discussion of potential recreational uses of the land.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Suspicious People in Suspicious Situations

Monday, 11/26

9:40 a.m. Trespassing hunters on West Mineral Road, Millers Falls.
2:52 p.m. Identity theft at [redacted] Sunderland Road, Montague.

7:43 p.m. Property damage at Miskinis Television, 294 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Tuesday, 11/27

12:53 p.m. Officer requested at Great Falls Middle School on Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

10:46 p.m. Larceny at [redacted] Coolidge Avenue, Turners Falls.

11:33 p.m. Domestic disturbance at [redacted] Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 11/28

5:30 p.m. Domestic disturbance at [redacted] Fourth Street, Turners Falls. Violators not located.

7:59 p.m. [redacted] arrested at his home on charges of assault and

battery.

Thursday, 11/29

8:20 p.m. Larceny at [redacted] K Street, Turners Falls.
12:52 p.m. Assault and battery at Scotty's Convenience Store, 66 Unity Street, Turners Falls.

4:14 p.m. Lost animal on Sunderland Road, Montague.

Friday, 11/30

8:50 p.m. Suspicious situation on Turnpike Road, Turners Falls.

Saturday, 12/01

12:24 p.m. Lost animal at [redacted] Country Club Lane, Turners Falls.

6:17 p.m. [redacted] was taken into protective custody at Franklin Emergency Shelter at 15

Farren Avenue, Turners Falls.
9:05 p.m. [redacted] arrested at her home.

Sunday, 12/02

4:37 p.m. Weapons, [redacted] Whiteman Way, Turners Falls.

Monday, 12/03

11:00 a.m. Suspicious person in the alley between H Street and I Street, Turners Falls.

Wendell Holiday Fair
Dec. 8th & 9th
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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Michael Muller

A Pension Deficit Disorder

BEWARE OF WEALTHY CEOs WHO LECTURE THE REST OF US ABOUT TIGHTENING OUR BELTS.

By SCOTT KLINGER

While America's CEOs are fretting about the government's so-called "fiscal cliff," millions of American workers face a financial disaster that gets much less media attention. There's a half-trillion-dollar deficit in the nation's worker retirement benefits.

The Great Recession, which decimated retirement assets, played a big role in building this lesser-known cliff. But many corporations could have avoided the problem by shoring up these funds during the boom years. Instead, they siphoned pension assets for other profit-boosting purposes. When the pension deficits started to balloon, many corporations responded by slashing back their benefit programs.

As a result, Americans today are more reliant on government-funded Social Security and Medicare programs than at any other time in the last 60 years.

What's even more outrageous is that the very same CEOs who have contributed to rampant retirement insecurity are now calling for cuts to these earned-benefit programs for senior citizens.

Nearly 100 CEOs have banded together to convince the American public that Social Security and Medicare lie at the root of America's fiscal challenges. Their "Fix the Debt" campaign features plain-spoken Americans in their ads and sounds moderate because they call for both spending cuts and revenue increases.

But the real objectives of the campaign include massive new corporate tax cuts and reduced spending on Social Security and Medicare, which would likely involve raising the retirement age.

American workers, at present, cannot collect full Social Security until age 66, the highest retirement age among rich countries. In 2020, the Social Security retirement age will rise to 67, assuring that American workers will be toiling longer than any other industrial-

ized country for years to come. In contrast, Japanese and Chinese workers can collect their equivalent of Social Security starting at age 60.

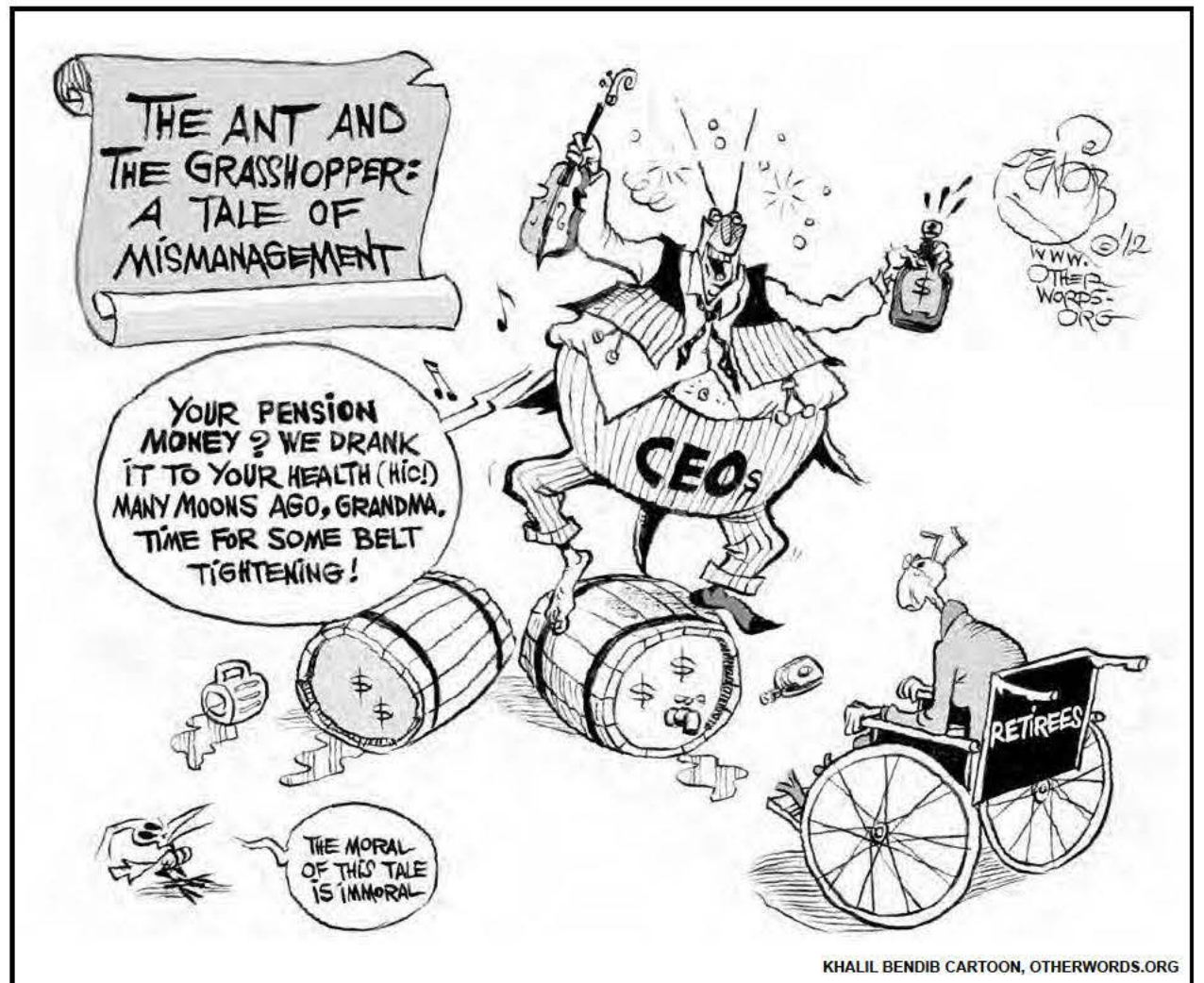
The Fix the Debt campaign's CEO supporters need not worry about Social Security because they're members of the "I've Got Mine Club." Fifty-four of the CEOs leading Fix the Debt directly benefit from lavish executive retirement programs. Their collective pension assets total \$649 million, which comes to more than \$12 million per CEO. That's enough to garner a \$65,000 retirement check each month starting at age 65 that will continue for as long as they live, according to a new report by the Institute for Policy Studies, which I co-authored. In contrast, the average retiree receives just \$1,237 from Social Security each month.

