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YEAR 13 - NO. 43

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SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

Cosa Rara: A "Rare Thing" Takes Shape on the Avenue

By JEN HOLMES

TURNERS FALLS - Vintage clothing stores are nothing new, even to Turners Falls, but Cosa Rara is aiming be much more than just another boutique. The store, located at 111 Avenue A, includes two businesses. The first, Cosa Rara itself, is a retail space full of colorful vintage clothing and accessories collected by the owner, Giselle Guillén-Martinez, and the second, Mariachi Shoe Repair, is a cobbler and leatherworking studio, owned and operated by Luis Felipe Gonzalez Perez, known to his familiars as Felipe.

Giselle and Felipe, both residents of Turners Falls, met through a mutual friend a few months ago. When the space became available, Giselle invited Felipe to open his shop in the building, as she knew it had been a dream of his for quite some time.

"I was trying to start my business 4 years ago, but [banks] didn't believe I was a cobbler. They didn't trust me," Felipe explains. His inability to secure a small business loan was a major roadblock towards starting his own business. "In the end," he says, "it was the small guys who helped me."

Felipe began taking serious



Cosa Rara's Giselle Guillén-Martinez and Mariachi Shoe Repair's Luis Felipe Gonzalez Perez stand outside their shared business space.

steps towards starting a business after moving to Turners Falls from Boston a few years ago, but he had dreamt of it for much longer. Growing up in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, his family owned a number of shoemaking factories.

At 10 years old, he began learning the family trade from his older brother. Though he acknowledges the practicality of the skill, Felipe approaches his shoe repair and leatherwork as art, and shows true passion for the craft. "To be able to do - to get paid for - what you love

to do: that is the maximum for every human being," he says.

Some of Felipe's leatherwork can be seen, and purchased, in the front portion of the store. There are beautiful wallets in varying shades of brown and deep jewel tones, and American Girl doll shoes in an array of styles. There are leather bra tops as well, and though they may not be the most practical purchase, the creativity and handiwork is im-

In addition to these pre-made see COSA RARA page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Okays 6.4-MW Solar Installation on Town Land; Rules for Downtown Planters

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard made significant progress on two key fronts last night, awarding a contract for solar development on the town's former landfill, and approving guidelines for the use of planters on Avenue A. The board also placed articles on the upcoming October 1 special town meeting warrant.

Town planner Walter Ramsey announced the results of a request for proposals (RFP) to build a largescale solar array on 163 acres of town-owned land south of Turnpike Road. Much of the property is a former landfill, but it also includes the town's recycling center and regional dog kennel. The proposal Ramsey presented would not fill the entire space, leaving room for the kennel, recycling center, or perhaps a small industrial park.

Ramsey stated that four developers had responded to the RFP, and recommended the contract be

awarded to Kearsarge Energy of Watertown. Kearsarge has experience with municipal solar, including projects involving Grafton's water district and a landfill in Concord.

The company is collaborating with Conti Enterprises, a "builder of complex construction engineering projects," and Tighe & Bond, an engineering firm that has specialized in landfills and solid waste facilities.

The Montague project would create a 6.42 megawatt (MW) facility, making lease payments at a rate of \$26.50 per kilowatt per year. Ramsey estimated that in the first year, revenue to the town will total \$170,132 with an annual escalator of 1.8%.

The town would also receive an up front payment of \$51,361, which Ramsey indicated would be used to help pay for capping the uncapped portion of the former landfill. The project, unlike an industrial park,

see MONTAGUE page A7

More than Horsemanship at Craig Memorial Equestrian Center

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT-Roberta Bryant's parents bought Craig Memorial Equestrian Center in 1946, though then it was a greenhouse and garden center, and not a horse farm. Bryant's father was a florist, and she remembers picking the strawberries, turnips, and cantaloupe that grew on the farm.

Growing up, Bryant always knew she wanted horses. Although she said she didn't get her first 5 horse until she was 32, she is now close to 80 years old and has many years of experience.

"I used to do the pony rides at Forest Park, but I would get upset because they wouldn't let me hold the reins," she said. "It was just walking in a circle on a lead line."

Maybe that's why now Bryant has a practical approach to teaching young children how to ride. It's not just a pony ride at Craig Memorial: it's a riding lesson, from day one.

"They will have fun, but I will also teach the kids how to really ride." Bryant recommends starting children as young as three, although she admits she is probably one of the only instructors to do so. Bryant also raises and trains her horses herself, so she is confident in their temperament and knows which horses will do best with younger children.

"If they are not afraid, it's a good time to start them," she believes.

Home to two 4-H groups, Craig



Roberta Bryant raises and trains her horses herself, making sure all her newborns are exposed to children from day one. Because of this she is able to offer riding lessons to children as young as three years old, and even recommends starting them early if the child is not afraid.

Memorial is filled with children. Luckily, Bryant has a secret weapon. Dianna, Bryant's tried and true mare, is her go-to for younger children and children with disabilities. Partly because of her age and partly due to temperament, Bryant knows 33-year-old Dianna isn't going to try anything funky with the little ones.

"I know she isn't going to buck or run or anything like that. So she's a great horse to use with the kids," said Bryant.

Bryant gives lessons to children of all abilities, and has found success with autistic children and children diagnosed with ADD.

She mentioned one autistic boy she taught recently who seemed to come out of his shell after the riding lesson. "He doesn't speak, but he was so taken by the experience he painted a lovely picture for me of Dianna," said Bryant.

Adults with multiple sclerosis can also enjoy Bryant's therapeutic riding program. "The motion of the horse can soothe the MS until it gets to a certain stage," Bryant explained.

Roberta Bryant takes several children with ADD in her summer camps, and notices a change in

see HORSES page A5

Three Arrested in August Restaurant Robbery

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS - Last Thursday, Montague police announced that three suspects have been arrested in the August 2 robbery and assault at Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant on Avenue A. Abby

of Turners Falls, Justin of Erving, and Chi Greenfield were arraigned at Greenfield District Court on charges of armed robbery and aggravated assault and battery.

Chief Charles "Chip" Dodge thanked Det. Bill Doyle for the casework leading to the arrests, adding that "information provided by the community" was extremely helpful.

According to Ce Ce's owner Zhang Lin Hua, after he opened his door to a woman who had placed an after-hours order, she fled and two masked men entered, brandishing a handgun and demanding money. Mr. Zhang said he tried to flee, but was attacked by the men, who split open his face with the gun's butt and took money from his pockets. He was brought by police to the hospital for stitches.

As news of the incident spread, downtown residents and business owners rallied in support of Mr. Zhang. Rodney Madison of Madison on the Avenue circulated a poster, on which many signed their best wishes, and delivered it to Ce Ce's, where it remains on display.

NEWS ANALYSIS, PART 2

Who is "FERC?"

By JEFF SINGLETON

WASHINGTON, DC - "We know FERC is a rubber-stamp machine," sings the FERCettes on the steps of an imposing federal building located at 888 and 1100 First Street Northeast. In the good old days this building, which houses the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), was the destination of a small cohort of inside-the-beltway officials: federal energy regulators, lawyers, lobbyists for energy companies, and officials of state departments of public utilities.

Now all that has changed. FERC is the object of demonstrations, disruptions, political theater, and yes,

even a satirical song to the tune of the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine."

FERC is barraged with "public comment" in response to proposals for new interstate pipeline, including the Northeast Direct project planned to run through Franklin County. FERC hearings at places like the Greenfield Middle School and Greenfield Community College are packed.

The main complaint lodged against the agency, as the song suggests, is that it is in the pocket of the energy industry (or industries), and "never met a pipeline it didn't like." But is this widespread criticism fair?

see FERC page A4

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Paying the Price, For Years to Come

This week, young adults across the nation, and some older adults as well, are starting college. Others are finding themselves newly out of college – either with a degree or without one – and watching friends return. It's a good time to check in on this massive industry, and how it relates to our own home.

64% of Franklin County residents over the age of 25 have attended college at some point, according to the US Census' American Communities Survey (ACS). This is above the national total of around 58%.

Significantly, 34% of adults over 25 in the county – about 17,600 – have at least a bachelor's degree, also ahead of the national total, which is 29%.

Although we have a strong regional pride, with many loyal to local businesses and some bragging about how nearby the food they eat was grown, higher education is one realm in which we do not seem to be terribly self-sufficient: there aren't really programs in Franklin County that confer such degrees. (One notable exception: five new bachelor's programs the Chicopee-based Elms College is offering onsite at Greenfield Community College.)

It's more than possible to commute to the flagship state school, UMass-Amherst, from any of our towns. Montague is even trying to nudge FRTA, the public bus system, to run more frequent trips connecting Turners Falls and Montague Center to UMass. And there are a number of other colleges within driving distance.

But we're guessing the majority of those bachelor's-or-higher degrees come from elsewhere: either local people who move out to college and then decide to return to their hometowns, or simply college-educated ones who stumble across the region for one reason or another and choose to move here.

All learning is important, both to personal understanding and building careers, and GCC is a fantastic institution that is a boon to our county. But a second set of ACS census figures make all those out-of-town bachelor's degrees hold a particular economic significance.

In this county, the average holder of a high school diploma (or equivalency) earns \$30,986. The next category up, "some college or associate's degree" – though many employers would see these as two

different things – earns \$32,323. Bachelors' holders make \$40,913.

That second jump is big. Interestingly, it's much smaller than the equivalent jump nationwide (from \$33,702 to \$50,254). This would seem to indicate that we have in our midst a large pool of educated people who choose to earn below their potential by moving here.

There's a slightly different way to look at that, that doesn't simply see geography as constraining earning: It could also mean that college grads who are on track to under-earn anyway decide to move here, perhaps seeking a lower cost of living.

Do we have more than our share of highly-skilled workers (who might help spur development by importing their expertise), or more than our share of middle-class underachievers (who might crowd those with associate's or high school diplomas out of service-sector, administrative and entry-level jobs)? The truth is probably some combination of the two.

On paper at least, the county has a relatively low unemployment rate – 4.4%, a little lower than statewide and a fair amount lower than nationwide – but we've noticed there's a thriving informal economy around here. It's hard to measure the rate of displacement, as people are always coming and going. The county's population, though, is not rising.

One thing we should all bear in mind when thinking of these graduates is that nowadays, college means debt. Collectively, Americans carry around a \$1.2 trillion student debt, nearly impossible to escape legally for very long. Seventy percent of students graduate with loans.

