



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 26 also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell \$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES APRIL 13, 2017

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

More “Bumps In the Road” at the Strathmore, But an Upbeat Update on Unity Skatepark



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Steve Schroeder does a boardslide at the park Wednesday afternoon. Schroeder drove with friends from Mount Snow, Vermont to check out the Turners Falls park.

By JEFF SINGLETON

“Finally the weather is working in our favor,” Montague parks and recreation director John Dobosz told the Montague selectboard at its April 10 meeting. Dobosz had requested time to give the board an update on the Unity Skatepark, which is now almost a year old.

Dobosz told the board that while there are “dings here and there,” the new structure is “holding up really well.” The “bowl” of the structure is on the second year of a two-year warranty. The construction company Grindline is planning to address problems outside of the bowl that are under a one-year warranty.

Dobosz said he planned to install a concrete pad under one of the benches, to “improve access.”

A key “structural problem” stressed by Dobosz was the condition of the “main facade” facing the parking lot: “It’s dirt,” he explained, “and the grass that was blown in last year didn’t quite take because once it went in we had a two or three week drought.”

“I think we came up with [planting] creeping juniper of some sort,” he told the board. “It’s not going to look great at first, but we have to come up with something, because the dirt just doesn’t quite do it aesthetically.”

At the programmatic level, the skatepark will be offering clinics in conjunction with Let it Ride Skate-shop on Third Street. Dobosz said he was considering a music fundraiser this summer.

see MONTAGUE page A8

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls spring sports season began on Wednesday, April 5, a bleak afternoon with temperatures in the 30s. On Friday, intermittent freezing rain caused the cancellation of two tennis matches, while hampering the baseball game and the two track meets.

But by the time Monday and Tuesday rolled around, the mercury was flirting with 80 degrees. Welcome to New England in the springtime.

Girls Tennis

TFHS 3 – Greenfield 2
Belchertown 4 – TFHS 1
West Springfield 3 – TFHS 2

“I’m getting heartburn,” coach Victor Gonzalez said from underneath his hooded parka on April 5. He was watching first-singles player Alysha Wozniak duking it out with Greenfield’s Jenna Silk.

Both teams had won a singles match and a doubles match, so whoever took this matchup would take the entire contest. Alysha’s

see SPORTS page A7



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ Amber Taylor returns a shot during her 6-4, 6-1 singles match win against Greenfield last Wednesday.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Sticker Shock: Wendell Faces 28% Hike In Swift River School Assessment

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard met April 5 with the town’s finance and school committees, New Salem’s selectboard and finance committee, Swift River School principal Kelly Sullivan, and superintendent Jennifer Haggerty and finance director Steven Katz of Union 28. Not every member of every committee was present, but there were enough people there to move the gathering from the selectboard office to the larger meeting room.

The topic at hand was a large increase in both towns’ Swift River

School assessment: \$98,875 for New Salem, a 13.4% increase from FY’17, and \$169,271 for Wendell, a 27.94% increase from FY’17.

Part of Wendell’s increase – which results in a total assessment of \$775,057 – follows the larger number of Wendell students enrolled at the school; the towns have agreed to a per-pupil expense.

Unlike many other schools in Franklin County, Swift River has a growing population – so much so that the school is not accepting new school choice students. An increase in the number of young people is good news in a county where that

is the exception, but financially it is a problem. As the people who swelled Wendell’s population in the 1960s, ‘70s and ‘80s are reaching retirement age, at least some are wondering if they will be able to afford to stay in town.

Wendell fin com member Doug Tanner said Wendell is not at its levy limit yet, but is too close for comfort. He said Wendell will hit its spending cap next year, and that the increase is not just a bubble. New Salem is closer to its levy limit.

Sullivan and Haggerty took turns explaining the situation. Chapter 70 see WENDELL page A5

Students Take the Lead in Swift River Composting Effort

By JOHANNA BARTLETT

NEW SALEM – At lunchtime, the cafeteria at Swift River Regional School is a very busy place. Children sit at tables in animated conversation with their classmates; others rise to form lines to return to their classrooms.

A recent trip to the Swift River cafeteria during lunch finds a group of preschoolers standing around the composting table, separating their leftovers into the proper receptacles. This table is the center of the composting effort at Swift River, an activity largely performed by the students themselves, which results in savings of over \$300 a month for the school.

Head of maintenance Larry Ramsdell explains that students have learned to dispose of their lunchtime waste, and also to deliver waste buckets daily from each classroom to the central location. This waste material is then picked up weekly by Rick Innes, owner of Clearview Composting, who has been working with the school since 2009.

On average, Innes takes away 4 tons of compostable material a year, which represents a significant reduction in trash put into the school’s dumpster. Previously, the school averaged 20 cubic yards of trash a month; now, that figure is closer to eight. The price for disposal of dumpster trash is approximately \$16 per cubic yard.

First grade teacher Patty Savage points out that this is a cooperative effort, with older students guid-



BARTLETT PHOTO

Swift River sixth-graders Kendrah, Peter and Aliyah help manage the cafeteria’s waste streams.

ing the younger ones. By the time they are in sixth grade, students are largely in charge of the process.

Three sixth graders, Aliyah, Peter, and Kendrah, are responsible for several parts of the composting program, and they are happy to explain it on a visit to their classroom. Peter says that the system is “simple,

see COMPOST page A5

Sad News at the Deja Brew Pub

By ANNE HARDING

WENDELL – Last Thursday, April 6, was a night of ups and downs at the Deja Brew Pub. Friends, residents, neighbors and family were dropping by to support an emotional Patti Scutari after she announced the Pub would cease its regular restaurant operations on Saturday, April 15.

There were smiles, hugs, tears, and fond recollections – not to mention browsing through photo albums documenting years of Hallowe’en spectaculars, New Year’s balls, Misfit Proms, fundraisers, evenings of spoken word, and much more. By 7:30 p.m. the place was packed, while Erik Love and Smiling Steve were setting up to play an evening of ‘60s and ‘70s hits for faithful fans.

Meanwhile, in the back room I was expecting a small group for my annual Ukrainian egg decorating event at the pub. Instead, it was so busy I had to run next door for more eggs in spite of a faithful crew of eggers who brought their own homegrown eggs. I was so happy to see them, as they’ve been coming to egg night for many years, but it was also great to meet so many first-time egg decorators.

As always, the Brew crew was enthusiastic, creative,

and more than willing to assist the novice crafters.

Much like the pagan roots of spring festivals – where Ukrainian eggs symbolized the rebirth of the earth after a long, hard winter – Scutari prefers to think of the changes at Deja Brew as a rebirth, rather than the death, of her business.

She sees her current situation as the perfect storm of circumstances following several years of growth and

see DEJA BREW page A4



JONATHAN VON RANSON PHOTO

The pub opened in 2005 as an extension of the Country Store.

The Montague Reporter

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About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Tuesday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center:
Public comment meeting on proposed FRTA route changes
(see frta.org for proposed changes)

Tuesday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Hillcrest School:
Annual Meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District
(see turnersfallsfire.org for annual meeting warrant)

Transitions

On the 77th day of his presidency, Donald Trump ordered a military strike against the Syrian state. He did this despite having run as an isolationist, and despite having publicly urged Barack Obama, after the regime killed hundreds of its civilians with sarin gas at Ghouta in August 2013, to “let the Arab League take care of Syria.” “What will we get for bombing Syria besides more debt and a possible long term conflict?” Trump asked then. “To our very foolish leader, do not attack Syria – if you do many very bad things will happen, and from that fight the US gets nothing.” “Obama’s war in Syria has the potential to widen into a worldwide conflict,” he wrote. “There is no upside and tremendous downside.” This advice turned out to be unnecessary, as in the end the Obama administration decided not to directly attack the Syrian state. And last October, during the siege of Aleppo, Trump said in a debate that he disagreed with statements made by his own running-mate, Mike Pence, over using military force against the Assad regime. “I think you have to knock out ISIS,” Trump explained. “Right now, Syria is fighting ISIS... We have to worry about ISIS before we get too much more involved.” We’re not going to pretend any of this is simple. The Syrian conflict is a three-way war that has turned much of the country into a slaughterhouse, with no end in sight and no solution on the table. Out of a population of 22 million, over 400,000 Syrians have lost their lives – it is hard to count the dead – 6 million are displaced within the country, and another 5 million have managed to flee. 3 million of these are in Turkey, and most of the rest are in Lebanon and Jordan. Trump doesn’t want any Syrians to live in the United States. At a campaign stop last year in Connecticut, he was asked if he could “look children aged 5, 8, 10 in the face and tell them they can’t go to school here.” “I can look in their faces and say ‘you can’t come.’ I’ll look them in the face,” he replied. “It

could be a Trojan horse.” And in September, he defended a comparison made by his son, Donald Trump Jr., between Syrian refugees and a partially poisoned container of candy. “Let’s end the politically correct agenda that doesn’t put America first,” Trump, Jr. wrote, reposting an image that read “If I had a bowl of Skittles and I just told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful? That’s our Syrian refugee problem.” About 16,000 Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States, and none of them have “killed us.” (Last week a Christian pastor with a history of domestic violence burst into a California classroom with a gun, and killed his wife and an eight-year-old student...) All this makes it quite surprising that Trump, Sr., after seeing images of Syrian children suffering from the effects of another (horrific) sarin gas attack, decided to do exactly what he had argued Obama should not do – with no game plan, and no Congressional authorization. Perhaps he just felt it was a good opportunity to stake out a position contrary to Russia, after months of teasing from Democrats that his administration was under the control of Vladimir Putin. “No child of God should ever suffer such horror,” he explained, before sending his press secretary to argue that Syrian president Bashar al-Assad is worse than Hitler. On Wednesday, Trump made *three* similarly remarkable about-faces: on China (no longer a currency manipulator); on interest rates (low ones are fine, since the dollar is “getting too strong”); and on NATO (“it’s no longer obsolete!”). It’s hard to make heads or tails of any of this, and there’s an entire cottage industry of pundits trying to make correlations between the power struggles internal to the White House and its policy pivots. A section of the president’s base known as the alt-right is very unhappy with what they perceive as the rising star of Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner. It appears that the administration is in disarray. But we can’t shake the feeling that another shoe is about to drop.



Gill's Wagon Wheel Restaurant provides a kitschy and comfortable location for local poetry and prose to unfurl.

*Pictured here:
Edite Cunha of Turners Falls shares her work.*

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

The Traprock Center Asks: What Do We Want for Our Country, and the World?

Just days ago we remembered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s April 4, 1967 speech *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence*, and its warning that: “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” Now an abrupt missile strike in Syria shifts attention away from exclusion at home and borders and a glutted military budget ignoring the most vulnerable and the environment. Yes, images of dead and dying children are horrifying. But they have been dying by the thousands for years now in Syria, in Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen, and on the shores of Europe, with families fleeing war. Sudden escalation of a conflict in which the US has played an aggressive role is no solution, besides being constitutionally (Congress) and internationally (UN) illegal.

“This recent chemical attack is just the latest in a war that has taken the lives of over 400,000 Syrians,” write peace activists Medea Benjamin (Code Pink) and former US diplomat Ann Wright. “Instead of more bombing,” they continue, “the Trump administration should pressure the Russian government to support a UN investigation into the chemical attack and take bold steps to seek a resolution of this dreadful conflict.” We agree. Why investigate? There has been a long and serious problem with chemical weapons in Syria, and many aspects of this latest crime are not known or proven: from the kind of gas used to how it happened and who was behind it. Bombs bursting in air, “proof” of caring and retribution, may appeal to the mass media, military and some leading Democrats. But they only make peace more difficult to achieve.

This month will again see resistance in the streets: from the April 22 Earth Day “March for Science,” to the Indigenous Environmental Network, Movement For Black Lives and others’ April 28 “We hold the Red Line” action in DC, a day before they join the nationwide People’s Climate Movement march for climate, jobs, and justice. All three of those goals: a healthy climate, safe and productive jobs, and justice at home and abroad, are connected – and threatened by the illegal use of this country’s bloated military machine. So let’s speak out, write, lobby, march if we can, in a strong public voice for peace and justice. It may work: the alternative will not.

**Anna Gyorgy, Wendell
For the Traprock Center
for Peace and Justice**

Thanks to My Neighbors

Amidst all the hard feelings and hard words going around in our town about the high school mascot, I’d like to take a moment to say, “Thanks.” To the folks who stopped to speak with me outside the School Committee’s special meeting last Tuesday... Thanks for sharing your thoughts about all this and how it’s been hard. Thanks for sharing what you want. Some of the stuff you said I could really connect with. I liked learning how we each contribute here in town. Who knew how we were so connected? Thanks for taking time to chat. To the folks who gathered at my

house on Sunday, to try out some exercises designed to help us be better listeners, especially to folks with different viewpoints. Some of the stuff we did was a little weird and edgy, and you might have had other things you wanted to do. Thanks for taking a risk. To the man who comes to talk to me every time he sees me at my job just to say hi, even though we argued so hard the first time we met. It’s taken quite a few weeks, but I’m glad to see you now, and really appreciate how much you care. My wish for our town is to start asking questions where everybody can “win”.

When I talk to my neighbors about the mascot, I want to hear their ideas about: How can our town and district support, and be more connected with, the local Native community? What parts of the history of Turners Falls are essential for everyone to know? Should Native art be more present and visible in town, and if so how will that happen? What would a healthy relationship with the local Native community and area schools look like? These are the questions I want to talk to my neighbors about.

**Elyssa Serrilli
Turners Falls**

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is **expanding their spring hours** for this spring school vacation week.