Yet, the firms headed by Fix the Debt CEOs owe their U.S. pension funds more than \$100 billion, according to the IPS study. U.S. law requires corporations to keep their pension debts to manageable levels, but this pressure has often resulted in benefit cuts.

General Electric, which has a staggering \$22 billion pension deficit, shut down its pension fund last year, saying it had become a "drag on earnings" (at a whopping cost of 13 cents per share, according to their estimates). Like many other firms, GE has shifted new employees to a less costly 401(k) plan, putting the risk for poor stock market performance onto employees.

Beware of wealthy CEOs who are lecturing the rest of us about tightening our belts. American workers would be far better off if CEOs worried more about fixing their own companies' pension debts.

Scott Klinger is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. This article first ran on OtherWords.org.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Praise for the Turners Falls Football Team

Congratulations to the Turners Falls High School football team and coaches for another successful season!

Beating the Green Wave two

years in a row, defeating WARE in the semi-finals, and playing an excellent game in the Super Bowl.

Alumni have waited a long time to see this evidence of Athletic

excellence.

— David Yez-Monmouth
(1960 graduate of TFHS.)
Illinois

Support Hampshire-Franklin Children's Day Care Center

Next Wednesday leading nonprofit funding organizations in western Massachusetts will hold a one-day e-philanthropy event called Valley Gives Day. The goal is to promote philanthropy and increase support for the important work done by the nonprofits of the region. Residents from Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties are encouraged to log on to www.valleygivesday.org on Dec. 12 (12-12-12) and contribute to their

favorite local nonprofit organization.

Nearly 270 nonprofits have signed up to participate! One of those is the Hampshire-Franklin Children's Day Care Center (HFCDC), located in Leverett.

HFCDC has provided quality childcare and early education services to the community for over 30 years. Many of the families within the Reporter's distribution area have relied on HFCDC's program. Our

son attended Hampshire-Franklin as a toddler and preschooler, where he received excellent care and early ed that more than prepared him for kindergarten.

I will be supporting HFCDC on Valley Gives Day and hope that all the families who have been involved in the program over the past 30 years will do the same.

— Melissa Grader

Thanks to the People of Montague, Solarize Massachusetts was a Resounding Success this Year

Thanks to the people of Montague, Solarize Massachusetts was a resounding success this year.

The group purchasing program, which helps to make solar more affordable, is a joint venture of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources launched in 17 communities across the state this year. The program generated 803 solar contracts signed statewide rep-

resenting 5.1 megawatts of clean, renewable energy. In Montague, residents and businesses have contracted 179.5 kilowatts of new solar, saving hundreds of dollars annually on their electric bills.

The program's local volunteer coordinator, Sally Pick, was key to this success. Walter Ramsey's support was also invaluable to this effort, bridging the gap between state agencies and municipal officials and

Montague residents.

We simply could not have seen these results without the hard work of volunteers, advocates and municipal leaders on the ground in Montague. Thanks to its leadership, Montague will pave the way towards a cleaner energy future for the next generation.

— Alicia Barton McDevitt
CEO and Executive Director
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

DAVID DETMOLD, founding editor of the Montague Reporter, is retiring!

Join the Board of Directors and other fans of the Montague Reporter on DECEMBER 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the French King Restaurant, Route 2, in Erving, for Detmold's RETIREMENT PARTY! SAVE the DATE! \$20 at the door, includes substantial dinner buffet. Cash bar.



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Western Mass Goes to the U.N.

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

At the U.N. on Nov. 20, the Security Council met to discuss the situation in Gaza. Around the corner from where they were deliberating, another group convened to watch a screening of the winning films of the United Nations 2012 International Year of Cooperatives Short Film Festival. Among those in the audience was a delegation from Western Mass who accompanied Turners Falls filmmaker Steve Alves, one of this year's winners.

As co-writer of *Food for Change: the Twin Cities Story*, I was honored to be among this contingent, which also included Dan Keller, co-editor of the short film, and Maisie Sibbison-Alves, the production assistant. Also attending were Patricia Pruitt, Nina Keller, Marcia Day, Suzette Snow-Cobb, representing our own Green Fields Market, and Steven Snow-Cobb.



Winners of the U.N. Short Film Festival with their awards.
(L-R) Steve Alves of Turners Falls, Alana Flores (Trinidad-Tobago), and Charlotte Marchesseault (France and Brazil).

None of us could quite believe we were actually able to stroll freely through the halls of the fabled U.N., where so many world leaders have charted history and so many decisions have been made that have affected the lives of our planet for over 60 years. Unlike those who queue up for the guided tours, as invited guests we were able to enter the inner sanctum of the building where diplomats scurried past us on their way to meetings.

The 2012 International Year of Cooperatives ceremony began the day before with presentations from various leaders in the cooperative

world about different aspects of co-op enterprise. The film festival screenings and awards were the finale of the two day event.

The films began with an animated film produced by The National Cooperative Grocers Association entitled *What's to Love about Food Co-ops?* An Italian production that highlighted cooperatives in the Peruvian highlands, *Cooperative of Apurimac* by Miko Meloni followed. French filmmaker Charlotte Marchesseault profiled a women's crocheted-apparel cooperative in Brazil in *Women with Courage*.

see UN page 5

U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 12/05/12

Wounded: 17,674
Deaths: 2,162



By JOSH HEINEMANN and KATIE NOLAN

Pioneer Valley is rich in history, much of it deeply documented, but Wendell's history is relatively less well known. Enter Pam Richardson, who relocated to Wendell from Newburyport in 1997. She moved with her husband to one of Wendell's more far-flung houses, on Bear Mountain Road. Richardson said that she has always been fascinated with local history and genealogy. But perhaps the isolation of her new home, at least a mile from the nearest electric line, helped to spike her curiosity about the people who settled in the hilly, rocky town before the advent of electricity and with little that a 21st century person would call contact with the outside world. At any rate, she began digging, so to speak, into Wendell's past, and last month she shared some of her discoveries with a rapt audience of more than 50 people at Wendell Free Library's Marion Herrick Room.

