

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 16 also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell \$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES FEBRUARY 8, 2018

ERVING SELECTBOARD

State Approves \$2.7 Million Grant For New Erving Library Construction

By KATIE NOLAN

Last week, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded Erving a \$2.7 million grant toward the construction of a new library. Designed by Johnson Roberts, Associates, Inc., the library will be built on Northfield Road, near Erving Elementary School and the Senior and Community Center. It is expected to cost \$4.93 million.

“It takes people committed to libraries over many years to get to this point,” said library director Barbara Friedman, “and no library project moves ahead without community support. This movement was started by those who have served as Trustees since 2003, the Friends of the Library organized in 2011 and especially Library users who drive what we do every day.”

“We have an excellent build-

ing committee,” Friedman told the selectboard at its meeting Monday night, “and we will begin meeting bi-weekly.” In 2016, the board appointed Marcia Bernard, Jacquelyn Boyden, Sara Campbell, Rebecca Hubbard, Rupert Roy-Clark, Debra Smith, and Charles Zilinski to the committee. Cynthia Roy-Clark, a student, is an ex-officio member of the committee, and Friedman serves

see **ERVING** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Ja’Duke To Build Theater In Airport Industrial Park; Seeks Town Tax Break

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts will be expanding its facility in Montague’s Airport Industrial Park to include a 500-seat auditorium for performances and four classrooms, primarily for preschool students. Nick Waynelovich, the company’s founder and president, came before the Montague selectboard on Monday to describe the project and request a tax financing agreement with the town.

The agreement will come before Montague’s February 15 special town meeting for a vote.

Waynelovich was accompanied at the front table by realtor Mark Abramson of Cohn & Company in Greenfield. “We are in the last stages with the bank and with an SBA loan,” Waynelovich told the board. “We are up to 380 students this semester in our school.”

“The market is in infants,” he explained, “and nobody else does infants, so we take seven and will probably go up to 21. Current capacity for pre-schoolers is 60, and we should go up to 90 once we open.”

The current Ja’Duke facility has a small, 100-seat theater, and the

company’s website refers to a larger theater as “one more dream for [Waynelovich] to complete.” At the selectboard meeting, Waynelovich emphasized not only the increased capacity of the theater, but its “state of the art” stage, which will be 100 feet wide by 50 feet deep by 45 feet high, in order to allow for “complete musical-theatrical productions and concerts.”

Abramson said Ja’Duke plans to “break ground” for the new facility sometime in the spring. “Our goal is to be in by July of next year,” he said. The initial estimated cost of construction is just over \$2,000,000, although Waynelovich stated this may have recently increased by about \$200,000.

The board then discussed the proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement. The agreement would essentially exempt the company from a total of just under \$95,000 in property taxes over a ten-year period. The exemption is phased out, beginning at 40% in Year 1 and declining to 5% in Year 10. Montague estimates that total new tax revenue as a result of the project will be \$527,691 over this period.

The TIF requires that Ja’Duke see **JA’DUKE** page A3

A Dab of FAB: Downtown’s Newest Shop Gives a Boost to Far-Flung Designers



FERAL PHOTO

By SHEA FERAL

TURNERS FALLS – Set back from the main drag of Avenue A, a new boutique has opened on Second Street in Turners Falls. FAB, owned and operated by Richie Richardson, offers “ethnic chic” clothing and accessories from designers representing the Caribbean, New York, and Ghana. Richardson asserts that “art is the only body of cultural heritage that keeps appreciating over time,” and says he hopes to use his shop as a platform for encouraging and enabling other designers and artists.

FAB’s handmade and repurposed items fit in well with the current climate of shops downtown, but its pieces are unlike those found in the other stores. The pieces are bold and speak to the identities and cultures of their creators.

Some of the most notable items in FAB are completely repurposed, such as the handbags and backpacks from Trashy Bags and the jewelry, clothing, and shoes from Art Groupie, which are created by street artists in Ghana. CJ Original T-shirts and pants, which do use new materials rather than repurposed ones, are hand-printed and hand-dyed.

According to Richardson, the one-of-a-kind nature

see **BOUTIQUE** page A8

Immigrants, Advocates Share Resources

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – “After the election, a number of lawyers and non-lawyers, political activists, got together and talked about who was apt to be targeted by the Trump administration,” Bill Newman told a crowd of about sixty, gathered at the First Congregational Church last Saturday morning. “And we came to the conclusion that Western Mass was under-resourced, and under-organized, when it came to legal representation of immigrants.”

Newman, the longtime director of the area office of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), was joined Saturday by representatives of the Center for New Americans,

the Pioneer Valley Workers’ Center, the Immigrant Protection Project, and the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on a panel billed as “Immigration and Trump: Franklin County’s Response.”

Two local men have recently been deported, leaving their families struggling to make ends meet; other residents with undocumented family members live in fear they might be detained without warning. The panelists discussed the local patchwork of immigration support services – legal, educational, logistical, and spiritual – available in Franklin County, and suggested to an audibly concerned audience some ways they could lend help.

But the speech that brought the

room to its feet came not from an activist, advocate, or missionary, but from Auda González, a Deerfield resident of Guatemalan origin who spoke, in frank and emotional terms, of the country she fled, and of the new challenges she and her family face in the United States.

“I left Guatemala with only a backpack full of my prayers and my dreams,” she said.

“I survived physical and emotional violence. Some of my family members lost their lives to the violence in my country.... The trip was very difficult, but my hope to flee my country was stronger.”

González, who later married a man from Mexico and has two native-born children, described through tears the ordeals she faced as a vulnerable newcomer at the bottom of the labor market, unable to speak English or legally drive.

“People think you are just a machine to be worked, and discriminate against you because of the color of your skin and the language that you speak,” she said. “You will find low prices on everything, looking beautiful at the supermarket, but behind that there are many abuses – poor working conditions, and low wages. Sometimes, workers have no water to drink, and suffocate; no

see **RESOURCES** page A2



JACKSON PHOTO

Speakers at the event included representatives from a number of organizations working, in different capacities, with immigrants in Franklin County.



RODLEY PHOTO

Carpenters Local 336 members Tyeka Robinson and Theresa Copeland both spoke on the February 1 panel at Williams College.

By LAURA RODLEY

WILLIAMSTOWN – In December, Springfield Local Carpenters Union 108 was merged with two other locals to form Carpenters Local 336, covering all of western and central Massachusetts and representing over 2,000 members. Nationwide, the number of women working in the trades is less than 3%. For Local 336, only 2-1/2% of its members are women.

Ten of them were on hand last Thursday, February 1 for a standing-room-only talk on “Equity in Construction” at Williams College in Williamstown. Over 200 students crowded into Mission Dining Hall to listen to the union’s “pioneering tradeswomen” who have perse-

vered, despite preconceived barriers of sex and color, to earn a living.

Plainfield’s Lily Thompson, Westfield’s Julie Boucher, Springfield’s Tyeka Robinson, Northampton’s Theresa Copeland, and event organizer Lisa Clauson of the Carpenters Labor Management Program were panel speakers. The other five came to support them, part of the strong community built within the union, as “Sisters within the Brotherhood.”

“Carpentry is a viable field. If you can carry your four-year-old in his dead sleep to his bed at night, you can carry a 4-by-4,” said Thompson.

Freshly graduated from the carpentry program at Franklin County see **BUILDING** page A4

The Montague Reporter

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Repair technician Andrew Easton of Bernardston, seen here on a service call for A.R. Sandri, Inc., has been “flat-out since December” keeping homes warm around the county and beyond. Raised in Holyoke and trained at Porter and Chester Institute, Andrew says he “likes doing anything with his hands,” and enjoys these relatively cleaner HVAC jobs, as opposed to his previous ten years spent as an auto mechanic.

RESOURCES from page A1

place to go to the bathroom; no water or soap to wash our hands. . . . We come to this country to do the work they ask us to do, but we deserve to be treated like humans.”

When she broke her arm working at one Massachusetts farm, the owners didn’t want to bring her to the hospital; when she insisted, they dropped her off at the gate with instructions to say she had been hurt at home. She never saw them again.

Another time, González told the audience, she was attacked by a co-worker with a knife. “It was very traumatic for me, because I escaped violence in my own country, and then I faced more violence when I came here,” she said. “And here, I didn’t know anyone – I had no family.”

“Millions of people go from one country to another looking for better conditions for their life,” said Sister Rosa Amalia Torres Armendariz, a Catholic nun who lives in Greenfield. “For economic reasons, political reasons; racism, violence, and war. . . . They’re doing all the work that nobody wants to do, but they’re not being treated like everybody else.”

Sister Rosa’s order, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, does missionary work among the county’s Hispanic population. It takes them into homes and churches, and into the county jail, where a wing is contracted out as a detention facility for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

“We have been getting to know the women in the community,” she said. “In Franklin County, they are in need of human promotion, because they have had a really hard life, and when they get to this country they keep suffering discrimination.”

The families of the two local deportees, she added, are “struggling, because neither wife is able to work. They have little kids. There’s a lot of community support, but we really need to think of new ways to be able to help these families, because there are moments when they are not even able to pay their phone bill.”

Last year, Bill Newman’s ACLU office established the Immigrant Protection Project (IPP), which runs a call center and tries to connect people in federal detention with emergency legal services.

“The Greenfield jail is the one place in Western New England where ICE has a contract for detainees,” Newman said. “In its favor, it’s convenient and possible for us to find people there, and meet them. Being able to have access to persons who ICE has detained is actually helpful for our work.”He added that although ICE had recently reduced the number of detainees held at Greenfield, “for the moment, I don’t think there is an issue about the contract being rescinded or revoked.”

The IPP’s coordinator, Javier Luengo-Garrido, gave a presentation touting its work. Unlike in the criminal justice system, when non-citizens are detained by ICE, they are not guaranteed any legal representation. The IPP is training local attorneys to advocate at bond hearings, convincing judges that clients are neither flight risks nor dangers to society.

Detainees released on bond have time – up to 2 or 3 years – to assemble a case that they deserve to stay in the country; if bond is not granted, they are often “fast tracked” to deportation in weeks or months.

The IPP is also working with other agencies to help families fill out “family protection documents” specifying, for example, who will have custody of a child if one or both parents are detained. “It keeps DCF out of the process,” Newman explained.

“It’s a really difficult situation, to sit with a family and make them think, ‘what’s going to happen if things get bad?’” said Luengo-Garrido.

Andrea Schmid, an organizer at the Pioneer Valley Workers’ Center in Northampton, discussed the group’s “Sanctuary in the Streets” campaign, which marshals support for undocumented immigrants using rapid-response network model. Volunteers administer a secure, bilingual hotline, make referrals, and mobilize supporters for court hearings.

“These tangible and concrete things make a huge difference in the community,” Schmid said.

And Taryn Amina, a teacher at the Center for New Americans, described a local rideshare initiative that matches volunteer drivers with farmworkers who do not have licenses. “There’s a crew of volunteers that are 100 strong at this point,” Amina said. “The more people we have who are able to respond to short-notice requests, the better.”

Local organizers are also administering a fund to help cover legal fees, as well as helping detainees’ families meet basic emergency needs. “There’s a little bit of dreaminess to ‘getting involved,’” Amina said, “and a sexiness to undocumented immigrant issues. And really, money and resources, and indirect support, are the things [most] needed.”

Sister Rosa observed that more resources are available locally than in Pittsfield, where she had previously worked. “It’s been very helpful to find all these programs,” she said. “It has been pushing us to work as a team, to make alliances.”

She cited the Biblical figure Abraham as “a model of faith for the Latin community in the United States.”

“God sometimes takes us through very difficult paths,” she explained of the comparison. “Paths of exile and hope – and of promises that will be fulfilled someday.”



GUEST EDITORIAL

Montague Highway Garage: Time To “Bite The Bullet”

By GARRY EARLES

MONTAGUE – The mid-March 2018 special town meeting (date to be determined) will discuss and vote on the proposed new department of public works (DPW) facility. Montague is faced with a critical decision about how, when and where to locate and erect a new, modern, DPW facility to replace the current 70-year-old facility at the end of Avenue A, down past Cumberland Farms by Montague Machine.

It is a decision not to be taken lightly, as it will seriously affect “infrastructure services.” Here’s a sampling of such services (there are others) from the Town website:

The department is responsible for maintenance, repair and construction of the town’s infrastructure, public buildings and property including its parks, playgrounds, streetscapes, sewers, drainage systems, street lighting and 108 miles of roadways. (www.montague.net/p/22/Department-of-Public-Works-DPW)

Clearly, the Town cannot function without an appropriate DPW facility staffed with resourceful personnel. While we are in capable, hard-working hands, the current workplace poses challenges to our personnel that compromise their ability to efficiently and effectively deliver those infrastructure services.

And then comes the cost, a major concern for all taxpayers of Montague, yours truly included. No one gets ecstatic about higher taxes. The question to ask though is:

What happens if we don’t build an adequate, new facility? How much longer can the current struc-

ture last, given it’s already 70 and has many code violations? And what about the safety and well-being of our personnel?

Unquestionably, there’s a dire need for a new facility. There’s also a need to be prudent, meaning don’t be extravagant about it. The new facility has a price tag of \$11+ million, a lot of money. The average taxpayer will likely see an increase in their taxes of around \$150 or \$160 a year for many years to come. Some, like me, probably won’t be around long enough to pay my full share. It will be up to the future, new owner of my property to “pick up where I left off.”

The point being that there were those who were here before me who also felt the squeeze of higher taxes – perhaps, for example, to build Turners Falls High School in the 1970s, which taxpayers then might not have been too happy about either. But build it they did.