It is also Earth Week, so stop by the welcome desk for investigation stations, habitat diorama scavenger hunts, and games to explore the grounds. Bring your bike for the Canalside Rail Trail. The center is open Friday, April 14 through Sunday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The **Easter Bunny** is coming to town along the Bunny Trail! On Friday, April 14, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. The Bank will be taking beautiful color photos of children with the Easter Bunny for free as a gift.

Registration is required, and walk-ins will only be accommodated as time permits. Slots will fill up fast, so call 863-4316 to register. The response in previous years has been fantastic!

Only one free photo per child or group; other arrangements made at the discretion of the bank. In the spirit of the Easter Bunny, participants are encouraged to bring a donation for the local dog shelter as an act of kindness to our four-legged friends.

Also at Greenfield Savings Bank: James Gildea will present on **“The History of Bernardston & Beyond”** on Saturday, April 15, starting at 10 a.m. Gildea is a longtime resident of that town, and has passionately gathered local and global history into his easy to read new publication.

G-M School Committee Candidates’ Forum: 4/20

On May 15, five candidates – three incumbents, and two challengers – will vie for three seats on the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee. In Montague, Cassie Damkoehler faces incumbents Michael Langknecht and April Reipold, while in Gill, Shawn Hubert will attempt to unseat Sandra Brown.

The election is districtwide, meaning voters in both towns will vote for three seats.

Next Thursday, April 20 at 7 p.m., Montague Community Tele-

vision and the Montague Reporter will host a candidates forum in the upstairs meeting room at the Montague town hall. The event will be broadcast live, and rerun on MCTV several times before the election. The public is welcome to attend.

Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau will moderate, and every candidate will have a chance to answer each of a series of questions. For input and suggestions as to what questions we should ask them, email info@montaguereporter.org.

Keller, DiDonato to Appear At Wendell Candidates Forum

In the first contest since 2009 for a seat on the Wendell Selectboard, the two men running will appear side-by-side at a public event to offer their candidacies and answer questions. Dan Keller, incumbent, and his challenger, Ray DiDonato, will present themselves to the voters at a candidates’ forum this Friday, April 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the town hall.

All topics are open. Among the issues currently under consideration in town and likely to come up are broadband ownership, cost and structure; group-purchased energy; solar farms; use of the newly acquired house near Kemsley Academy; and proposed rezoning of the meetinghouse lot.

“It’s just so we voters can make

a more knowledgeable choice,” said Jonathan von Ranson, who organized the event and is moderating it at the request of both parties. He held the gavel a number of times as past assistant town moderator. “Everyone’s invited, including people whose schedule makes it difficult for them to attend things on weekday evenings. Hopefully the Friday evening works for almost everybody.”

Most of the forum will be devoted to questions from the floor. Responses will be timed, most with a limit of three minutes.

Voters are invited to submit their ideas for a question or two to be shared with both candidates ahead of time. Email common-farm@crocker.com.

The 12th Annual **Peter Cottontail’s EGGstravaganza** will be held Saturday, April 15 at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The siren goes off at 1 p.m. sharp!

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition. Kids will have an opportunity to get their pictures taken with Peter Cottontail, enter into a bunch of raffles, and of course enjoy the Egg Hunt, where they will have the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs strewn throughout the park.

Participants must bring their own basket/bag for the eggs. Montague Parks and Rec thank the event’s co-sponsors: the Montague Elks, Le-tourneau Plumbing, and Greenfield Savings Bank.

The **Leverett Congregational Church** will be holding an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 16. A short service of celebration will be held in the Emerson Garden beside the church, or inside if raining, followed by a free, hearty Easter Sunrise Breakfast at 7 a.m. in the Leverett Town Hall.

The public is invited to join for the service, or just the community breakfast, which will be followed by an Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. The Leverett Congregational Church, located across from the post office, has handicapable access and is open and affirming, welcoming all. Child supervision will be provided. For more information, contact Claudia Gere at (413) 359-0003 or Claudia@ClaudiaGere.com.

Easter Masses at **Our Lady of Peace Church** in Turners Falls will be held at 8 and 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 16. The second service includes participation by youth of the parish and a special Easter message for children: “Easter Lambs and Easter Rabbits and Easter Eggs.”

There will be a renewal of baptismal promises, and blessings with Easter water, which will be taken home, extending the joyful Easter blessings to each household. A children’s Easter egg hunt on church grounds will follow the second service.

Weather permitting, **street sweeping** will take place in the **Riverside neighborhood** of Gill on Tuesday, April 18, generally between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Residents are asked to avoid on-street parking during these hours until the sweeping is completed.

Come find out what you can do to help local pollinators thrive in your home garden! The Greenfield Garden Club presents **Attract Bees and Butterflies to Your Gardens** by Tom Sullivan, M.A.L.D. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, next Thursday, April 20, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sullivan, of Pollinators Welcome, has been designing for and teaching the benefits of attracting these beautiful creatures since 2009. It boils

down to creating habitat for them to eat, and nesting opportunities for them to raise their young.

Enjoy a presentation on **“Local Animals”** on Friday, April 21, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Meet some live and mounted local animals, and learn how their biology and behavior helps them to survive in their habitat.

An educator from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment will bring animals from forest, field, and wetland habitats. Call 863-3214 to register. Hands-on activities designed for grades 3 to 6. The program is made possible by federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Our Lady of Peace Women’s Group will host a **“Stash Bash”** on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls. The sale will feature more than 25 tables of yarn and knitting needles, fabric and notions, a serger, art and craft supplies, rubber stamps, buttons, beads, and much more at bargain prices! There also will be muffins, beverages, and lunch for sale.

There will be a **“Shortnose Sturgeon Revival Celebration”** on Sunday, April 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. near the Rock Dam part of the Patch in Turners Falls.

Spring 2017 marks this species’ first free-swimming access from below the 1849 Holyoke Dam to its ancient, upstream Rock Dam spawning site in Turners Falls in 168 years! Join Amherst sturgeon expert and author Dr. Boyd Kynard and environmental journalist Karl Meyer for a visit to the Rock Dam, the only documented natural spawning site for the federally-endangered shortnose in the Connecticut River ecosystem.

Kynard will cover the ancient creature’s life history and biology, while Meyer covers the human and natural history of the spectacular Rock Dam site. This event, which will be held outdoors, rain or shine, involves a short walk on steep dirt paths, so wear sturdy shoes.

No pre-registration required: just take the Eleventh Street Bridge, turn left down G Street at first stop sign, and meet at public lot just before the entrance sign for the US Conte Fish Lab.

Come one, come all: All **Montague Precinct 2 (Millers Falls) residents** are encouraged to attend a community meeting April 27, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Millers Falls Library. The meeting will introduce town meeting members and candidates, discuss this year’s May 6 annual town meeting, as well as introduce plans for public art, tree planting, community-building, and place-making in Millers Falls.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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DEJA BREW from page A1

expansion: she was widowed in 2013 when her husband Vic succumbed to complications of Parkinson’s disease; at the same time, the economic downturn started affecting the business; her own serious illness sidelined her for most of 2014, and recovery was slow; and most recently, the post-election blues led to a very slow winter.

Against the advice of loved ones who suggested a winter closing, Scutari tried to keep the business operating as usual while fighting the uphill battle of rising food costs and declining patronage.

Scutari would be the first to admit that her love of the community, including the supportive surrounding towns along with their amazing financial and emotional support over the years, has made the decision to change operations very difficult. Scutari really hates to let people down and close Wendell’s only night spot.

She would also admit that hard-headed business decisions are not necessarily her forte. From the moment Scutari and her activist husband Vic purchased the Wendell Country Store in 1993, the idea of a night spot for Wendell infiltrated their dreams. By 2005 it was a reality, with a takeover of part of the store and an added deck and awning out back to create a rustic three-season space for live entertainment.

As the business grew over the years, the decision was made to winterize the deck space in 2010, and repurpose the awning to keep the weather out of a new outdoor post-and-beam shelter. This expansion was funded by “Deja Dollars,” which purchasers could redeem for goods at the pub once the renovation was complete. During the boom years, serving so many dinners called attention to the limitations of a tiny kitchen, and another round of “Deja Dollars” was solicited to add a kitchen buildout in 2015.

In spite of the volunteer labor of Scutari’s partner Apollo Compagnone, who built the 28-by-9-foot addition, the cost of completing and furnishing the addition coupled with the slow economy proved too much, and Scutari found herself borrowing to keep the business afloat during the winter. It took her months to make the decision to close the restaurant operation.

The Pub will remain open for the next several weeks only when there is scheduled live entertainment. The regular food service will not be available, but the bar will be open, and pizza will be served by the slice along with an assortment of snacks.

The entertainment line-up can be seen at www.dejabrewpub.com (and page B7) and it is strongly recommended you check out the schedule before heading down to the pub, as the schedule is very limited.

Deja Brew will also be available to rent for a minimum of four hours – with or without bar service – for

public or private events. Scutari has already booked the facility for family reunions and private parties, and believes the venue is suitable for lectures, showers, “wine and canvas” events, dance parties, and more.

The plan is to move entertainment to the back room, move most of tables and chairs, and create a more danceable space. The entire space – inside and out – is also scheduled for a “Forest Fest,” headlined by Shokazoba, on May 28.

Scutari has had a few inquiries from prospective investors interested in buying the business, completing the kitchen renovations, and renting the space. She is reviewing all serious offers and is open to other proposals. She also expressed gratitude to the many people who have been trying to figure out a solution to her current financial woes.

Scutari says she will be focusing her efforts on the Wendell Country Store in the coming months, as she wants to keep the store viable. The

store will be adding more prepared foods from the former pub menu due to popular demand, and there may be more expansions in the prepared food line – so if you’re craving an order of mac’n’cheese or other specialty, don’t despair, try the store. She is also considering adding a line of the delicious homemade sauces and dressings that were used at the pub.

She has also made a commitment to anyone who holds unspent “Deja Dollars”: they can be spent at upcoming Deja Brew events, returned to Scutari for cash reimbursement, or spent at the Country Store.

The night scene in Wendell won’t be the same without Patti at the helm of Deja Brew, but she believes good things are in store for the space, and remains very grateful to the patrons and supporters who have supported the pub for nearly 12 years.



Leverett Citizens Group Plans Dialogue With Muslim Community

By SHARON DUNN

LEVERETT – The Leverett citizens’ group that formed under the auspices of the Leverett Peace Commission met March 16 to review the initiatives organized by its committees.

The Bridging committee is supporting a “Listening, Learning, Bridging” dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims that will take place in late April, under the guidance and mentoring of Paula Green of the Karuna Center and Mehlaq Samdani, founder of Critical Connections. Participants will decide what might follow in terms of continuing to build a circle of concern and caring.

The Community Building committee is working on setting up a town-wide email communication for which residents would sign up. It plans to serve coffee once a month at the transfer station, beginning in May, with the goal of fostering a friendlier Leverett. Other community outreach such as neighborhood potlucks is under discussion. CPR training, perhaps followed by first aid training, is being organized and will be publicized.

The Environment committee has organized a write-in campaign to urge Representative Steve Kulik to take leadership on climate. Representative Kulik and State Senator Stan Rosenberg have been invited, along with a representative from Climate Action Now, to answer Leverett’s climate questions at an event tentatively planned for May 11 at the Leverett Library. A panel discussion on climate change and how

it affects each citizen is planned for the fall, and will include scientists and business owners.

A new Reading American Communities committee has started a reading group to help understand the divide in our country. All are welcome to participate. Arlie Hochschild’s *Strangers in Their Own Land* will be discussed at 7 p.m. on May 4 at 12 Lawton Road. Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me* will be discussed at 7 p.m. on June 1 at Dixon House, next to the Congregational Church, opposite the town hall. Other titles and schedule to be forthcoming.

The Sanctuary committee invited each Leverett resident to render their own immigration story on a square of paper. Artist Judith Inglesse has created and displayed the first finished banner in the meeting room downstairs in the town hall.

The Schools and Youth committee is planning for the Rock ‘n’ Roll Chorus as an after-school activity. A facilitated hands-on workshop, “What is Democracy?: A Guide for Up-and-Coming Citizens,” is in the planning stage. It will cover government structure, journalism and information access, civil disobedience, contacting our representatives, and running for office, and at the end, participants will be guided through the writing of postcards to their elected representatives.

The next meeting will be a full potluck at 6 p.m. on April 20 at the town hall, with the meeting starting at 7 p.m. All Leverett residents are welcome to attend, and are invited to join any of the groups and their work.

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Most of Tuesday night’s meeting of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee was spent in deep bureaucratic-managerial territory.

The committee voted unanimously to approve a raft of upgrades to district policies recommended by its policy subcommittee. Members absorbed, but offered little feedback on, a nearly 40-minute slide presentation on school improvement planning given by middle and high school principal Annie Leonard. And they had little immediate input to offer superintendent Michael Sullivan when he checked in with them about the district’s “strategic plan development process,” which he said could take a year.

During the public comment period, Cassie Damkoehler of Turners Falls, who has thrown her hat into the ring as a challenger to Michael Langknecht and April Reipold for a seat on the committee in the May 15 election, introduced herself to the committee.

“I have three kids – one at each of the Montague schools – so I’m very involved,” Damkoehler told them, “and I look forward to getting more involved with budgets and policies.”