A few years ago, Dave Allen, a surveyor who runs Roberge Associates in Greenfield, received a grant to research area houses based on an 1858 map. "When he contacted me [to help], I jumped at the chance," she said. "Over the course of about four months, I investigated almost 200 old house sites in Wendell and researched the people who lived in them in 1858."

From Allen, Richardson learned about the papers of an early Wendell resident, Thomas E. Sawin, whose papers were held by the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. She pursued the lead and found Sawin's notebook, spending hours studying his notes and looking for other primary sources to supplement his stories.



The Jonas Fiske house, built in 1805, was captured in this painting before being lost to arson in the 1960s.

Courtesy Elizabeth Pierce of the Swift River Valley Historical Society.

His notes were covered with arrows connecting related parts, with comments written vertically in the margins and upside-down on the top of some pages. Richardson spent hours trying to decipher them. A slide that she showed of one page of Sawin's notes looked like an illegible scrawl. The following describes some of her discoveries.

Sawin (1810-1873) carefully listed everyone who lived in Wendell after he settled there in the 1840s, neatly categorizing each as Baptist, Congregationalist, infidel

or skeptic, and offered descriptions of the character of each person. For instance, William Phelps, a lumberman, who left the town 144 acres for the sale of timber to support the schools, was "rich and active, a Democrat and a drinker." The Reverend John C. Ball, who died from burns, was "a studious man, feeble, but amiable." Joel Howe was "son of an old settler, reliable and makes no noise." Townsend Caswell was "a farmer & a mason; a skeptic and a drunkard; his wife left him then he reformed & got a 2nd wife." Jabez

Sawyer Jr., was "ambitious of office, irascible, prosperous in work." And Lyman Sawyer was "a carpenter, infidel and a drunkard."

Sawin never completed his history. At his death, the notes were left to the Antiquarian Society because Sawin thought the inhabitants of Wendell were "too few, too poor, & too illiterate to publish my history."

"Sawin had a gloomy outlook on life," Richardson warned. He had come to Wendell as a young child, when his parents left Cambridge and settled on

Rockwell Hill Road. Sawin's father was a carriage maker and his mother, the daughter of a wheelwright. As a young man, Sawin was apprenticed to a printer in Amherst. After living in Amherst and other towns, he settled into farming in Wendell with his wife, a widow from Providence, R.I.

According to Sawin, there was little evidence of Native Americans living in Wendell when he arrived. Sawin mentioned a 1759 account of Phillip Ruth, who was startled by eight tribesmen when he was

see WENDELL page 9

UN from page 4

Co-op Housing: More than a Home, by the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, was subsequently shown.

Next was Steve Alves' film. *Food for Change: The Twin Cities Story* is a short 15-minute segment from his feature-length film-in-progress, *Food for Change*, a documentary about the history of co-operation in the United States from the 1930's through the present day. Alves, looking quite dapper in a dark suit, accepted his award, and introduced the film. "A great inspiration of my work recently is coming from a biologist: the well-regarded biologist E. O. Wilson, who wrote in his last book that he believed that the most sublime achievement of evolution on our planet is the human brain. Yet that human brain seems to have flaws in it, flaws that inhibit us from advancing. The spirit of cooperation,

put in the driver's seat, is the road to progress and indeed for survival. It is only fitting that the United Nations, which has similar goals to what co-operatives stand for, should be honoring that group of people."

The last two films were *Red Chillies*, by Rohana Wamakulasooriya, about a women's chile co-op in Sri Lanka, and Cooperative Enterprises' *Build a Better World by Meeting Human Need not Human Greed*, about a group of cooperatives that worked together to produce a music video on the theme of cooperation, "For Human Need." The film was the inspiration of Alana Flores, Business Development Officer of the Co-operative Development Division of the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development of Trinidad and Tobago. The film was lively, and as the song "For Human Need" played on the big screen, the audience began to shake their bodies

in rhythm (or approximate rhythm) to the reggae music. What came next no one had expected: a live performance of the song by the group who had recorded it. Well known Trinidadian performers Issac Blackman, Neval Chatelal and Maria Soo Hon, accompanied by Marvin Comer on steel drums, brought the entire assembly to its feet. It was a fabulous way to close out an amazing event.

With the reggae strains still kicking about our brains, we made our way down 46th Street to Ali Baba's Turkish restaurant, where the Western Mass contingent (along with other invited guests) dined on Turkish food and basked in the afterglow of this extraordinary day.

To see all the winning entries, visit: www.social.un.org/IYC-Videos And to get a quick look at the award event itself, see www.animator.com/play/7hngGGapi0zCLhkSGZwkA.



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CAT from page 1

ing message – that cats can fend for themselves – is largely responsible for the dichotomy in their status, as the most popular pet and also the most discarded.

Watson and MacLean followed a stray cat protocol when dealing with homeless felines. They got to know the stray cats at various feeding stations throughout downtown Turners. They put safe stretchy breakaway collars on each one that said: “Does this cat have a home?” with their phone number on the other side of the tag.

If no one called them within a week, they made an appointment at Dakin to get it spayed or neutered, and to have it adopted if possible.

Each of these local cat ladies has adopted stray cats themselves. MacLean’s cat Peanut was neglected and bald when she took him in. Now he has a beautiful black coat. Watson took in Finn, after he was wounded from a fight with Trucker. Trucker turned out to have feline leukemia, a

contagious blood virus. MacLean and Watson drove eight hours to Hershey, Pa., to place Trucker in one of the few shelters that accept sick cats, called the Best Little Cat House in Pennsylvania.

Some stray cats are feral or semi-feral and are not suitable for a home. Feral cats are cats born in the wild. They may be born to domesticated cats that were returned to the streets. Cats that have not been socialized by humans within the critical period of the first 12 weeks of their lives lose the window of opportunity to ever be domesticated. They are not suitable to live as pets because they are scared of people.

Nonetheless, if they are neutered, they become less territorial and less aggressive. They will spray less and fight less with other cats, and for that reason alone will have a better quality of life, since they will suffer fewer injuries. Spaying and neutering cats not only helps them, but spares tens of thousands of unwanted kittens in the future. It is key to controlling stray cat colony populations.

Some people believe it is better not to feed stray cats in hopes that they will relocate. “Not feeding stray cats is not the solution. It only avoids the problem,” Watson said.

Dakin requires an appointment before people can drop off cats for adoption. By staggering their intake of cats, they control the population volume at Dakin. In this way, Dakin avoids euthanizing healthy cats.

“Time can save a cat’s life. If you can foster a cat, even lock a cat in the bathroom for a few days to wait until Dakin has an opening, you can give them a chance,” Watson said.

There is a misconception that helping stray cats requires months of dedication and is very expensive. “It is not a daunting task, if you want to intervene in a stray cat’s life,” said MacLean.