A study conducted this year by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Brigham Young University came to the frustrating conclusion that making more student loans available causes tuition to rise -- in some cases suggesting a pass-through of 55 to as high as 70 cents on the dollar. This would seem to bolster arguments that skyrocketing higher ed costs are a credit-driven bubble.

But so far that bubble shows no sign of bursting, even though, as the Wall Street Journal reported last month, 6.9 million, or 17%, of federal loan borrowers are now "severely deliquent." A debt bur-





Konvelski: Madison Calling Wolf

In my defense: Mr. Rodney Madison accused me of assaulting him in front of my store on July 6 (September 3, "Charge of Assault on Officer Dismissed," page A7). What Mr. Madison didn't know was that it was all being taped by security cameras.

There was no assault. Mr. Madi-

son was trying to bring attention to himself by yelling, at the top of his lungs, that I had assaulted him. Anyone who would like to arrange to see the footage can contact me.

Turners Falls is a wonderful place, and it's known to be a welcoming town. I was appalled at a sign I saw in Mr. Madison's window: "Ferguson. Baltimore. And Turners Falls."

Ferguson and Baltimore were tragic events – does anyone really think Turners compares to those two cities?

Gary Konvelski, Owner Gary's Coins and Antiques Turners Falls

GUEST Editorial

Northwestern District Attorney: Addiction "A Community Problem"

By DAVID E. SULLIVAN

Two themes emerged at the vigil Monday on Northampton's Main Street to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic: heartbreak and resilience.

The heartbreak was etched on the faces of the three mothers who stood before a crowd gathered in the growing darkness on the front lawn of First Churches. Each woman told harrowing stories of how they lost beloved sons to heroin overdose deaths.

The heartbreak was illustrated by the 10 solid minutes during which volunteers from the crowd stood at a microphone to read a list of 210 names of people killed by heroin

den tends to discourage household formation and homeownership, and prevents graduates from taking out loans to start businesses.

We may like to think of ourselves as something of an island, ruggedly self-sufficient and fairly well insulated from the national economy. It's a nice image, but in some ways it's only an image. Though our towns aren't college towns they are very much hooked into the circuit of higher education debt, and in the long run, any national reforms that could steer us from an increasingly bleak-looking path will also benefit us locally.

Between now and next November, listen closely to what presidential candidates say on this topic. On the Republican side, Bush, Rubio and Trump have had some interesting things to say, though Democrats

in recent years – people known in some way to vigil-goers. It was in the votives held by the crowd – 150 strong – that represented lives lost to a brutal disease.

The resilience was also etched on the faces of those same mothers who, despite family support and loving interventions, saw sons killed by a lethal heroin addiction.

As Northampton's Joyce Sabin-Rescia rightly said after sharing the story of her 18-year-old son Matthew's death in 2010 while waiting for a spot in a treatment program: "This is a disease just like cancer."

The resilience was evident in the somber voices and respectful crowd as those names were read aloud one by one by one near a

have gotten a lot more detailed.

Clinton, for example, proposes making community college free, and making federal loans contingent on private colleges reducing their tuition. Sanders recommends a tax on Wall Street transactions to fund the elimination of tuition at all public institutions.

This may all just be bold primary talk, but it's good to make policy wonks figure out how to make such sweeping improvements possible, and to change the public conversation around the value of higher education throughout our society.

In more practical terms, it's good to bear in mind that these days, along with the privileges and inherent benefits of education, many young local grads are also dealing with the anxieties of their generation's colossal debt.

banner that read, "Heroin killed someone I love."

Events like this vigil aim to reduce the stigma of addiction, which is part of why this problem has become the epidemic it is. Reduction of stigma is not window-dressing in this effort; those in the field and suffering families well know that addiction thrives on secrecy spurred on by shame and isolation. Recovery is encouraged by openness, a willingness to face reality, and acceptance.

In recognition of the toll this disease has taken on Hampshire and Franklin counties, the vigil was organized by Northampton's Tapestry Health, which operates a successful and compassionate needle exchange program and provides health care services to people with substance use disorders. Elliot Community Services, an outreach group, and Sabin-Rescia's group, Never Another Death, also worked with Tapestry on the vigil.

Our office was happy to support this event to both help educate the community about the ravages of this disease and remember with compassion those who have died. Part of a global event held annually on Aug. 31, the goal is to reduce stigma and wake people up to the enormity of this problem.

In the United States, the alarming spike in heroin addictions and subsequent fatalities are linked to the widespread misuse of opiates. As a nation, the United States accounts for 5 percent of the world's population, while

see GUEST ED next page

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

This weekend, September 10 through 13, is the Franklin County Fair, held Thursday through Sunday at the fairgrounds in Greenfield. Tickets at the gate are \$10, with reduced rates for youth and seniors. Children 8 and under are free. The year's theme is "Bushels of Fun."

See fcas.com or the Franklin County Fair page on Facebook for more information about parking, ride wristbands, demo derby tickets and more. And remember - the fair is smoke-free this year.

The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library will hold a Fall Book Sale on Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p m. The sale will be held in the stacks in the library basement.

Hardcover books will sell for \$2 each and paperbacks for \$1 each. Children's books are priceless please pay what you think they are worth and remember that money is going to support the library.

The Friends' Book Sales are important fundraisers for the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library. The sales raise money for library enrichment programs such as the Homebound Delivery Program, the Poets Seat Poetry Contest, Adult Book Groups, and all of the Children's Programs.

Join Tim De Christopher at the Turners Falls Branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, September 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a m. as he takes you on a slide show to Germany and his invitation to a symposium there representing the USA.

De Christopher is a local resident and internationally known sculptor who has been turning rocks into creations of beauty, wonder and awe for 36 years. Take a trip to Germany and witness his masterpiece.

As part of Turners Falls History Month, the Great Falls Discovery Center will host two history events this Sunday, September 13. Both events are free and open to

Join a DCR Park Interpreter for River Rambles, a leisurely walk along paved bike trails and village sidewalks, and explore stories of industrialization, cultural and natural history. Meet in front of the main entrance to the GFDC at 10 a m. Refreshments will be served at noon, followed by a brief history talk in the Great Hall.

Beginning at 1 pm. also in the Great Hall join David James to learn about Lake Pleasant, the historical "mecca" for believers in continuity of life.

Memories and images will be

shared from the book "Spirit and Spa: A Portrait of the Body, Mind and Soul" of a 133-Year-Old Spiritualist Community written by Louise Shattuck and David James. Shattuck, who died in October of 2005, was a third generation Spiritualist.

Turners Falls History Month is a collaboration between DCR, the Discovery Center and Turners Falls RiverCulture. A full schedule of events can be found at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org and www. greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org.

Come support the newly formed non-profit organization, set to begin operating Turners Falls' gem of a theater, the Shea, in 2016. Eat free soup. Buy drinks at the bar. Play some games. Enter the raffle. All the proceeds will benefit The Shea Theater Art Center.

Free Soup and Games Night is held on Monday, September 14, starting at 5 p.m. at Hope and Olive Restaurant, on Hope Street in Greenfield. Volunteers can email montebelmonte@gmail.com.

Enjoy a Third Thursday monthly game night starting September 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Montague Common Hall. Play your pick of scrabble, cards, battleship, checkers, chess, etc. Popcorn and lemonade served. Bring a game you love or want to try out. For more info, contact Arthur at (413) 231-4295.

The Traveling Rhubarb Circus

returns on Friday, September 18, with a 6:30 performance. Following shows will September 19 at 3 p m. and 6:30 p m. and September 20 at 3 p.m.

The circus performs at 2 North Street in Montague Center. Get there early as to not hold up the openings. For ticket info visit travelingrhubarb.com. And see our story on this entirely youth-led circus on page B1!

Volunteers needed: Get involved in the 19th year of the Source to Sea Cleanup on Saturday, September 26.

Individuals or groups work as teams from 9 a.m. to noon to make the watershed a cleaner place on sites that run the gamut from fishing trash to illegal dumping.

For ages 7 and older. School groups can schedule cleanups in the week preceding the 26th. Pre-register at (800) 859-2960, or just show up that morning at the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center and get assigned to a location.

Interested in a tiny paper delivery route? We're looking for anybody interested in bringing our product to some readers in Erving and Millers Falls. It's about an hour a week of work. Anyone interested should call the office at 863-8666, or email us at the address below:

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What Really Happened At the Falls?

Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls

Mid-term project update and panel discussion featuring colonial historians, tribal historians, and academics

Saturday, September 19 – 1 to 4 p.m.

Turners Falls High School Auditorium 222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA

Sponsored by the Montague Planning Dept. through a National Park Service Grant

GUEST ED from previous page consuming 80 percent of its opiate supply.

According to the state Department of Public Health, overdose deaths increased by 53.1 percent between 2012 and 2014 in this state. In 2014 alone, 1,256 people in this state lost their lives to opioid overdoses. As these numbers show, something is drastically wrong here.

Two local community groups launched by and working hand in hand with this office - the new organization Hampshire HOPE and the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region - are hard at work bringing the community together to address the heroin epidemic on multiple fronts: health care, social services, law enforcement, community groups and cities and towns.

These task forces are fighting for more treatment beds and recovery services, better access to the lifesaving Narcan, increased awareness and greater understanding of the complicated issues involved in this huge threat to public health. Drug addiction is not an individual's problem or family tragedy alone but a community problem that we must face together.

For more information, or to find ways to get involved, visit www. hampshirehope.org in Hampshire County and www.opioidtaskforce. org in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region.

David Sullivan is the district attorney for Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol.

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> A completed application & resume must be delivered to the WPCF no later than 2 p.m. 18 September 2015. Montague WPCF, 34 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351-9522 (413) 773-8865.

The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Turners Falls RiverCulture's Third Thursday in September:

Latino History Day

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS - When RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto heard the Pioneer Valley History Network was running a valley-wide Latino American Heritage series, "Herencia Latina" (herencia means "inheritance"), she offered to lend her organization's monthly downtown walking event to the effort.

As a result, September 17 is Latino History Day in Turners Falls.

The National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored project centers on public screenings of the PBS series Latino Americans. Episode VI, "Peril and Promise," will screen at the Shea Theater at 7 p.m.

Leading up to the event, enjoy Central and South American music, food and crafts. From 4 to 8 p m., children and adults are invited to make Mexican masks at 109 Avenue A. Beans and rice will be served courtesy of Great Falls Harvest.

From 5 to 8 pm. there will be an exhibition celebrating revolutionary Latin American women at 113 Ave. A.