Gill Elementary School principal Conor Driscoll and teacher Dave Grout shared news that a Six From Six, a team of sixth-graders in the project-based learning program Destination Imagination, were headed for the program’s Global Finals next month in Tennessee after a very successful competition last week in Worcester. (*See story, page B1.*)

The public is invited to contribute toward their travel expenses at www.gofundme.com/gillDI or by sending a check straight to Gill Elementary.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Policies, Reports, Plans, and Processes

Very Tight Budget

Superintendent Sullivan reported that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will be putting more resources into “turnaround” planning at schools testing in the lowest 10% statewide, which includes Sheffield Elementary. Last week consultants from a company called SchoolWorks visited the school, and the district is awaiting their report.

Business director Joanne Blier shared the management letter from the district’s FY’16 audit, which found a “significant improvement” over the previous year.

Blier reported that she had met with Montague’s selectboard and finance committee, and both support using leftover funds from previous school capital projects to cover the project to reconfigure the Hillcrest Elementary stage to create more classroom space. The item is on Montague’s May 6 town meeting warrant.

In response to a question from Valeria “Timmie” Smith of Gill, Blier said that the current year’s budget was “very, very tight.”

“Everybody brace themselves, because we went deep into [excess and deficiency] for this year’s budget,” Smith said, “and she’s telling us that there isn’t going to be money to throw at it next year, to speak of, if we’re that tight – and the following year, forget it. It’s concerning.”

Team Name

No progress was made toward establishing a new name for Turners Falls High School sports teams, formerly the Indians. The previous week, the committee had held a special “brainstorm” meeting that generated a draft of six criteria for a new name, but the draft was

not included in Tuesday’s agenda packet, so the conversation was continued until the committee’s April 25 meeting.

Chair Michael Langknecht read onto the record the committee’s official response to an Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Chris Pinardi. “Our committee does not deliberate over email, nor does the chairperson or superintendent filter information that is, or should be, provided to the committee,” it read in part, concluding that the committee did not intend to take action on the complaint.

Smith requested that, at a future meeting, the school committee review the process of responding to such complaints.

Other Business

Student representative Riley Wood reported that the high school Rise Up class’s annual dodgeball tournament raised over \$500 for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office regional dog shelter.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries has named as “Volunteers of the Year” some Friends of Sheffield, including school committee member Lesley Cogswell and her husband Kyle, and is giving a “Beyond the Call of Duty” award to Jimena Cabezas de Pareja, the district’s liaison with Spanish-speaking families, for her “countless hours of support” including homework coaching for students and families after school.

The committee heard that the district has made use of 18 interns this year, including students from Westfield State, UMass-Amherst, and the American International College, and five Franklin County Tech health students who work on projects and lessons with Hillcrest preschoolers.

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Junior composters Zachary, Emily, Cecilia and Helen, all preschoolers at Swift River School.

WENDELL from page A1
funding from the state is flat; no more money is coming in from school choice, because the school is full with just Wendell and New Salem children. Students who are already at Swift River through school choice may finish their elementary schooling there. The excess & deficiency line funding is flat.

At the same time, costs are increasing – driven by medical insurance, special education, and maintenance. The percentage of students getting special education at Swift River is higher than in surrounding towns, and needs are growing, as more children on the autism spectrum, with communication needs, developmental delays, emotional issues, health issues, and trauma enter the school.

Tanner asked, maybe rhetorically, whether the needs are growing, or just being better recognized.

The school avoids the greater cost of sending special education students out of district by providing services in the school, but that costs money also. “Kids are coming in with problems,” Sullivan said. “The school offers them free breakfast, free lunch, and some children take food home with them.”

Tanner said the school is doing well, and getting punished for it, and said the story should go to the legislature. Special education is mandated and adds cost but the state does not pay any extra. Fewer than 2,000 people in two not very wealthy towns are supporting that school, and getting the same 17.5% Chapter 70 state aid as richer towns in the state. A single student who adds \$100,000 in cost can come as a shock to such a small district.

Deferring maintenance can save money in one budget year, but in the long run it costs extra.

In that vein, Sullivan said that soon the insurance company would insist on having the bus oval repaved. Some money may be saved by having one of the towns’ highway departments rework the drainage.

No one talked about “cutting fat out of the budget,” as there is little if any fat there. It may be possible to defray some costs with grants. Tanner urged citizens to contact the state legislature, where real change

in the way schools are financed might be initiated.

Junkyard

Wendell’s selectboard moved into its office for the remainder of its regular meeting.

Building inspector Phil Delorey reported that Andy Hamilton is suing him and the ZBA, asking the court to overturn the order to clean up his property. Hamilton, with no counsel, is speaking for himself. Delorey said he expected that after the legal steps are followed the suit will give the cleanup order court authority.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said a second letter about Hamilton’s unregistered vehicles on the property was sent, and got no action. She suggested that the town look at the possibility of tightening the town bylaw that limits more than two unregistered vehicles on one property in Wendell.

Corridor Festival

Accompanied by three representatives from Mount Grace land trust, Wendell resident Anne Diemand announced a festival celebrating the conservation restrictions in Wendell and surrounding towns that create and maintain a wildlife corridor that stretches from Quabbin reservoir to the Connecticut and Millers rivers.

The festival will have art booths and food and be held Sunday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Diemand farm. It will start with a 7K run or walk, touring the farm’s boundary, with water and medical stations along the way. Diemand said she spoke with police chief Ed Chase about restricting traffic to one lane of the short stretch of Mormon Hollow Road that will start the course.

There will be art and food vendors, and there is discussion with Element Brewing Company about selling beer. Aldrich said she would look into the law about a one-day license. The Gaslight Tinkers will provide music.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser suggested publicity on the town website and listserv.

Cold Floor

The board is still working on request for proposals for insulating

COMPOST from page A1

but very effective.”

Aliyah points out that it is “important to pay attention to details, and know the difference between what is compostible and what is not.”

Aliyah talks about their favorite part, a task reserved for the sixth graders: the daily feeding of the school chickens. All three students are impressed by the way their own table scraps are used as part of the chickens’ diet. Their teacher, Danika Tyminski says that she loves that “students are learning about the effects of our waste on the environment and the steps that we all can take to reduce that impact.”

Back at the composting table, the sixth graders offer a thorough explanation of the process. Kendrah and Aliyah begin immediately, inspecting the food waste receptacle and removing any items accidentally thrown

there. Peter points out the various receptacles on the table for trash, liquids, and recyclables. They are brightly enthusiastic, as well as knowledgeable.

According to Ramsdell, it took students a while to get used to the new system, started in 2009, but now they are largely responsible for all of the work. He says that the program “makes students stop and think before they put things in the trash,” and that it becomes part of their education in the importance of conservation, and in responsibility to the school community.

Ramsdell points out that their efforts also relieve custodians of a lot of trash collecting, giving them more time to attend to the myriad of other pressing tasks they must perform daily. A lot of winners here, from local to global.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Building Custodian Proposed

By KATIE NOLAN

Pines and poplars have grown up on the outer slope of the earthen berm surrounding the Erving sludge landfill, which formerly received sludge from POTW #2, the town-owned wastewater treatment plant operated by Erving Industries.

The maintenance program for the landfill, supervised by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, includes annual mowing of the landfill’s cap, but has not previously included removal of trees from the berm’s slope. This year, MassDEP has decided that the trees should be removed.

According to MassDEP, if the trees are uprooted during an extreme weather event, such as a hurricane or tornado, the berm will be weakened. A weakened berm could lead to erosion, and, potentially, to release of the sludge solids to the Millers River.

At the April 10 Erving selectboard meeting, Ralph Cutter of Erving Industries presented an application for tree removal and a plan for cutting the trees. Cutter said that the trees would be cut down this fall or winter to minimize disturbance to the berm. He said that the downed trees will be removed from the slope with an excavator, also to minimize disturbance, and chipped.

Cutter estimated the tree removal cost at approximately \$35,000, to be

paid by Erving Industries. With selectboard chair Jacob Smith absent from the meeting, selectboard members William Bembury and Scott Bastarache voted to authorize Smith to sign the application.

Highway Department

Highway foreman Glen McCrory, noting a lack of applications for the recently posted part-time seasonal recreational grounds maintenance position, recommended revising the duties for the highway/building maintenance/custodial position.

McCrory suggested adding the parks and recreational grounds maintenance duties to the current 19.5-hour per week highway/building maintenance/custodial position, and removing the custodial work.

Under McCrory’s plan, a new full-time building custodian position would be created, with the new employee responsible for all custodial work at the police station, library, town hall, and the first floor of the former Pleasant Street School. The senior/community center currently has its own 19.5-hour per week custodian.

Bembury and Bastarache were generally positive about the plan, but wanted to wait to make a decision until the April 24 meeting, when board chair Smith would be present.

McCrory also presented an estimate of \$70,534.90 for refurbishing

the town’s 1997 John Deere backhoe. Board members, observing that the estimated cost for a new backhoe, which would come with a warranty, was \$135,000, felt that purchase of a new backhoe was a reasonable idea. The board asked McCrory to forward the estimate to the finance committee.

Other Business

Bastarache provided examples of a “narrative style” performance review form for town employees. He said that use of a narrative format results in a dialogue between the employee and supervisor, and allows setting of sound goals for the employee.

The board asked administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to develop a draft performance review form for the next selectboard meeting.

Bryan Smith asked the board to consider using electronic information packets for their weekly meetings. He said creating the packets of information for board members took a lot of employee time for copying and collating, and also used a lot of paper.

The board agreed to review use of electronic packets, and consider it a pilot project to model use of electronic information packets for other town boards and commissions.

Michele Turner was appointed to the cultural council.

the town hall floor, most of which is over a crawlspace which selectboard member Dan Keller said, from experience, has floor joists barely above the ground.

Pooser said that excavation of that crawlspace may be as expensive as the actual insulation. A wand that sprays closed-cell foam may reach the far corners.

Aldrich said that the state requirements for bids has changed, and now any project over \$10,000 requires three bids and posting in the central register.

Keller said he thought the project could be divided into four bids:

earth removal; placing a plastic moisture barrier and covering it with sand; insulating; and sealing holes in the sheathing. Getting footings under the beams is also a possibility.

Other Business

A call to Kate Buttolph of Mass Audubon about the property around Bowen’s Pond answered the question of what Mass Audubon wants: they want to conserve the property, but not take ownership of the dam. Wendell does not want to take ownership of the dam either.

The board forwarded to the

highway commission and the police the regular offer by FRCOG for traffic counts.

Aldrich reported that Wendell will get \$189,307 in Chapter 90 highway aid.

Heard said that the people living across the street from Ruggles Pond want to get internet service from Montague. Keller agreed that it made sense because the house is at the town line, and an internet cable is coming up the road from Millers Falls. On the Wendell side, there is a long stretch of state forest that has neither houses nor utility poles.



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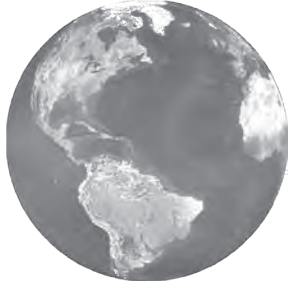
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La guerra en Siria: Conocer el pasado para entender el presente.

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

La República Árabe Siria, conocida popularmente como Siria, se encuentra a orillas del Mediterráneo en la región de Oriente Próximo. Siria tiene fronteras con Turquía al norte, al este con Irak, al sur con Israel y Jordania, y al oeste con Líbano. En 1946 se proclamó como una república, y desde 1973 como una república democrática, popular y socialista. Eligen a su presidente cada siete años y este es también el jefe de las fuerzas armadas.

Siria siempre ha estado bajo el paraguas de grandes imperios. Solamente existe como país desde hace 100 años y se gobierna por sí misma desde hace 50 años. Europa diseñó estos pequeños países en la zona de Oriente Medio para poder controlarlos. Sus fronteras nunca fueron decididas por los propios países, sino por otros. Tampoco tuvieron en cuenta al diseñar las fronteras a sus grupos de población. Por lo tanto, de aquellos polvos, vienen estos lodos.

La mayoría de la población en Siria practica la religión islámica. Como muchos de ustedes sabrán la religión islámica se separa en dos ramas: los suníes y los chiíes. La mayoría de los musulmanes son suníes, el segundo grupo son los chiíes. La diferencia principal entre los dos grupos es que siguen diferentes *hadices* que son los dichos y hechos del profeta Mahoma.

La mayoría de la población de Siria se concentra al oeste del país, cerca del mar Mediterráneo ya que gran parte del país es un desierto que posee un tercio de las reservas del mundo de petróleo y de gas natural. Si se quieren extraer estos dos productos y llevarlos hacia Europa, se puede hacer por el sur de la península, llevándolos hacia el norte y después a través del canal de Suez, por el que hay que abonar unos impuestos por utilizarlo. Hay otra forma más fácil y directa de transportar estos recursos a Europa: la línea recta, a través de Siria y hacia el Mediterráneo. Por lo tanto, quien controle esa zona, controla las reservas de petróleo y gas natural.

La civilización en el planeta empieza en tres lugares, y uno de ellos es en esa zona, en Mesopotamia. En esta zona nacieron también las tres principales religiones monoteístas: cristianismo, judaísmo e islamismo. Esta región desde tiempos antiguos ha sido controlada por grandes imperios. Primero los persas, después, griegos y romanos.

El imperio romano con los años se divide en dos, y la parte que permanece es el imperio que se encuentra en esa región. Tras la caída del Imperio Romano, el Islam toma el relevo imperial. Los últimos en llegar a esa zona fueron los turcos que venían de un remoto lugar de Asia y fundaron el Imperio Otomano que permaneció en esa zona hasta la Primera Guerra Mundial, es decir, unos 600 años.