The Dakin Humane Society in Leverett is an excellent resource. Dakin is a nonprofit, which relies solely on the donations and contributions of individuals and businesses. It offers many programs to the community, including a pet food program,

which provides food for those who might otherwise have to surrender their pets because they can’t afford to feed them, and a low-cost spay and neuter program, which targets low-income pet owners. Dakin will lend humane cat traps to people and will mail out cat collars if requested. “Dakin tries to make it as easy as possible for people who are taking care of feral cats,” said Watson.

“Dakin has a high success rate for finding homes. Animals do not languish there,” said MacLean.

“We couldn’t have done it without Dakin. Dakin wants to help. Don’t hesitate to call them,” urged Watson.

“Fostering compassion in our community does not just start with helping people,” said Watson. “Stray cats don’t have to be the norm.”

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi: “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”



POP UP SHOP

from page 1



Lisa Davol, Director of the Turners Falls RiverCulture

Snyder, artist and co-founder of 2nd Street Baking Co. on 4th St.; and Erin MacLean, co-owner of LOOT. Nichols and Kruger stressed the site’s retail viability. Snyder, an entrepreneur and an artist, argued that artists need an outlet for their work that would allow them time to create rather than constantly focusing on promotion. MacLean said that while her store has become a destination for many out-of-town customers, more shopping and browsing spaces would help build traffic.

The Pop Up Shop building has a finished basement that could also be used as a performance or film screening space, Davol said. The Shea Theater is much larger, and a smaller, more intimate space for, say, performance artists or experimental-film screenings doesn’t exist in Turners Falls.

Davol said that the Pop Up Shop partners were considering two models. They may create something akin to a consignment shop, where artists would get a percentage of sales, with the balance going for overhead. Alternatively, they may rent “ministores” to artists.

In an interview after the meeting, Davol said, “We’ve spent years talking about having a commercial artisan gallery here. If we left it, it’d just be vacant again. We just decided, ‘Let’s make a go of it.’”

The building is owned by the town of Montague, and the Pop Up Shop isn’t paying rent, only utilities and insurance. Under the agreement, the artisans store would be retained rent-free. But in subsequent discus-

sions with Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Davol said that after January and February, they would make a “good faith” effort to pay rent.

Abbondanzio said at the meeting that it might be possible to rent the building, but that likely would not be “the best possible use.” The continued use of the space for artists and crafts people would help to “create critical mass” for the arts and retail downtown. Selectboard member Patricia Allen said that “this is what we’ve been working toward.”

Davol described the space as an “incubator” for artists who might not quite be ready for their own storefronts, but who would have the freedom to explore retailing on a smaller scale.

Kruger of Western Mass Arts noted that the Pop Up Shop was doing well financially now, but that the store would then have to weather the doldrums of winter. “It’s not 100 percent sure,” Kruger cautioned. “But nothing ever is in retail. But I think this is doable.”

The consensus was that a commercial venture allowing artists and artisans to test the retail waters would certainly help to animate downtown.

The selectboard approved the appointment of Montague Reporter writer John Furbish to the board of the Montague Economic Development Corp. in a seat reserved for representatives of the low-income community.



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An Evening Filled With Wonder



By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls will celebrate the holiday season with “It’s a Wonderful Night,” a downtown event from 5 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 13. Pedestrians will encounter festive storefront windows, a pop-up artisan holiday shop, roving musi-

cians, in-store performances, caroling, tree lighting with Santa, a free screening of the 1946 Frank Capra classic *It’s a Wonderful Life* at the Shea Theater, plus specials at local shops.

The event, initiated last year by artist Ariel Jones and Nina’s Nook, is “an opportunity to invite folks downtown, as a reminder of

what a lovely and walkable village Turners Falls is, as well as the potential that still remains,” said Erin MacLean, co-owner of LOOT.

“With the addition of new ventures, such as the Powertown Pop-Up Shop and the recently opened Black Cow Burger, in conjunction with the best-kept secret of Turners Falls, the Shea Theater, there is more than meets the eye in downtown Turners Falls.”

RiverCulture has organized holiday windows installations by seven local artists in select under-

Enjoy a **FREE SCREENING** of the classic film
“It’s A Wonderful Life”
 at The Shea Theater, 8:30pm
 sponsored by LOOT and Jake’s Tavern

utilized storefronts. “We are happy to give artists the opportunity to light up and re-imagine these spaces as well as highlight the spaces and the potential for entrepreneurial opportunities still available downtown,” said RiverCulture Director Lisa Davol. RiverCulture has also sponsored roving musicians throughout the downtown.

The Shea Theater (through the co-sponsorship of LOOT and Jake’s Tavern) will offer a free screening of the classic film, *It’s A Wonderful Life*, at 8:30 p.m. Canned good donations for the Franklin Area Survival Center’s food pantry will be collected at the Shea Theater.

RiverCulture’s Powertown Pop-Up Shop, which features the work of local artists in the former Gallery at Hallmark space at 85 Avenue A, will host Michael Nix and the Pioneer Consort, who will

perform work from their holiday album, *Noel*.

Downtown caroling will begin at 6 p.m. at the Rendezvous.

Tree lighting with Santa, sponsored by Snow’s Landscaping, will take place at Skinner Park at the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street at 7 p.m.

Discounts and specials will be offered at a variety of participating businesses, ranging from popcorn balls to hot chocolate and mulled wine! Check out the other attractions and specials at: the Brick House Community Resource Center, LOOT, Jake’s Tavern, Nina’s Nook, 2nd Street Baking Co. on 4th Street, Lisa’s Handcrafted Soap, Absolutely Fabulous Hair, Black Cow Burger and Ristorante DiPaolo.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Fiscal Year 2013 Tax Rates Set

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday, Dec. 3, the Erving selectboard set the fiscal year 2013 tax rate at \$8.09 per thousand for residential property and \$13.44 per thousand for commercial and industrial property by accepting a split tax rate with a 65% minimum residential factor, the lowest factor acceptable to the state Department of Revenue. Assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden explained that the FY'13 rate is an increase from the FY'12 rate in part because the town established an overlay account of \$114,000 as a hedge against potential abatements, exemptions and uncollected taxes.

The selectboard set the FY2014 cost of living adjustment (COLA) for non-elected town employee salaries at 2.5%. The two selectboard members present, Margaret Sullivan and Eugene Klepadlo, expressed dismay over the finance committee's decision not to provide a recommendation for the COLA. "I thought we would get a recommendation and rationale tonight," said Sullivan. Klepadlo and Sullivan approved the 2.5% COLA with little discussion. Klepadlo observed that the COLA should be set at the start of the budgeting process: "If we do it now, it can be factored into [department] budgets."

Finance committee chair Winnifred Stone submitted a resignation letter, opening a second vacancy on the committee. The selectboard expressed concern about developing the FY'14 budget with a depleted finance committee. "It's up to the FinCom to get the budget together," Klepadlo said. "Going forward, we need to engage the FinCom." Noting that town moderator Richard Peabody is

responsible for appointing members to the FinCom, Klepadlo said that Peabody should be actively soliciting new members for the FinCom and "find people who are going to be active." Sullivan remarked, "Are you really saying we need a new moderator?"