At 6 p m., Lorena Garay and Eugenio Huanca will play traditional and original music from a variety of countries at Spinner Park, at Avenue A and Fourth Street.

The 7 o'clock screening at the Shea will be facilitated by UMass-Amherst Prof. Mari Castañeda.

Visit turnersfallsriverculture.org and herencialatina2015-16.org for more information.

A week later, on September 24, the same groups will host UMass sociologist Manuel Matos for a presentation on "Latino Migrants and Agriculture in Franklin County" at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

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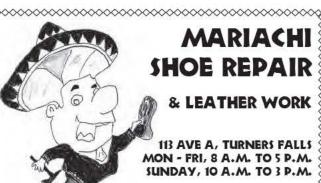
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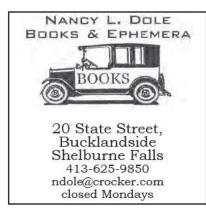


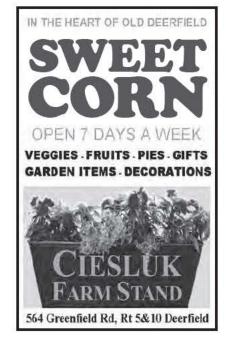
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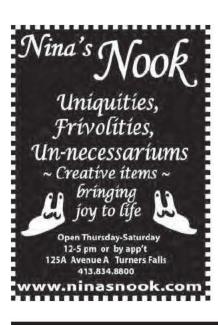
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FERC from page A1

According to Hannah Northey writing for the on-line publication "Energywire" (November, 2014), since 2006 the commission has approved 451, or 56% percent, of 803 applications. This hardly makes the agency look like a rubber stamp, but it is unclear how many of these applications were withdrawn during the process, and how many were actually rejected by FERC. Data on FERC pipeline rejections is extremely hard to come by.

Still, withdrawals may reflect a relatively stringent "pre-approval" process proposals to FERC face. The process includes an extremely labor-intensive investigation of environmental impacts, a great deal of "public comment," and the requirement that the pipeline company show contracts or so-called "precedent agreements" for the capacity it is requesting. By the time FERC makes a final decision, the proposed pipeline probably meets the criteria required by federal law.

Following the Law

According to one energy industry lobbyist cited by Northey, "Industry has learned over decades of getting local pushback and undergoing federal environmental reviews to proceed only with projects that have a high chance of success at FERC. 'It's not just a question of [whether] FERC [is] approving them all,' [the lobbyist] said, 'it's whether the work [is] being done in a smarter way on the other end."

On the other hand, there seems to be a strong bias in federal law and associated regulations in favor of approving pipelines if certain basic criteria are met. This may be more a function of the history of energy legislation and regulation than of a bias at FERC in favor of energy industries.

"People may not like this, but it's just not a regulatory regime set up for FERC to reject applications," said one source quoted by Northey. "It's really set up for FERC to approve applications that comply with conditions."

Those conditions include the ones set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1971. The law requires that a federally-approved project carefully evaluate all environmental laws and mitigate those elements of a project that threaten, for example, water resources, wetlands, endangered species habitats and even potential archeological sites.

During the pre-application, or "scoping," process, landowners, local government and environmental organizations can raise potential violations of the NEPA and call for changes in the pipeline route. The agency must file a detailed environmental impact report that addresses each concern.

The scoping process is enormously time consuming and appears to respond to many local concerns. Northey quotes an email from FERC commissioner Philip D. Moeller: "To the credit of the process, I'm not aware of any major pipeline proposal that didn't have at least some changes to the initially proposed route."

Counting Costs

On the other hand, critics suggest that the criteria for evaluating the need, or "public necessity," for a pipeline is narrow and outdated. It appears that these criteria were established before both the natural gas boom and the massive increase in renewable energy generation, particu-

larly solar, of the past decade.

In a "public comment" to FERC on the proposed Northeast Energy Direct project, planned to pass through Franklin County on its way from the shale fields of Pennsylvania to Dracut, MA, Elaine Mroz of Lunenburg notes that the criteria (88 FERC ¶ 61,227) for determining public necessity were adopted approximately fifteen years ago.

It identifies key stakeholders who might be adversely affected by a proposed pipeline as: current customers of the pipeline company; customers of competing pipelines; landowners; and surrounding communities.

Commissioners are instructed to balance any potential negative impacts on these interests against the project's benefits, which in turn are to be judged primarily by the ability of the applicant to enter into advance contracts, known as "precedent agreements," to fill the pipeline's proposed capacity.

Mroz argues that this cost-benefit analysis is badly outdated:

"Most of the Policy Statement focuses on those three 'major interests,' and implies that all other interests with potentially adverse affects would be covered by the NEPA Environmental Review Process. If this policy were to be rewritten today, the Commission would surely receive comments to challenge this narrow definition of interests to include renewable energy interests and climate change, at a minimum. It would be hard to argue in this environment that a new pipeline would have NO adverse impact on either of these."

The Public Necessity

Evaluating the FERC criteria and criticisms of it - is difficult in part because the agency does not provide good access to applications which have been rejected. Projects approved, however, are relatively easy to find on the FERC website. Still, the approval documents are revealing.

Two recent projects approved by FERC are the Algonquin Incremental Market project (AIM) and the Salem Lateral Project. The AIM project upgrades and expands an existing pipeline that runs from New York through Connecticut, Rhode Island and into Massachusetts. The project is slated to provide an additional 342,000 dekatherms (Dth) per day, primarily to natural gas distributors along the pipeline route. The AIM's sponsors were able to present FERC with contracts for this entire capacity.

By way of comparison, Kinder-Morgan proposes that the Northeast Energy Direct line provide 1.3 million Dth, but at this point has only announced precedent agreements for 570,000 Dth.

The Salem lateral is a more modest project, in the sense that it constructs 1.2 miles of new pipeline. It is designed to serve a former coalfired plant that produces electricity for the regional electric grid. The need for new gas pipeline capacity to serve retiring coal-fired power plants has been a major justification for all current pipeline projects, though the Northeast Energy Direct currently has no contracts with such plants.

Applications for these projects, the literally hundreds of public comments - the majority of them critical or raising environmental concerns - and the final federal certificate of approval give one the impression that FERC is hardly a "rubber stamp machine." The approval certificates of (66 pages in the AIM case, and 24 in the Salem example) respond in

detail to the arguments of critics of the project.

FERC even responds to stakeholder complaints that the projects fail to take into consideration renewable energy alternatives (solar and wind), and that the expanded pipeline capacity will be used to export the product.

On the other hand, there is a persistent tendency to respond to such criticisms within the criteria that Mroz and others have claimed is outdated and narrow.

The following transcription from the FERC approval of the AIM project will give the reader a sense of this tendency:

Several parties and commenters question the need for the project. They contend that the proposed capacity exceeds the volume of natural gas committed for purchase by local gas distributors. One party states that natural gas prices in New England have declined, indicating reduced demand for natural gas. Several parties argue that increased gas production and declining domestic demand as the result of conservation efforts and increased reliance on renewable energy sources will result in the export of natural gas using excess project capacity.

In support of their position, several commenters assert that the need for Algonquin's proposed expansion of pipeline capacity is overstated in light of a study commissioned by the New England States Committee on Electricity that showed if current levels of state energy efficiency programs continue, there is no need for additional natural gas infrastructure even with economic growth taken into account.

Along with energy efficiency programs, commenters state that any increase in demand can and should be met by relying on renewable energy sources. Another commenter states that if the additional capacity will serve peak demand, that demand should be met by liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facilities.

Algonquin has precedent agreements with the Project Shippers, including eight local distribution companies and two municipal utilities, for 15-year firm transportation service agreements subscribing the entire 342,000 Dth per day of service that will be created by the AIM Project.

These service commitments constitute strong evidence that there is market demand for the project, and Ordering Paragraph E of this order conditions construction clearance on Algonquin executing final contracts for service at the levels provided for in its precedent agreements.

In the case of the Salem project, located on the Atlantic coast, FERC responds to the widespread criticism that the pipeline will be used for "export":

Commenters also express concern that the pipeline would be utilized for LNG export. As previously stated, the purpose of the project is to deliver gas to the Salem Harbor Station for use in natural gas-fired power generation.

While National Grid operates an LNG storage facility in the vicinity of the Salem Harbor Station for peak day and peak season requirements, there are no import or export facilities at this location.

There is no indication that the Salem Lateral Project could or will be used as an export facility.

Conclusions

Both the data and the documents related to FERC pipeline approval suggest that the agency is not simply a "rubber-stamp machine." Evidence that the agency has, in fact, met a pipeline it did not like is more difficult to come by, although pipeline rejections are probably documented somewhere in the bowels of FERC archives.

But FERC approval certificates would seem to support the contention that the agency's criteria for determining "need" is narrow, and should be updated.

Good Interpretation, Neighbor!

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS - The Montague Reporter's spies down the street at the Great Falls Discovery that downtown resident and ubiquitous, if seasonal, park interpreter Janel Nockleby has been recognized for her hard work with an award from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The recent news that US Fish &

Outstanding Professionalism in Service Award: Janel Nockleby

"This award is awarded to a seasonal park interpreter who has provided outstanding representation of and service to the DCR's mission, goals and objectives through professionalism in service.

"Janel not only exhibits the qualities of an excellent interpreter but she also exemplifies professionalism in her continued dedication to her park. She is a pleasure to be around not just for visitors but to her co-workers who comment regularly on her hard work, dedication, and kind nature. She also has a dedicated following to her programs which is a result of her warm and inviting character and thoroughly

Wildlife is abruptly pulling funding from the educational center has come as a wake-up call to many in town that we have a real treasure of a resource in the Center, thanks to Center have alerted us to the fact a strong volunteer base, and especially to excellent staff like Janel.

Here's the text of her award. Next time you see her around town in her trademark khaki duds, whether she's leading a tour or just on a dog-walking break, thank her for her service to the community!



developed programs.

"She has gone above and beyond for her park countless times, as many of our park interpreters do, but this year she has stood out as a person who can perform with grace under pressure. For this she is not only an exemplary employee but also a leader and role model."

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GOOD USED USABLES

HORSES from page A1

their ability to focus. "You have to focus when you're on a horse if you want to go," said Bryant.

One little girl she remembers had such a good time riding her horse she couldn't wait to ride again. That little girl, diagnosed with ADD, was able to harness her desire to ride and focus her attention on grooming and preparing her horse for the lesson.