Al acabar la Primera Guerra Mundial es el momento en que por primera vez aparece Siria en un mapa. Siria nació de un falso acuerdo entre Francia y Gran Bretaña en el que se prometió al pueblo árabe (importante es decir que no todos los árabes son de religión musulmana) una gran nación llamada la Gran Arabia, un gran país solamente para ellos.

Inventaron esta estratagema para poder derrotar al Imperio Otomano desde dentro. Pero, esto era falso y nunca les dieron ese país que les habían prometido, sino que los franceses y británicos crearon muchos países



Mapa de Siria

pequeños para poder tenerlos bajo su control. Siria perteneció a Francia.

Después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los europeos son expulsados de Siria, aunque antes de salir de Oriente Medio crearon un nuevo estado: Israel. Un estado al que sus vecinos no reconocen y desde entonces es motivo de múltiples enfrentamientos en la zona.

Siria no era un país muy estable en esa época, se suceden los golpes de estado y aparece la ideología Baath que se hace con el control y se expande por el mundo árabe. La ideología Baath persigue el sueño de una antigua nación árabe mezclada con ideas socialistas, y es laica. Durante esos años, Siria se alía con Egipto aunque no comparten frontera, y Egipto les convence para nacionalizar el petróleo. Esta unión fue duradera.

Desde el año 1963 hasta el año 2011 gobernó en Siria el Partido Baath Árabe Socialista y desde 1970 el poder ha estado en manos de la familia Asad. También de ideología Baath era Saddam Hussein en Irak. Empezaron a nacer diferencias entre ambos países y esto hizo que los países de la zona con ideología Baath se dividieran entre países entre pro-Irak y pro-Siria. A nivel internacional nos encontramos en la Guerra Fría. En el mundo o eras del eje de la U.R.S.S. o pertenecías al eje de E.E.U.U. Durante la guerra fría en Siria, surge una oposición al régimen Baath, los llamados Hermanos Musulmanes.

En Siria a pesar de ser un estado laico, los gobernantes y jefes militares son chiíes, aunque sean una minoría del 13%. Por supuesto, los sunnís, que son la mayoría, no estaban contentos con esta situación y se aliaron con los Hermanos Musulmanes para protestar contra el régimen Baath. La revuelta fue sofocada con un gran baño de sangre.

En el año 2000 muere el padre del actual Al-Asad. Al principio trae un aire de cambio, y parece ser más abierto y democrático que su padre. Libera presos políticos y lleva Internet a Siria. Esto hace que se reabra el debate político y vuelven los Hermanos Musulmanes. Al-Asad encarcela a la oposición y reprime toda protesta con mano dura. Este es el momento en que Bush incluye a Siria en el eje del mal y consigue así el aislamiento internacional del país.

El pueblo kurdo que habita al norte del país inicia sus propias revueltas seguidas de gran represión y número de muertos. Así llegamos a 2011 y a la famosa Primavera Árabe, una protesta que se propaga por los países árabes pidiendo la democratización del poder. Al-Asad usa el ejército para reprimir las protestas y mueren unas mil personas.

Sospechas de fraude en las elecciones de Ecuador.

Por VICTORIA MAILLO

El pasado domingo 2 de abril se celebraron elecciones presidenciales en Ecuador. Fue una campaña electoral dura, con acusaciones llevadas al terreno personal entre los dos candidatos, y en algunos casos, incluso, juego sucio como cuando en los autobuses urbanos aparecieron anuncios diciendo que Lasso pensaba privatizar el sistema de salud, algo que Lasso nunca prometió.

En el momento de escribir estas líneas, una semana después, los resultados no están claros para todos. El domingo por la noche, nada más cerrarse los colegios electorales, se empezaron a reunir algunos manifestantes ante la sede del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), con banderas de Ecuador y luciendo el color blanco como símbolo del cambio.

Según los resultados oficiales presentados por el gobierno de Correa, el candidato Lenin Moreno, del mismo partido que Correa, logró el 51.16% de los votos, y el banquero candidato del partido opositor, Guillermo Lasso, el 48.84%.

Lasso decidió impugnar los resultados basándose en diferencias en objeciones numéricas en las 24 provincias del país. Por el contrario, Moreno se declaró el presidente de todos y dispuesto a continuar con el proyecto empezado por Correa al que este denominó “el socialismo del siglo XXI”.

Ecuador es un país donde el voto es obligatorio y donde muchos de sus ciudadanos viven en el extranjero. En España, donde viven 168.000 ecuatorianos, Lenin Moreno (Partido Alianza País) ganó por el 57.4 % de los votos. La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) refrendó los resultados que daban por ganador a Moreno (Movimiento CREO).

Al mismo tiempo, dicha organización tomó en cuenta las discrepancias presentadas por Lasso y animó a este a solucionarlas por los cauces legales.

El presidente de la Organización de Estados Americanos es Leonel Fernández que antes era líder de la izquierda en la República Dominicana. Estados Unidos siguió la misma directriz que la OEA. En Ecuador, las instituciones que deben respaldar la limpieza de las elecciones están controladas por el gobierno de Correa, y al resto del mundo no le importan las elecciones de un pequeño país como es Ecuador.

Este viernes pasado la policía entró en las oficinas en Guayaquil de la empresa que había llevado la campaña política de Lasso.



En la imagen el expresidente Correa

Anteriormente había entrado en las oficinas de la empresa privada nacional de encuestas electorales CEDATOS y que había dado el triunfo a Lasso. En esa operación arrestaron a dos de sus trabajadores además de llevarse computadores y otros materiales.

Los partidarios de Lasso acusan a Moreno de usar recursos del gobierno para influenciar el voto e influir en el resultado, algo que ya en el 2009 la Unión Europea acusó al gobierno de Correa. En esta ocasión no se le ha permitido a la comisión designada por la Unión Europea poder vigilar las lecciones. Lasso en estos momentos sigue reclamando el recuento total de los votos.

Lenín Moreno fue vicepresidente del país entre 2007 y 2013, aunque tiene una personalidad muy diferente del expresidente Correa. Moreno, que sufrió un atraco hace veinte años y desde entonces debe utilizar una silla de ruedas para poder desplazarse, es un hombre de carácter pacífico y con un talante y un pronto muy diferente al del anterior presidente. Al mismo tiempo sus detractores le acusan de su falta de liderazgo al compararlo con Correa.

A Lenín Moreno le queda una difícil tarea, la de gobernar en un país bajo sospecha de fraude, un país muy dividido, similar, salvando las distancias, a la situación en Estados Unidos. Unos están en contra del *corretismo*, y otros odian todo lo que representa un banquero como Lasso.

Por otra parte, el momento de Moreno no es el mismo de Correa cuando ganó las elecciones. La situación económica en Ecuador en estos momentos no es boyante y tendrá que enfrentarse a una política de recortes que no va a ser popular. Por último, tendrá también que luchar contra la sombra del fantasma de lo que está ocurriendo en Venezuela, otro miembro de pleno derecho del llamado socialismo del siglo XXI.

Estos enfrentamientos se van desarrollando, haciéndose mayores y al final se convierten en una guerra civil que no tiene un momento exacto de inicio.

Hoy en día hay muchos bandos en juego en la guerra de Siria. Principalmente todo está dividido entre la minoría de los chiíes y los sunnís que son la mayoría. Los chiíes que están en el poder son laicos, su líder es Al-Asad y están enfrentados al resto. Los sunnís, laicos, también conocidos como ejército libre de Siria (FSA), junto con el Frente Islámico que es religioso y otros 70 grupos forman una coalición llamada la oposición para los medios de comunicación.

También sunnís, pero radicales son Al-Rusna, los llamados Al-Qaeda en Siria. Otros islamistas radicales son ISIS o Estado Islámico, que vienen de la rama de Al-Qaeda en Irak y que controlan la mayor parte de Siria e Irak. El estado islámico quiere imponer un

estado religioso a lo largo a de Asia, África y el Levante español.

La situación internacional es la siguiente: Las fuerzas de Al-Asad son apoyadas por Rusia, Irán y China. En contra de Al-Asad están Estados Unidos, Francia, Gran Bretaña, Turquía y Arabia Saudí que apoyan a la oposición.

La semana pasada el gobierno de Trump decidió enviar misiles a Siria como respuesta a las fuerzas de Al-Asad. Rusia e Irak advirtieron al gobierno de los Estados Unidos sobre la ilegalidad de esa acción, y la posibilidad de tomar represalias en el futuro. Esta fue la primera brecha en la amistad entre Trump y Putin que estaban viviendo una especie de luna de miel sin precedentes desde el inicio de la Guerra Fría.

Parece ser que el gobierno estadounidense solamente ve como posible solución la salida del poder de Bachar Al-Asad.

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SPORTS from pg A1

teammates, who were now huddled up in blankets and winter coats, never let their spirit flag as they cheered for every point and gave encouragement with every miss.

Alysha took the first set, 6 games to 3, but had dropped the second 4-6. Then in the deciding set, with the score 4 games to 3, Coach Vic quietly advised Alysha, “You’re not playing an opponent, just play the ball.”

The eighth game of the third set seesawed from deuce to advantage-in and back to deuce, but Alysha took it to go up 5-3. And although Jenna narrowed it to 5-4, after 9, Alysha held on to win the match 6-4 and Turners beat Greenfield for the first time in two years.

The other two matches that Turners won were a singles match (Amber Taylor 6-4, 6-1) and a doubles match (Kaili Lynch and Carlie Kretchmar 6-0, 6-1). Kortney Thurber dropped the second singles match 6-4, 6-1, and Isabelle Farrick and Maria Labelle lost their doubles match 6-3, 6-1.

On Monday, April 10, the Powertown ladies traveled to Belcher-town to face the Orioles, a team who finished 20–1 last year, losing their only match in the state semifinals. Thurber prevented a shutout by sweeping her match 6-2, 6-1, but Turners dropped the other four matches (Wozniak 3-6, 2-6, Lynch 6-4, 2-6, 8-10, Taylor and Kretchmar 1-6, 1-2, Hailey Trott and Isabelle Farrick 1-6, 0-6).

The next day, on Tuesday, the Blue Ladies again traveled to Hamden County, this time to West Springfield to challenge the Terriers. In another close match, Turners lost 3-2.

With Wozniak out of the lineup, Thurber, Lynch and Trott took over the singles duties, with Thurber (0-6, 6-4, 6-3) and Trott (6-3, 2-6, 7-5) succeeding and Lynch (1-6, 2-6) falling. Turners lost both doubles matches (Taylor and Kretchmar 7-5, 5-7, 2-6; Isabelle Farrick and Maria Labelle 1-6, 0-6).

Boys Track and Field
Franklin Tech 80 – Athol 44

Ricky Smith met me at the Greenfield tennis match and informed me that the Franklin Tech boys’ track team consists of students from both Franklin Tech and Turners Falls, something I neglected to mention in my previous article. So on Friday April 7, I made an effort to keep tallies of the track scores while simultaneously watching the baseball game.

With intermittent freezing rain and plummeting temperatures, spectators, coaches, and officials alike lamented that they had neglected to bring gloves, winter coats, or umbrellas, and between events, athletes did their best to stay focused. For many events, contestants kept their full sweat-suits on, and at least one kid took a spill into the high-jump pits.

But in the end, Tech prevailed.

Owen Ortiz won three events: the long jump at 19’3.5”, the triple jump at 38’6”, and the 100-meter in 11.60.

Other Franklin Tech winners were Spencer Blair (400m in 1:04.80), Joel Farrick, (110 hurdles in 22.70), Martin Given (2 miles in 13:23.90), Dalton Wesoloski (the high jump at 5’0”), Ricky Smith (shot put, 33’11.75”), the 4x100m relay team (52.2) and the 4x800m relay team (4:40.00).

Girls Track and Field
TFHS 73 – Athol 73
Mahar 125 – TFHS 20

This week the girls’ track team had two meets. On Friday, April 7, they hosted Athol in a sleet-drenched affair, and on Tuesday they traveled to Orange to face Mahar.

In the Athol meet, Dabney Rollins won three events – the 110m hurdles (27.3), the 400m hurdles, and the high jump (4’2”) – while Kristin Slowinski took first in the shot put (24’10.5”), besting her career high by 6 inches. Slowinski also won the discus (62’8”).

Other first-place winners for Turners were Lucy Postera in the 800m (3:35.00), Brynn Kruzlic in the long jump (12’3.75”), and Amanda Cooke in the triple jump (28’8”).

Against Mahar, Turners took first in two events: Rollins won the 110m hurdles in 20.90, and Kruzlic jumped 12’10” in the long jump.

Baseball
TFHS 1 – Smith Academy 0
TFHS 6 – Mahar 5

The Powertown Baseballers started their season with two 1-run wins. On Friday, April 7, they topped Smith in extra innings in a 1-run pitchers’ duel, and on Tuesday, they held back a late inning rally to beat Mahar 6-5.

On Friday, Turners braved freezing rain, a stingy Falcon defense, and periodic gunshots from the starting pistol, and came away with a hard-fought 1-run victory. “You did good,” skipper Scott Minckler said to his team after the win. “But last year, we beat Smith by a run in the first game, and then laid an egg.”

It looked good for the Boys in Blue for the first two innings, but they were unable to score, leaving five men stranded on base. On the mound, Quinn Doyle was hurling a no-hitter deep into the game, but with very little offensive production by the Turners’ bats, it remained a scoreless tie.

Both teams had opportunities in the later innings, but the pitchers and the defenses kept runners off the plate. In a late-game gamble, Smith tried a suicide squeeze, but Turners didn’t fall for it. Catcher Jon Fritz made the tag at home, and the game remained at double zeros.