"I thought we would get a recommendation and rationale tonight."
— Margaret Sullivan.

Town administrator Tom Sharp reported that cleanup contractors have been at work at the former Usher Plant brownfields site on Arch Street, removing "about six large truckloads of debris." He said that containment had been installed inside buildings for asbestos removal. He also said that the department of public works director Paul Prest is monitoring the work conducted at the site for the town.

Peter Coleman, general manager of Erseco, Inc., asked the board to approve a capital expenditure for changing the disinfection process for wastewater discharged to the Millers River. Erseco operates the town-owned Ervingside water treatment plant that treats waste from Erving Paper Mill, Erving Center residents and fee-paying "third party" septage haulers.

The town pays Erseco \$1 per year to treat the Erving residential wastes and receives a share of third party fees. The 2011 contract between Erving and Erseco requires Erseco to obtain town approval before embarking on capital improvements costing over \$10,000.

Currently, according to Coleman, the plant uses chlorine gas, a hazardous material available from only one sup-

plier, for disinfection. Erseco would like to use sodium hypochlorite (similar to laundry bleach, according to Coleman) for disinfection, requiring new storage, pumping and monitoring equipment costing over \$10,000. The selectboard voted to approve the capital expenditure, which will be funded by Erseco.

Linda Dunleavy, Franklin Regional Council of Governments executive director, reported on FRCOG programs for 2012, highlighting those affecting Erving. Dunleavy noted that the FRCOG assessment for Erving has decreased since 2003. She said that continued liability for retiree health benefits under the Franklin County Regional Retirement system was costly to FRCOG, but that FRCOG is working with state legislators to transfer employees to the state retirement system, potentially reducing costs by \$200,000 per year.

Dunleavy reported on FRCOG programs benefiting Erving, including the county dog kennel, cooperative building, plumbing and electrical inspector program, a cooperative purchasing program that helped Erving procure senior center and town hall emergency generators, a homeland security program that allowed the fire department to obtain a foam truck for responding to chemical spills, brownfields grants for the former Usher Plant and International Paper Mill sites and work with the Route 2 Task Force on improvements in Erving Center and Farley.

The selectboard voted to accept \$80,000 in reimbursement from the state Department of Transportation for road work under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Leverett Elementary School FY 2014 Budget Has Preliminary 2.36% Decrease

By TANYA CUSHMAN

The first discussion of the Leverett Elementary School FY14 budget started off on Monday, Dec. 3, quite differently than it has for the past few years. Instead of an increase in the budget to keep services level-funded, Superintendent Joan Wickman pointed to a preliminary bottom line decrease of 2.36 percent, or \$40,869.

This budget "maintains all the programs and services we should need next year — as far as what we now know," asserted Wickman.

In addition to new employees who are paid at a lower scale than those they have replaced and a decrease in the Union #28 budget, the upcoming graduation of the only double class at LES leads to the decrease. One less regular classroom teacher and one less paraprofessional translates into approximately \$55,000.

On the other hand, increases in the budget are found in various places, perhaps most notably a \$9,000 increase in line item 70, "instructional hardware & software." Falling under this instructional category is a new software program for the school nurse, which will replace a "homemade" handwritten spreadsheet. There is also a new software component for the current data-management program, Power School, that will allow report cards to be entered into that system.

The most important capabilities of these new programs are that they will make it easier to upload information to the state as will soon be required.

Also placed in this line item are ten iPad minis and a

mobile docking station for them. Principal Anne Ross believes that "apps are more important than software. It is more useful to have an iPad with an app than a computer with software." In her view, the best part of the iPad minis is that they have "voice-activated software for kids who have challenges with handwriting," which can translate their thoughts into the written word.

iPad minis are being piloted in the fifth and sixth grades and in the "obvious" place — with special education children — explained Tracey Supple, third grade teacher.

Not accustomed to starting the yearly budgeting process with a reduction, the school committee wanted to hear what line items Ross would like to see increased after the cuts of the last few years. One wish, already entered into the budget, is a return to pre-cut levels for office supplies (\$5,000). She also said that she would like to see more money for professional development and library materials.

Not until the end of the discussion was it mentioned that Chapter 70 state aid revenue would also be decreasing due to the graduation of the double class. Wickman explained that "Chapter 70 money is on the town side of the budget" and thus does not figure into the LES budget.

It was not noted publicly that school choice money will also decrease. That money goes into the school committee's discretionary school choice fund.

In other school committee news, Wickman read from MGL Chapter 71, section 37m in reference to the possible consolidation of custodial

functions between the town and the school that the selectboard initiated. According to the law, both a majority of the school committee and the town's governing body (Leverett's town meeting) will need to approve the consolidation, although either body can revoke the agreement if doesn't work out.

Ross wondered why this issue was being put forward now when regionalization may happen in a few years. Committee member Kip Fonsh added that the "town is still paying for the school and the town owns the school, a very practical concrete issue" that will need to be addressed if regionalization moves forward. He believes it is "an odd time for the selectboard to bring up" consolidation of this function.

Mike Kociela, Union #28 financial director, remarked that Greenfield consolidated functions before he left his employ there but, "the town did not take over custodial staff, but took over fuel and power but in separate accounts with separate line items." He added that LES "needs their two custodial staff 100 percent of their time."

Another topic discussed, also initiated by the select board a few years ago, is the ongoing work on a new agreement between the five towns of Union #28 regarding the funding of benefits for employees and retirees of the union. The paperwork to change the agreement is nearly done, except that New Salem and Wendell, as fiscal agents for the union, are concerned that the Leverett selectboard has not yet paid the accrued benefits of a now not-so-recent union retiree, who lives in Leverett.

TEAM from pg 1

over, but needed to go 95 yards to score with just under four minutes to play. It was too much, as a pass under pressure by quarterback Malcolm Smith was intercepted with less than two minutes left. Pathfinder chewed up the final seconds for the win.

The loss was a big disappointment for Turners players. They came within one or two plays of the school's first Superbowl win. In the end it was Pathfinder that made those one or two plays. That's another one of the lessons of football and life. If you play the game you must be ready to come

up short sometimes. But in a few days the loss will pale when compared to the fabulous season this group of young men put together.


"What a truly great season it was," Turners coach Chris Lapointe wrote me a few days after the game. "I will miss this team a great deal, not because of wins and losses, but because of the types of kids they are and who they are becoming as young men. They were truly a great team to be around and a team that should and will be remembered for a long time to come."



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WENDELL from page 5

home and didn't see them again. Sawin also noted that an isolated Native American family lived on Bear Mountain in the 1850s.