"She would just say, 'I want to ride, I want to ride," said Bryant. "The instructor told her to groom her horse and then they would ride, and sure enough she did it."

Bryant also does trail rides into the conservation forest in the back of the farm: "We are really lucky to have that in our back yard." The pass in between the mountains leads directly to Sunderland, and on occasion she will lead children on horseback to a creamery to get ice cream.

"We just hold the horses while one person goes to get the ice cream," Bryant explained.

Last March Craig Memorial had

a fire in one of their barns, burning the entire structure to the ground. While all the horses were able to escape thanks to their runs, two goats sadly perished. Bryant is starting to rebuild with community support, but the cause of the fire is still unknown.

On October 5, Hope and Olive will host a fundraiser to help Bryant raise money for the rebuild. Free soup and bread will be given out at the event, but all the profits from the drinks will be donated to the farm. Bryant also has a Go-FundMe page, titled "Help Bert Save the Farm." Readers may find more information online at www. craigequestriancenter.com.

Anyone wishing to participate in a trail ride or take lessons at the farm can either call (413) 548-4949, or simply stop by the Center at 470 Long Plain Road (Route 63) in Leverett. Look for Roberta Bryant with her golf cart and her gentle Rottweiler in tow.





Craig Memorial Equestrian Center suffered a fire last spring that completely ruined one of the barns. While all horses escaped, the barn must be completely rebuilt. The construction is partially complete, but Roberta Bryant is still looking for donations to cover the cost.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Separation of Church, State Discussed in Gill

By JENNY T. ABELES

The Gill selectboard meeting convened at 6:30 on Tuesday, September 8. The meeting opened with staff of the town hall presenting a quote to the selectboard for cleaning the floors in the building, which hasn't been done professionally in 20 years.

The first phase of the cleaning proposal would consist of three downstairs offices, for \$590, to be covered by office funds already set aside for such purposes. The second phase would entail the cleaning of hallways and larger rooms, for \$840, to be approved by the board.

Due to the high cost of the service, it was initially proposed to postpone all the cleaning until figures for renting or buying professional equipment could be gathered. The board then decided to approve phase 1 since it includes two new offices that cannot be occupied until the work is done and to research other options before approving phase 2. Reil Cleaning Services offered the best quote for the job, and will be employed next week to complete phase 1.

Ray Purington then gave project updates, the highlights of which are as follows:

Toward the end of greening the community, Eversource streetlights have shipped, and an intermunicipal agreement with Amherst to coordinate efforts for streetlight replacement has been signed.

The Gill Elementary School well project is in the data collection phase, the USDA expressing confidence that manganese removal will greatly

renexc@gmail.com

improve the taste and quality of the water. The 1- to 2-month project includes acquiring an engineering plan and then applying for a design and construction design and loan. In the meantime, the school will send out letters about the DEP notice of noncompliance, and the school's temporary solution of continuing to treat the water with residual chlorine until the new well system is approved and installed.

School union negotiations will commence this month, and the towns of Gill and Montague have been asked to send one representative rather than two, as in the past. Gill will suggest Jeff Singleton, who has ably represented Gill in previous years.

A Hedge or Wall of Separation

The majority of the meeting this week concerned a matter raised by Pastor Gary Bourbeau of the Gill Congregational Church, who explained to the selectboard that he had submitted an article to the July-August issue of the town newsletter describing the history and mission of the church.

The timing of the publication was significant to Bourbeau, since the church is planning to start a youth group in the fall and wanted to acquaint townspeople with its minis-

The editor of the newsletter, Pam Shoemaker, declined to print Bourbeau's article, however, claiming that because the copying and paper costs derive from the town, they are legally bound by to refrain from printing "religious news."

As an important part of town activity, Bourbeau argued that the church should not be excluded from printing its news in the newsletter, saying that being denied "equal access" seemed to him "discriminatory, biased, and unfair."

Bourbeau said the issue seemed to him to be one of free speech. The two main objections to printing church news, he said, are that someone might be offended and that it opens the door to other, more obviously dangerous groups - such as neo-Nazis, or the KKK – also claiming the right to publish their news in the newsletter.

Bourbeau reasoned that while the possibility of someone taking offense exists, others might in fact be helped by learning of the church ministry, and that if groups who meant people harm expressed interest in publishing in the Gill Newsletter, an improbable event, the editor could simply say no.

Selectboard chair Gregory Snedeker responded by expressing sympathy for Bourbeau's position and admiration for his framing of the complicated issue, and went on to say that he is personally aware of the benefit the church, and Bourbeau's leadership, provide the town of Gill. Moreover, the selectboard cannot uphold or overturn the editor's decision to reject the publication of religious beliefs, but must instead abide by town counsel's studied decision on the matter.

Both Snedeker and Barbara Watson, a representative of the town newsletter also present, agreed that Bourbeau's rendering of the church history was interesting and acceptable for publication, but that the statement of the church's beliefs and ministry were not, as they encroach too far on laws dictating the separation of church and state.

The newsletter, he explained, cannot be a platform for any particular belief system.

Further, he argued, despite acknowledgment of the church's benign character at the present time, town government cannot set a precedent for allowing the church to express its views in town publications, since no one can foretell how the church ministry will change under different leadership in the future.

Suggestions were made for other ways Bourbeau might inform Gill residents of his church's mission, which Bourbeau agreed were sound, although he expressed disagreement with town counsel's decision. He did say that he would not pursue legal action, however.

Ray then observed that the newsletter has been operating as a town newsletter without being officially designated as such. Pam Shoemaker has been volunteering her time for 15 years, and is now tendering her resignation. The future of the newsletter will be discussed in future selectboard meetings.

Other Business

Janet Masucci, who films selectboard meetings to be aired on the Montague Community Television website, requested funds for a multicamera system so as to improve editing, present charts and graphics, and provide the names and titles of people participating in the meetings.

Of four bids, she recommended "Access AV," which – although \$239 more expensive than lowest - provides better training and tech support, as well as a loaner program. The Board voted to approve the recommended quote from Access AV.

Purington recommenced detailing new business, raising the question of whether the town should sign on with the Community Compact Program, which collates and shares the best practices of towns in the Commonwealth and awards participating towns "bonus points" leading

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to more competitive edge in grantseeking from the state.

The board voiced many questions about this program, such as who is defining "best practices," whether participation in the program would spread town staff too thin, and how signing up for the program would change competition for grants if "every town in the Commonwealth" did indeed sign up.

They agreed to further research the program and attend an informational meeting in October.

The school district has requested funds for a new alarm panel for the Gill Elementary School. The panel, costing \$1,046, would have 500 security codes ensuring school administration could track exactly who was entering the building in off hours.

Selectboard member John Ward asked if the present condition of not knowing who has entered the building has posed any problems.

The request was made as "phase two" of an ongoing effort to improve the security of the building, and the board wanted to know how many phases there would be in this effort, asking for a clear and complete vision of the project before approving further funds.

Primary and secondary sand and salt bids were approved by the board. This is the first year secondary contracts will be made to ensure the safety of roads should primary vendors be unable to provide salt and sand as needed. For sand, the primary vendor will be Mitchell Excavating at \$6.25 per ton, and the secondary Lane Construction at \$6.50. For salt, the primary vendor will be Eastern Minerals at \$80.38 per ton, and the secondary Morton Salt at \$81.80.

The historical commission has issued a pamphlet advertising its new book, Riverside: Life Along the Connecticut.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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COSA RARA from page A1

items, Felipe is happy to collaborate with customers to custom-make cellphone cases or knife cases, and welcomes others to challenge him with new ideas for unique leather goods.

Most astonishingly, Felipe does much of his work by hand, using sewing machines only out of necessity, and never to cut corners. He told a story about one man who recently brought in a pair of shoes that numerous cobblers had told him were unfixable. Felipe fixed them in ten minutes. "No one would do it because they had to be hand sewn. Most places will only use machines," he explains.

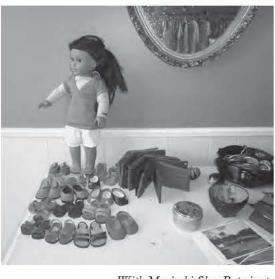
Felipe appears to be relishing this opportunity to practice as a cobbler, as well as to expand his leatherwork repertoire, but also to share the craft with others in the community.

"It's not only about selling things or fixing shoes," he says, "it's about giving life to Turners Falls, giving it flavor. We have a lot to give to the people here."

Giving "flavor" to Turners Falls is a large focus for Cosa Rara, and that is what the two owners hope will set it apart from other clothing shops. Besides being just a retail space, Cosa Rara will be "more importantly a social center," says Giselle, "but within that creating a marketplace."

In addition to the wares already available, Giselle says she hopes to include more crafts and handmade items made by local residents, particularly focusing on work by people of color.

"What I'm trying to do with this space, that I think is different from other places, is prioritize black and brown people, but without exclud-







JEN HOLMES PHOTOS

With Mariachi Shoe Repair operating out of a back room, Cosa Rara's storefront is a combination social and retail space.

ing anybody else," she says.

Giselle, who is of Peruvian and Puerto Rican descent, explained that she often "felt less prioritized and less valuable as a child" – and into adulthood – "not only as a person of color, but also as a woman of color." This experience helped her recognize the need for a space that will not give more value to one group over another, but will instead build "a strong community where everyone can be involved, being very inclusive and not exclusive."

Felipe echoes this sentiment of prioritizing those who may struggle more, or be less visible in the community, while also ensuring that every member of the community can still feel valued and included.

"In our tradition, we like to talk, we like to laugh, we like to dance. We need to show Turners Falls that we are a warm community and that everyone is welcome," he says. Both business owners emphasized that their vision is not only for the Latino community. "For us, we're Latino, so that feels like our focus,

but I want to include any and all persons of color," Giselle says, "and bring in different cultures and different traditions into this space and really highlight them all."

The entire building that Cosa Rara inhabits was purchased in May, with the intent that it will eventually function as a larger "collective" project, encompassing the living space upstairs, the garage in back, and the retail space next door, currently occupied by Gary's Coins and Antiques. At this time, the group, which includes Giselle, Felipe and a few other members of the local community, has not announced plans for the additional spaces.

Giselle says she hopes to use part of the building as a "movement space" to host yoga or exercise classes. Felipe suggested dance classes, such as salsa — which he declined to teach, sadly. Within the currently active space, the two hope to host dance parties, some at night — sans drinking — and some during the day, encouraging a family-oriented atmosphere.