Then came the eighth inning. Minckler sent Doyle to the field, and called up Kyle Dodge to the mound. Although his pitching staff has been a concern for Minckler

this season, Dodge and the fielders came through.

Dodge struck out the first batter, but got into a little bit of trouble. Nick Croteau then made a terrific catch and the Falcons again came up scoreless, sending the game into the bottom half of the eighth.

Smith didn’t replace their pitcher, which turned out to be costly. He was getting a little wild, and the cold drizzle didn’t help his arm – and Turners had the good fortune of having their top of the order at the plate. Both Kyle Bergmann and Tionne Brown got hits and the pitcher allowed a base on balls to load them up.

Then Riley Watroba came to bat. His patience and good eye paid off, as he was walked and forced in the winning run.

On the mound, Doyle let up three hits, struck out 9, and walked just one batter. In the eighth, Dodge held the Falcons hitless, whiffed one, allowed two walks, and held on to earn the W.

At the plate, Brown had two hits, Bergmann had one, and Watroba earned a walk-off RBI.

Tuesday’s game was as different as the weather was, but Turners still managed to eke out a 1-run victory. In just four days, the temperature had risen almost 50 degrees, and the skies were clear.

Tyler Lavin started on the mound for Powertown, and Mike Babcock backed him up in relief.

Tuesday’s game was scoreless for the first two innings, but Turners scored a run in the third and another in the fourth. Mahar halved the score in their fourth, but a fifth-inning rally made the score 5-1 Blue.

Turners scored an insurance run in the seventh, and believe me, they needed it. The Senators scored 5 runs in the bottom of the seventh, but Turners held on to win 6-5.

Powertown earned the win on single-baggers: placing 10 hits, all singles. Brown kept his hit parade going by getting three hits, scoring twice, and knocking in a run. Dodge had two singles and a RBI, and Ryan Campbell also had a pair of hits and scored twice.

Bergmann hit a single and batted in two runs. Lavin and Dom Carme also had hits for Turners, and Croteau had a RBI. Lavin allowed 5 hits, 2 runs, struck out 4, and earned the win. Babcock let up 4 hits, 3 runs and a walk.

Ice Hockey

I was disappointed to see that Turners Falls will not have a hockey team next year. On cold, dark winter nights, I really enjoyed watching the Blue Tribe skate.

This week, two Turners Falls skaters, Bryan Baumann and Doug Hanieski, were selected to the All-Western Mass.Hockey Division III-A Second Team.

Next week: The champions return!



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LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was April 12, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Turners Hosts Creative
Economy Workshop

On the morning of April 10, despite the chill in the air, the downtown parking lots were full, and Avenue A and adjoining streets were clogged with throngs of well-dressed folks with Boston accents juggling coffee cups and notebooks, parading from art space to art space.

It wasn’t an arts walk in the conventional sense; the visitors were mostly out-of-towners who for at least a day made Turners Falls an arts destination. The hundred-plus participants had descended on Turners for a statewide conference on the creative economy.

It’s no secret to us locals that over the last several years Montague has become the site of a burgeoning, and now flourishing, art scene. Painters, sculptors, photographers, ceramicists, writers, musicians, and fiber artists all make their homes or have studios in Montague. Turners Falls River-Culture, the umbrella organization that seeks to unite and push the town forward as a place for art and artists, has increasingly focused on marketing Turners Falls as a destination for art, and on marketing its artists to the larger world.

NASCAR Fish:
The Conte Fish Lab

Like knowing how to win a race, understanding migrating fish is all about knowing the course. At the Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Falls (Conte Lab, for short), scientists are studying anadromous fish – fish that swim up rivers from the sea to breed in their birthplaces – over

the course of their life cycles.

Dr. Alex Haro, fisheries biologist and a principal investigator at the Conte Lab, talked with us about the lives and journeys of the Connecticut River’s traveling fish.

The word anadromous comes from the Greek work *anadramein*, meaning, “to run upward.” Shad, salmon, and sturgeon are the NAS-CAR drivers of our region’s fish world!

Conte Lab has a mission: to improve the health of anadromous fish populations in the Connecticut River and its many tributaries, and restore them to viable breeding numbers. To fulfill it, scientists must understand all aspects of fish movement through the developed and urbanized areas of New England – especially over or around the many dams and other human-made obstructions we’ve placed along the fishes’ migratory highways.

Health Board
Shuts Down Bakery

Gina McNeely, the town’s health agent, received a complaint about Hunting Hills in Montague Center operating a bakery without a permit last week. She inspected the Route 63 facility, and ordered the bakery shut down until such time as the owner takes out a permit to operate a bakery (\$75 annually) and a permit to operate a food establishment (\$175 annually), and corrects observed conditions.

McNeely said, “Hunting Hills has certainly operated a nice kitchen in the past.” A phone message to Hunting Hills seeking comment was not returned at press time.

McNeely said inspections by her department are largely complaint-driven. She encouraged people to call the board of health “if they have any questions about what they see in a food establishment in town.”

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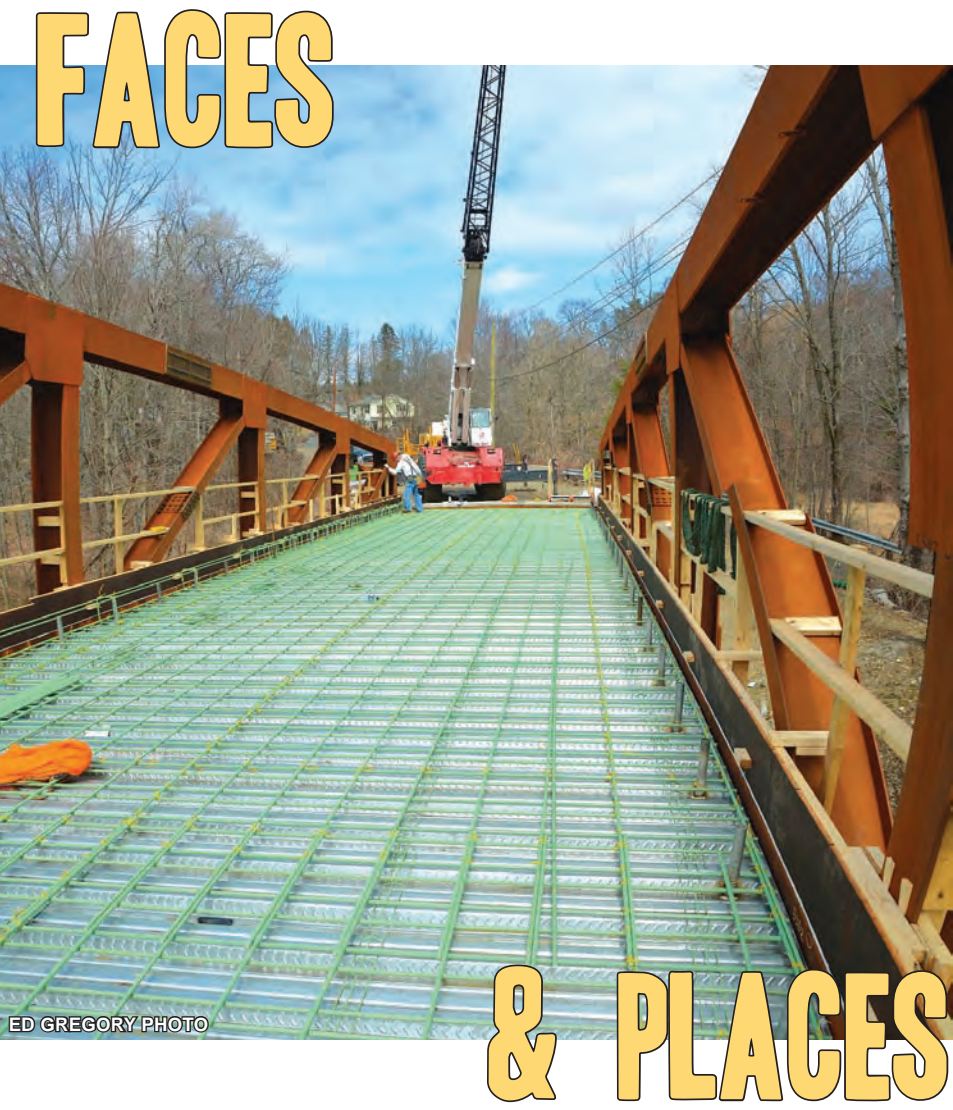
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Montague's Greenfield Road, once a major thoroughfare, was severed into two pieces in 1999 after the bridge over the train tracks nearly collapsed and was dismantled. At long last, it is being rejoined this spring – to pedestrian and bicycle traffic, though not to cars and trucks.

Photographer Ed Gregory reports: “I visited the Greenfield Road bridge construction site last Wednesday. Things are progressing nicely... I’m on the deck, looking to the north portal. Re-bar is being installed on the metal sub-deck prior to the concrete pour, which should happen some time this week.... It’s wide enough to accommodate an emergency vehicle up to about 6 tons. As I’m told, a baluster will be placed at either end to disallow regular vehicular traffic. Emergency vehicles will have access to the baluster removal.”

MONTAGUE from page A1

Finally, Dobosz, stating that he and the skatepark committee were considering a “night skate” event, requested input from the selectboard: “Not an overnight skate, but something that goes until ten or eleven o’clock.”

“In my opinion, if people want it and will use it, then give them the opportunity,” said Michael Nelson.

Town administrator Steve Ellis asked how the event would be “structured.”

Turning to two members of the skatepark committee sitting in the audience, Dobosz noted that it could be organized in a number of ways, and that “it is a concept in its infancy.”

Bryan Dolan of the skatepark committee said that the Greenfield skatepark used to hold night skates “so it might be a nostalgia thing.”

“I have no problem with it,” said selectboard member Chris Boutwell. “I think it’s a great idea.”

The conversation ended with Ellis urging Dobosz and the committee to monitor the wear and tear on the skatepark structure. “What we don’t want are a lot of features that are closed or sub-standard,” he said. “We need to get a sense of what the ongoing maintenance costs are expected to be.”

Anne Jemas stated that there was going to be a meeting of people who use the park, a “friends of the skate park committee,” distinct from the older committee that initiated the park. Jemas said she had never envisioned being an expert in skate-parks but now when she travels around the country she visits them. “Ours is really well made,” she told the board. “I think it’s going to be there to stay, with minor repairs.”

The selectboard took no votes on the skatepark.

Work Delayed

Ellis gave an update on work at the Strathmore Mill complex, which is being mandated by the state fire marshal and financed by a \$100,000 town meeting appropriation.

He noted “bumps in the road” in bidding out the work: the initial bid had included both board-

ing the building and emptying it of paper, but the companies that responded to the bid tended to have expertise in one area or the other, so the town has decided to split the project into its two components and rebid them separately.

Other Business

Wendy Iseman came before the board to request a permit for a climate change rally at Peskeompskut Park on April 29. The group organizing the event is called the “Pint Huddle,” being created by People’s Pint owner Alden Booth. Iseman said the event, a “sister rally” to one in Washington DC, will feature speakers and music.

The board approved the request after noting that police chief Chip Dodge would need to sign off the event, and that the group would have to pay a \$25 permit fee.

The board approved criteria for selecting design companies for town construction projects. Steve Ellis said that the town already had such criteria but that they could not be located. The latest criteria developed by Ellis tracks closely with that recommended by the state.

Ellis discussed the town’s recent application to create a state-recognized “cultural district” in Turners Falls. He said the Massachusetts Cultural Council will be visiting Turners on April 12. There will be a tour of the proposed cultural district, and a roundtable discussion at the Discovery Center.

Ellis announced that the town could receive a grant to cover the pilot project at the Water Pollution Control Facility to evaluate its special sludge removal process. He said an article to fund the evaluation would probably be taken off the annual town meeting warrant.

Ellis also announced that Republic Services, which is in charge of town trash removal and recycling, would be donating \$5,000 to town programs. \$3,500 will go to the Turners Falls RiverCulture program, and \$1,500 will be targeted to community-building efforts in Millers Falls.

The next selectboard meeting will be on Monday, April 24.

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Gill Elementary School: Destination Imagination!

PHOTO COURTESY DAVID GROUT



The award-winning team, front: Pearl Schatz-Allison, Abby Moore, Grace Parzych, Djibril Diam, Isaac Morton, and Kole Broderick; back: David Grout.

By ANNE HARDING

GILL – The Gill Elementary School has been participating in Destination Imagination since 2012. Destination Imagination is an educational nonprofit organization that develops project-based learning programs blending science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the arts and social entrepreneurship that has been active since 1999. Students learn to think creatively and critically, work as a team, solve problems and take calculated risks. The program builds self-confidence, and teaches perseverance.

This year, five teams entered the Regional Competition in Pepperell, MA – two sixth-grade teams, two third-grade teams, and one team of fourth- and fifth-graders. The teams all performed very well, but one of the sixth-grade teams advanced to the State Competition at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and placed second, earning a berth at May’s Global Competition in Knoxville, TN.

Not surprisingly, the team members – Djibril Diaw, Isaac

Morton, Kole Broderick, Abby Moore, Pearl Schatz-Allison, and Grace Parzych – are tremendously excited about advancing to a competition that draws participants from around the world. Some are first-year participants, and others have been on a team since third grade, but all agreed the enthusiasm of teacher David Grout and the active support of their families drew them to the program. They’ve been meeting every Friday since the beginning of the school year, but once the competitions began, meetings happened more frequently.