The northern part of Wendell was originally owned by land speculators, John Erving's heirs and their spouses, including Massachusetts Governor James Bowdoin. Land in the southern part of Wendell, formerly a part of Shutesbury, was owned by Oliver Wendell and Jonathan Jackson, a wealthy importer/exporter from Newburyport. For the most part, these eastern Massachusetts land speculators never lived in Wendell. However, in the registry of deeds, Richardson found a 1795 plot plan for a property owned by Oliver Wendell with a house indicated on it. That property is now the site of the town offices.

The town was named after Oliver Wendell when it was incorporated in 1781. He presented a silver christening font to the Congregational church, presumably in gratitude for the town taking his name.

The Lure of Prodigious Crops

According to Sawin, settlers moved to Wendell because the eastern Massachusetts towns were overflowing. They heard stories of prodigious crops and a good climate, and they were drawn to the freedom of frontier life because they had "vigor, courage, and frugal simplicity."

The first house was built in the early 1750s by Aaron Osgood, on the property now housing Kemsley Academy. By 1790, the population of Wendell was 519, peaking at 1,000 in 1815. (The 2010 census counted 853 people in Wendell.)

Jonathan Crosby built a home on Farley Road around 1780, erecting a grist and saw mill on Mormon Hollow Brook. According to Sawin, Crosby supplied the rum for the workers building the first meetinghouse constructed in town. Joshua Green graduated from Harvard and moved to Wendell in the 1780s. When his friends tried to dissuade him from moving to a frontier town, he told them, "I would rather be useful than famous." He built a large house on Morse Village Road, next to the current meetinghouse, with multiple chimneys and brick ovens. Green served as selectman, accountant, treasurer, assessor and justice of the peace. Sawin said he was "a wise counselor and true friend."

At least 12 Wendell residents had fought in the Revolutionary War, eight officers and four enlisted men. Townspeople supported the revolu-



Pam Richardson's fascination with Wendell history has yielded a treasure trove of local lore.

tion by helping the families of the absent soldiers. In 1786, approximately 1,800 men marched on the Springfield Armory during Shays Rebellion, including 30 or 40 from Wendell. According to Sawin, Richardson said, many in the town opposed the rebellion. One unnamed man, identified only as a member of Capt. Oliver Wetherby's company, was interviewed by Sawin. Sawin's notes read, "We didn't go to fight, but to see which was the strongest party. I had no intention of fighting my own state! I had seen bullets fly thick enough in the Revolution War, but I stood it for my country. A ball came near us from the Government Army, and, striking a man, made the ice crust fly. When we saw that they were ready to fight, I went to the tavern, paid my bill & came home." According to Richardson, "Apparently many fled the scene but we don't know about any other Wendell men."

Gradually, Wendell's economy became more connected to the larger world. In 1848, the railroad came to Wendell. In 1853, there were 12 sawmills in Wendell, and resident occupations included carriage builder, carpenter, shoe and boot maker, cooper, tailor, sled maker, physician, lawyer and daguerreotypist.

However, around this time, the population started to decline. Instead of the promised land of plenty and good weather, Wendell settlers had found nothing but forest, rocky soil and howling winters. Sawin said that the inhabitants

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**Math and Science Program a Great Success**

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Enrollment in Advanced Placement courses at Turners Falls High School has increased 228 percent since the Mass Math + Science Initiative (MMSI) began its grant-funded program in 2010, according to a report presented at the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee meeting last week. In 2010, only 25 students were enrolled in AP classes. For the 2012-13 school year, there are currently 82 enrolled in AP classes.

Students at TFHS have outpaced other students in Massachusetts and the United States in improving test scores on AP standardized tests. The number of students at TFHS who have achieved AP test scores of 3 or better (on a scale of 1 to 5) has increased from eight in 2010 to 36 students in 2012. A score of 3 or higher gives students credit towards a college degree while they are still in high school.

John Smolski of MMSI said of the students' and teachers' efforts, "It's an outstanding accomplishment." He cited particularly the success of the Saturday study program that gives students an additional 18 hours of instruction. These classes draw a mix of students from high schools in the region. Students are provided with lunch (pizza) and a raffle for prizes such as iPods. The additional instruction time and increased enrollment in AP classes pay off in higher test scores and higher college admission rates.

This is the third and final year of the grant that funded the program. Smolski said MMSI is trying to work out a way of continuing the programs to make them self-sustaining. With the end of the grant agree-

ment, the private money portion of the funding goes away with it. Asked by Sandra Brown, member from Gill, how much it would cost, Smolski said about \$10,000 would be needed to sustain the program.

Mark Prince, interim superintendent, said the congressional sequestration agreement will pose a significant threat to public education. The cost to the school district if the "fiscal cliff" is not avoided would be significant. In a letter addressed to the school committee, municipal leaders and families, he estimated a reduction of 33 percent in Title I funding would mean a loss of \$100,000 to the district in just on that one grant. According to Prince, that alone would be equal to a loss of 10 paraprofessionals or two teaching positions.

He noted that there are four other grants: circuit breaker, Race to the Top, Title II and circuit-breaker supplemental. This represents a total of \$955,269 that the district receives, and such a cut to Gill-Montague, whether it is 30 percent, 33 percent or 40 percent, would mean a reduction in staff.

"Too often we forget the amount of federal funds that are part of our education funding," Prince said. "This planned action would mean a lot less federal funding for our district." He recommended that members of the community contact their senators and congressmen by phone, email or mail and "stress that any reduction in federal aid to education would be a disaster to Massachusetts schools and students and harmful to the Gill-Montague regional schools."

The next school committee meeting will be held on Dec. 13 at Turners Falls High School at 7 p.m.

neglected education and succumbed to the "lure of rum" and, forgetting frugality and simplicity, enjoyed "the rise of luxurious dress and food." The Homestead Act of 1862, with its promise of free land, encouraged many Wendellites to move west.