When mentioning the lack of nightlife activity in the area beyond bars and restaurants, Giselle exclaims, "Day life! We want more day life. For the youth in the area, especially."

Whatever the additional spaces become, they will certainly include a strong focus on prioritizing people of color as a common thread. Giselle says they are currently keeping the space open to ideas from other small business owners who might want to expand, or craftspeople who might be interested in starting their own business. Both Giselle and Felipe are enthusiastic about the idea of other artisans joining the space, particularly for the prospect of skill-share programs, and teaching those skills to youth in the area.

Despite the focus on people of color, Giselle and Felipe both emphasize that they want everyone to feel welcome in Cosa Rara. So far, they seem to have experienced little problem with that goal.

"I've met so many people in town just by leaving the door open," Giselle says. The brightly painted storefront is certainly a draw, and the inside of the shop already seems to mirror what they hope Cosa Rara will represent to the community. Both businesses are currently open, but a Grand Opening party is scheduled for next Friday evening, September 18 at 7 p.m.

With patterned dresses and brightly colored bathing suits that seemingly should clash but somehow blend together on the racks, and goods made by skilled craftsmen and novice crafters displayed side-by-side, Cosa Rara's owners appear to practice what they preach, by valuing contributions equally, and finding a way to surprisingly blend it all together.

Giselle explained that Cosa Rara, in Spanish, means "rare thing", but that 'rara' can also mean 'strange' or 'weird'. She said she felt that it was a perfect name for the store as it could describe the goods, or the space itself. And, she adds, "I also felt that it was very fitting of me."

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A New District Treasurer

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – At their meeting on August 25, the school committee for the Gill-Montague Regional School District approved Cynthia Caporaso as treasurer for the district. Caporaso's first day was September 3.

Caporaso was one of two candidates interviewed by the search committee. She was recommended unanimously, according to Joanne Blier, the district's director of business and operations, in her report to the school committee. The search committee was made up of Blier and two school committee members. Caporaso was easily approved by the school committee by unanimous vote.

Prior to the vote, the job description for treasurer was reviewed and updated to reflect the current duties accurately. This is a part-time position, with hours averaging eight hours a week. Approval of the job description, which was also voted unanimously, was necessary before

voting to approve Caporaso. The school committee also approved a salary range of \$18-20 an hour.

During this discussion, Caporaso spoke briefly to the members, saying Gill-Montague "seems like a nice little district." She has been working for Springfield's public schools since 2000 as project coordinator, with a background in financial matters including oversight of the state-funded budget, funding from local private foundations and the United Way, and monitoring sub-contractors. She also prepared that district's monthly financial reports and state reporting.

Prior to Springfield, she worked for Erving School Union 28 as assistant to the superintendent.

Following the vote to hire Caporaso, Blier asked that the school committee approve a resolution to add her as district treasurer, to be designated as the primary signer for all district bank accounts.

Michael Langknecht, acting as assistant treasurer, had been authorized to sign for the district in the absence of a treasurer. Blier explained this vote was necessary to show to the bonding company that she has been approved, in order to have her bonded. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Caporaso was successfully bonded, and on September 8 the committee designated her the signatory for district accounts.

Sullivan's Report

Michael Sullivan, in his superintendent's report, said the beginning of school was going well. Nine new teachers are joining the district. He said orientation for new teachers, taking place on September 24-25, was being led by director of teaching and learning Donna Fitzpatrick, with central office administrators and department heads making a contribution to the process.

The first day back for all staff was Wednesday, August 26, with district and school-based meetings, trainings and preparations taking place that week, Wednesday through Friday. Students in grades 1 through 12 began classes on Monday, August 31, and pre-school and kindergarten began Wednesday, September 2.

Sullivan added that he felt the new teachers are a great group, and the school year is off to a great start.

No Varsity Soccer

Sullivan told the school committee that unfortunately, the high school will not have a varsity girls' or boys' soccer team this fall, due to a lack of sufficient numbers of students showing an interest. Fortunately, he said, athletic director Adam Graves was able to develop a cooperative arrangement with the Franklin County Tech school team.

According to Graves, this will be a two-year commitment, during which time the intent is that Turners Falls High School will work to build their teams up and field their own teams after that. Co-op players will sign up through TFHS, but will follow the Franklin Tech practice schedule. The district will continue to run a co-ed middle school soccer team this year.

Sullivan said he feels this is unfortunate as the district is interested in having as many sports teams as possible. He thanked the tech school for helping the district continue to offer soccer to their students.

Transportation

Blier presented some new information about transportation and also clarified the position of the district on who is eligible for school bus service. Blier examined the bus routes in detail and found some overlap, with some buses underutilized.

Adjusting the routes, she found they could cut one bus without affecting service, offering the district a savings.

Regarding bus service for special education students for out-of-district students from Greenfield, she said they were able to bid out their needs jointly with Greenfield public schools with good results as well.

Both Blier and Sullivan spoke to clarification of district policy, that school bus service is provided to kindergarten students living beyond ½ mile and other students living beyond 1.5 miles from school are eligible to ride the school bus.

Blier reiterated this policy, and said adherence to these rules would be strictly held. Providing service outside these guidelines, Blier said, "even if it doesn't cost any more, we lose revenue."

Sullivan added that he wanted to make sure parents understood this policy and would be making plans accordingly.

Another Gill-Montague school committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 8. See next week's paper for coverage.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

will not require infrastructure development by the town beyond the landfill cap.

The selectboard, in approving the request, seemed particularly pleased that the scope of the project could still leave room for an industrial park. This led to some discussion of the future of the regional kennel, the recycling center, and a new DPW facility.

Ramsey indicated that town land near the current public safety complex, on the corner of Turnpike and Turners Falls roads, might be an option for those facilities.

Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron expressed some reservations about that option, as well as concerns about leaving the gate to the recycling center open.

Ramsey and the board felt these issues did not need to hold up the solar project, which was approved. Kearsarge hopes to construct the facility in 2016.

There was no indication that the state debate over lifting the cap on net metering would undermine the project. (Net metering, along with related credits called SRECs, is the mechanism through which solar facilities sell energy back to the electric grid.) Kearsarge's application claimed the company had "close relationships with policymakers and regulatory authorities in Massachusetts."

The project must now obtain special permits from the town's planning board and conservation commission.

Downtown Scenery

The selectboard also made significant progress on a financially smaller, but culturally more contentious, issue: guidelines for the planters on Avenue A. The planters have been there since the 1980s, and over a decade ago were "adopted" by local businesses and other volunteers, who plant and maintain the plants.

Controversy arose in 2013 when Rodney Madison, owner of a store called Madison on the Avenue, placed numerous non-plant objects in his planter. Some residents and town officials felt this was not consistent with the planter tradition, while others – a more numerous group based on selectboard meeting attendance - argued that the objects constituted public art.

Last year, the town-issued preliminary regulations about the use of planters were criticized as excessively legalistic and draconian. In April, the board created a "planter committee," which included Madison, to develop their own policies. The group's work was presented to the selectboard on Tuesday.

Ann Jemas said she was "super uncomfortable" with the process, and suggested that the planter guidelines be put on hold, pending meetings at times "when more people can attend."

The policies would stipulate that the selectboard will appoint a "planter coordinator," "to preside over the care, custody and aesthetics of the planter."

A long list of "prerogatives" were given to the coordinator, including: assigning planters to local residents;

organizing work bees; promoting sound horticultural practices; and serving as "the first interpreter of the goals and standard of this program." However, the coordinator "is not and may not be the enforcer of this program."

On the crucial issue of "nonplant objects," the guidelines state that they should "enhance, but not dominate, the overall effect of the plants, trees and flowers."

The selectboard seemed pleased with the compromising and non-legalistic tone of the guidelines. But some audience members were not

Gary Konvelski, owner of Gary's Coins and Antiques, complained that the guidelines did not create clear enforcement authority for the planter coordinator.

Erin MacLean, co-owner of the store Loot, did not criticize the guidelines directly, but suggested that the town needed to "look at the big picture, and respect the original intent of the planter program."

Ann Jemas said she had been "thinking about this a lot," and was "super uncomfortable" with the process. Her primary complaint was that the planter committee did not involve town employees. She suggested that the guidelines be put on hold, pending meetings at times "when more people can attend."

There was a lengthy discussion of these issues, with several town employees emphasizing they had been involved in the process of creating the guidelines. Rodney Madison noted that he had compromised on the language, which said non-plant objects should not "dominate." This clause had been proposed by head librarian Linda Hickman.

lewicz said he felt "just like a law, there is no perfect law," but he saw the guidelines as a "start." He noted that a number of changes needed to be made, and suggested that the planter committee come back to the board with those revisions.

The board approved the guidelines, pending the revisions.

Other Business

The selectboard placed a total of 21 articles to be placed on the warrant for an October 1 special town meeting. These included funding for: a temporary Sheffield School boiler; a triennial property revaluation; legal challenges to the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline; and reduced sewer rates.

The board did not make recommendations, which will be discussed at a September 16 joint meeting with the town finance committee.

The board also approved a \$366,000 contract with Grindline Skateparks, Inc. to construct a new skateboard facility near Unity Park.

RiverCulture coordinator Suzanne Lomanto and Loot owner Erin MacLean requested permits for tents and music in downtown Turners on two upcoming dates. The requests were approved, with Kuklewicz noting that sound levels should stay within the parameters of the local noise ordinance, to maintain a "level playing field."

Tom Bergeron requested that the board approve the sale of the streetlights being removed from downtown, along with a number of DPW vehicles, as "surplus." The board agreed, but requested that Bergeron save a few more of the lights than he had proposed.

The board approved a number Selectboard member Rich Kuk- of requests from MJ Adams from

the regional housing authority concerning Community Development Block Grants.

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Walter Ramsey, in addition to the solar array proposal brought before the board, discussed the "next steps" in planning a new DPW facility, and the potential relocation of the regional dog kennel.

He also brought forth a request of Robert Daddario of Park Villa Apartments to change zoning regulations to allow solar arrays in the general business district. The proposal was passed on to the planning board.

The board approved a request by librarian Linda Hickman to hire Mary Ellen Ziemba as children's program assistant.

It approved requests by Michael Nelson for an October 10 "Toll Booth Fuindraiser" to raise money for the annual Pumpkinfest event, and for DPW staff and vehicles to clean up after that event. Pumpkinfest will reimburse the DPW for expenses.

The board approved a contract for information technology consulting, and revised the language on the Five Eyed Fox's pending liquor license application, as proposed by the state legislature.