Teams accept a challenge early in the year; typically, they pick one of six problems. This team chose an Engineering Challenge to build a balsa wood and glue structure weighing between 12 and 50 grams that could hold weight.

Scoring was based on many things, but one important criterion was the ratio between the weight of the structure and the total weight it held. Their final project weighed 48 grams, but managed to hold 585 pounds – more than 5,000 times its weight!

In addition to the construction challenge, the team had to act out a scenario that involved two or more people portraying nations working together to solve an international problem. Team Gill developed a scenario where France and United States worked together to intercept a cyber attack aimed at stealing nuclear codes.

Using a PVC framework and cardboard wall painted to represent computer code, the students depicted hackers, ally defense teams, firewalls and more, cleverly using magnets behind the scenes to coordinate the moving parts. While the behind-the-scenes team manipulated the graphic components, Pearl and Abby were tap dancing to mimic the sounds of keyboards clicking.

The team will be honing their projects to get ready for the Global Competition which takes place May 24 through 27 in Knoxville, TN. They’re excited about meeting students from around the world, making costumes for the Duct Tape Ball, trading pins, and facing another round of competition.

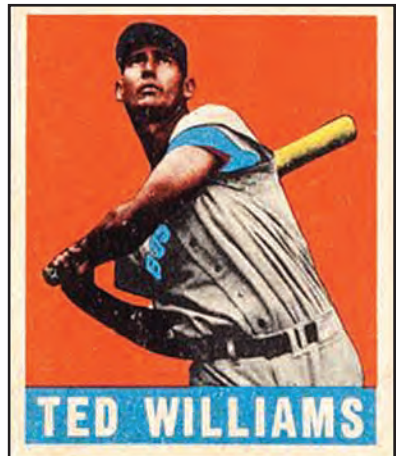
It’s a 13- or 14-hour drive from Gill, but the team plans to stay overnight in Pennsylvania with Pearl’s aunt. They will be accompanied by teacher David Grout and Betty Greenmore, Abby’s grandmother.

Grout has started a GoFundMe site to help raise the funds to get the team to Knoxville and back: go-fundme.com/gillDI They’ve raised more than half the money to date.

Grout was in seventh grade when he joined “Odyssey of the Mind,” a predecessor program that suffered legal struggles between for profit and not-for-profit factions in 1999 after bringing students together for tournaments for 20 years. Fearing the legal wrangles would take years to resolve, a group of volunteers formed Destination Imagination as an alternative STEM program, and it’s been growing ever since.

see IMAGINATION page B6

Jinx: When Doctors Prescribed Whiskey – and Regular Families Could Afford Red Sox Tickets



By JERRY COLLINS

This excerpt from “Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952” was written by Jerry “Jinx” Collins about his youth growing up in Turners Falls.

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.” A copy of his book is available at the Carnegie Library.

Tough Times Ahead

After 1948 the economy had slowed considerably and with all the GIs coming home from WWII and entering the work force, layoffs start to occur. Jinx’s dad was one of those affected. Unemployment compensation was minimal and short-termed as well and, being a very hard worker, he wouldn’t just sit around and complain.

With early fall arriving and school just beginning, he applied for and got a part time job driving a school bus. It didn’t pay enough to support the family, so he filled in the rest of the time available picking apples. At age 49, this was not the easiest work, but he would do whatever it took to take care of his brood.

Unfortunately, all the stress and

mental strain as well as the hard physical labor over the past years caught up with him, and he had a heart attack. In those days, medical technology had not advanced to today’s standards. The doctor only recommended rest; so, for several months, he stayed home trying not to do anything strenuous, a real challenge for him.

Jinx remembers his dad using a long-stemmed cigarette holder like the one president Roosevelt used; its purpose, to allow a filter to be inserted to trap the tobacco tars. You have to remember, that back then how nicotine affected the heart had not yet become widely known. In addition, effects from things such as high cholesterol, which caused plaque to build up in the arteries, had not entered the medical scene; and open heart surgery would be at least a decade away.

With no heart medications available either, the only thing the doctor prescribed for him was a shot of whiskey each evening. No objection to that, as far as Jinx’s dad was concerned.

Fortunately, Jinx’s mom found work, which helped the family through the tough times until his

see JINX page B4



Jinx’s senior picture from the 1952 Turners Falls High School yearbook.

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

The True Feel of Spring

Along the rail trail, the peepers awaken in the vernal pools.

The river is high and roily as it rushes past the yard. We have measured over two inches of rain. It’s true mud season on the dirt roads.

In the yard, the crocus and miniature iris bloom. They are scentless but splash bright spots of purple and yellow along the hedge and at other randomly chosen spots in the yard, where they have been transplanted by energetic rodents. The daffodil shoots have buds now, too.

With the soft warm air our spirits rise like the sap of energy in the maples. We set aside the boring indoor chores, and turn our thoughts to the enticements of yard and garden.

The sluggishness of the past month evaporates in the spring weather. What pleasure in setting out the lawn furniture, in raking the burgeoning grass, in snipping out the intrusive bittersweet and briars which have crept into the flower beds. Even the winter couch-potato cat has revived from semi-hibernation and is

see GARDENER’S page B3

Women’s Public Speaking Club Offers Introductory Workshops



Speaker Sisterhood participants, from left to right: Pamela Thornton, Carlyn Saltman, Karolynn Sheppard, Lenore Braun, program development director Cathy McNally, Amber Ladley, and in front, founder and CEO Angela Lussier.

By EDITE CUNHA

GREENFIELD – To say that the Speaker Sisterhood is a network of public speaking clubs for women is simply not saying enough. Angela Lussier, CEO of Speaker Sisterhood, says that the mission of the clubs, which also operate in Amherst, South Hadley, and Springfield, is to provide a community for “women who want to increase confidence, boost public speaking skills, have fun, and maybe even change the world.”

Lussier, who as a young girl growing up in Hadley was teased and bullied, developed the program in 2016

not only as a way to practice speaking in front of a group, but as an empowering support system. Speaker Sisterhood, according to Lussier, is “a tribe of women who are supporting and empowering each other to follow their dreams by building confidence in their voice.”

Speaker Sisterhood is hosting a free introductory event on Tuesday, April 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at 170 Main Street in Greenfield. The event will be led by documentarian and communication coach Carlyn Saltman, innovator of the Video Mirror Feedback coaching method, and longtime resident of Turners Falls.

Saltman, a motivational coach in her own right, had heard about the program and liked the concept, but thought that she just did not have time to add it her already busy life. Nevertheless, after learning more about Lussier’s work, she decided to try it by joining a Northampton group last November.

Her initial response quickly changed from “I don’t have time to do this” to “I don’t have time *not* to do this,” she says.

She agreed to start the Greenfield group after experiencing the positive feedback and power of the work, which she says is about creating a positive, welcoming space where women can express themselves in powerful and non-threatening ways and also practice supporting, listening to, and hearing each other.

“We women can do so much to improve our lives and make our communities better,” Saltman says. “And this is especially important now, given our political climate both locally and nationally. But it depends on everyone

see SPEAKING page B4

Pet of the Week

Lucas is very laid back and regal. He loves to be petted and will purr his appreciation, enjoys boxes, sitting up high enough to survey his kingdom, and loves the other cats he lives with and is quick to groom them when one is close by. He is so sweet!

He would do well in almost any home, especially one with cat friends. Come on down and talk to an adoption counselor about Lucas.

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



“LUCAS”

Senior Center Activities APRIL 17 TO 21

GILL and MONTAGUE
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.
Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 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 not open.
Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 4/17
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Noon Potluck & Bingo
Tuesday 4/18
9:30 a.m. Tech: Internet Banking
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 4/19
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 4/20
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Movement
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 4/21
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).
Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Paula Betters, 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 4/17
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday 4/18
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
Wednesday 4/19
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday 4/20
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Game Day
Friday 4/21
7 a.m. Walking
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Walmart
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

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.

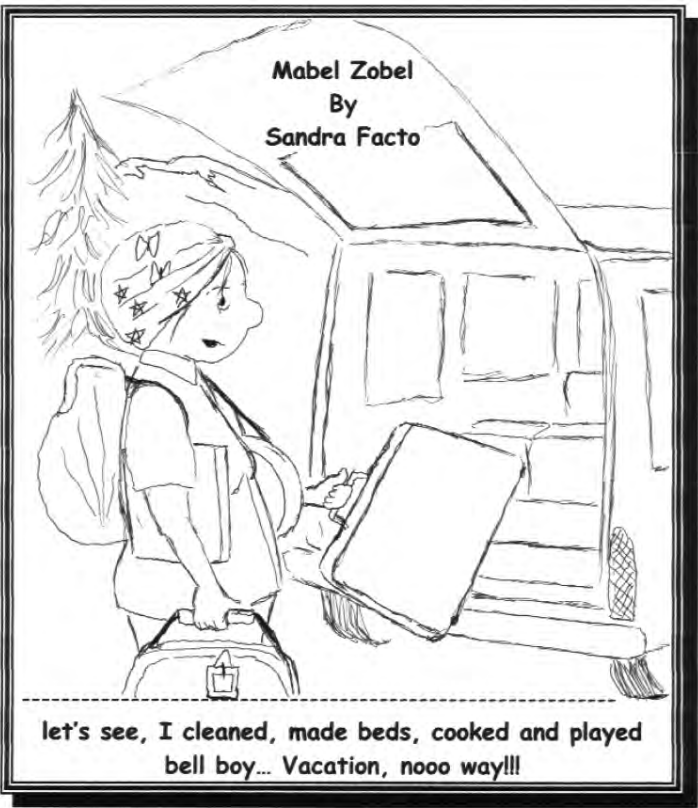
Call for Art: Rivers & Water

Exploded View, a local word, art, performance group, is curating a community art show to premier at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls during the month of May. Western Mass artists are invited to submit art on the theme of rivers and water for the “Catch and Release” exhibit.

Artists should email up to three .jpegs of their work, with a brief description of each piece, including title, dimensions, and materials along with their name, address, and phone number/email to explodedviewma@gmail.com by April 22.

Arrangements for dropping off work are to be determined, but it will be prior to May 1. Participants who are able to make a small donation of \$5 to help with reception costs may do so at drop-off time, but there are no submission fees for this show.

An opening reception and Exploded View performance will be held at the Discovery Center Great Hall on Sunday, May 7 at 2 p.m.



This cartoon ran in the July 14, 2005 Montague Reporter. Sandy Facto of Turners Falls, who passed away recently, drew a regular strip in 2004 and 2005. Here's to Sandy's memory!

This Saturday: Triple Threat

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – Members of the Montague Reporter staff tend to be hesitant to plug our other projects in the paper, so I’m trespassing into our B section to call attention to the three different roles our features editor Nina Rossi has in events this Saturday, April 15 over at the Arts Block.

Doors open at the venue at 2:30 p.m., and at 3 p.m., readings will start for a book launch: the “Silver Anniversary Anthology” of the Poet’s Seat Contest, featuring the poetry contest’s first 25 winners

The Contest has been sponsored by the Greenfield Public Library since 1991, and the name of each year’s winner is engraved on an

actual chair, which goes out on loan to them for a year like a kind of local literary Stanley Cup. (Nina won in ‘97.)

Immediately after that party, at 6 p.m., an opening reception begins for



Bander and Rossi, with one of Bander's sculptures and a Rossi painting.

a unique joint exhibit at the Block, on display through May 9: sculptures by Jon Bander, and paintings and sculptures by Nina Rossi.

Jon, a GCC student, happens to be Nina’s son, and he studied welding at Franklin County Tech and Vermont’s Advanced Welding Institute. Now he’s turning discarded items into works of art – check out his first public show, and ask him about his spleen.

Oh, and we said three roles... At 6:30 during the opening, there’ll be a set from rock band She Said; that’s Nina playing bass. Phew. We have no idea how she makes time to help us out at the newspaper!

Admission is free, with refreshments available from the Arts Block bar.

Join the Wendell “Fishing Party”



Bob Ellis’ painting, Fishing Party, will be auctioned off at the April 22 Full Moon Coffeehouse.

WENDELL – The Wendell Free Library in the center of town is a warm, attractive “green” building, with a dedicated librarian and volunteer staff. A location for learning and research, the library also features regular young people’s events, art exhibits, yoga classes, film showings, and a colorful children’s section. A wide variety of social and community programs attract visitors from nearby towns as well as the home community.

Currently on view at the library is an original watercolor by Wendell’s well-known artist, writer and naturalist, the late Bob Ellis (1933-2013). The work, called Fishing Party, features otters on an icy Wendell pond. It measures 28 inches by 22 inches and is in a metal frame.

Bob’s art appeared in publications such as Massachusetts Wildlife and Canadian Wildlife. His illustrations also appeared in the Wild Earth Magazine. He lived his life simply in a cabin in the woods of Wendell as an artist and naturalist. He bequeathed his home to the Mount Grace Land Trust to be sold to support land conservation.

The painting was donated by Bob’s brother Joe Ellis to benefit the Library, and it will be raffled off at the monthly Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday evening,

April 22, with Joe presiding. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales, and from the Coffeehouse that night, will support continued library programs. Tickets are on sale for \$2 each, or \$10 for six, at the Wendell Free Library and during the Coffeehouse.

Held in Wendell’s historic Town Hall on the Town Common (6 Center Street), the Full Moon Coffeehouse is the longest running non-profit venue of its kind in New England, with every show benefiting a local environmental or service organization. The Coffeehouse was founded to raise funds for the Bear Mountain Preservation Association – of which Bob Ellis was the president – which was formed to stop the state from re-routing Route 2 through Bear Mountain in Wendell.