Mormons Come to Wendell

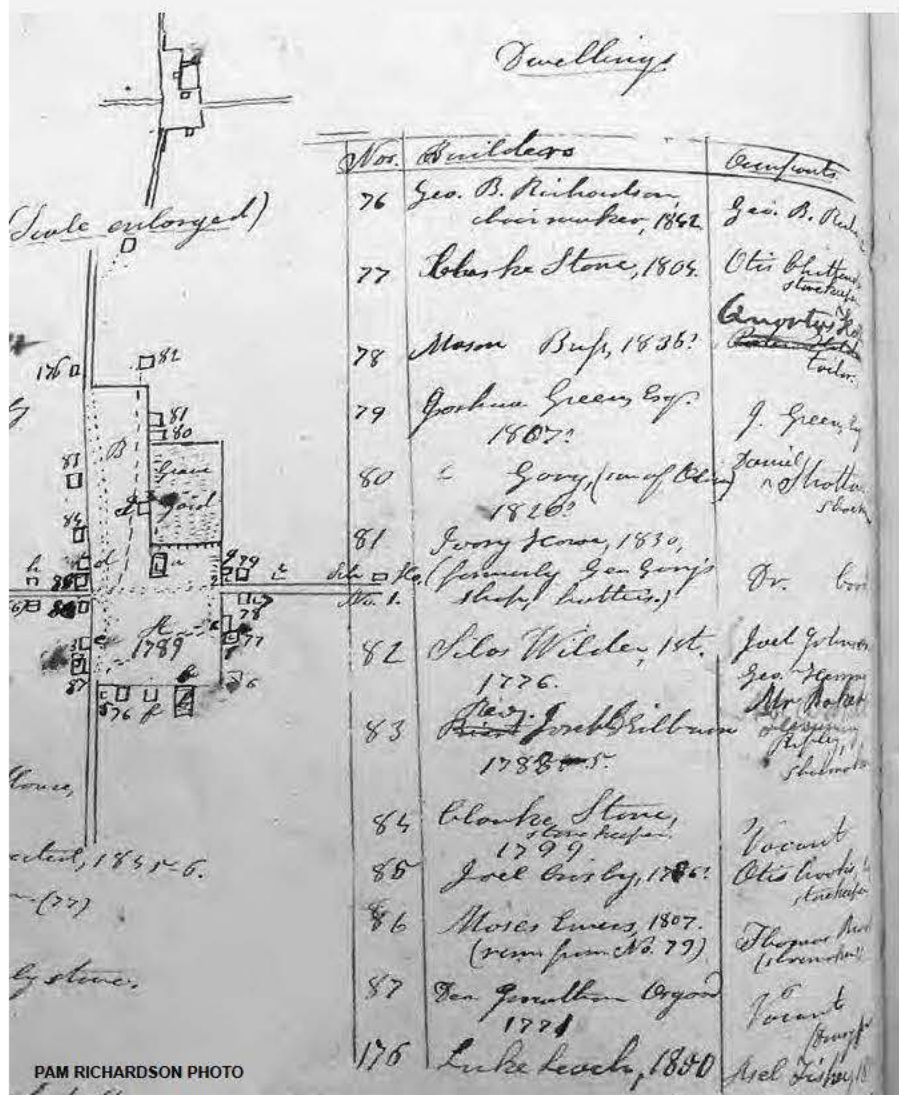
Mormonism came to Wendell in 1833, brought, according to Sawin, by "a couple of vagabond lecturers." Several residents were converted, and having no meetinghouse, conducted their services in a hollow "between Bear Mountain and Benjamin Hill." Their meeting place is commemorated in the name of Mormon Hollow Road. Sawin quoted Sally Taft of Lockes Village Road as saying that the Mormons "attempted to heal the sick by faith and even to raise the dead in one or more instances. One was made

insane by their fanaticism and was found in a pond, naked and wild."

Jonathan Crosby III and the other Mormon converts moved from Wendell to Utah, "a modern Gomorrah" according to Sawin. Crosby later moved west to California, finding a \$40 gold nugget in the California gold fields, and then, according to Sawin, moved on to the South Sea Islands.

Somewhere between 43 and 62 Wendell men fought in the Civil War. The townspeople voted bonuses for Wendellites in the Union Army.

Sawin died in 1873 from consumption, and his history notebook waited at the antiquarian society for someone like Richardson to find it. She said that, "with Thomas Sawin's help," she is at work on a book about the history of Wendell.



This page from Thomas Sawin's 1858 notebooks provides a full list of the town's dwellings and their residents.

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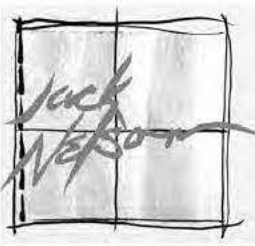
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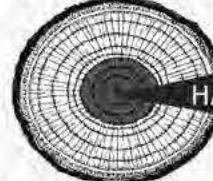
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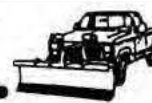
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Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

NOW through DECEMBER 12

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Separated at Birth* – paintings and installations by artists Cathie Janke and Stephen Cahill.

NOW through DECEMBER 27

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: A small retrospective of watercolors by former Wendell resident Craig Letourneau. Focuses on New England landscapes, English urban scenes and portraits.

NOW through JANUARY 29

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Paintings by Christine Winship*.

LOCAL EVENTS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Free.

Arts Block Café: *Taylor Ho Bynum Sextet*, jazz. 8 p.m., \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Katie Sachs, jazz-influenced indie rock. 8 to 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series*, feat. Deborah Brown & Abbot Cutler. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. USO Commemorative Show: Any veteran or spouse entitled to one free drink (see ad on this page). Remember Pearl Harbor! 7 p.m. Free.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*. 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Dan Charness and Jem Warren*, singer-songwriters. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nature Crafts*. Join refuge staff to make crafts with materials found in nature. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Children's illustrator *Brendan Flannelly-King* will read from, sell and sign his first picture book, "Good News Nelson," written by Jodi Moore and published by Story Pie Press. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., free.



PHOTO COURTESY MAEVE GILCHRIST FACEBOOK

This Saturday, December 8 at the Arts Block's Pushkin Gallery in Greenfield: the Maeve Gilchrist Trio play traditional and improvised Celtic music.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Center: *Group exhibit & open studios*. Fabulous gifts. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stone Soup Café, 339 Main St., Greenfield: *Chris Goudreau*, singer-songwriter. Lunch, music, and friends. 12 p.m. Sliding scale.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Live from the Metropolitan Opera in HD: Verdi's *Un Ballo In Maschera*. 12:55 p.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artist reception for *Christine Winship*. Winship's portraits and landscapes are on exhibit in the Great Hall through January. 1 to 3 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffman*, singer-songwriter, with special guest *Stephanie Carlin*. 7 p.m.

The Brick Church, Old Deerfield: The *Pioneer Consort* will perform their fourth annual "Noel" concert. 7 p.m., \$

Flywheel, Easthampton: *California X, Neutral Fixation, Whirl, Christian Businessmen, Neoterics*. Punk rock. Zine fest benefit. All ages. \$

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*. 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$

Arts Block Café: *Happier Valley Comedy Show*, with the *Ha-Ha's* and *Deep Dish*. 7:30 p.m., \$.

Pushkin Gallery, Arts Block, Greenfield: *Maeve Gilchrist Trio*. Celtic harp, bass and fiddle; traditional and improvised. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Reprobate Blues Band*. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Psycho Magnetic*, classic rock. 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Montague Grange: *Holiday dance & music recital* in the spirit of Isadora Duncan, with classical music and old-time carols. Bake sale. 2 to 3:30 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, indie rock. 2 p.m. \$

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*. 2 to 4 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim, & Joe Fitzpatrick*, warped Americana. 8 to 10 p.m.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Greenfield High School Auditorium: "Monk's Caves, Sacrificial Altars and Wandering Celts: Archaeological Detective Work in New England". *Dr. Ken Feder* discusses how archeologists apply forensic work to questions of the origins of agriculture, the first cities, earliest human settlement in the New World, and the identity of those who left behind the stone chambers, carved stones, and stone circles that dot the New England landscape. Free and open to the public. 7 to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Sloan Theater, Greenfield Community College: *Contemporary Jazz/Pop and Chorus Ensembles Concert*. 7 to 9 p.m., free.