In order for a community to continue to exist, there has to be investment in its future, to ensure continuity, especially in its infrastructure and with a department tasked with maintaining that infrastructure.

Sure, we can pare down the amount by eliminating items, but at what cost? While it’s true that borrowing money today is cheap, to those on limited, fixed incomes (count me as one), the anticipated tax increase is difficult to absorb in their budget. The point here is that if we pare down too much now and find we need to add that item(s) back in, say, five years – well, we all know it won’t be as cheap as it is now. A \$200 to \$300 thousand saving today could easily cost us \$500 thousand or more five years down the road. Resolving this dilemma won’t be easy.

For me, I’m not one to be “penny-

Letter to



the Editors
The Proper Name

For the edification of the composer of the “Highlights From the Montague Police Log”.

The Gill-Montague Bridge does not exist as that moniker. The proper name for the structure is the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. This proper name must be used when referring to all articles pertaining to or having content referring to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Thank you,

Ed Gregory
Greenfield

We Respond:

We agree! Good catch.

- Eds.

wise and pound-foolish.” I say, “It’s time to bite the bullet and erect a suitable and necessary DPW facility that will enable DPW workers to better serve our community.” Like those who came before us, the effects of what we do now, or moreso don’t do, will be felt for some time to come.

In order that you can compare the details about the proposed new facility with the current one, please watch this 12-minute video tour of the 70-year-old facility at <https://vimeo.com/210800359>.

Please, take the time to become informed about this critical issue before the Town of Montague.

Garry Earles is a Montague town meeting member from Precinct 4.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
*Every other week in July and August.
No paper last week of November,
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Wendell Free Library is hosting “**Building Carbon for Maximum Soil Health,**” a talk and PowerPoint by Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge, this Friday, February 9, starting at 7 p.m.

Jack and Julie will explore the growing understanding of the important role of carbon in healthy soil and the methods that farmers and gardeners can use to increase carbon in soils. They will also present the kinds of practices that will keep it there.

Both are the owners of Many Hands Organic Farm in Barre and have been active in the Massachusetts chapter of NOFA for many

years, most recently researching and speaking on the topic of soil carbon. Sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission.

Local crafters will be selling their handmade items at a **Valentine’s Craft Fair** at St. Kaz, 197 Avenue A in Turners Falls, on Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be raffles.

No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene. A person can die of blood loss within five minutes.

Learn to stop bleeding fast this Saturday, February 10, from 10 a.m.

to noon at Greenfield Saving Bank in Turners Falls. This free class will teach you how to stop bleeding by compression, apply tourniquets, pack a wound with hemostatic agents, all while ensuring your own safety.

In celebration of **Black History Month**, starting on February 12, come and browse a special book collection from local artist Louise Minks which combines art and historical data at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. These interesting items will be on display until the end of the month.

Then, on Saturday, February 17, Belinda Lyons-Zucker brings the opportunity to create an **African doll**. The event will start promptly at 10 a.m. with a wrap up at noon.

Belinda is a well-known African American doll artist and sculptor who will share a narrative on many West African traditions. Seating is limited to 15 adults, so you must call Kristin or Kerri at (413) 863- 4316 to reserve your spot. The event is free, thanks to Belinda’s generosity. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

Teens and tweens between grades 6 and 12 are invited to a **Valentine’s Day party** on Wednesday afternoon, February 14 at 3 p.m. at the New Salem Library, 23 South Main Street in New Salem. Rachael Gonzales of Everlasting Rachel will be demonstrating how to make delicious smoothies, while the kids work on creating chocolate sauce dip for fruit, including heart-shaped strawberries!

The **Teens & Tweens** program is free of charge and open to students from throughout the region each Wednesday afternoon. Students can ride the school bus to the library or drop by anytime between 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Snacks are pro-

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hire nine new employees during the first five years of the agreement, and maintain that number for the entire decade. It also requires that the scope of the project be consistent with the plans presented to the selectboard.

The agreement must also be approved by Turners Falls Fire District, since the exemption percentages would also impact rates paid to that district.

Ja’Duke was founded in 1997 by Waynelovich, a life-long resident of Turners Falls and for nearly thirty years the music director of Mohawk Trail Regional High School. In its early years, the company held classes in the Colle Opera House and performances at the Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls. The facility in the Industrial Park was constructed in 2007. More recently, the company’s larger performance events have been staged at local high schools.

Although Waynelovich stressed the pre-school programs in his presentation to the selectboard, the company’s programs serve young people up through the high school years. Ja’Duke classes follow a school year schedule, and the organization also offers a wide range of summer workshops. The company also runs a “scene shop” which rents sets to theaters nationally.

Town administrator Steve Ellis said the experience with TIF agreements around the state has been “mixed,” but that “businesses that are already rooted and building themselves in our local communities have a tendency to be the best partnerships.”

Ellis also stated that the new Ja’Duke theater would not be in

vided. For further information, call (978) 544-6334.

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library announce that the second 2018 “**Reading Aloud for Grownups**” program will be held on Wednesday, February 14, at 7 p.m. in the New Salem Public Library. Two popular readers with extensive theatrical background, Dee Waterman and Richard Trousdell, will read together from two different plays, assuming the roles of their characters.

Trousdell is Professor Emeritus in Acting & Directing from UMass-Amherst with a long resume of theater productions in the US and abroad. Waterman, a real estate agent from Amherst, has been active in the local theater community for years, performing in plays at UMass, Hampshire Shakespeare Company, the Arena Civic Theatre, and at the 1794 Meetinghouse.

Wine, cheese, coffee, tea and desserts will be offered during the program. The Friends are appreciative of any donations, but the program is free and requires no pre-registration. The snow date for the event is February 21. For questions or additional information, call (978) 544-8916.

The Montague Congregational Church, located at 4 North Street, Montague Center is hosting a **Roast Pork Supper** on Saturday, February 17, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The menu includes roast pork, gravy, baked potatoes, butternut squash, fresh applesauce, homemade bread, and rice pudding. Meals cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. To make a reservation, please call (413) 367-2652. Take-out meals will be available.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

competition with the town-owned Shea. “This is a fundamentally different venue that has the potential to solidify the Turners Falls-Montague area as kind of an entertainment Mecca,” he said.

The selectboard unanimously approved the TIF agreement.

Other Business

The board held a public hearing on the 2018 Community Development Block Grant. The hearing featured presentations by Bruce Hunter and Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Re-development Authority, which administers the block grants for Montague. The grants are federal funds channeled through the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

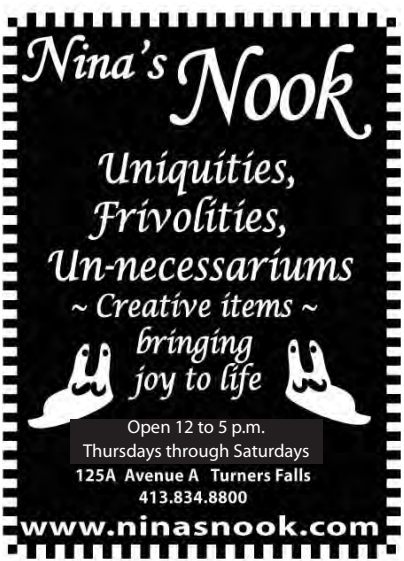
In 2018, Montague will use this money to fund three broad categories of programs: a housing rehabilitation program, social service programs, and “public facilities construction activities.” The latter will focus on the renovation of Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant, at a projected cost of \$380,000.

The board approved a request by town planner Walter Ramsey to approve \$38,000 for the “Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.” This is a plan, entirely funded by the state, which monitors and prioritizes street improvements. The funds will pay staff from the Franklin Regional Council on Governments to “walk all the sidewalks and intersections” in Montague, according to Ramsey.

The board also approved, at Ramsey’s request, an application to the state’s Recreational Trails Grant Program for a “Paddler’s Access and



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local gossip, news & business listings



Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending January 26:

Grade 6
Derek Wissmann

Grade 7
Sorin Cioclea
Taylana Pabon

Grade 8
Britney Lambert

Week ending February 2:

Grade 6
Jasmine McNamara

Grade 7
Shaelyn Garvin

Grade 8
Andrew Desreuisseau
Ivan Sankov

Accessible Riverfront Trail” in Millers Falls. The trail, which would provide access to the Millers River, will be on land acquired by the town as a result of unpaid taxes.

Ellis presented the board with an update on a grant to update the town’s plans to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. He also updated the board on a recent meeting of the Executive Council of Franklin Regional Council of Governments, which he said focused on the need to update the county’s regional communication system, deemed to be technologically outdated.

At the end of Monday’s meeting, the selectboard went into one non-public executive session to discuss potential disciplinary action, and a second to discuss contract negotiations with the police chief. They quickly emerged from the executive session without announcing that any action had been taken.

Chair Rich Kuklewicz said the board provisionally planned to hold a similar executive session at its next meeting on February 12.



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BUILDING from page A1

Technical School (FCTS) in 2002, Thompson was employed by an innovative company, Ingenuity Wood. “Then they went under,” she said. “I had relatives all in the union. They said, ‘hey, try this.’” So she joined 108. In 2017, she was elected 108’s Steward of the Year.

In 15 years, Thompson is the only woman she knows to start in the trades, and return each time after having children, now 6 and 4. “I took

a ten-month layoff to have my first kid,” she said. “We are out to make it work.” She is currently doing dry-wall construction for Professional Drywall Corporation at UMass’s Isenberg School of Management, installing and framing soffits.

“My daughter says I get up in the middle of the night to go to work,” Thompson told the crowd. “Dad can fix anything, and Mom can build anything.” When Thompson joined the union, “Not only was I the only woman carpenter on the jobsite, I was the only one in the state.”

“I’m a little pipsqueak. I spend a lot of time in small spaces. That can be a strength for women carpenters,” said Thompson, who stands a little over 5’1”. “I’m making really good money. For 15 years, there was never more than one woman in the union with me.”

“I wanted to be a carpenter since I was a little girl,” Julie Boucher remembered. After graduating from Smith Voc’s carpentry program, she went to jobsites seeking work. “No one would hire me,” she said. “I went into the military to be a carpenter, too. Didn’t work out.”

Joining the union, Boucher said, opened “so many doors, so many opportunities. I don’t have a bachelor’s degree, but I have so many opportunities to do things, can’t say enough about how thankful I am.” Boucher is now a homeowner.

“I wasn’t even thinking about carpentry,” said six-year carpenter Tyeka Robinson. “I was on the party bus” when it passed the union building,” she said, and someone suggested she could join. “Thank God I went on that party bus.” She has also bought a house for herself and her 9-year-old son.

“When my son says, ‘I’m going to be a carpenter,’” Robinson said, “I say, ‘son, be an architect.’” “When my son said, ‘Mom, you built a hospital,’ I said, ‘Yeah. Architects draw it, and we build it.’ ‘What if the drawing is not right?’ he asked. ‘You change it.’”

Usually, carpenters have work partners on their site. Tyeka’s work partner is also female, a rarity: first-year apprentice Carolyn Diaz of Springfield.

“I was a vegetable farmer in the valley for four years, and broke all the time,” said Theresa Copeland. Accessing her strengths regarding trying carpentry, she had no fear of power tools. “As a farmer, I knew I could get up early and work hard,” she said. “I’ve worked with men all my life, decided I have to try it.

“Now, I’m financially stable, don’t have to worry about making rent, have amazing insurance.”

Once, on a jobsite, “Someone spit at me,” Local 336 member Samantha Clinton-Aimable said. She held back her kneejerk reaction by thinking, “I got 26 more years to go – he’s gonna be dead by then,” and considering what would her mother think if she was nasty in turn.

“There is a career push for women to go into culinary, child care, nursing,” said Clauson, not the trades. Why? “It’s society, it’s parents.... We do a lot of recruitment at job fairs for girls in the trades,” Clauson explained, at schools such as North Adams McCann Tech, and FCTS. The union banned students to Springfield Tech to meet other tradeswomen.

Good pay is one incentive. Journeyman carpenters are paid a rate of \$35.56 an hour. Apprentices are paid 45% of journey level, \$16 an hour, with annual increases. “Over four years, it goes to \$35 an hour,” said Clauson.

Apprentices attend class one week every three months for four years. “It costs us approximately \$10,000 a year to train an apprentice,” Clauson said. Member classes include training upgrades; skills like welding are free, held on weekends and evenings. The union also offers a 30% discount to attend Wentworth Institute of Technology, where members can earn a BA or Masters in Construction. The union website keeps an up-to-date listing of available classes.

“There’s 150 men on my jobsite. Two women,” said Boucher, who also goes to Wentworth. “It’s difficult being one of two women on a jobsite. They’re watching me 10 times more than the other guy.

“I’m used to guys saying, ‘You don’t belong here.’ I don’t have to change their mindset that I don’t belong here – if more women are on the jobsite, it would have to change. We’re kicking butt and it’s awesome, great to get more jobs that require diversity.”

“There has been a tremendous amount of sexism,” said Clauson. “We’re working to tackle it. It can’t be changed just through recruiting more women. For years, we just focused on recruitment, but the numbers didn’t change, and people didn’t stay. What has worked is when owners of construction sites say, ‘we need you to include women and people of color.’”

“It’s 10 years that I have been one of three women on a jobsite,” said Thompson. “It’s the casino



Carpenters Local 336 member Samantha Darling speaks from the audience during last week’s Equity in Construction panel discussion at Williams College.

RODLEY PHOTO

that is the push.”