Show starts at 7:30. All ages welcome. Performing on April 22 will be Caleb Wetherbee (singer/fingerstyle guitar) and Emma June (singer-songwriter), followed by the popular Gaslight Tinkers, whose “African, Caribbean, Funk, Reggae and Latin grooves meet traditional fiddle music.” The event, as always, is non-smoking and alcohol free, and features great snacks and dessert treats.



Ellis, in an undated photo, works on an ink drawing.

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FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

GARDENER’S from page B1
sprinting around the yard.

Tarp-free, the gas and charcoal grills invite the season of outdoor cooking. We set aside the heavy winter menus, looking forward to fresh, light tastes.

In the sunroom the tomatoes thrive in their new pots. They have welcomed a mild dose of seaweed fertilizer, and look like miniature versions of the plants they will become.

I step out into the garden and pick up a handful of dirt. It is pleasantly cool and damp, yet crumbles readily in my fingers. It’s perfect for planting; ready for the peas! We never seem to grow enough of this garden candy, so I’m going to put in two long rows on either side of a twelve foot strip of chicken wire.

Peas are an easy crop to grow. They have few pests or diseases and love the cool, damp weather. Peas have a symbiotic relationship with the rhizobia bacteria that colonize the roots of the plants helping them fix nitrogen in the soil. These wonderful vegetables feed both the gardener and the soil. Whatever you plant after harvesting this crop and pulling the plants will be enriched by sharing their space. The spent pea plants will also be of good benefit in your compost pile.

Salad greens are another cool weather lover. We’ll stop at a local

garden center, and pick up some leafy starts to get the season off to a quick start. We’ll do best to fence in the raised beds where they will be planted, as we have both rabbits and the occasional deer or two.

This thought also reminds us it’s time to pour a tablespoon or two of castor oil in last year’s groundhog holes. This economical organic treatment kept these voracious feeders away from the garden beds which can take out a whole row of vegetables in one seating. We’ve also noticed that we have fewer groundhogs with the popularity of the bike trail for dog walkers.

We both grew up with dogs and enjoy their passing visits without incurring the tending a canine pet requires, not to mention irritating the heck out of our resident feline.

This energizing season is a happy antidote to our political anxieties. Tending yard and garden refreshes the body and spirit and takes us back to a simpler less complicated view.

Grow something in this glorious season be it flowers or vegetables or a little of both. Experience the pleasure of putting your fingers in the dirt, real food in your mouth, and floral beauty in the space you live in. Develop a symbiotic relationship with the earth. Feel your roots and heal your soul.

Happy gardening!



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Here’s some new programming popping up on our TV channel this week:

- *Heroes, Horses, and Hounds*: Learn more about the organization taking rescue animals in danger of euthanasia and retraining them as service animals for veterans and people with disabilities.
- *Budget Dance – Ask the Finance Committee*: A Greenfield Savings Bank event, filmed and

edited by Julian Lowenthal.

- *Carlos – Three Little Words*, April 2: The latest sermon from Carlos W. Anderson.

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We’d love to work with you!

MOVIE REVIEW

The Great Wall (2017)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The Great Wall of China is a real marvel that was built by the Chinese, who also invented gunpowder. Both of these creations are part of the plot of the latest Matt Damon movie, called The Great Wall.

Two European mercenaries, one of them Matt Damon’s character, travel to China in order to steal some black powder – which is gunpowder – from its people, but instead encounter creatures that attack them. Then they are captured by the army, which is standing guard at the wall waiting for an attack from the creatures.

This army has been training for years in preparation for the attack. So they know a thing or two about these creatures, and are surprised as well as curious when it comes to how the two mercenaries were able to kill one.

Besides getting involved in defending against the upcoming attack by the creatures, they also learn there is a great deal of gunpowder there for them to take. But Matt Damon’s character begins to find something worth fighting for, perhaps for the first time in his life, especially after helping out during an attack of the

creatures at the wall.

They also learn that the creatures have evolved, and gotten smarter, in the many years since they had last attacked the wall. I can tell you that means a new kind of trouble from these creatures. These creatures are finally defeated. Matt Damon’s character is there to see that be accomplished.

This turned out to be a good action film to watch. Having the Great Wall of China in the film, which was built in real life to keep out human invaders, works well in this action film.

This film was the first one I have seen by this filmmaker from China, director Zhang Yimou (*Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers*), which showed me he knows how to choreograph fight scenes. One scene made me think, “this is incredible.” It just looks very well done, with what is put on the screen during the attack. Ironically, the character Matt Damon was playing commented on the same thing about the scene being incredible in the film. That scene just had very good quality to its name.

This film made me think about what people believe is worth fighting for.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Slashed Tires; Poaching Concerns; Stolen Trailer; Wandering Horse; Sandal Fight; Syringes; Mud

Monday, 4/3

9 a.m. Threatening/harassment on Prospect Street. Landlord/tenant issue. Advised of options.
11:25 a.m. Caller reporting bullying at high school involving her daughter.
12:43 p.m. Caller reporting that he is following a tractor-trailer unit that he believes struck a bridge in Greenfield; states there is damage to the roof of the trailer. Officer has truck stopped. GPD notified about possible damage to bridge in “Cheapside” area of town.
1:51 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states that there is a man with a black hoodie, hat, and sunglasses who is carrying a few tools with him and walking around the neighborhood going into yards. Officer determined that subject works for the Water Department and is checking meters.
5:42 p.m. Caller states that he is at F.L. Roberts and would like to speak with an officer about having been jumped before 2 a.m. by three unknown individuals. Officers on scene; male transported to hospital with injury to jaw.

Tuesday, 4/4
4:34 p.m. Caller from Lady Killigrew reports that a male is being verbally aggressive and refusing to leave the establishment. Officers en route; transport provided.
7:32 p.m. Caller from Fifth and J Streets reports hearing motorcycles throughout the day in the area; she finds it annoying. Officer advised.
Wednesday, 4/5
6:24 a.m. 911 hangup call from Responsible Behavior Room at the middle school. Phone issue that staff is aware of. Officer on site. Room locked; problem will be addressed.
1:46 p.m. Report of syringe at Turnpike Road and Sandy Lane. Retrieved by officer.
4:43 p.m. Caller reports that her son and his friend were threatened by a male in his 30s as they walked by a residence on Park Street. Investigated.
9:19 p.m. Report of loud verbal argument in progress on Unity Street. Male party is yelling and gesturing aggressively toward another subject. Area checked; unable to locate.
10:38 p.m. Report of loud gathering on Central Street. Quiet upon arrival. Spoke with tenant, who was not having a party or gathering. Noise believed to have been from tenant’s children. Advised of complaint.

Thursday, 4/6
8:20 a.m. Report of vandalism to vehicle overnight on Crocker Avenue; all four tires slashed. Report taken.
8:40 a.m. Party from Chestnut Hill Road reports that the windshields on two of his trucks were smashed; unknown if it was intentional or caused by stray bullets from hunters in woods adjacent to residence. Report taken.
11:12 a.m. Caller from Second Street reports that his vehicle was vandalized overnight. Three tires were slashed and vehicle was keyed. Report taken.
1:46 p.m. Report of street flooding at bridge at base of hill on Turners Falls Road coming from Greenfield. Notified GPD, who checked area; advised it is a usual flooding spot and water should subside shortly.
6:21 p.m. Caller states that there appears to be a mudslide beginning to occur near Randall Road and Greenfield Road. Officer in area states that top layer appears to be sinking; not in road yet, but will need to be checked throughout the night. MassDOT and DPW advised.

Friday, 4/7
12:01 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer re: some suspicious items he found on a picnic table on Migratory Way. Officer checked area. Items appear to have possibly come from the Salvation Army; unable to determine who left them. Items picked up and removed.
1:34 p.m. Party into station inquiring about which other agencies she could speak to re: poaching concerns in the Plains and standing pools of water (manmade) that may attract mosquitoes come spring/summer. Caller provided with numbers for Environmental Police dispatch and Board of Health.
1:46 p.m. Report of white van stuck in mud and hung up on some trees on the access road to the Plains off of Millers Falls Road. Driver claimed that he was following his GPS and drove a good distance through the woods before coming to his current location. Vehicle winched out by Rau’s. Officer viewed operator’s GPS

with his permission and verified his account.
3:55 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Hill Loop advising of incidents involving neighbors’ new pit bull. Officer reports that dog returned home as he was advising owner of complaint. Copy of call left for ACO.
Saturday, 4/8
2:53 a.m. Officers checking on a suspicious blue van with all doors open parked behind Salvation Army. Female party was picking up boxes from loading dock.
7:24 a.m. Caller reporting that a trailer was stolen from Lewis Tree Service’s storage space on Eleventh Street. Officer spoke with caller, who will be filing stolen vehicle paperwork. Vehicle entered into National Crime Information Center database. Investigated.
7:32 a.m. Report of horse on front lawn on Federal Street. Caller knocked on owners’ door, but no one answered. Caller expressed concern that horse would wander into road. Officer checked area twice; no horses located.
7:57 a.m. Caller requesting assistance disposing of hypodermic needles found at Greenfield Cooperative Bank on Avenue A. Services rendered.
3:50 p.m. Caller from Ripley Road reporting that they have an unregistered vehicle in their driveway. This morning, they found a few empty bottles of alcohol in the vehicle. They are concerned that the person who did that may try to enter the house next time. Officer called back and left message.
4:06 p.m. Aircraft alarm monitoring company requesting visual inspection of airport due to a distress beacon being received from an aircraft in that area. Officers spoke to a couple of people working on an aircraft who confirmed that they may have accidentally triggered the beacon. No other evidence of distressed aircraft.
6:20 p.m. 911 caller reporting single car accident with injuries on Mormon Hollow Road. Patient trans-

ported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center for evaluation.
Sunday, 4/9
9:31 a.m. Caller from Ivy Street reporting that at least 50 jars of quarters were taken from her home in the last few days.
12:03 p.m. Caller from Prospect Street reporting vandalism/damage to front porch. Report taken.
2:05 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that an engine has been revving for about four hours; she does not know where it has been coming from. Officer spoke with neighbor who advised that her nephew was revving an engine.
3:50 p.m. Caller reporting a female spaniel loose in the area; dog ran into her barn and attempted to hunt her chickens, but is very friendly with people. Owner claimed dog shortly after call was placed.
4:07 p.m. Multiple calls reporting fight between two males on Davis Street. Officers on scene; argument was over sandals. Officers mediated situation and advised parties of consequences if units had to return.
4:15 p.m. Owner of Domestic Darling on Second Street states that she arrived to her business and found what appears to be a flare of some sort on her property. Item (old railroad flare) retrieved.
4:59 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street reporting checks and property stolen from her home around the first of the month. Report taken.
8:59 p.m. Officer came upon cat that appears to have been hit by a car at Sunrise Terrace and Montague Street. Messages left for ACO; officer en route to emergency vet clinic with cat.
9:17 p.m. 911 call from Avenue A; female party states that another female assaulted her. Females now separated. Officer reports that other parties on scene are intoxicated and unable to elaborate on what occurred. One female transported by Med-Care with ear pain.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

TBERAHR NRKOBAT, BARTHOLOMEW, O GUNK UG TLRRHZ. - TCTOA TUAVOF

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Wendell Board to Discuss “Camping”

On Monday, April 17 at 7 p.m. the Wendell planning board will be taking up the camping bylaws that were sent back by special town meeting last month. There are several issues involved: how long will people be allowed to camp, what restrictions might be placed on camping, what sort of structure can be used?

The planning board is interested in hearing from residents about their ideas and concerns. What will be required for folks to have shelter

in our town?

Two camping bylaws, one for short-term camping and one for long-term camping, were presented at the special town meeting on March 16. After much discussion and attempts from the floor to re-write the long term camping bylaw it was voted to send both bylaws back to the planning board.

For more information, contact Nan Riebschlaeger at nan@itpuzzle-works.net or (978) 544-2741.

JINX from page B1

dad recovered and the economy picked up again.

Ted Williams Day

It’s the summer of 1947. The Boston Red Sox are having a great season, and so are the Cleveland Indians. A father decides the time has come to take the whole family to famous Fenway Park and watch a Sunday afternoon double-header between these two baseball behemoths.

Off they’d go in the “Blue-bird,” the nickname for their hand painted baby blue 1936 Ford. The car had survived a fire while in winter storage during World War II, so the father brought it into the alley of “The Block.” While the mother made new upholstery for it, he sanded down the whole outside by hand and with a paint brush he gave it its unique identity.

Piled three in the front and three in the back, they drove the ninety plus miles on Route 2 to Harvard Square, located just across the Charles River from Boston; parked, and hopped a subway to Fenway Park.

The father believed in starting every day early and this day would be no exception. Five thirty a.m. breakfast; 7 a.m. Mass; home to get mother (she wasn’t Catholic so did not go with the rest to church); and on with the day’s adventure. This day, the father being an early bird would really be appreciated as it was to be a special day honoring one of the greatest players of all time, Ted Williams.



TFHS Principal George Wrightson, from the 1951 yearbook.

A pre-game ceremony included having Ted climb up a ladder to sit on a gigantic chair made by the city of Gardner (known as Chair City) with a huge baseball bat leaning against it. He would then be presented with a beautiful purple Cadillac convertible.

To add to the festivities, the Indians had a player who, like an amazing clown, would run around the outfield catching balls hit to him in his pants (both front and back) before the start of the first game.