Stoddard Hall, Smith College, Northampton: Novelist and poet *Dan Gerber* will read from his recent collections of poems. 7:30 p.m., free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ginevra & Mike's Open Mike Cabaret*. 8 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Play reading, *You Can't Take It With You*. 6:30 p.m. \$

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Rusty Belle*,

eclectic folk/american, with *Katie Trautz and the New Foundry*, original and old-time folk. 8 p.m., \$.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Leverett Elementary School: *LES Chorus Winter Concert*. 7 p.m. in the gym.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Readings by author *David Arfa*, "The Life and Times of Herschel of Ostropol: The Greatest Prankster Who Ever Lived." 7 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Movie: *Its a Wonderful Life*. 8:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Special secret holiday show! Band will be announced Dec. 10. 9 p.m., \$

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Leverett Congregational Church: *Leverett Community Chorus Annual Winter Concert*. 7:30 p.m., suggested donation.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pamela Means*, folk rock jazz. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Erin Harpe & the Delta Swingers*, delta blues with a twist. 8 p.m., \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hobson's Razor*, reggae/rock/funk. 9:30 p.m., \$

CALL for ART SUBMISSIONS

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "*Triple S: Sensual> Sexual> Smul*" show in February 2013. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration. Email jpegs to naban@verizon.net, with "SSS" in the subject line, OR mail jpegs on disc to Nina's Nook, 125A Avenue A, Turners Falls MA 01376. Include a non-refundable fee of \$10 (check to Nina's Nook or PayPal to naban@verizon.net) by Jan 20, 2013.

CALL for POETRY SUBMISSIONS

Slate Roof Press, Greenfield: 1st Annual Poetry Chapbook Contest. Winner will

become an active member and have a limited-edition, art-quality chapbook published by Slate Roof, a member-run non-profit collaborative. \$20 reading fee, deadline Jan 4, 2013. Visit www.slateroofpress.com for more info.

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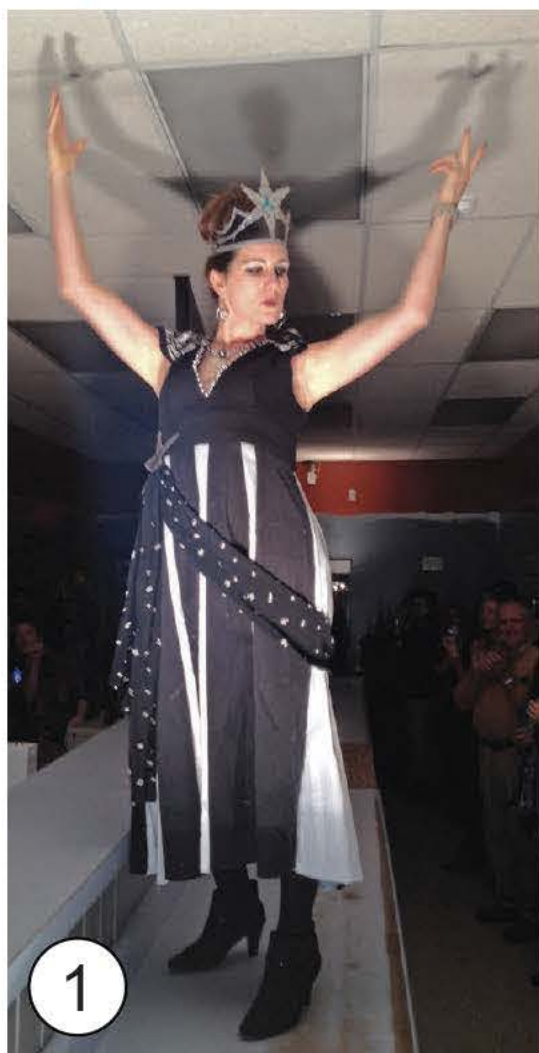
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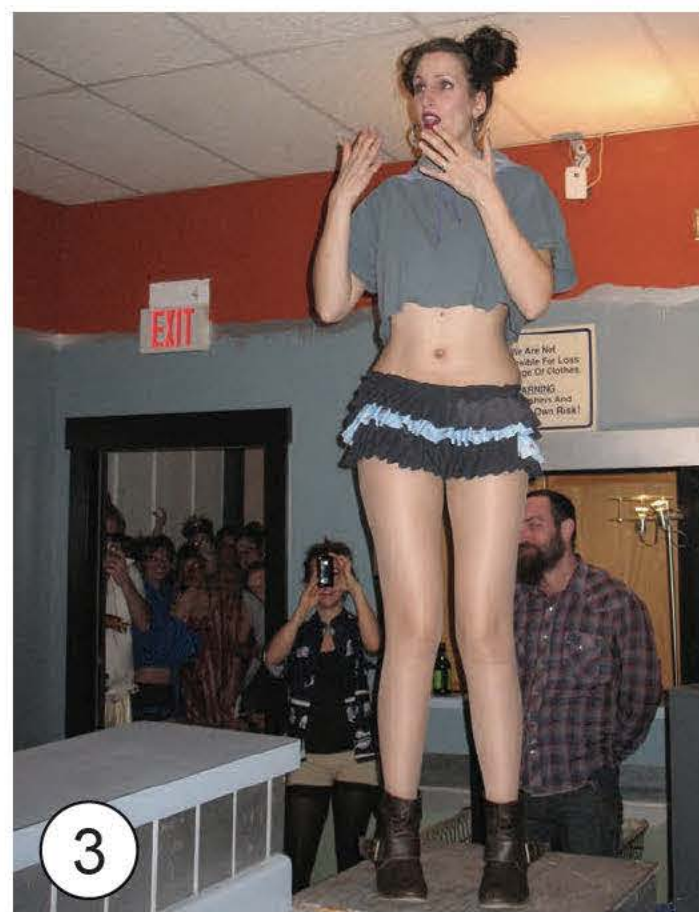
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① Designers Anne Harding and Madeline Keating created costumes for characters from Mozart's opera, *The Magic Flute*. Model Marcia Zutautas is pictured as the Evil Queen of the Night, wearing a gown made from a sweatshirt. PHOTO BROOKE STANTON ② Mary Buckley's outfits, all made from a single comforter and decorated with used dryer sheets, are reminiscent of neo-classical painting. Buckley is pictured here modeling one of her own creations. PHOTO MAGGIE NOWINSKI ③ Anja Schutz models one of her own designs. Schutz' collection featured small, ruffy skirts made from a bedsheet, and tops that bared midriffs. Schutz is pictured modeling one of her own creations. PHOTO LISA BUCKLEY



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