MGM Springfield, with its projected \$950 million price tag, has a diversity requirement of 6.9% women, 15.3% people of color, and 8% veterans. UMass has the same, minus the veteran requirement.

“Currently, Williams College hasn’t required diversity,” said Clauson. “Over the past five years, they have done approximately \$780 million worth of work at the college. Half the work is done union, half the work non-union. They have no diversity requirements.”

Robinson, until recently a Local 336 steward at MGM Springfield, said she had “never seen so many women on a jobsite. Six years ago, you’d never see another woman. Gotta have a thick skin, a real thick skin. There’s a handful of good men out there, handful of bad men. It’s the ones that got daughters that have the best attitude. I looked at my first paycheck, and I looked at myself and I said, ‘I don’t care about your drama – I’m here for my family.’”

“The awareness factor is the biggest thing,” said Thompson. “I worked for 13 months at Mount Holyoke College. They had no idea women could be on board.”

A student asked a question about green materials, or other materials used. “We have little control over materials,” Copeland answered.

“We do have to take care of water and lead regulations,” Thompson added. “All rooms are sterilized after we work on them in a hospital,” wearing face masks, hard hats and steel-toed boots.

“Each of our workers here are offered – for free – classes in knowing the latest materials,” said Clauson. “It makes her more marketable.” And their Brothers too.

“We try our best to build America,” said Robinson.

Attitude is everything. A local senior mail carrier came to listen. After the talk, Thompson walked over, shook his hand, and said, “Thanks for being here.”

More information on the New England Regional Council of Carpenters is available at www.nercc.org. Another talk, “Only 3% Are Women? A Forum on Diversifying the Construction Workforce,” occurs next Thursday, February 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Smith College’s Weinstein Auditorium.



ERVING from page A1

as a non-voting member.

Friedman presented the grant contract to the selectboard, and said that the MBLC will send the first payment of \$544,000 as soon as they receive the signed contract. The board said it will review the contract, and plans to sign it at the February 12 meeting.

The next step in the process will be to prepare construction plans and bid documents. Friedman predicted groundbreaking for the new building will take place October or November, and that the new library will be ready to open in 2020.

Marijuana Zones

Planning board chair Jacqueline Boyden told the selectboard her board has nearly completed writing the proposed marijuana bylaws, but that several changes will be made at its next meeting on February 15.

Boyden said the goal is to “make

sure that there is no retail marijuana shop anywhere children are going to be.” She said that under the proposed laws, retail shops would be allowed in the Central Village zoning district under a special permit process.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said he would like to see the bylaw writing accelerated if possible so that it could be voted at a special town meeting planned for March. Boyden said the planning board was waiting for input from town counsel on the proposed bylaw, but might be able to complete the bylaw and hold a hearing in time for a special town meeting article.

The state Cannabis Control Commission will begin accepting license applications for recreational marijuana businesses on April 1.

Town Website

The board reviewed the information from two potential website providers: Virtual Towns & Schools

of Boxborough, and Montague Web-Works of Greenfield.

According to administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, Erving’s current website was created by a local designer in 2010, and “has become outdated and limited in capabilities.” Both companies met with Smith and town department heads last November.

Virtual has been developing websites for approximately 20 years, and MWW for about 6. Virtual has developed websites for over 170 Massachusetts towns, including Bedford and Plymouth; MWW has developed sites for a number of local towns, including Greenfield and Leverett. Virtual’s implementation cost is \$4,500, and MWW’s is \$3,400. Annual maintenance costs for Virtual is \$1,750 while MWW’s would be \$600.

Although several commenters indicated a preference for a local company, they appreciated the “polished”

look of Virtual’s sites, as well as a “Bids/Requests for Proposals” module the company offers. MWW does not currently offer such a module but would be willing to develop it.

The board asked Smith to continue the discussion with Virtual.

Other Business

The board authorized chair Jacob Smith to sign the application for the town to obtain intervenor status as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission reviews the application by First Light Power Resources to relicense the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project.

The current license expires on April 30. As an intervenor, the town would be a formal participant in the relicensing process.

The board reviewed information from the state Operational Services Division regarding vendors for trash and recycling pickup and for diesel fuel. According to administrative

coordinator Smith, the ODS vets potential contractors and suppliers. The board asked Smith to draft a scope of work for trash and recyclables hauling, and send it to the four local contractors listed by ODS.

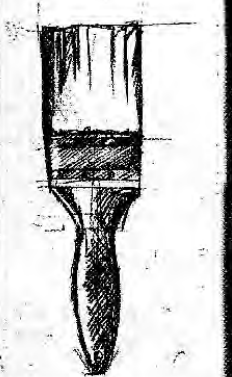
The board also considered the ODS’s fuel vendors list, but wanted to consult with highway foreman Glenn McCrory before contacting vendors.

The board signed acceptance letters for a Student Awareness and Fire Education (SAFE) grant of \$1,708 and a Senior SAFE grant of \$2,115. The student SAFE education will be presented at Erving Elementary School, and the senior program at the senior and community center, as well as home visits.

Recreation commission assistant Allison Rollins will be leaving her position soon, so the board worked on updating the job description to aid in hiring a replacement.



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Fin Com Frowns On Proposed 7% School Budget Growth

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Leverett selectboard, in a joint meeting Tuesday with several members of the town finance committee, spent most of its time hearing from the school and highway departments about their proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budgets. The fiscal year begins July 1, and the town’s overall budget needs to be finalized by the key boards and sent to the annual town meeting in May for approval.

Tom Powers, chair of the finance committee, began the meeting with a general statement about the purpose of the day’s hearings. He said the selectboard and fin com wanted to hear initial budget estimates from the various town departments. “We want to meet with everyone, add it all up and see what we have to do,” he explained. He also noted that the departments had been asked to limit their budget increases to 2%, since town property tax increases were limited by state law to 2.5%. “We need to leave some room for uncertainties,” he told this reporter in a telephone interview.

The budget of the Leverett Elementary School was first on the agenda. Nearly all available seating in the second floor of town hall was filled with members of the school committee, officials from Union 28 school district, parents, and teachers. The budget was presented by school committee chair Bethany Seeger, who handed out a glossy printout that showed the goals of the school committee and the school’s key “budget drivers.”

The handout emphasized the loss of revenues, including income from school choice and grants. From 2017 to the proposed 2019 budget, school choice revenue “utilized” has declined from \$177,219 to \$100,000, while grant revenue has decreased from \$151,521 to \$111,736 during the same period. The total revenue loss over the previous fiscal year (FY’18) was estimated at \$68,882.

Seeger noted that projected school department expenses had only increased by 2.7% over FY’18 to \$2,087,328. But the “net to town,” or proposed elementary school budget (\$1,875,592), had increased by 7%, due to the outside revenue losses.

There followed a debate over the failure of the school committee to limit their request to a 2% increase. “We need 2% net to the town, not 7%” said Powers. “Our tax revenues only go up by 2.5%, and we need to leave some room for uncertainties. Start with where you are now.”

“But we don’t support that,” said school committee member Audra Goscensk, noting that the school budget was partially driven by “le-

gal requirements.”

“One of our fears is that going there could be a landslide,” said Seeger. “If we clip services, this will create a spiral effect. We will lose students.”

“Can you do a study that shows that cuts will produce a loss of students?” said Powers. “I want to be sure that, if you make cuts, this will happen.”

There was discussion about covering some of the gap by raising pre-school tuition, although it was stressed that this would have a negative impact on low-income families. The current contract negotiations with teachers were also noted.

Selectboard chair Peter d’Errico said that when he was bargaining for teachers at the University of Massachusetts, an administration official, who he called the “bag man,” had said “Here’s what we have, you divide it up.”

The discussion ended on a somewhat upbeat note when one audience member stated she hoped “we view ourselves as a community. This does not only affect families with small children.”

Discreet Weed Barn

Next on the agenda was a young man named Nicholas Pettipas who is on the leadership team of a company called GNANI. GNANI is considering establishing a cannabis cultivation facility in Leverett, and wanted to make an initial presentation to the selectboard.

“While other towns are worried that such a business may negatively effect their reputation, yours could be the one whose reputation was pioneering and innovative during progressive times in Massachusetts history,” read written materials the company handed out.

Pettipas said GNANI was looking for a barn or a buildable open lot to grow cannabis in a discreet, protected environment. He mentioned 177 Cave Hill Road as a possible location, although he suggested that the site might not conform to emerging state regulations. The state Cannabis Control Commission is scheduled to issue the new rules in March.

Board members responded to the proposal positively, but chair d’Errico suggested that a more specific proposal would need to go before the town’s zoning board of appeals. “The ZBA and the planning board seem to have a handle on this,” he said. “It’s not like we haven’t dealt with tough issues before – and I’m not sure this really counts as a tough issue.”

“Come to town meeting when you have a very specific proposal,” advised Powers.

Highway Department

David Finn of the town highway department came before the board to discuss his budget request, which he had kept within the recommended 2% increase. He said he had “moved some money around” to accomplish this, particularly to pay for the increased cost of lining the roads.

D’Errico noted that the board had received several letters complaining that the department had used too much salt on the roads during the winter. Finn produced some data on the amount of salt the department has used over the past few years, which had risen from 561 tons in 2017 to 700 in 2018.

He said the department has used 400 tons so far this year, and added that the state uses another 320 tons per lane (640 total) on Route 63.

Other Business

Powers requested that the board appoint Mathew Munson as a new employee. The board approved the request unanimously.

The selectboard then voted to ap-



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prove a 2% cost of living increase for non-union employees.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported on the progress of a \$22,000 state grant to update the town’s self-evaluation and transition plan to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

She said she had put out a bid for the work, but received no responses. She then contacted the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, which will probably work on the plan.

The board discussed a Virtual Assessing Information Booth which may be placed in town hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for February 20.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Six Crashes; One Near-Crash; 50+ Packets Of Suspected Heroin

Tuesday, 1/2

11:30 a.m. Chief Minckler responded to Shutesbury Road for an animal that had been struck by a car and was severely injured. Chief took the appropriate steps to stop the animal from suffering.

Monday, 1/8

1:15 p.m. Chief Minckler responded to Richardson Road for a dispute. The dispute was sorted out and all parties went on their way.

Tuesday, 1/9

8:15 a.m. Chief Minckler responded to a one car into a utility pole motor vehicle crash on Amherst Road with minor injuries. The Chief was assisted by Leverett Fire, Amherst Ambulance, Eversource and Verizon.

Wednesday, 1/10

9:30 a.m. While on patrol, Chief Minckler came across a motor vehicle crash on North Leverett Road. A pickup truck had struck the rear of a parked oil truck that was making a delivery. The operator of the pickup stated

that he did not see the oil truck due to the bad sun glare. The pickup’s owner was transported due to his injuries.

Friday, 1/12

7:36 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded to Mill Yard Road for a large ice dam that was threatening a home. Leverett Fire and Leverett Highway assisted in clearing the ice dam.

10:10 p.m. Officer Sawicki to Cushman Road for water rising and threatening a home due to ice dams. Leverett Fire assisted with evacuating the homeowner from the rising waters.

Saturday, 1/13

10:30 a.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Depot Road and issued a criminal citation to the operator for unlicensed operation.

Monday, 1/15

9:51 a.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Long Plain Road and issued the operator a criminal citation for an uninsured motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Monday, 1/22

6:01 a.m. Chief Minckler responded to Montague Road for a reported motor vehicle crash. The vehicle had lost control due to the extreme icy conditions. The vehicle was able to be driven away after being pulled out.

6:35 a.m. Officer Sawicki responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Shutesbury Road near the town line. This crash was due to the extreme icy conditions. Chief Minckler assisted once he cleared from previous crash. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

Tuesday, 1/23

9:24 p.m. Officer Sawicki responded to a motor vehicle crash, car vs. guard-rail, on Long Plain Road. The crash was due to the extreme icy conditions. Vehicle was towed from the scene.

11:15 p.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Long Plain Road after the vehicle pulled out in front of three vehicles, forcing those vehicles to swerve to avoid

a crash. The operator was issued a criminal citation for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and a civil citation for an open container of marijuana.

Saturday, 1/27

6:48 p.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Long Plain Road and issued the operator a criminal citation for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Monday, 1/29

9:03 p.m. Officer Sawicki stopped a vehicle on Shutesbury Road. Through the investigation it was learned that the passenger had a warrant for his arrest, and Officer Sawicki arrested him. As the passenger was being placed under arrest, suspected heroin packets began falling from his clothing. A further check of the individual led to 50+ bags of suspected heroin being seized as evidence. The individual was also charged with possession of Class A drug. Shutesbury Police assisted.

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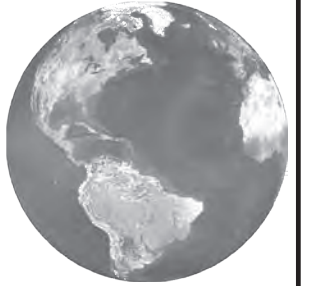


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La lucha por la permanencia del TPS: Entrevista a Marleny Amaya

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

La Comisión de la Verdad para El Salvador de las Naciones Unidas estableció que entre los años 1980 y 1992 el país estuvo sumido en una guerra que hundió a la sociedad salvadoreña, dejó millares de muertos (70.000) y la marcó con formas delincuenciales de espanto. La guerra provocó también un éxodo masivo de salvadoreños, muchos ellos provenientes de comunidades rurales y sin estudios.