It then went into executive session with the police chief, to discuss negotiations.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

A New Face at Union 28; Discussion of Bus Routes

By ANN TWEEDY

Leverett's September 8 selectboard meeting opened with a visit by Jennifer Haggerty, the new superintendent for Union 28 (representing the grammar schools in Erving, Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell, and New Salem), who wanted to introduce herself to the board.

Haggerty explained her background as a teacher for twenty years at a Fitchburg kindergarten before moving on to Gardner, and finally Orange, where she was the principal of the Dexter Park school. She shared her comfort with the atmosphere of small schools and noted the strong sense of community at the Leverett Elementary School.

Haggerty, who has been working with outgoing interim superintendent Bob Mahler for the past few months, explained that she wanted to come in person to put a face with the name, and affirmed her "open door" policy.

Another face to go with a name

appeared with highway department manager Will Stratford, who introduced Paul Boucher as the department's newest employee.

Boucher is a lifetime Leverett resident from Number 6 Road. His rate of pay and start date was con-

Public Transportation

Town resident Roy Kimmel, who is investigating transportation issues for the town, addressed the board in regards to his ongoing research on potential paths through town for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) Route 23 bus on its Greenfield-to-Amherst run. Kimmel presented a map with loops through Leverett Center and back out to Route 63. He believes that the loop may still keep the bus within its schedule.

Kimmel was answering concerns posed by Jeff Singleton of Montague that additional routes and loops may undermine ridership from Greenfield/Montague

to Amherst, due to an increase in time. Singleton was appointed by that town's selectboard to represent them to the FRTA.

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico suggested that Kimmel present rider usage statistics from the mid-1980s to FRTA - as this was when there were more runs made from Greenfield to Amherst.

Leverett is now theoretically served by PVTA, and state law allows only one transportation authority for towns. However, a Stephen Kulik-sponsored bill before the legislature, H.3028, would make legal the ability for towns to become

members of an additional authority. Kimmel said the decision may be coming this fall, and that he suggests waiting for its approval before proposing a Leverett route to the FRTA. Singleton believes Kimmel needs to bring the issue before the FRTA board right away regardless of the legislative decision, so they could determine a cost assessment.

Special transporation services

for elderly and disabled residents were also discussed. The Paratransit programs run through transportation authorities have stipulations that location is tied to active, fixedroute schedules. Shutesbury's volunteer adaptation to the Med Ride Program, which pairs drivers with ambulatory elders, was discussed as a program to consider for Leverett.

Peter d'Errico said that the town is only paying 100 dollars a year to subscribe to the PVTA paratransit program, which brings disabled residents to and from medical appointments. He shared that about 28 trips had been made during the past year by four riders.

Other Business

Town administrator Margie Mc-Ginnis shared that the MassDOT did not want to meet with Leverett to discuss the complications faced by truck drivers rerouted to avoid the bridge in Montague who are making difficult turns at the intersection of Cave Hill Road and North Leverett Road. The DOT considers it to be Montague's provenance and approached that town about the bridge's condition, but the town never responded.

McGinnis also requested that the selectboard agree on a framework for set hours for the incoming treasurer/collector, so the review committee can best select the right candidate for the job, which is listed as a 32-hour position. Although off-location work done on remote servers was discussed as a popular practice, safety concerns were raised.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson said he felt that the 32 hours should be spent in town offices, at set times, barring any weather-related emergency.

After much debate, it was decided that some evening hours on specific days needed to be made available, as this seems to be preferred by residents. Evening hours for one or two nights was decided to be the best request made to the candidates.

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SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES













Gill: Pipeline Forum

While the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline is not slated to pass through the town of Gill, find out what the impacts of this pipeline would mean for Gill, our neighbors, and our valley.

Join us at the Gill Town Hall next Thursday evening, September 17 at 7 p m. There will be an informational session, a chance to ask questions, and a presentation on the compressor station proposed for the Northfield ridge. Posters suggesting the visual impact from parts of Gill, including the Northfield Mount Hermon School campus, will be available for viewing at the meeting.

Join us to learn more about the proposed pipeline and what you can do to make your voice heard. This gathering is sponsored by the Gill Energy Commission and our friends at North Quabbin Pipeline Action (NQPA).

Everyone is welcome.

Yoga for Seniors

On Tuesdays, September 22 through October 27 at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth St. in Turners Falls, Jean Erlbaum will lead two low-cost classes for seniors.

Gentle mat yoga classes will be held from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., and chair yoga will be held from 10:30

People over 55 of all abilities (including beginners!) are welcome. You do not have to live in Turners, Gill or Montague to come - seniors from all towns are invited.

For more information and registration, please call Roberta Potter at 863-4500 or 863-9357.

Give Drugs to Police

Do you or your relatives have a medicine cabinet full of medication? Help get rid of them safely.

Saturday, September 26 is a free collection day in Hampshire and Franklin counties. Local dropoff locations include the Montague, Greenfield, and Deerfield police departments. Drop off meds from 10 a m. to 2 p.m. – no questions asked.

Medicines can remain in original containers with labels. No liquids, syringes, IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs will be accepted.

The event is sponsored by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and Hampshire/Franklin TRIAD, county sheriffs, local police, departments of health, and the Opioid Abuse Task Force. For more information see northwesternDA.org.

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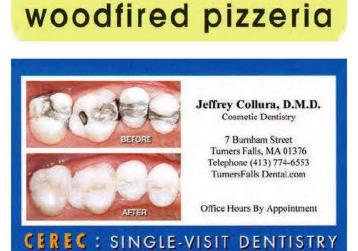
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YEAR 13 - NO. 43

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

B1

Our Most Human Activity:

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

Storytelling

By JOE KWIECINSKI

AMHERST – For Eshu Bumpus, a deep affection and commitment to the art of storytelling goes all the way back to his childhood. "Storytelling is something I've always loved," asserts the eminent teller of tales, who is also an expert at physicality on the stage and a jazz vocalist.

When you bring these three main elements together, Eshu's performances become absolutely unforgettable for audiences of all ages. Using humor, mystery, and music, Eshu mesmerizes his audience by bringing a variety of African, African-American, and world folktales to vibrant life.

Consider some of the venues he has graced: the Exchange Place stage at the National Festival in Tennessee; and 36 sold-out shows at the Smithsonian in a matter of 13 days.

The Boston native has performed in close to 30 states in our nation, as well as many programs right here in Franklin County.

Returning to the theme of his early involvement with storytelling, Eshu points to five summers in a row he spent as a youngster at Bonnie Bairns' camp in Cohasset.

Administered by the Boston Charities, the camp was immersed in the magic of counselor Bob Paradise, who told Pete Seeger stories and sang the latter's children's songs. "I loved Seeger's stories and music and those of others," recalled Eshu. "It was my very first introduction to storytelling. I went on to read hundreds of stories as a kid."



Eshu Bumpus

Eshu attended Hampshire College, majoring in art in the 1970s. There he met Davis Bates of Colrain, who would later become a fine storyteller.

Medicine Story, a well-known Native American storyteller, told memorable tales in a performance at the school.

"While I was at Hampshire," said Eshu, "I began teaching at the Che-Lumumba School in 1976. It was an alternative elementary school housed at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst." He would write stories based on the children's history assignments, and they would go on to perform the tales as plays. It was then he realized that working with children would be his calling.

In 1980, Bumpus joined with an array of educators and parents to found an after-school program in Amherst. Four of the town's five elementary schools were able to take part.

see BUMPUS page B3

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SCRIMMAGE

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Football Indians capped off their preseason by scrimmaging Ware at home on Saturday, September 5. In high school scrimmages, the score is not tallied, there are no kickoffs, and the coaches are right on the field with the players.

But even though the game didn't count, it was a good indication of how the Tribe will do this year, and it gave coach Chris Lapointe a chance to see his rebuilt team in action. Several key players from last year's championship season have graduated, and Lapointe has been in the process of filling those holes since training camp.

"[The running back] position is up in the air, as we run multiple formations, etc.," he said in August. "The [quarterback] is another open position. Whoever wins the battle in the preseason will be our leader in that position. Each QB brings something unique to the position, so it's a good problem to have."

Powertown has been very successful in recent years. Three years in a row, Blue has won 10 games, and they've beaten arch-rival Greenfield a record 4 times in a row (and counting).

In that time span, the Tribe also took an Intercounty league crown and were the D6 Western Mass champions.

The IC champs' official opener will be this Saturday,



"Fall" season is here. Turners Falls and Ware football teams honed their skills in a scrimmage Saturday at the Bourbeau Fields Complex at Turners Falls High School.



Turners Falls' Ricky Craver completes the pass at the goal line during a scrimmage with Ware High School Saturday at the Bourbeau Fields Complex at Turners Falls High School.

September 12, in Easthampton. Easthampton has battled Turners for the IC crown in recent years. The first game of the season is very important, as it can be a momentum-setter, and playing one of the best teams in the League in that first game can amp up the pressure.

"I think week 1 is motivation enough," LaPointe said. "It doesn't matter who the opponent is... but playing a great team like Easthampton makes it a little more special."

The end of summer and the beginning of a new school year can mean many things. For the team, it means no more double sessions, and no more scrimmages. They finally get to play a real game and see if that championship crown still fits.

"We are excited for this season," Coach Lapointe added. "The boys have worked really hard, and it's good to be back on the field."

Indeed. It is good to have them back on the field.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY —
The garden has kept on growing while we are away. It is a pleasure to return to more ripe tomatoes and lovely waving leaves of Swiss chard. The weeds, too, have grown exponentially.

I don't begrudge the time spent on the weeds. It's a pleasantly mindless task of gripping handfuls and pulling them up roots and all if I'm lucky.

It requires a bit of muscle movement but no thought so my mind is free to wander.

"Woolgathering," my grandmother called it – when the mind wanders freely from one thought or memory, empty of worry.

It is a kind of mental cleansing, a meditation which is restful and which can occasionally produce an unexpected solution or plan.

The origin of woolgathering was far from the more current reading of the word as mere daydreaming.

In the 1550s it meant, literally, gathering the tufts of sheep's wool caught in the

Garden Therapy

briars, so as to use every bit. From this I take it that true woolgathering was a meaningful, if not thrifty, activity.

I like to think of my mental woolgathering in the same way. It refreshes the mind and often leads to useful thinking later.

Besides ridding the garden of weeds, pulling up unwanted growth at this time in the season assists the gardener in preparation for the next year's planting.