A little background on the teams: the Sox had one of the finest line-ups in baseball. Williams in left field; Dom DiMaggio in center,

Billie Goodman in right; Eddie Pellegri at 3rd base; Johnny Pesky at short stop; Bobby Doerr at 2nd base; Rudy York at first; “Birdie” Tebbetts behind the plate catching, and pitching would be Mickey Harris and Dave “Boo” Ferris (both 20 game winners).

The Indians, no slouches either, would be spotlighting their two 20-game winners, Hall of Famer Bob Feller and Bob Lemon.

The battle commenced and, as expected, it would be a pitcher’s duel in both games, with the Sox winning both. The hero that day was not Ted. Rather, it was little Bobby Doerr who hit two home runs, one in the first game and one with a man on base in the second, who took the honors.

But the day wouldn’t be over yet for the troop. It seems that one of their neighbors, Jack Jebb, who had been a pitcher on the same team as “Birdie” in the Triple A league, had arranged for them to meet Tebbetts after the first game.

“Birdie” told them that Jack was one of the best pitchers he’d ever seen and, had it not been for unfortunate health problems, Jack could have been one of the premier “Hurlers” in major league baseball.

For a twelve year old boy, there could have been nothing more memorable in his life than a day like that. Jinx has re-lived that great memory many times throughout his life.

College

In his senior year of high school, Jinx’s dad informed him that he wouldn’t be going to college. “Bimp” believed that only straight-A students should, and, as Jinx only had a B+ average, he didn’t meet those standards. Disappointment didn’t fully convey Jinx’s feelings, as he had hoped to join many of his friends at the University of Massachusetts.

Jinx lost his incentive to study, and by graduation his grade had slipped to a B-. He had made up his mind to join the Navy; and had it not been for his great principal, George Wrightson, he would have left before graduation.

Mr. Wrightson suggested that Jinx take the entrance exam for a four-year General Electric Drafting Apprentice Program, which he did, and passed. Thinking that to be a proper alternative to college, Jinx’s dad encouraged him in that direction. So, he accepted that opportunity and, in retrospect, it turned out to be a really good decision.

Had he gone to college right from high school, he probably would have “Flunked Out” along with several of his friends who partied too much.

As he looks back on it now, Jinx understands that his dad knew what he was doing. Even though he hadn’t finished eighth grade, Bimp had more common sense and native intelligence than many PhDs Jinx has come to know over his lifetime.



MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part IX (July 2, 1941)

In browsing the archives of the Turners Falls Herald (1940-1942) we were delighted to find the paper had tracked down Antonia J. Stemple, who had worked in various escalating capacities at the Turners Falls Reporter (1872-1922), and encouraged her to submit a regular column of her recollections.

We are reprinting that column, which ran irregularly in the Herald over an eight-month period under the title “Looking Backward,” in our own pages.

— Montague Reporter eds.

The *Turners Falls Reporter* had one subscriber who had started with the first issue and always came up to the office shortly before the subscription was due to pay the bill in advance, and to have a little chat.

As the years passed and took their toll it became hard for him to mount the stairs and he sometimes breathed heavily as he came in. He never paid more than a dollar at a time for six months’ subscription and sometimes only 50 cents for three months.

He was known locally as even a little more “close” than the average Yankee and it always seemed to give him a little pang of pain to part with his lone greenback.

So one day when he seemed more frail physically than usual I undertook to make a helpful suggestion. “Why don’t you,” I asked, “pay for a year at a time when you come in, then you won’t have to climb the stairs so often?”

“Oh no, I can’t afford to do that,” replied the thrifty old fellow, who had a tidy fortune to pass on. “You see, I may not live that long and then the money I paid would be wasted, for of course you couldn’t send the paper to me where I’d be then.”

I worked in the *Reporter* office so

One of at least three buildings occupied by the Turners Falls Reporter office, above the “N.B. Hall Dining Room,” now the Between the Uprights sports bar.

PHOTOGRAPH BY E.W. COOK — COURTESY PETER S. MILLER

SPEAKING from page B1

having a voice – not just some people having a voice.”

Finding voice, and power-through-voice, is what Speaker Sisterhood does well. It is similar to Toastmasters except that it is designed by and for women. And it uses unconventional, though apparently very effective, methods.

Cathy McNally, a corporate communication trainer with a background in standup and improv comedy, is the program’s development director, and draws on her comedy background to help develop “interactive activities that use humor and other tools that engage women at all skill levels.”

“We draw on fun exercises from the comedy world to make sure women have a blast at our meetings,” McNally says.

This unique approach was another element that drew Saltman into the program. From her own improvisational experience, she has come to understand the power of these methods in developing personal mindfulness and presence as well as the listening skills necessary to being effective, with an

audience and in life.

According to Saltman, women can attend two club meetings for free before deciding to join.

“We want to give every woman who visits a chance to see if the club is a good match for them. Guests get a sense right away of the lively and supportive atmosphere we create together,” she says. “And the group covers the topics that meet the needs of most public speakers: storytelling, persuasion, humor, body language, and thinking on your feet.”

There is an annual \$97 program fee for online access to the signature Speaker Development Program and many other resources. In addition, each member is asked to pay a \$25 monthly membership fee directly to the club leader for keeping up her Speaker Sisterhood license and providing a supportive space for all women to feel comfortable sharing their voice.

Saltman is asking those who join the Greenfield group to make a six-month commitment. This amount of time, she says, helps to create the group trust, confidentiality, and consistency needed to bring about

effective personal change. As an incentive, she will provide seven months for the price of six, and is offering all members a reduced fee to join another coaching group based on her Video Mirror Feedback method.

Speaker Sisterhood founder Angela Lussier will be at the introductory meeting in Greenfield to tell her own inspirational story and speak about how finding her voice changed her life.

“Women are a powerful force in our world, and we want to bring them together to help them better articulate their ideas, stories, and views. We believe that is exactly what the world needs right now,” said Lussier, noting that Speaker Sisterhood LLC, formed in 2016, has several clubs in western Massachusetts and is expected to expand nationwide in 2017.

For more information, go to speakersisterhood.com or email Cathy McNally at cathy@speaker-sisterhood.com or Carlyn Saltman at carlyn@videofeedback-coaching.com.



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ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

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

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session; come join the community chorus. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbarrass@vermontel.net for location and details.

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Crafts and activities* for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

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

New Salem Public Library: *Teen and Tweens*. Program for 11 to 18 year olds. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jazz Series with Ted Wirt and his Hammond B3*. 7 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

3RD WEDNESDAYS

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 to 11 a.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Open Mic*. 6 to 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m

2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Story Hour with Dana Lee*. For pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive before 7 p.m. to sign up for 5 or 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Montague Common Hall: Montague Center. *Montague Square Dance*. Family fun, October through May. 7 p.m. \$

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Franklin Community Coop/Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

EXHIBITS:

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mother and Son Exhibit*. Jon Bander shows his welding artwork in an exhibit that also features paintings and sculpture by his mother, Nina Rossi. Reception Saturday, April 15, 6 p.m. Music by She Said. Exhibit through May 9.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Pastel Studio Spring*. Group show. Through April 26.

GCC, Greenfield: *Art Student Exhibit 2017, South Gallery*. Includes painting, photography, computer arts, video and more. Reception Thursday, April 20, 7 to 9 p.m. Through May 11.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Montague Favorite Places Exhibit*. Art featuring our villages. Come see the results! Through April 23.

Hope & Olive, Greenfield: *Anja Schutz exhibit "Photographs"*, landscapes, portraits, still lifes, and dogs. Through May.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The Kings of Leverett*. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spring Mix*. Fine Art and Craft by area artists. Through May 10.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Nathan Hanford: Friendship Thread*; portraits of friends and artworks by Veterans of Soldier On. Through April. Also, Lower Gallery: *Mohawk Trail Middle & High School Visual Arts Showcase*. Through April.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: Ongoing art offerings by gallery member artists.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Framing Faces*, a year long exploration of oil painting and faces by Kate Troast of Amherst. Through May 23.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Better Than Taxes*, a group show by member artists. Through May 1.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Jane Litwin Taylor's Catching The Light*. Mosaic art and beadwork. Also in the Herrick Gallery, *After the Fair*, photography by Jessica Star, taken at night at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Both exhibits through April. Also deadline for Joe Ellis painting raffle is April 22.

SUBMISSIONS:

Call for Art: *Exploded View* is curating a community art show at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls in May. Artists living in western Massachusetts can submit wall art on the theme of rivers and water for this "Catch and Release" exhibit. Deadline April 22. Submit up to three jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com Questions? (413) 834.8800.

Conway's Sestercentennial (250th birthday). Request for Proposals for one act plays to be performed on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at the Sportsman's Club Pavillion. Send all proposals and questions to Mike at verybratty@aol.com.

GCC's literary journal, *Plum*, announces the Michael Doherty Writing Contest, open to writers from W. Mass and southern VT and NH. Cash prizes. Deadline April 20. Submit to plumeditors@gmail.com. Questions?: mwilliams-russell@gcc.mass.edu.

Slate Roof Press announces the 2017 Elyse Wolf Prize for their annual poetry chapbook contest. Deadline June 15. Details at: <http://slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com/submit>.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Amherst Ballet*. 7 p.m.

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Gardening is Murder by Neal Sanders*, local mystery writer. 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Silverthorne Theater presents musical Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. April 13-15, 20-23. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Longelow*. Funky blues with Tommy Filaault, Doug Plavin, and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: Final *Trivia Contest* of the season. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse presents Doug Hewitt Group*. Rock/jazz fusion. Donations support educational programming at the Center. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Fiddle and Harmony Night: The Berger Sisters and Sister Lily (Boxcar Lilies)*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Emily Barnes*, singer/songwriter; and special guest, *Luke Domozyck*, indie acoustic rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Squash Blossom*. Eclectic acoustic trio. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Book Launch and Reading. Come celebrate the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library's publication of The Poet's Seat Contest Silver Anniversary Anthology*: Featuring Prized Poems plus the Adventures of a Chair & the Poets Who Carried It Home to Live with Family and Friends for a Year . 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Caban's Galvanizer*. Psychedelic rock, funk, dub, surf & jam. 9 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic Night #11*, Big town performance art in a tiny village. Open mic. 7 p.m

Pioneer Tavern, Miller's Falls: *Turn It Loose*, 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Stimulus Package Dance Party w/DJ Yolo Change*. 9 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *School Vacation Week and Earth Week*. Starting today, expanded spring hours through Friday, April 21. Stop by for Earth Week investigation stations, habitat diorama scavenger hunts, and games to explore the grounds.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Enthusiast presents Green Fest*. 5 p.m to 1 a.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Greenfield Garden Club presents: Attract Bees and Butterflies to Your Gardens* by Tom Sullivan of Pollinators Welcome. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half-Shaved Jazz*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, Northfield: *Life in a Pond: Earth Day Celebration*. Family event, children 5+ years. 1 to 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Signature Sounds presents Suitcase Junket*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Sean Ashby*, rock/surf. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*. Outlaw country. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Matt Bryde & Guests*. Indie/Americana.



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The cardboard wall used in the backer scenario. From left to right: Pearl Schatz-Allison, Grace Parzych, Isaac Morton, Abby Moore, Djibril Dian, and Kole Broderick.

IMAGINATION from page B1

Grout participated all through high school in New Hampshire, and another year while attending Keene State College. After graduating Keene State, he moved to western Massachusetts and worked for several years for Yankee Candle. He wanted to be part of the program here, and found most teams were east of Worcester, but volunteered to be an appraiser for the program. Over the years, he moved up in the ranks to become a head appraiser at the state-level competitions. At the same time he started graduate studies at UMass-Amherst, and after graduation took a job teaching at the Gill Elementary School in 2011. He worked as an appraiser at

the Global Finals that year, then started a DI team at Gill Elementary in 2012. This year there weren't enough volunteers to coach all the teams, so Grout helped with the sixth graders. Grout believes the skills he started learning in seventh grade have helped make him the person he is today. Learning to think critically helps one navigate through life – and students learn that “failure” is not a bad thing, and that “perseverance” can solve many issues. Grout believes that students who are allowed to struggle, fail, but encouraged to try again and again, are more likely to be resilient when weathering real life challenges. Best of luck to the team next month!



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thursday 4/13
old pam, morgan garrett, salad, zack kouns, aetherjag
the brick house, turners falls

dredd foole, epstein melendez & krutz, fully glazed, krefting/nace duo
the root cellar, greenfield

friday 4/13
rebel base
the root cellar, greenfield

sunday 4/16
falls of rauros, obsidian tongue, din, northern curse
the arts block, greenfield

monday 4/17
frank hurricane, viewer, jewel eye, anthony pasquarosa / jon moloney
seventh street, turners falls

tuesday 4/18
ben bennett, lykanthea, & more tba
the brick house, turners falls

friday 4/21
the suitcase junket
the shea theater, turners falls

saturday 4/22
big fuzzy, olivia wb, wendy eisenberg, custom drummer, creative healing
the brick house, turners falls

home body
the ashfield lakehouse, ashfield

degrader, hollow point, depreciator, repressed, divided life, brickshot
the shea theater, turners falls

monday 4/24
ruth garbus, banny grove, bromp treb
the brick house, turners falls

tuesday 4/25
helltrap nightmare, andrea pensado, omeed goodarzi, bill nace, & comedians
the brick house, turners falls

friday 4/28
home body (early show)
spinner park, turners falls

shovels, peasants, pigeons, phurnne
the brick house, turners falls

thursday 5/4
mv/j mascis duo, donkey no no, a.t. & the birds of paradise
the root cellar, greenfield

sunday 5/7
phantom head, eliza, strange fate, anti-cosmos
the brick house, turners falls

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