Y aunque la guerra terminó en 1992, los condicionantes sociales y económicos que la provocaron no habían cambiado con la firma de la paz. El Salvador desde los años 70 basa parte de su economía en las remesas enviadas por sus ciudadanos en el extranjero, especialmente los que viven en Estados Unidos, debido a las diferencias salariales entre los dos países.

En 1990, el presidente Bush diseñó el programa denominado TPS (Estatus de protección temporal) para conceder visados y permisos de trabajo a países afectados por guerras o desastres naturales, como es el caso de Haití o El Salvador. El mes pasado Donald Trump, usando una frase que no voy a repetir en este artículo por considerarla racista, zafia y de mal gusto, decidió retirar esa protección, lo que afectaría a 200.000 salvadoreños que viven en este país, muchos de ellos con hijos estadounidenses.

La situación actual del país centroamericano no permite recibir este número de personas, ni sobrevivir en su economía sin las remesas que envían a sus familiares cada mes. Otros países que se verán afectados por esta decisión son Nicaragua, Honduras, Yemen y Nepal.

Al conocerse esta decisión, los salvadoreños residentes en Estados Unidos han iniciado una lucha para poder contrarrestarla. Una de las personas que está luchando con mucha fuerza contra la derogación del TPS es Marleny Amaya. Ella, en colaboración con el Pioneer Valley Workers Center de Northampton, está llevando a cabo una labor de concienciación acerca de lo que supondría el corte del TPS para sus compatriotas. Había visto su nombre en la prensa local y decidí ponerme en contacto con ella. Me concedió amablemente esta entrevista durante la cual pude comprobar que es una mujer inteligente, trabajadora, valiente, llena de fuerza y dispuesta a luchar por

lo que cree justo.

Marleny es de El Salvador, aunque vive en Amherst y tiene dos hijos nacidos en Estados Unidos de 15 y 14 años: Argel y Brandy. Ella nació en un pueblito llamado Cojutepeque, como a una media hora de carro de San Salvador, donde vivía con otros cuatro hermanos. Su madre consiguió con mucho sacrificio enviarla a la escuela, trabajando desde las 4 de la mañana hasta las 10 de la noche en una zapatería. El sueldo no alcanzaba para mucho y la violencia cada vez era peor.

Una noche de 1990, cuando su madre tenía 40 años, los reunió a todos y les contó que un familiar le había prestado dinero para pagar a un coyote y tomado la decisión de irse a trabajar a los Estados Unidos. Su madre no hablaba inglés, ni conocía a nadie en este país, pero la necesidad de buscar una vida mejor para su pequeños la empujó a cruzar la frontera.

El Salvador, un país sumido en una guerra en la que los Estados Unidos participaron con la venta de armas, no le daba ninguna oportunidad para sacar a su familia adelante. La necesidad de sobrevivir le hizo a la madre de Marleny tomar esa drástica decisión con todo el dolor de su corazón.

Marleny tenía entonces unos 10 años y no entendía mucho de lo que significaba el sueño americano. Solamente recuerda de esos días el miedo al oír los aviones sobrevolando su pueblito, y el ruido y las luces de las bombas al caer. También a los niños escondiéndose de los camiones del ejército, cargados de soldados, que entraban en su pueblo para llevárselos a combatir en la guerra. Esto lo hacían los de uno y otro bando, no les importaba en que bandos estuvieran, ni siquiera si no eran de ninguno.

Marleny también recuerda a los soldados registrando su casa en busca de una tía que había huido a causa de la persecución.

Marleny y sus cuatro hermanos se quedaron a cargo de sus abuelos. Fueron momentos muy duros, en los que sentía el vacío dejado por su madre, con unas comunicaciones dificultosas ya que no tenían teléfono, ni había Internet. Sus abuelos no trabajaban, pero cuidaban de un pequeño huerto para cultivar vegetales y con ello podían alimentar a la familia con tortillas, maíz y frijoles. Vivían en una casa de dos cuartos, durmiendo tres o cuatro niños en la misma cama.

Terminó el bachillerato, gracias a las remesas enviadas por su madre. Ella cree que si se hubiera podido, le hubiera gustado seguir en su país, pero la falta de recursos no le permitió estudiar en la universidad. Consiguió trabajo en una fábrica, levantándose a las cuatro de la mañana para llegar a trabajar a las siete y volver a casa a las once de la noche, ganando unos 100 dólares al mes. En ese momento Marleny no tenía hijos y con ese dinero ayudaba a sus abuelos a mantener al resto de la familia.

Trabajó un año en esa fábrica, y su hermano que ya había llegado a los Estados Unidos, le prestó el dinero para pagar a un coyote y poder venirse a este país. Después Marleny prestó el dinero a su hermana que también decidió venirse a trabajar a los Estados Unidos. Así poco a poco todos los hermanos consiguieron llegar al norte, al sueño americano.

El primer coyote de Marleny era guatemalteco, pero al pasar la frontera entre México y Guatemala, los coyotes ya eran mexicanos. Marleny y un grupo de hondureños esperaron para pasar la frontera en México en un lugar cerca de Chiapas. Los coyotes los iban distribuyendo en diversos medios de transporte, cuando no tenían que andar a tientas por la noche. El viaje fue duro: tenían que beber del agua de los abrevaderos de las vacas, dormir en gallineros, siempre esperando las órdenes para poder seguir adelante. Marleny pasó mucho miedo, en más de una ocasión intentaron abusar de ella, aunque como ella misma me dijo también hubo mucha gente buena que la ayudó.

Marleny sabía que el viaje no iba a ser fácil, pero el sueño americano fue más fuerte que el miedo. Los coyotes la amenazaron con hacer daño a su familia si no colaboraba o pagaba todo el dinero acordado.

Por fin, después de un viaje lleno de contratiempos, llegó a Los Angeles y de allí tomó un avión a Boston donde la esperaba su hermano. El coyote la vistió con ropa para parecer una mujer de negocios, la dejó en la puerta del aeropuerto y le dio instrucciones para no mirar a los lados ni parecer nerviosa.

En Massachusetts, donde ya estaban los miembros de su familia, empezó a trabajar en un restaurante mexicano en Amherst desde el 1999 hasta el 2001 que consiguió el TPS. Al conseguir la documentación para trabajar, dejó ese res-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marleny Amaya es de El Salvador, aunque vive en Amherst.

taurante donde las condiciones laborales no eran las más favorables, y pudo conseguir otro trabajo con mejores condiciones con el permiso de trabajo que le daba el TPS. Durante todo su tiempo en Estados Unidos, Marleny ha seguido mandando dinero a su casa para ayudar a sus abuelos.

Los hijos de Marleny están orgullosos de ella, y ven el sacrificio y la lucha que su madre está llevando a cabo para poder quedarse en este país. El TPS fue adoptado en 2001, pero beneficiaba también a los salvadoreños que ya residían sin documentación en el país. Los servicios de inmigración estadounidenses y los consulados de El Salvador fueron los encargados de difundir la información acerca de dónde y cuándo podían inscribirse.

Marleny se dispuso en el 2001 a iniciar los trámites para conseguir el TPS a través de un abogado con la ilusión de poder cambiar su estatus migratorio. Cada año debía renovarlo, aunque luego les dieron una extensión para renovarlos en plazos de dieciocho meses, con un coste de alrededor de unos 595 \$ por la renovación del visado, más los trámites de las personas que le ayudan a rellenarlos que son otros 100 \$.

Todo este tiempo, Marleny ha estado en situación de inmigración legal, pagando sus impuestos y siendo un miembro de la comuni-

dad. Así mismo ha estado pagando alrededor de unos 600\$ cada dieciocho meses para la tramitación por el presidente el mes pasado, aun sabiendo que el programa será revocado en septiembre de 2019 y que la renovación cuesta unos 700 dólares por persona. Esta cifra representa solamente el 10% de la población salvadoreña en Estados Unidos.

Unos 16.000 salvadoreños han presentado la solicitud para renovar el TPS desde la decisión adoptada por el presidente el mes pasado, aun sabiendo que el programa será revocado en septiembre de 2019 y que la renovación cuesta unos 700 dólares por persona. Esta cifra representa solamente el 10% de la población salvadoreña en Estados Unidos.

Por su parte el gobierno de El Salvador ha emitido un comunicado diciendo que están buscando todas las alternativas legales para evitar la deportación de 200.000 de sus ciudadanos.

Marleny añade que es muy importante que las personas que lean este artículo y estén a favor de continuar con el programa TPS, apoyen su lucha en las marchas o llamando a sus representantes electorales.

*Si usted quiere saber más sobre la lucha por el TPS puede informarse en: **Pioneer Valley Workers Center**, 20 Hampton Ave Suite 200, Northampton. (413) 570-3060*

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

School Water Project Drags On

By **GEORGE BRACE**

At Gill’s February 5 selectboard meeting, the board received an update on the Gill Elementary School water project, heard about a series of grants for the fire department, and finalized the town’s response to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments request for Gill’s priorities in Local Technical Assistance (LTA) programs, among other business.

Progress on building a drinking water treatment system at Gill Elementary School has been slower than hoped for, due to the project’s complexity and the availability of participants in the project who are needed to make and sign off on the revisions to the system’s design requested by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that he met with the project’s well engineer last week, and the engineer is reviewing the larger-sized equipment in the newest design.

Purington said he will keep contacting him this week in an effort to get that aspect of the project out of the way, and that he is hopeful work on the revisions to the overall plan requested by the DEP can move on from there.

Board chair Randy Crochier commented that he has spoken with several parents who were concerned with the status of the project. Purington assured him it was “definitely not a project that’s off the radar by any means.” Staff and students at the school continue to rely on bottled water.

Fire Department Grants

Fire chief Gene Beaubien appeared before the board to report and comment on the status of several grants: the receipt of a Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant; the receipt of an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) grant, through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA); and an application for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The SAFE grant was for \$2,808, and is to be used to conduct fire and life safety education programs in grades K through 12. According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, which sponsors the grant, the average number of fire deaths of children under 18 has dropped by 72% since the adoption of the program in 1995.

As for the EMPG grant, Beaubien

said part of it will go towards funding the CodeRED system that allows officials to notify residents and businesses of time-sensitive emergencies via telephone, cell phone, text, and email. He received approval from the board to earmark the remainder of the EMPG grant money towards new door locks at the fire department and safety complex, and to research more modern locks to replace the old-style key locks there currently.

The AFG grant, if received, would go towards the purchase of a new fire truck to replace the aging Engine 1, which is not compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards due to its open rear cab.

The chief expressed his gratitude for the hard work in the team effort of completing the AFG grant application by selectboard member Greg Snedeker, Purington, deputy chief Stuart Elliott, and himself.

Local Technical Assistance

Ray Purington presented a draft response to the 2018 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) request form sent by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for the board’s approval, which was given. FRCOG provided the form to gather member towns’ priorities in two areas: planning projects, and regional projects.

Gill chose as its first planning project priority, “regional planning/technical assistance for large scale utility projects,” specifically concerning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing process Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project and Turners Falls Dam. As its second planning priority, the town listed “open space and recreation plan update.”

For the regional project section, the town’s first priority was “explore feasibility or continue work to establish new shared services,” specifically an animal control officer, and facilities management of municipal buildings and grounds. For the second priority, “local official continuing education workshops” was selected.

Other Business

The board “regretfully” accepted the resignation of Bev Demars from the historical commission, but “happily” took her up on her offer to serve as an alternate member. They also thanked her for finding her own replacement in alternate member Robert Perry, and happily appointed him to the position of regular member.

Crochier and Snedeker reported that last week’s contradance in celebration of Gill’s 225th anniversary

was well-attended, and a lot of fun. Crochier estimated total attendance at 75 people, with 45 to 50 present at any particular time.

Town tax collector Veronica LaChance appeared to seek approval to file real estate liens for unpaid sewer use charges, which was granted. She noted that unpaid sewer charges have almost doubled from \$8,410 last year, to \$15,547 this year, a difference of over \$7,000.

Purington reported that the town received a refund from the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP) of \$2,740. Gill contracts with the FCCIP for plumbing, electrical and inspection services. The program maintains a reserve fund to address lower than projected permit collections due to fluctuations in the economy. This reserve fund is capped at \$92,000, and when the cap is exceeded, refunds are given to member towns based on the amount of fees collected from that town.

Purington pointed out that of the 15 towns in the program, Gill was second in the amount of permit fees collected over the past 5 years. “We’re busy, in a quiet, little way,” he said.

The board considered a notice from the Franklin County Retirement Board that they will be contemplating the option of voting a 3% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) applying to eligible retirees in their system at their regular meeting in Greenfield on February 28.

Snedeker said he thought the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was approximately 2.7% last year, so the increase was not far off from that. After a brief discussion of past years’ increases, it was decided to have Purington draft a response expressing concerns with the compounding nature of these adjustments, and the fact that they are higher than Social Security COLA adjustments, and most likely those of current employees.

Announcements

There will be a Gill 225th anniversary celebratory puzzle swap at Slate Memorial Library on Saturday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Two 225th anniversary public skates will be held at Northfield Mount Hermon’s McCollum Rink. The first will be Sunday, February 18 from 4 to 6 p.m., the second will be the following Sunday, February 25, at the same time. Interested attendees are asked to please not bring hockey sticks or pucks. On-ice and off-ice volunteer chaperones are needed for both events.

There will also be a brief meeting of the Democratic Town Committee prior to the caucus at 6:30, which any registered Democrat may attend, but only committee members may vote in. The Committee will be electing new officers.