A hefty handful of weeds, roots and all, loosens the soil, in preparation for the next planting.

Because I rarely spade the soil anymore, I've also had the opportunity to visit our crop of earthworms.

Years and years ago when we bought the house and wanted to establish a garden, it was an uphill battle with brush and prickers, not to mention spots of very heavy, clay soil.

We ordered a package of a hundred earthworms to aerate and fertilize the soil before we ever attempted to plant.

We now have worms a fisherman dreams of: long, fat, healthy critters several generations later. We spade little to leave them to their work. After the weed pulling, we'll smooth the earth with the long tines of the potato rake, then spread a hefty layer of dried manure and compost in preparation for

next year's planting.

We've already been making a mental plan of next year's plot.

The once strawberry plot has yielded one full picking and the following year, a more sparse one. However small the second year, the berries were sweet and juicy.

Strawberry plots are a three-year project. For the first, the spring planting. Then the flower blossoms must be cut so that all the growth energy will go into the roots and plants.

The second year will yield the major crop. In the fall of that year, the sprawling plants are thinned out for good growing space, and some of the leaders set for new plants.

The third year you can enjoy a smaller picking after which the yields dwindle and it is time to start over with new seedlings.

Given the large space necessary for the minimum twenty-five plants you can buy, the gardener's labor and the waiting for the crop,

see GARDEN page B3

The Composer, the Clown, and the Coach: Young Partners in Circus



Lucia Mason, Jesse Ball, and Jaz Blain combine their skills in the Flying Rhubarb Circus.

By CELIA BALES

MONTAGUE – Jesse Ball, Jaz Blain, and Lucia Mason: as babies, they splashed each other in wading pools. As toddlers, they had sleepovers at each other's houses and played together at family potlucks. As kids, they shared classes at the Leverett Elementary School.

Now teenagers, this trio works together to create something remarkable, each with a unique and significant role. Jesse Ball works at a keyboard or behind the scenes backstage, while Jaz Blain's role is front and center – quite literally, drawing laughs and telling stories to audiences. Lucia Mason's place is in the air – climbing aerial fabric, posing on static trapeze – or on the ground,

directing performers. Their talents compliment each other beautifully as they collaborate to create the Traveling Rhubarb Circus.

The Composer

The circus choreographers were at a loss – they needed a special piece of music for their new production, *Timeless*, that would unwind like clockwork, building from a few simple notes into a flurry of motion.

Fortunately, 18-year-old composer and musician Jesse Ball was eager to take on the task. Jesse had composed a few jigs and reels, but the *Timeless* piece, called The Music Box, is his first foray into composing for performers.

Listening to The Music Box for the first time, TRC performer Ivy Muller pronounced the new piece "twinkly," and choreographer and director Lucia Mason characterized it as "magical" – perfect for the opening sequence.

Making music comes easily to Leverett resident Jesse, who plays piano, accordion, bass, guitar, concertina, and various drums, and will occasionally pick up an unfamiliar instrument and teach himself just for fun. A fan of Quebecois and Celtic music from a young age, he first played a cardboard violin and has been a member of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra since 2010.

Jesse, who also has a talent for designing lighting and sound systems, has headed the TRC tech crew for its 2013 and 2014 shows.

In between music and tech design, he picks cucumbers and melons at Red Fire Farm in Montague, and attends the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts (PVPA) charter school.

Jesse will record The Music Box on his hand-crafted hammer dulcimer for the upcoming performance of *Timeless*. Jesse's favorite thing about the TRC: "Watching the mistakes and realizing nobody has a clue other than us," he says. "The performers all suck it up and keep going."

see CIRCUS page B4

Pet of the Week

"BIDDLE"

Biddle on Biddle: Just as most kittens are I am playful and cuddly. Biddle on cats: I would love a

home where I would have a feline sibling to play with.

Biddle on dogs: I have never lived with dogs but with a slow and safe introduction I should be able to learn Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 how to cohabit with a canine.

Biddle and you: If you think I might be the perfect addition to your family please ask a staff member for more intriguing facts about me.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities September 14 to 18

GILL and MONTAGUE

9 a m. to 2 p.m.

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch Monday 9/14

8 a m. Foot Clinic Appointments 10:10 Aerobics 10:50 a m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 9/15

1 p.m. Veterans' Benefits Talk Wednesday 9/16

10:10 a m. Aerobics 10:50 a m. Chair Exercise

11 a.m. Grocery Tour - HFP

11:15 Friends Group Meeting 12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/17

9 a m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach 1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns Friday 9/18

10:10 a m. Aerobics

10:50 Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a m., with reservations required 24 hours in ad-

vance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 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.

Mon & Wed 11:30 a m. Lunch

Monday 9/14 9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 9/15

8 a.m. Bread & Jam Bus to Maine 8:45 a m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 Painting Class Wednesday 9/16

8:45 a m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga 12:15 Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 9/17 8:45 a m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles

12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class

Friday 9/18 9 a.m. Quilting,

9:30 a m. Bowling 11:30 Pizza & Movie

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.

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.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Local Music Spotlight: The Snaz

By PAM KINSMITH

New in our download listing and joining our regular program rotation is a performance by Vermont teenage phenoms The Snaz at this year's Upper Valley Music Festival.

"It's every disc jockey's dream to pop in an unknown record by an unknown band and then hear something that makes you believe that you may have dis-

covered the next big thing. You like it so much you rush to the radio to play it for everyone. That's what happened when I heard The Snaz's 'Anna'." - Monty Belmonte, WRSI The River.

Based in Brattleboro, this young up-and-coming four piece just came back from its summer tour which hit a serious high note when they played South by South-

Q. I'm 68 and my teeth are yel-

Whitening processes are effective.

Based on clinical studies, 96 percent

of patients with common stains ex-

ing has to be repeated periodically

if you want to maintain a sparkling

smile. Whiteness can start to fade in

bleaching system you buy over the

counter and use at home yourself.

A home-bleaching system that your

dentist supervises is the next step up.

Getting you teeth done in a dentist's

office usually is the most expensive

In addition to these options, you

can get your teeth whitened with

bonded resins and porcelain ve-

neers. Bonding a composite resin

onto the teeth can change its color.

This procedure usually can be done

in one office visit. Porcelain veneers

can be bonded onto stained teeth to

whiten them. Veneers require at least

There are also "whitening"

toothpastes. These toothpastes don't

change the shade of your teeth, but

help prevent stains from sticking to

your teeth. Whitening toothpastes

can be used to help preserve the re-

sults of a whitening procedure.

two office visits.

procedure. Costs vary widely.

The least expensive option is a

But, be forewarned that whiten-

perience some lightening effect.

low. I'm thinking of getting them

whitened. Is it worth it?

a month.



west in Austin, Texas, the 'go-to' festival for music afficionados and band recognition. That is nothing short of amazing, given that hundreds of bands apply annually and are rejected.

The Snaz was one of six bands accepted from Vermont this year. Not short on ingenuity, the band raised over \$5,000 through a successful Kickstarter campaign to get

them to the festival. Not bad at all for a bunch of junior high and high school students.

Though not old enough to hang out in the bars and clubs where they play, their energy and commitment to making music hasn't waned despite the difficulties. Keep your eye and ears on The Snaz, because these kids are going places!!

Something going on you think others would

like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capturing the moment!

Call (413) 863-9200, email infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER Gleamingly White Teeth

The most common reasons for yellow teeth are:

- · Aging. As we age, we accumulate surface stains. Also, the insides of our teeth yellow and can be seen through the outer enamel as it gradually becomes thinner over time.
- · Tobacco that is smoked or chewed.
- · Beverages such as coffee, tea, red wine and dark-colored soda.
- · Foods such as blueberries, tomato sauce, curry and soy sauce.

You can also have stains within a tooth. These can be caused by too much fluoride or certain antibiotics during tooth development. These stains are harder to treat than surface stains.

How should you proceed? I recommend seeing your dentist first. Don't go to the drugstore and start putting chemicals on your teeth without professional advice. Then choose the technique that is appropriate for you. Here are more details about your choices:

At Home

There are several types of products available for use at home, which can either be dispensed by your dentist or purchased over-thecounter.

OTC products include clear, peroxide-based gels you apply with a small brush. And there are almost invisible strips coated with a peroxide-based whitening gel that you place on your teeth.

The most popular option is doing the whitening at home under your dentist's supervision. You get trays molded to your teeth. These hold a peroxide whitening agent. The trays are usually made in one office visit. Then you wear the trays at home. Some products are used for about twice a day for two weeks, and others are intended for overnight use for one to two weeks.

Products used at home usually are not as strong as those used in a dentist's office.

In The Dentist's Office

In-office whitening can take between 30 and 90 minutes and can require up to three appointments. Or, whitening may involve two to six visits of about 45 minutes each.

With in-office bleaching, the whitening product is applied directly to the teeth. These products can be used in combination with heat, a special light, or a laser to accelerate the whitening.

Any cavities must be treated first, because the whitener can penetrate decay and cause sensitivity. Whitening will not work on exposed tooth roots, because roots do not have an enamel layer. Receding gums - an age-related problem - can cause roots to become exposed. Whitening also does not work on crowns or veneers.

Regular whitening may not improve the appearance of a tooth that has had root-canal treatment. A dentist can employ a special treatment to whiten the tooth from the inside.

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

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not to mention the commitment of that space for one crop only per season, we've decided we are better off going out picking at someone else's patch.

The current garden plan now allows more space in the vine crop section as now the early peas, leaf crops and beans can move to the former strawberry patch.

So the season winds down as the last harvests approach, but the garden therapy continues.

We look forward to drying herbs for the winter cooking.

In the past we've had great success drying basil for one minute in our low end microwave, then crumbling the dried leaves and storing the dry, fragrant herb in a tightly capped jar.

I look forward to trying the same with the thyme and even the flat-leaved parsley. We'll also dig and pot up one parsley plant for windowsill harvesting through the winter months.

What pleasure, too, in the fall planting of spring bulbs and garlic in late October or early November, just before the ground hardens up.

Garlic cloves set in a couple of inches pointed end up and covered with several inches of mulch will be ready to harvest in July of the

following year, and the spring bulbs you plant this fall will give you great pleasure in the early spring as you find yourself tiring heartily of the gray and the cold.

Enjoying the pergola now, we marvel at the scope and size of the project, and that we really did it! We've ordered two vines to be planted this fall and then to begin their growing and climbing on this wooden structure.