The meeting place is handicapped accessible via elevator at the rear lower floor entrance. For info about the Convention or caucus procedures, contact current Democratic Town Committee chair Jay DiPucchio at 863-8656 or jdipucchio@verizon.net, or visit the party website at www.massdems.org.

PROPOSED MONTAGUE DPW INFORMATION SESSION SERIES FINAL SESSION

Hosted by the Public Works Facility Planning Committee.
All are invited to attend to learn more about the project.

Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m.
Public Safety Complex Community Meeting Room, 180 Turnpike Road



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was February 7, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Stoia Departs The Shea Theater

The redoubtable Shea Theater, an institution in Turners Falls since its creation in 1927, ushered in the New Year with high hopes and a new director. But after a month on the job, Steve Stoia has resigned as executive director of the Shea.

The highly qualified Stoia became executive director on January 1. He came recommended after a thirteen-year stint producing community theater as the arts director for leisure services for the town of Amherst, where his productions broke attendance records year after year. Before that, Stoia, who lives in Northfield where he manages a bed and breakfast with his wife Joan, had a long career as a producer of independent theater at venues large and small throughout the four counties of western Massachusetts with the non-profit company he founded, the New England Puppetry and Family Theater.

Reached by phone this week, Stoia said, “This past Monday, I said I was going to resign. The board told me to relax, and that it was a slow time. But after seeing the bills come in and seeing what it cost per month, I said I didn’t feel they could afford full time staffing at this point.”

He continued, “The problem with the situation is that the Shea has been weak for several years. It needs to be community supported, on the civic center model. There’s a reluctance to share [finances] with the community, but it needs the community to look at it closely.”

Stressing that he bore no ill will toward the Shea and its board, Stoia closed with: “I’d like to say that I wish the best for the Shea, and I hope that they will succeed.”

Strathmore Roof Under Repair

Against the vast backdrop of the Strathmore Mill, they look like brave mountaineers, rappelling on the slopes. But, come wind, come rain, come sleet or snow – and in the last two weeks, plenty of weather has blown their way – the men from Renaissance Builders are hard at work on the roof of Strathmore Building #1.

Since the fire last spring, the remnants of Building #10 remain in a jumbled pile beneath four-story Building #1, the oldest of the Strathmore Mill buildings, originally constructed in 1871. The heap of bricks and moldering paper has made it difficult to maneuver a hoist into position to make it easier for workers to get to the edge of Building #1. And when the crane company finally delivered a lift to the site last week, it turned out to be too short to extend the full distance across the rubble, on the angle needed.

Gill’s Renaissance Builders president and founder Stephen Greenwald said, “The salesman from the boom company miscalculated. They’ll have a new one here from Albany tomorrow.”

Despite the obstacles, Greenwald’s company has been making rapid progress. Rubberneckers passing on Canal Street watch as the old mill building has been swiftly stripped down to the sheathing, and the burned-out southwest bays peeled back to the purlins.

Montague Democrats to Caucus March 1

Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus at the second floor meeting room of Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, at 7:15 p.m., Thursday, March 1 to elect five delegates and four alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention.

At that convention, to be held Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2 at the DCU Center in Worcester, the party will nominate statewide candidates for the primary ballot.

This local caucus is a meeting that is open to all Democrats registered in Montague. Registered

attendees are eligible to vote and/or run for one of the five openings available to represent Montague Democrats at the statewide nominating convention.

Delegates must be divided equally among men and women. Candidates must consent to nomination in writing. Candidates may make a one-minute statement to the meeting and may distribute materials. It is a very straightforward and transparent process any registered Democrat may participate in, or just come to watch. Montague had over 40 attendees at last year’s caucus.

Jamie Berger ————— jamie.berger@gmail.com 413-326-1676

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BOUTIQUE from page A1

of FAB’s offerings offset their prices, which, though high, are to be expected from a small boutique. FAB’s mission is to create fair trade in the artistic community, according to Richardson, and therefore a large portion of each purchase directly benefits the item’s creator.

“Artists are told, ‘you must strive to struggle, you must strive to be poor,’ while everyone else capitalizes on you,” Richardson explains. “Is an artist less an artist for being a millionaire? Is Rihanna less an artist for being a millionaire?”

Richardson argues that the contradiction between the idea that artists must sacrifice themselves to make meaningful impact, and the large amounts of money many must shell out on materials and education, should lead more artists to use their talents to provide for themselves without the shame many seem to attach to seeking a livelihood.

Richie Richardson came to the area from New York three years ago. After a stay in Brattleboro, he was introduced to Turners Falls through visits to the now-closed Madison on the Ave. “Hip people are everywhere,” he observes. He opened the Pop-Up Shoppe



on the Avenue last winter.

Richardson speaks highly of the “quiet buzz” he has found in Turners, and is happy to see that other boutiques and shops have opened in downtown over the past year. A Caribbean New Yorker, he is a fashion designer as well. Though he plans to convert part of the store into a studio for his own use, Richardson says his primary focus will be to showcase others, and though a few of his own pieces are on sale at FAB, the store will not be based on his own collections.

“There is no such thing as ‘alone,’” Richardson says about being an artist, and he applies this philosophy to his store as well. Though FAB is fashioned after his own vision, Richardson says he is grateful to the investors, friends, and fellow designers who have worked with him to make it a reality.

Richardson has a few projects planned for the future, based both at FAB and in the larger Turners community. Though the boutique has been open for most of the winter, Richardson is planning a formal opening event for the spring that would include a fashion show.

He is also in early stages of planning for



Items currently on the racks at FAB.
Bottom left: t-shirt from CJ Original collection.
Top left: repurposed boots by Ghanaian designers Art Groupie. Top right: jewelry by Art Groupie.
Bottom right: backpack by Trashy Bags.

a larger fashion event that would take place in Turners Falls in the summer. This fashion show and marketplace would include designers from all around New England. The event would be geared towards artists with limited budgets, and would aim to demonstrate that designers can be an integral part of the creative community without a large amount of money, and allow them to sell their clothing and network.

FAB is open Wednesdays through Sundays from noon to 7 p.m. The store’s Facebook page, “Richie Richardson FAB,” will have updates on the store and Richardson’s future fashion plans.



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Jinx: Pennies from Paper, Popcorn, Berries, And Tobacco Made Dollars in Old Turners Falls

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.

Cheated

Jinx and a boy two years older, nicknamed “Lits,” were friends since Jinx was eight years old. In the first years of their friendship, with World War II in progress, they would often be found building “forts” on the banks of the Connecticut River. They fashioned make-believe rifles and pistols from scraps of wood scrounged up from

old orange crates that had been discarded in the alleys behind the local grocery stores.

Lits and Jinx were definitely “working buddies,” and whenever they had an opportunity to earn a few cents (hopefully dollars), they’d hustle off early in the morning to begin their labors. During the winter, from age twelve through fifteen, they’d pray for a lot of snow (particularly on the weekends) when the two would be up and out by 5 a.m. shoveling the white stuff and make up to \$10 each. As with all money earned, it would be turned over to the family, but it meant they would be rewarded with a dollar.

As they grew in stature and age, they transferred their energies into work. Coming from less than affluent families, if they wanted to buy anything or go anywhere, they had to earn their own money. It started by collecting old newspapers and scrap metals, which were stored in

Lits’ dirt floored basement. When enough had been collected, the boys would call one of the two local scrap yard owners, who would come to the house and weigh the tied bundles of paper on his hanging scale.

After the first couple of times of these weighings, the boys became suspicious of the way the dealer would be lifting up from the bottom of the bundle (explaining he was “balancing” the load to keep it from swinging?). It seemed to them that their bundles weighed more than shown and, suspecting they were being cheated, they decided to weigh later bundles with a large fish scale before calling for collection.

Yes, when weighed by the dealer, the weight of the bundles appeared to be quite a bit less. With this knowledge, the boys conspired to get even. With future collections, they would put a flat rock in the middle of the bundle before tying, justifying this action as just getting a fair weighing.

Fireflies and Popcorn

In the late ‘40s and early ‘50s, balmy summer Sunday evenings and early nightfall would be spent by many people in Turners Falls in front of the bandstand at Unity Park. Car after car would line up, side by side and row after row, where their inhabitants would listen to the local town band perform a concert, usually consisting of marching music. After each number the thundering blaring of car horns displaying approval could be heard all the way up to Avenue

see JINX page B2



PHOTO COURTESY ED GREGORY ARCHIVES

The bandstand at Unity Park.

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – To all those who haven’t been able to pick up a newspaper or watch a sports program since Super Bowl Sunday, welcome back. With all that behind us, we can now focus on South Korea, the Celtics, the Bruins, and of course, the Turners Falls winter sports teams.

This week, the Cheerleaders prepared for a weekend road trip, the swim team traveled to West Springfield as a prelude to the Regionals, and the girls’ basketball team slid into third place. Also, the boys’ team tried to beat the snow – and Turners Falls Athletics went to war with cancer.

The cheer squad will compete with schools from all over Massachusetts this weekend. On Saturday, they travel to Chicopee High School, and on Sunday, they



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ Jake Dodge goes up to the net surrounded by Red Raiders. Turners toppled Athol 80-56 during the Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser at Turners Falls High School.

compete in Holyoke.

Last Thursday, both Turners Falls basketball teams faced off against the Athol Red Raiders. On the court, the teams played, but those were just games – the common enemy was cancer.

For the last 25 years, the Coaches vs. Cancer program has brought the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the American Cancer Society together to fight cancer. All gate proceeds from the Turners Falls games went to that fight.

Mercedes Morales opened both varsity games with the singing of the National Anthem, and as the announcer gave the starting lineups, he pointed out that the coaches were donning sneakers instead of their usual dress shoes.

At halftime of the boys’ game, certificates for the MIAA’s Educational Athletics Achievement Award, “recognizing an act of community service and leadership in District F during the winter of 2017-18,” were presented to the teams, cheerleaders, and athletic department.

And at the girls’ halftime, the players and Coach Wilcox switched places with the cheerleaders. As the cheer squad performed on the court, the basketball team cheered and shook their silver pompoms to the beat of the floor routine.

Girls Basketball

TFHS 56 – Athol 46

TFHS 54 – Smith Academy 40

Ware 59 – TFHS 53

The girls’ team beat the Red Raiders 56–46. The game was pretty physical from the outset, with multiple steal attempts and jump-ball calls as the ladies wrestled for possession. As a result, the fouls began to mount.

But Turners beat the Raiders on the boards, and after the period Turners led by 10 points, 15-5. The second quarter was more of the same, with Powertown again outscoring Red to more than double Athol’s score at the half, 31–15.

The third stanza was the closest, as Turners edged Athol 14-12; going into the final frame, Blue held a 45-27 lead. And although the game remained a runaway for Blue, the fourth quarter was just as physical, as four different girls fouled out before the final buzzer.

Chloe Ellis was Turners’ top scorer, with 15 points off three field goals and nine foul shots. Maddy Chmyzinski

see TFHS SPORTS page B6

Riverteeth Cranks Stories Into Life



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kiah Raymond (left) and Mary Fraser (right, with fiddle) display one of Riverteeth’s handmade storytelling crankies.

By DK KNAUER

MONTAGUE CENTER – Two local artists have combined talents to express themselves through an historic method of storytelling. Kiah Raymond and Mary Lauren Fraser are the musicians and artists behind Riverteeth, a performance duo entertaining audiences through the almost-lost art of crankie.

But what is it? The idea of using hand-cranked picture scrolls dates back to the 19th century. They were known as moving panoramas, and had pictures painted or applied to scrolls of fabric or paper, which were held vertically in a box. The scroll was then turned by a crank so that the picture rolled from one side to the other. In the process a story was told, often accompanied by words, music, or both. The scrolls could be anywhere in size from small, handheld boxes up to “big screen” versions several feet tall.

The art form is now making a comeback. The 4th Annual Vermont Crankie Fest was just held on January 13 in Brattleboro, and Mary and Kiah performed during the festival.

The duo’s name, Riverteeth, comes from an essay by David James Duncan and refers to the hardened knots on tree limbs which are all that remain after a tree falls in the water and disintegrates with the passage of time. The stories of Riverteeth are timeless, and based on tales that have endured over millennia of storytelling.

Both women have lived in Scotland, a country whose history and myth lends itself to epic tales of tragedy and adventure. It was there that Mary apprenticed to a basket maker and learned the craft of weaving baskets, as well as caskets for green burials, by twining, or weaving, willow branches.

Home-schooled by parents who see CRANKIES page B4

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Southern Arrivals



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL – February 1. The plane clears free of the cloud cover, and water and land come into view. The captain announces our imminent arrival in Orlando, twenty-five minutes early. The planeload of sardined travelers clap and cheer.

Another hour to locate the baggage area two levels down, and to wait anxiously as suitcase after suitcase is claimed with ours not in sight. Bags at last retrieved, we take an elevator down to the subterranean area of the rental cars agencies.

More waiting in line and much paperwork later, conversations with heavily accented English speakers sometimes understood, we are directed across the road to several levels of rent-a-cars. Unbeknownst to us, we have been upgraded for a



Anastasia State Park in St. Augustine.

fee of another \$425, and can claim a mid-size car instead of a compact.

We have no key or license number to orient ourselves. At last we find a desultory staffer who tells us, incredibly enough, to take any car we want in the section. The keys are in it, so after loading it up, we are at last at the final checkout where Ken shows his driver’s license yet again, the vehicle identifications are scanned, and we are off.

Happily, this last staffer gives us clear, simple directions, which soon put us on the highway northward to Saint Augustine. We have been up now since two in the morning and are feeling part of an Ingmar Bergman movie, having passed on coffee all morning for reasons obvious to anyone who has ever traveled by air.

After about two hours on the thruway, we are only twenty or so miles from our destination. We switch to a local road and find an excellent roadside BBQ. No frills, but clean and reasonably priced pork, with your choice of sauce and a cup of yellow rice. We eat outside, on stumps turned into stools around a wooden table. It is sunny and warm, in the high sixties.

It feels wonderful to stop traveling and to be outside in the fresh air. After a bit, we are refreshed and ready to drive a few more miles to

see GARDENER’S page B4

Pet of the Week

Hi there! My name is Fiona and this is my sister Dani. We are a bonded pair of beautiful fancy mice. I'm a dark brownish color with white, and my sister is a lovely golden color. I will sit in a friend's palm; my sister is more shy.

We female mice don't smell bad (if you clean our home weekly). Also, please make us box forts! We're low maintenance and a great way to show a child what it takes to care for another.

To adopt us, call (413) 548-9898 or visit the Dakin in Leverett. We are so excited to meet you and see all the wonderful cardboard creations you will build us!

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



“FIONA & DANI”

Senior Center Activities

FEBRUARY 12 to 16

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: 2/12
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 2/13
9:30 - 10:30 Tech Help appts.
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday: 2/14
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 2/15
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday: 2/16
Noon Pizza Party
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: 2/12 (No lunch served)
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday: 2/13
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
Valentine’s Day Lunch
Wednesday: 2/14
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
Noon Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday: 2/15
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Create 2 Donate
Friday: 2/16
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!

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.

JINX from page B1

A and across the river to Riverside.

As darkness descended, the setting also found youngsters chasing fireflies, hoping to catch them in an empty fruit jar being held in one hand while holding its now nail-hole-perforated lid in the other. If successful in capturing one or more, they’d quickly screw on the cover and then spend the rest of the late evening marveling at the entrapped, flickering treasure.

Lits and Jinx always found a way to turn those wonderful evenings into a money-making endeavor. They knew that Mr. Drago, who owned a small smoke and novelty shop on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street, always looked for ways to increase his income, as did most small proprietors of the day. One way was to supply the band concert attendees with popcorn, as done in the movie theaters.

Well, in order to do this, he needed a delivery system. Enter Lits and Jinx, who would take a tray with about a dozen bags of popcorn, race down to the park, and hurry between the cars offering the delectable treat for sale at five cents. When sold out they’d scurry back to Drago’s for a re-supply.

The three or four trips a night, at a commission of one cent per bag, could make the urchins close to a half-dollar each. That money they were allowed to keep for themselves. *Wow!*

Strawberries

Between High Street, Park Street, and Seventh Street was a large sandy area. During the long and usually snowy winters, kids would sometimes use a long trail which ran through some white birch trees as a sledding run that ended just below Saraseski’s house and above Park Street. During the school year, the path was also used as a shortcut from the middle hill to High Street and then Crocker Avenue where the grammar and high schools were located.

In summer, however, the sand bank saw very little traffic. It was at this time of year that a couple of enterprising young urchins could glean a dollar or two from the forgotten area, now home to large patches of wild strawberries.

The small, delectable fruit would

Stephen R. Drago & Co.

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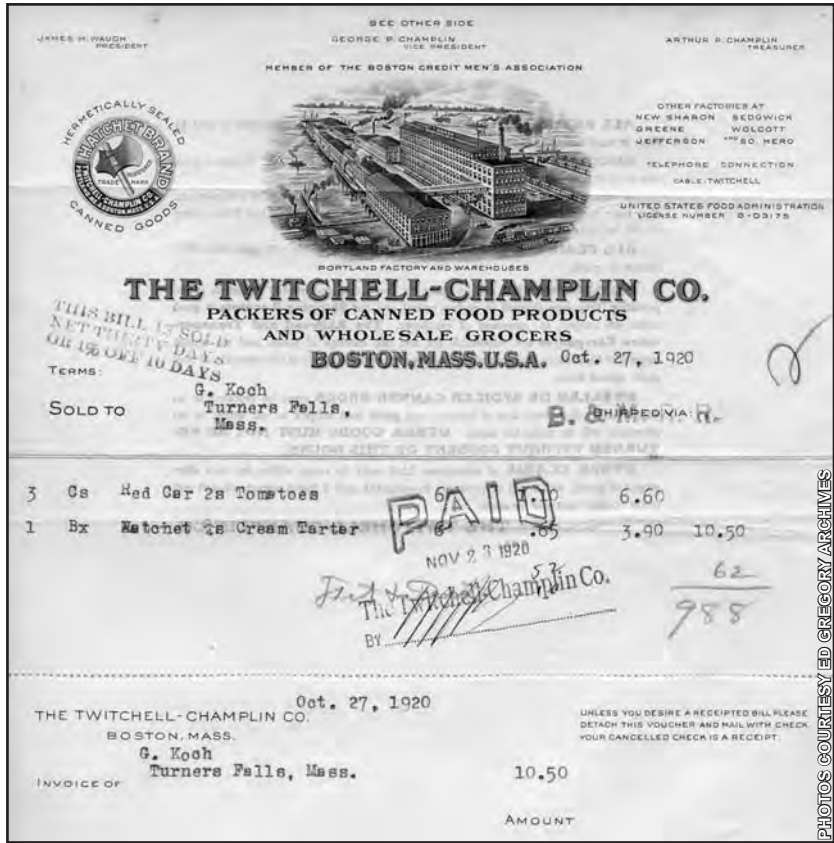
This Drago’s ad is from about 1950.

Local Teens: Help Design and Paint Outdoor Mural

TURNERS FALLS – Local teens can sign up now to help design and paint a community mural in Turners Falls. The mural, which will fill an outside wall of the Parks and Recreation Building at Unity Park, will celebrate Turners’ multi-ethnic history from its Native American beginning to its diverse present.

The teens will work with local indigenous artists, elders, and historians, designing the mural in April and May, and painting it in June. The project is part of a “Building Bridges” program, supported by many local groups.

“The movement to change the TFHS mascot has shaken the town,” said Elyssa Serrilli of Turn-



A bill-head for Gottlieb Koch’s store from 1920.

bring many customers to Gottlieb Koch’s grocery store located on Avenue A and Fifth Street. For each quart basket (supplied by Mr. Koch) picked and delivered to the store, the two were paid ten cents.

Jinx ventures a guess that during the short growing season, that patch probably rewarded them with about a dollar and a half each. Pretty good money for a couple of sixth and seventh grade kids in that era.

Tobacco

At 5:30 a.m. the old canvas-covered World War II deuce-and-a-half screeched to a halt at the corner of Coolidge Ave. and Montague Road (now called Turners Falls Road), where Jinx and his brother Smeeks hopped in the back. Barely taking their seats on one of the long wooden side benches, they slid along it as the Jamaican driver jerked the monster ahead, proceeding to pick up more Turners Falls youth.

With the back full of boys, while the cab held two young local girls, the load rumbled down the valley, bringing its cargo for the day’s work.

Strabike! Strabike! Abis babe-abing whabispaperabed dabown thrabough rabow abaftaber labong rabow abof tabobabaxxabo abon thabis stabiflabinglabi habot Abagabaust dabay. Abit wabas aban abannabuabal rabitabuabal.

Hold it! There’s nothing wrong with your eyesight, nor did the computer blip to the printer. This will be explained shortly.

When Jinx turned twelve, his friend Lits started working on the tobacco farms ten miles from home. One had to be fourteen to be allowed to work on the farms and, not happy that he wouldn’t have his friend to hang around with, Jinx hatched a plan.

He would have his older brother Smeeks, who also worked the farms, lie to the field boss as to his age. As he was taller than most twelve year olds, the plan worked. He’d now be able to join his friend through this and subsequent summers.

On the farm, a foreign language was learned and used whenever the bosses weren’t supposed to know what was going on or what was about to happen. It is a simple language to decipher when written, but hard to understand when spoken. It came out sounding like “Turkey Talk.” The language served them very well, not only on the farms but also in school, when the urchins wanted to keep things from the bosses and teachers.

Translation: *Strike! Strike! is being whispered down through row after long row of tobacco, on this stifling hot August day. It became an annual ritual.*

Using the “Strike” seemed the only way to get a pay raise each year. August would prove to be the most important month to the tobacco company owners, as they needed to get the crop in before all the youngsters went back to school, and the students knew it.

How’s that for “Organized Labor?”



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Scout Troop Welcomes New Girls

MONTAGUE – Area Girl Scout troops are up and running, and have availability for more girls.

Montague Brownie Troop #64983 is welcoming girls in grades 2 and 3. The troop meets biweekly on Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m.

Joining Girl Scouts is a great way to help girls build confidence, try new things, and discover their inner G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-Taker, Leader). Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

For information on Girl Scouts and how to join, visit gscwm.org and click “Be A Girl Scout,” or call (508) 749-3612.

Girl Scouts of Central and West-

ern Massachusetts serves nearly 8,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of 3,800 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts.

Girl Scouts’ mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts.

Today, Girl Scouts is, as it always has been, the organization best positioned to help girls develop important leadership skills they need to become successful adults.

Electric Vehicles Workshop

SUNDERLAND – Wondering what the recent talk of electric vehicles (EVs) is all about? Seeing EVs like the Nissan Leaf, Chevy Volt, Prius Prime or Tesla buzzing around town or plugged into a charging station and curious to learn more about them?

The Sunderland Public Library is offering a free workshop, “Electric Vehicles: The Future is Now,” on Tuesday, February 13 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. (snow date February 20). The workshop is free and open to all, and no registration is required.

Sally Pick of SJP Environmental Consulting, LLC, will introduce you to the types of electric vehicles

currently available, and some that are coming into the market soon. She will discuss how best to match an EV with your driving needs, the how-tos of charging a car at home or when you’re out and about, pairing EVs with home solar, costs and incentives for buying and leasing EVs, and many other topics.

Incentives include a new program to make EVs accessible to lower-income residents, state rebates, and additional discounts offered by select car dealers that sell EVs.

For more information, contact the Library (20 School Street, Sunderland) at (413) 665-2642.

REFLECTION

The Life of Rosa Parks

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I know sometimes things don’t make it into a movie due to time limits, so there is more to the story to tell.

I learned from an article on *History.com* that Rosa Parks was an activist in the black community before she refused to give up her seat on that bus. 12 years before, exactly: she was a member of NAACP, which stands for National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in 1943.

She worked on the problems of criminal justice that were going on in Alabama, including with black men being lynched and dealing with false accusations. She tried to help a friend’s son unsuccessfully in one such instance of a false accusation.

Sometimes movies about history aren’t very accurate, when it comes to what happened. I wondered about that with Rosa Parks’ story. So I watched a documentary called *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks* (2002), and then watched a movie starring Angela Bassett as Rosa Parks, *The Rosa Parks Story* (2002) in order to check out all of that.

The documentary showed her husband, Raymond, had been involved in an early stage of the Civil Rights movement with a man named Ed Nixon, but that he didn’t want her to get involved, because he thought she couldn’t run fast enough to get away from the police. She did anyway.

It also showed me she was in charge of a black youth that Ed had set up. She taught them about civil rights. A bit of irony that occurred with her seat on the bus was that she actually wasn’t breaking any segregation laws at that moment – she was in the black section, like

she was legally supposed to be.

Nixon was called in to help find out what she had been arrested for. With the help of a white lady who supported the bus boycott, he got her out of jail.

Mighty Times also describes a scene where black people in the church, Rosa Parks among them, announced they were going to boycott the buses. She was happy about this.

The Rosa Parks Story did a nice job of recreating that scene, and keeping on point with what happened to Rosa Parks next, in connection with not giving up her seat, including how she got into this trouble even though she wasn’t breaking the segregation law on the bus.

Next was a specific example of the previous civil rights work she was a part of. There also was an example, in both the documentary and the movie, of an encounter Parks had with a mean white racist bus driver, and how she then had to walk home in the rain. What she lost because of not giving up her seat on the bus was her job.

Lastly, the movie also featured her husband’s concern over her getting involved in Civil Rights, like they said it was in *Mighty Times*.

Another ironic fact is that her husband, in the film, gives his opinion of Ed Nixon’s organization as being ineffective. His bad opinion of the man’s work was not what I exactly would call historically accurate, since his history with the man had him as part of that work.

But despite this, the movie still did a nice job with historical accuracy. If readers are interested in seeing Bassett’s portrayal of Rosa Parks, they should have nothing to complain about in terms of the movie’s accuracy.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Rowdy Kid; Ice Tent; Trash Dumper; Pan Am Train Idling For Three Days; Gunshot-Type Noises; Slippery Conditions

Monday, 1/29

4:37 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that a child has been running around and jumping off things and banging pots and pans in the apartment below him in the afternoons for the past few weeks. Caller states he can’t stand the noise anymore. Responding officer could hear noise from upstairs apartment, but female resident is not answering door. Seems to have quieted down since officers arrived.

5:10 p.m. Caller states that a vehicle is parked at the housing authority on Canal Road and that two young girls with the vehicle appear to be very upset. What looks like radiator fluid is shooting up from the vehicle. TFFD notified. Vehicle was leaking coolant and blew from being overheated. Operators had coolant with them and replaced some of the fluids. Officer advising small amount of coolant in the parking lot at this location, not on a public way.

Tuesday, 1/30

7:52 a.m. Caller reports that yesterday he was driving south and when he passed a pond near Route 63 and Gunn Road, he observed ice fishing gear and a brightly colored sled on the ice. Caller drove by same location this morning and observed the same sled and gear on the ice. Officer and MCFD checked area and located sleds, tent, etc. There were footprints leading to and from the area but no sign of anyone in distress.

11:11 a.m. Party into station advising that twice this morning, on Avenue A and on Route 2A, a vehicle passed him on the right while he was stopped waiting for kids to cross the street. Party will call immediately should something like this occur again.

12:13 p.m. Caller reporting road rage incident that occurred approximately half an hour ago at the Canal Road bridge. Male party got out of his vehicle on the bridge, called the caller a vulgar name and threatened to kill her, then left the area. License plate provided did not come back on file in RMV. Advised of options.

5:01 p.m. 911 caller reporting two-car accident at Franklin Commons. Med-Care requested for party complaining of neck and head pain. Officer requesting Rau’s for one vehicle. One operator issued written warning for failure to use care while passing.

Wednesday, 1/31

7:25 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street reporting

two children (five to seven years old) in a vehicle without booster seats. Vehicle information provided. Officers advised.

10:13 a.m. Caller from Hillside Road reports that someone dumped two bags of trash over the banking. Caller did not see the person responsible; will call back if he sees illegal dumping in progress and try to get a subject/vehicle description.

11:38 a.m. Caller requesting assistance disposing of a bottle of medication left behind by a tenant. Caller’s employer does not permit her to handle the medication. Officer responding; same retrieved for disposal.

10:38 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle in the vicinity of caller’s property on Federal Street. Two subjects with flashlights exited a pickup truck and began walking northbound along the railroad tracks. Spoke with Pan Am railroads, who advised that the territory would be New England Central Railroad. Spoke with NECR, who confirmed that they do have a worker in the area. Vehicle plate registered to NECR. No further action needed.

Thursday, 2/1

12:16 a.m. Caller from Ferry Road complaining of loud noise from an idling train in close proximity to his residence. Caller also expressing concern for safety due to train idling unattended for several days on a regular basis. Advised caller this would be referred to an officer; also recommended caller follow up with Montague Selectboard, who recently addressed a similar issue in Millers Falls with the railroad. Caller spoke with Pan Am dispatch and was advised that the train should be moving in a couple of hours. Train is #7627 and has reportedly been there for three days.

5:30 p.m. Caller states that there is a rope hanging sus-

piciously from the railroad trestle on the bike path. Rope is tied to trestle and the end of it looks snapped off. Officer out on foot investigating. Rope appears to have been there for a long time. Nothing out of ordinary detected.

10:31 p.m. Caller states that a female has shown up in his driveway requesting help because somebody is “after her.” Courtesy transport provided.

Friday, 2/2

2:53 a.m. Caller reports that she hears music coming from inside her apartment and thinks an unknown person is in there. Caller is on the back porch. Officers checked apartment; nothing found. Caller believes her cat may have turned on the radio.

6:11 a.m. Caller from L Street reports that her neighbor has been running up and down the third floor hallway yelling and screaming; unknown what the issue is. Involved lost a credit card and was going up and down the halls looking for it. Card located; all is well.

6:49 a.m. Gunshot-type noise reported inside of building on L Street. Conflicting stories on scene. Nothing found.

8:02 a.m. Caller reports footprints around the windows of several units at Park Villa; appears someone was trying to look in windows. Officer spoke off-site with subject caller believes to be responsible. Subject denied walking around the buildings. Caller requesting extra patrols overnight.

10 a.m. Officer requesting DPW for sand; advising approximately half of the streets in town are icy. DPW advised.

12:10 p.m. Caller from K Street reports that a male he has been allowing to stay with him assaulted him; requesting assistance removing male due to history of violence and substance abuse issues. Officers followed up at residence. Male

left without incident.

2:42 p.m. Minor accident reported on Fourth Street; bus clipped a parked car. One child was on bus at time of accident. No injuries. Officer reports paint transfer but no damage.

Saturday, 2/3

12:23 a.m. Report from clerk at F.L. Roberts that her vehicle was keyed. Officer states minor scratches to vehicle. Report taken.

8:01 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road states that a car went off the road and crashed into her yard around 11:30 last night. Investigated.

10:54 a.m. Jewelry reported missing from home on Henry Avenue. Report taken.

3:39 p.m. Caller reporting that two males are trying to break into a second floor apartment window on Fourth Street. Officers spoke with female tenant who advised that subjects are allowed to be there; no breaking and entering.

10:46 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting loud noise that sounded like a gunshot. Caller looked outside and can see three male parties at the house next door holding a long tube. Subjects have since gone into the house. Units advised. Officer spoke to other people in area who also heard the noise, but no one seems to have seen anything.

Sunday, 2/4

12:20 a.m. Single-car accident on North Leverett Road; two tires blown and smell of gas coming from vehicle. Officer advising Rau’s may need conventional wrecker due to location. Citation issued to operator.

4:55 p.m. First of several reports of slippery conditions/vehicles off road.

Monday, 2/5

8:55 a.m. DPW reporting they struck a parked car on Central Street. Report taken.

2:45 p.m. Single car roll-over on Millers Falls Road. Operator out of vehicle; no injuries reported.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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CRANKIES from page B1

were professional musicians, Mary studied classical violin from the time she was 4 years old through high school age. While in Scotland she continued to play the fiddle, studying Scottish folk music as well as the music of Ireland. When she returned to the US she traveled south, where she embraced the music of Appalachia. She currently lives in Montague.

After graduating from Hampshire College, Kiah traveled to Europe: first to Italy, where she herded goats, and then on to Scotland, where she lived on an island off of the west coast in order to learn the craft of stonework. In the six months she spent there, she heard some of the stories that she would later translate into crankies. Kiah is also a musician, playing the banjo, and now resides in Amherst.

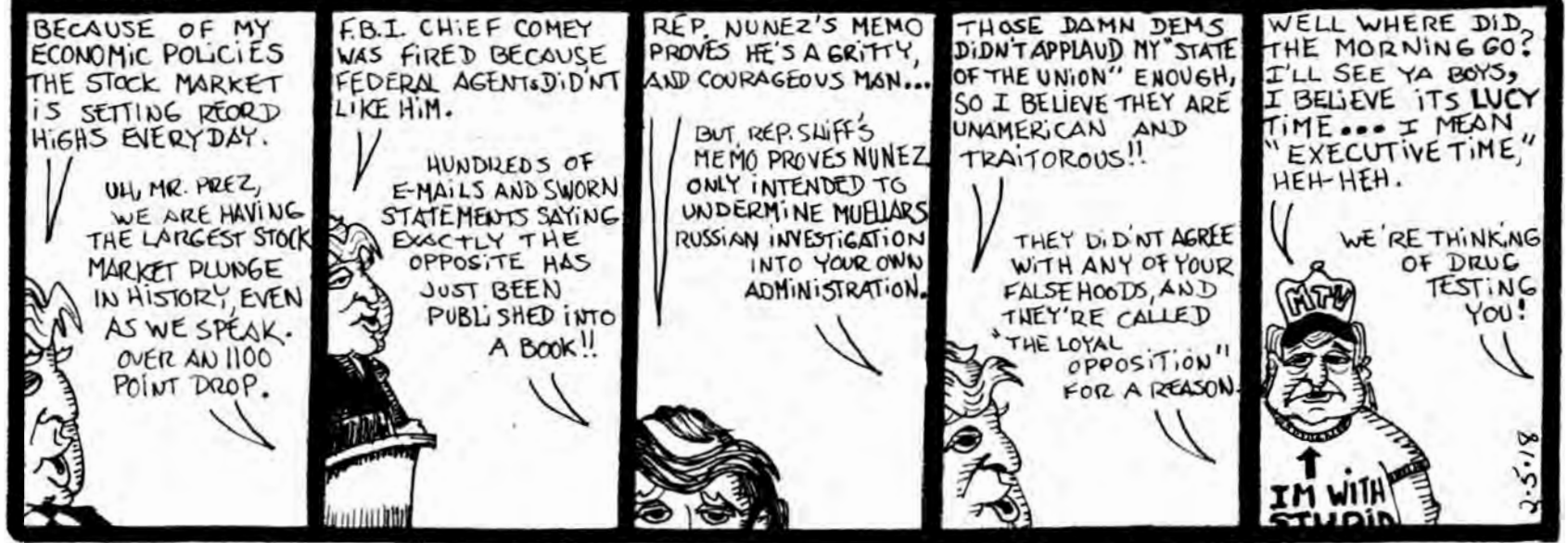
The pair have five crankies in their repertoire, each telling a different tale based on old folk stories. Mary plays the fiddle while the tales are told to the cranking by Kiah. They plan to continue to increase the number of crankie stories, as well as explore using different materials in their creation.

Most of the crankies they have are made by cutting images out of paper and gluing them to either tracing paper or rice paper, and then laminating it. They have experimented with making a crankie using fabric for the pictures. The “screens” on their crankies are about fourteen inches high by approximately two feet wide, and are lit from behind.

Both women dedicate themselves to researching materials and music appropriate to each crankie story. For instance, if the story is of Swedish origin, Mary will play the style of folk music known in Sweden, which is notably different than that of Scotland or Appalachia. And the characters Kiah depicts in the story will represent the appearance of the people from the country where the story takes place.

The crankie culture is becoming more well-known all across the United States. Ironically, this anachronistic method of storytelling is being aided by modern technology. The internet has helped to spread ideas of how to make crankies and the kinds of music

T-RUMP



employed in the telling of the stories. That was how Kiah made her first crankies – she watched videos and experimented with the concept. When she was making a crankie based on a Swedish folk tale, she took advantage of Google to travel down the back roads of Sweden for inspiration and to acquire a feel for the locale.

At some point in the future they hope that Riverteeth will be able to offer workshops for aspiring crankie-makers. Mary offers workshops from time to time on basket weaving. Her basketry covers a wide range of use – from handheld all the way up to casket size for green burials. You can see examples of her work at: fraserbaskets.com.

Kiah is a printmaker, and currently collaborating on a large project about the Quabbin.

This Saturday, February 10, Riverteeth will be the featured performers at the Montague Common Hall Open Mic #21, which begins at 7 p.m.

They will also be featured on February 25 at the Parlor Room in Northampton, where they will be opening for Edith and Bennett, described as “work-song scholars who ply old-time fiddle and banjo music, Swedish dance tunes, historic ballads and hollers, and work-songs from fields, farms, ships, mines, prisons, and kitchens.” And good news if you are a farmer: Edith and Bennett are big supporters of growers, so you get in for free!

You can find Riverteeth online at marylaurenfraser.wixsite.com/riverteeth/images.



GARDENER’S from page B1

our residence for the month. We find it and are an hour before the allowed check-in time, but luckily our small suite is ready for us. We move in eagerly, but before we get comfortable, we resolve to go the nearby Winn Dixie for basic provisions.

Then we can settle in, walk to the beach, and have a light meal and a glass of wine or beer. We climb into bed and sleep like the dead until early morning. We have been up for eighteen hours.

February 2. We awaken full of the zest of arrival. It is less than a quarter mile to our pier on the beach. We bring our coffee out to watch the ocean. It is mild out, already near seventy although the breeze is brisk near the water. The dunes swell with white sand, palms, sea grape and small cactus. The bush plants please the mockingbirds; the pelicans soar over the swell of the waves as the tide rises.

We take the morning slowly but are ready for an early lunch by noon-time. We drive to a nearby brew pub designed to attract northern snowbirds. The clientele is dressed for the expected Florida weather in shorts, capris and light tops. The food is a bit pricey but tasty and beautifully served. Ken has a pan sautéed flounder with green beans and rice. I enjoy grilled mahi-mahi with lemon caper butter.

While we enjoy an early lunch beachside, the weather changes quickly and the restaurant staff roll down the plastic panels which allow us to eat outdoors but protect us from the wind which has quickly changed to the northeast as a coastal rain storm is expected for Sunday. Our landlady has told us that the dune erosion, flooding and structural destruction in this area came not from Hurricane Irma, but from a large northeast coastal storm in 2017. The destruction of this storm is evident by the reconstruction still in progress.

Driving around the area, we take note of spots we’d like to visit later: an historic fort on the Matanzas River, two local state parks, and many area beaches, most of which are public. We walk a bit on one, admiring the building surf and col-

lecting shells, but the wind is sharp and we return to our spot to trade in our summer duds for the jeans and sweaters we were wearing at home.

Although the day began in the seventies, it is only in the high fifties now which not atypical of northern Florida this time of year. However, in the week ahead the daytime highs are expected to be in the high sixties and low seventies. Perfect.

There are five other suites where we are staying. In the late afternoon Ken is exploring the property. At the separate suite near the beach walk, he meets a couple from the New York Finger Lakes region. They make their own wine and would love to show it off to any comers. Ken comes back to our kitchen and we both bring glasses up to their patio, where they are using a small grill as a fire pit.

Their red wine is a mix of three red grapes. It is not heavy but light and the mix is very flavorful. We learn extensively about the wine making process and their work as finish carpenters, with many repetitions of several aspects. We judge that this is not the first bottle uncorked up there this afternoon. Then it is six o’clock and we head back for a light supper at our place after making appreciative noises about the wine and the conversation.

Perhaps because of the proximity of the units, this is the second couple who have introduced themselves, and after all, we are all strangers together in a strange land. We have practiced Norman Vincent Peale’s adjuration, and have listened much and told little.

Suddenly we feel quite fatigued. Our travels have caught up with us. Once again, we are asleep before ten. Tomorrow will be just the second day since our arrival.

February 3. The beginnings of the chest cold which Ken traveled with has blossomed into the real deal. It is a good time to lay low for a bit and get adjusted to our surroundings, remembering we have the whole month ahead of us so it is best to take the time to get back into fighting trim.

We have a light breakfast, and walk out to admire the ocean which is still roily with the approaching

storm. We rest as well, then head out noonish for a local lunch spot.

We chose a seafood restaurant advertising a variety of fish and reasonable luncheon specials. I order grilled shrimp and Ken, fried oysters. When the waitress enumerates the lengthy list of side dishes available, I remember the southern penchant for everything fried from okra to pickles.

But I have forgotten the local preference for canned vegetables, beaten into submission with lengthy cooking. The corn-on-the-cob was no doubt pre-boiled and was then served in fossilized state after several warm-ups in the microwave. The large yellow lima beans were served in thickened cooking water with pieces of ham. It would be dishonest to say that the meal was more than barely edible.

Well, live and learn. Tomorrow we’ll go out for eggs and toast and such. It should be a challenge to interfere too much with that.

Before heading back to our spot, we again walk the beach which we find brisk and frisky in the northeast breeze, and then drive to the national monument park on the Matanzas River. This site remains from the 1860s and was the site of many battles for control of the Florida coastal waterways by which the Spanish plied their treasure ships and defended their settlements, Saint Augustine being the oldest, established in 1565 by Pedro Menendez.

During its early checkered history the Florida settlements were the much desired property of the Spanish, the French, and the British. Fort Matanzas – meaning “massacre” or “slaughter” – was built in 1740 to defend the Spanish possessions.

Saint Augustine, settled in 1565 by the Spanish, was ceded to the British in 1763 in exchange for control of Havana. At this time, many of the Spanish inhabitants moved to Cuba. The Treaty of Paris ceded Florida back to the Spanish government in recognition of its support to the American colonies. Ultimately, the Spanish government ceded the state of Florida to the United States in 1819 and it became officially part of the United States in 1822.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week at Montaguetelevision.org and on TV, check out our latest video, “Great Falls Festival 2017 Part 2!” Lots of care has gone into filming this event and putting together its sights and sounds in a way that really captures the spirit of the Great Falls Festival.

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, infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 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.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (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. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 7 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*, 8 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country with Heath Lewis*, 9 p.m.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *There Must Be Something in the Water* by Paul Specht. *There Must Be Something in the Water* is a collection of composite photographs by Paul Specht, fea-

turing portraits and landscapes from the artist's previous works. Through February 16.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The World of Wranglers, Rodeo Riders and their Horses*. Photos by Diane Norman taken in the wilds of Wyoming. Through February 27.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Slice of Humanity*. Five artists: depicting the human figure in unique portraits: Robert Bent, Suzanne Conway, Lauren Paradise, Nina Rossi and Jeff Wrench. Through March.



Join vocalist Lisa Davol and pianist Stephen Page as they take you on a journey through the twists and turns of the American musical landscape. Hear some of their favorites as they put their stamp on these great old tunes. Described as an "enchanted vocalist," Lisa puts these words together with Stephen's sophisticated improvisational style, to bring the listener to surprising new places that somehow feel altogether familiar. Great Falls Coffeehouse at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls, Friday, February 9 at 7 p.m.

Old Mill Inn, Hatfield: *Holland Hoagland: Seeing the Figure*. Sculpture in wood and stone by Hatfield Sculptor. Opening reception February 14, 4 to 7 p.m. Presentation March 7, 7 p.m. Through March 9.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Remembrance of Our Past: Inspiration From The 1800s Women Abolitionists For Our Times*. Fifteen years ago fellow Librarians Mary Boehmer and Bambi Miller illuminate the nineteenth century story of the Dorsey Family, Freedom Seekers from Liberty, Maryland and the Leavitt Family, staunch Abolitionists of Charlemont. Exhibit includes contemporary Underground Railroad quilts, historical artifacts and facsimiles. Through February.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Fly Away Home...* by Belinda Lyons Zucker. Dolls and figures from Black folklore that tell of Africans that flew, perhaps as a desire to ease their weary lives; to dream of escape. Through February.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Small Works Exhibit and Sale*. Show of small works contributed by area artists. Reception February 3. Through February 26.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"Seeing Red."* The show will feature work by Co-op members in which the color red

is a unifying or dominant theme. Media include painting, prints, photographs, collage, pottery, mixed media sculpture, decorative and wearable fiber art, floorcloths, jewelry, and glass. Through February 26.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Almost There and other Still Life Paintings by Clifton Hunt*. Still life arranged in a style that evokes the Old Masters. Through February.

Whately Library, Whately: *Winter Light: Art Exhibit*. Handmade paper scrolls and origami lanterns by Sheryl Jaffe in the Muse Cafe. Through March 24.

CALL FOR ART:

Resist Art Show, Brattleboro: A call for art that reflects on the current political situation. Stand up and express your hopes, your outrage, your vision, in the face of the times we are living through. Open to all mediums, including writing (one page maximum and presented as visually engaging) that can be wall-hung. Exhibit to be in May 2018 at the River Garden. An opening reception will take place May 4, Gallery Walk Friday. Artists may submit a maximum of two pieces of wall art, no more than 36" by 36". Jury fee of \$20 is due with the application by March 15. All work must be submitted digitally. To receive an entry form, further details: resistartists2018@gmail.com.

AUDITIONS:

Mutton and Mead Festival Shire Cast Audition: The Shire Cast is at the heart of Mutton and Mead's interactive experience. Each cast member plays a character or role from the story of Robin Hood, and or the shire of Nottingham. Together these characters bring the story of Robin Hood to life, through coordinated street and stage shows and semi-scripted/improvised interaction with festival patrons. Shire cast members also can join a number of other singing and dancing ensembles to bring further cheer to the day! Auditions held Feb-

ruary at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center. Register to audition at muttonandmead.org.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Two Week Notice* and *Mystics Anonymous*. Singer songwriter projects, eclectic independent rock. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 6:30 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse Series presents *Lisa Davol and Stephen Page*. Classic tunes from the Great American Songbook. 7 p.m. Donation.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tap Root* and *Rebirth*. Matthew King (El Rey Mateo) and the Tap-Roots band in a night filled with rhythm, spirit, poetry, politics and community. 9 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Equalites and Iganic Sound System*. Roots rockers and hot reggae. 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *Open Mic Night #21*. Featured performer *Riverteeth*. See story on B1 for details. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mardi Gras Madness*, featuring local Cajun and Zydeco bands *Zydeco Connection* and *Bayou X*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: Fundraiser Concert featuring *Kit Johnson, Ben Tousley, Sue Kranz, Court Dorsey, and Jay Mankita*. A variety of music including folk, classical and jazz, to benefit the Friends Meetinghouse. 7:30 p.m. Donation.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Plate Scrapers*. Bluegrass and folk. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Skell Entertainment present local hardcore and metal bands *Tides, Greyhound, Crafter, Brickshot* and *Continuum*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Larry Allen Brown*. Acoustic/folk/American. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont Experience*. With special guest *Evelyn Harris*. 6 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Valentine's Lingerie Party* with *Rod Cummings* and *The Vibrators*. A sexy Valentine's night of music, cocktails and double entendre. 9 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rice: An American Band* and *Colorway*. *Rice* plays originals

and covers from classic rock to indie. *Colorway* is a "21st century power trio with pop songs on the brain and guitar rock in its heart." 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. Bluegrass and Celtic music. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band*. Danceable music with classic swing groove. 7 p.m. \$

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TFHS SPORTS from page B1

scored 11 points, hitting two 3’s and five free throws; Aliyah Sanders got 8 points, Dabney Rollins and Sarah Waldron each got 6, and Taylor Murphy had 4.

Eliza Johnson, Karissa Fleming and Abby Loynd also scored 2 points each in the game.

The next night, Friday, February 2, the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy came to town to play. This game was a tale of two halves, with Smith winning the first half and Turners exploding in the second.

The first quarter was close, and Smith held a narrow 10-8 point margin at the buzzer. The Purple D held Powertown to 8 points in the second period, while the team putting up 11 points of their own, and at the half the Smithies led 21-16. The Academy also scored the first 4 points of the third, and with a minute elapsed in the quarter, Turners found themselves down 25-16.

But they nosed their way back into it. With 3 minutes left in the third, Turners had tied it at 29. Ellis hit a couple of foul shots, and for the first time since the score was 7-6, Turners had moved to the lead, 31-29.

Ellis then hit 4 more foul shots in succession, but the Falcons hit the last two buckets of the period to narrow the score to 35-33 going into the fourth quarter.

In the opening minutes of the fourth, Powertown’s defense and their long game both came alive. A forced travel, some steals, and two 3’s gave Blue a 13-0 run to expand their lead to 48-33. They never looked back and coasted to a 14-point victory, 54-40.



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners’ Chloe Ellis has a 15-point night and is 9-for-12 from the free-throw line as Powertown prevails over the Athol Red Raiders 56-46 at the Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser at TFHS.

Chloe Ellis again worked hard under the boards, and was money at the line. She scored 17 points from five field goals and seven foul shots. Rollins also hit double figures with 10 points.

Murphy scored 8 points, Sanders had 7, and Chmyzinski got 6, while Fleming and Loynd each hit 3-pointers.

Then on Tuesday February 6, the team lost an away game against the Ware Indians. The loss gives Turners a 10-6 record overall, and a 3-2 record in the Franklin South Conference. Before Tuesday’s game Turners and Ware were tied for second place in the FSC.

Turners outpaced the Indians in

the first quarter 12-9, and opened a 29-20 point lead, at the half. But Ware beat Blue 20-12 in the third to pull within a single point, and outscored Powertown 19-12 in the fourth to take the game 59-53.

Turners’ top scores were Loynd (15), Chmyzinski (14), and Ellis (14), with Rollins getting 6, Sarah Waldron hitting a 3-pointer and Sanders getting 1 from the foul line.

Turners will host conference leaders Putnam this Friday.

Boys Basketball
TFHS 80 – Athol 56
Narragansett 80 – TFHS 53

At the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament on February 1, the Turners Falls boys also defeated the Athol Red Raiders, 80-56.

Turners pulled down some key rebounds early on, made shots from the line, and executed their pass game to pull ahead by 8 points after a period, 20-12. They stretched their lead to 24-12 early in the second before a Blue foul gave the Raiders two quick points. Turners retained the double-digit lead for the rest of the period, and only a buzzer beating 3-pointer by Athol kept the margin at 14 points, 48-34.

In the third, Turners beat Red by 2 points 15-13 and in the fourth, held them to 9 points while putting up 17 of their own. They took the game 80-56.

Anthony Peterson had the hot hand for Blue. He scored 25 points off nine buckets inside, one 3, and four from the line. Chase Novak hit two 3’s on his way to a 14-point night while Jimmy Vaughn hit a 3, two 2-point-

ers, and five freebees for 12 points.

Javoni Williams and Ryan Kucenski each got 7 points, Tyler Lavin and Kyle Dodge had 4, Jake Dodge hit a 3-pointer, and Jon Fritz and Jovanni Ruggiano put up 2 apiece.

On Tuesday, February 6, the Narragansett Warriors traveled from Baldwinville to play the Turners boys. The game had been scheduled for Wednesday, but the impending snowstorm moved it up a day.

Narragansett is a tough team to scout, but my usual sources told me that their guard is 6’6” and can dunk, they have a 1,000-point scorer, and they were 13–3 coming into the game. What I hadn’t heard about was their 3-point game. And on Tuesday, it was on target.

Turners’ boys played scrappy, but when the Warriors began hitting their shots they opened the game wide open, turning an 8-5 lead into a 17-5 game by the end of the first.

In the second, Chase Novak was fouled on his way to the hoop. After he sunk the freebee, the margin was reduced to 9 points. But ‘Gansett went on another shooting spree, and led 41-20 at the end of two periods.

They continued to outscore Turners in the third, but even with a 62-36 lead going into the fourth, Narragansett couldn’t let up. Every time they tried to inbound or pass the ball, white jerseys would be in the way trying their best to intercept. So they kept up their fast-paced game, while Turners continued their scrappy defense. The result was a 26-20 fourth quarter, with Gansett taking the game 88-56.

Jimmy Vaughn led Turners with 14 points. Lavin and Novak scored

10 each, Dodge and Peterson 6 each, Ruggiano got 4 points, and Williams, Fritz, and Kucenski put up 2 points apiece.

Swimming

On Saturday, February 3, four Turners Falls swimmers competed in the Fast Chance Meet at West Springfield High School. The competition brought out the best in the Blue Swimmers, with all of them coming close to career-best times, and two actually breaking their own personal records.

Cameron Bradley finished the 100-yard backstroke in 1:06.41, less than a second behind his best time of 1:06.25. He completed the 100-yard butterfly in 1:02.19, which was just .09 seconds off his career best time of 1:02.10.

Nick Taylor eclipsed his best time of 1:05.52 in the 100-yard butterfly, finishing the race in just 1:05:00. He also broke his record in the 500-yard freestyle (6:14.72) by nearly five seconds, 6:09:21.

For the Turners girls, Allison Wheeler swam the 100-yard freestyle in 1:08:30, just .11 seconds from her best time of 1:08.19, while Olivia Whittier smashed her own best time of 28.87 in the 50-yard freestyle by a full second, completing the sprint in 27:71. In the 100-yard freestyle, Whittier shaved off more than two seconds off her previous best time of 1:04.56, finishing in 1:02:19.

The swimmers get back in the pool this Sunday, February 11 when they compete in the Central-Western championship at Springfield College.



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