We've chosen two hardy flowering vines: a lavender Wisteria, which will bloom from May until August, and a Sweet Autumn Clematis with tiny, white flower stars for the second half of the season.

These perennials will no doubt take some time to develop, but should in a year or two provide a fragrant floral canopy which will please the gardener, and the butterflies and bees and hummingbirds.

Late summer is a lovely interlude between the heat and humidity and the crispness of the fall to come. With harvesting and new planting to be done, the last roses to enjoy and the splendid night sky of stars gracing the broad spread of the Milky Way, there is much to feed body and soul.

Happy gardening; enjoy the harvest!



BUMPUS from page B1

This endeavor, emphasizing the arts and world cultures, grew into a summer program called Adventure Playground. It remains in session to this day.

Another of Eshu's contributions is originating and directing an initiative entitled the Summer Theater Arts (STARTS).

This after-school program started in 1982 at Fort River School in Amherst, and evolved into the program now known as Capacidad.

"In the mid-1980s," said Eshu, "I decided to go freelance and do storytelling and do programs in different schools. I teach creative writing and tell stories."

Meanwhile, Eshu met Motoko, a wonderfully gifted performer.

Motoko has been his partner for the past 22 years and is internationally acclaimed. Motoko came to America in the 1980's as an exchange student.

She was an accomplished mime before adding storytelling to her repertoire. She, also, has an impressive list of credits including an

The Erving Cultural Council has

set an October 15, 2015 deadline

for organizations, schools and in-

dividuals to apply for grants that

ects and activities in Erving - includ-

appearance on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

"We do programs together and separately," said Eshu. "When Motoko and I do a multi-cultural program together, I focus on African, African American, and Caribbean material, while she focuses on stories from Asia, especially Japan and China."

Eshu Bumpus feels that storytelling is deeply ingrained in the human species. "It draws us all together in a special way. It's one of the most human things we do. It's very natural and very important to maintain this connection that only storytelling can create."

Bumpus continued, "We use our imaginations. We draw meanings from the story. We listen to each other. We listen together. It tells us so much about our shared experience as human beings."

For more information on Eshu Bumpus, and to find out about arranging a visit to your school, library or other sites, please see www.folktales.net.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Wolf-Dog; "I Didn't Say I Had an Emergency. Where's the Po-Po?"; Someone Angry A Beaver Is In A River

Sunday, 8/30

11:04 a.m. Caller reports that there is a lot of yelling, screaming, and fighting-type noise coming from the alley near 110 L Street; advises that this is an ongoing issue. Officer spoke to a party who was being loud and advised her of the complaint.

4:28 p.m. Caller is worried about a black truck on North Street; parties reportedly exited the truck with a bottle of white wine. When asked what else made him worry, he stated that when they got out of the truck, they, "you know?". Dispatch advised caller they do not know. Caller requests somebody police the area and possibly help those parties. Referred to an officer.

6:24 p.m. Caller reports that a dark green vehicle has been peeling out and speeding in the area of Fosters Road; today, the vehicle ran a stop sign and almost hit the caller, who was walking with her small child. Vehicle was reportedly dragging a shopping cart behind it, creating sparks. Officer spoke to parties in vehicle, who advised they were dragging a broken muffler, not a shopping cart. Officer checked area; no shopping cart located. Parties admitted to going too fast and were spoken to about this. 9:02 p.m. Caller reports that a male is walking around the area of Griswold Street swearing to himself. Officer out with male, who stated he is going home for the night. Nothing unusual observed.

Monday, 8/31

12:02 p.m.

was arrested on a straight warrant and charged with possession of a Class B drug, subsequent offense. 12:25 p.m. Purple and black girls' mountain bike with white dots reported stolen from entryway of a Millers Falls Road residence. Report taken.

2:04 p.m. Larceny reported on K Street; caller believes person known to her took her debit card and used it for unauthorized transac-

tions. Investigated. 2:26 p.m. Caller reports Fourth Street and that the child has been nearly struck several times. Area checked; nothing found.

3:50 p.m. was arrested on two default warrants and a straight warrant.

4:53 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports that her 12 year old son left a note

saying that he was running away. Boy last seen walking into the Plains. Officers on scene. Family able to make some contact with the child, who refused to come out of the woods. Child found and returned to parent.

Tuesday, 9/1

8:55 a.m. Report of ongoing problem with neighbor harassment on Newton Street. Referred to an officer.

12:03 p.m. Caller reporting a raccoon that appears to have been struck by a vehicle across the street from F.L Roberts; animal described as "bloody" and "freaking out." Officer located animal, which had died, and requested DPW for removal.

7:57 p.m. Caller from N Street complaining of neighbor mowing his lawn at this hour. Caller did not want to provide name, as she does not want it in the paper. When informed that names are not given to the paper, caller then provided her name and told the story of how she owns her house. Advised caller that an officer would respond. Caller subsequently dialed 911 to report same; when asked what her emergency was, she replied, "I didn't say I had an emergency. Where's the po-po?" Officer spoke to all parties involved, including caller, who was intoxicated; advised of options.

Wednesday, 9/2

2:03 a.m. Following a report of an assault and battery at 15 Fifth Street,

was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon. 6:47 p.m.

arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (3rd offense); operating to endanger; operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended/ revoked for OUI; failure to stop for police; uninsured motor vehicle; operating an uninsured motor vehicle/trailer; marked lanes violation; failure to stop for a stop sign; speeding; and a default warrant.

6:57 p.m. Caller reports that her dog was attacked by a "wolf-dog" in the dog

area and doesn't want the "wolf" to attack the baby. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

10:45 p.m. Caller reports a male party sitting in his underwear on Fourth Street; advises male has been like this for a couple of hours now. Area checked; nothing found.

11:26 p.m. Caller requests that an officer check the area of 15 Fifth Street; her ex-husband has her bike and refuses to return it, and caller states he is en route to this address to "buy drugs." Info given to patrol officers.

Thursday, 9/3

3:41 p.m. Report of trailer stolen from behind Franklin County Regional Housing Authority building. Vehicle entered as stolen; report taken.

5:14 p.m. Officers out with a bald eagle in the airport curve area of Millers Falls Road, checking to see if bird is injured. Eagle was dining on the side of the road, causing some traffic issues. Eagle has flown into a nearby tree and its dinner is being relocated off the roadway. Parties on scene taking photos were asked to move along to avoid obstructing traffic. 6:52 p.m. Caller from Turn-

ers Falls Road reports an

"aggressive" beaver in the river behind her house. She advises this is an area where her family swims, and they were "pushed out of the river" due to this animal. Environmental police advise that if the animal is in the water, it is not likely to be ill; it may be protecting a nest/young. Caller advised to stay out of water and away from animal. Caller not entirely happy with response; given phone number for environmental fault warrant. police. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

10:56 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports a vehicle went off the road and struck several mailboxes. Involved driver reports he swerved to avoid something in the road and crashed; denies any impairment or injury. Driver blew .000 on a breathalyzer test; information exchanged; units clear.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!

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CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO:

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Friday, 9/4

brings her baby to this Hollow. MPD officers on scene to divert traffic from Route 2 onto Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. 9:40 a.m.

> was arrested on a default warrant.

10:39 a.m. Report of 2 teenagers in a black Toyota Rav4 circling the block and TFHS parking lot while dressed in police uniforms. Officer checked area; unable to locate. Staff at high school advise that students are filming for a project. 1:30 p.m. Caller complaining of harassment from her sister, with whom she resides; advises that sister

regularly slides notes under her door that annoy her and makes snide remarks in passing. Officer spoke with caller and advised her of her options.

2:04 p.m. Officer requested for a male causing a disturbance outside of Food City: swearing, pushing shopping cart into things, etc. Witnesses advise that subject is now in Peske Park. Subject spoken to about behavior and advised not to return.

6:53 p.m. Party into station with a cell phone that a "female I got involved with" left in his car; he states that the female is now threatening to report the phone stolen. While officer was with party, female called him and could be heard threatening to call the police on him. Party attempted to explain to her that he was at MPD with the phone. It appears the female was asking the male to meet her on Avenue A. Officer accompanied party to exchange; phone returned to female.

Saturday, 9/5 3:13 p.m.

was arrested on a de-

6:50 p.m. Caller advises that a group of people are protesting the pipeline on Ferry Road and that a car is parked blocking the roadway. Officers checked area; nothing found.

Sunday, 9/6

1:56 a.m. TFFD heard responding to Unity Street for an outside fire involving a torch. Fire extinguished. 12:03 p.m. Caller from N Street inquiring about the rules for having and shooting a BB gun outside her house. Officer spoke to party.

support cultural activities in the comthat a female is allowing walk area at Unity Park. 1:44 a.m. Copied via ramunity. supporting thousands of communitya young child to play in Caller concerned about dio regarding a tractor According to Council spokesperbased projects in the arts, sciences trailer rollover in Factory the road at Avenue A and the "wolf" because she son Megan Niedzwiedz, these grants and humanities every year. can support a variety of artistic proj-

ing exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures. The Erving Cultural Council will also entertain funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, a ticket

Erving Cultural Council

Seeks Funding Proposals

children. The Erving Cultural Council is

subsidy program for school-aged

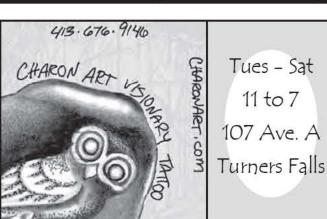
part of a network of 329 local councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation,

Contact Megan Niedwiedz, Erving Cultural Council Chairperson, at (413) 522-2447 or megan. niedzwiedz@gmail.com for specific guidelines and information. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available on the web at www.mass-culture.org/Icc public. asp._ Please be sure to supply the Cultural Council with 10 (ten) copies of your application.

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Timeless

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Follow the story of toys that don't want to go to sleep as they come to life on aerial fabric, trapeze, lycra, acrobatics and more!

Written, produced and performed by kids between the ages of 6 and 18.

A production of the Traveling Rhubarb Circus, a kid-run circus now in its 4th year.

> Friday, September 18 6:30 p m.

Saturday, September 19 3 p.m. and 6:30 p m.

Sunday, September 20 3 p.m.

Adults \$10, kids (3-12) \$7

Located at the barn at 2 North St., Montague, MA Tickets available online at www.travelingrhubarb.com

Note: early ticket purchase advised; performances sell out quickly!

For more information, call (413) 367-9923.

CIRCUS from page B1



Lucia Mason coaches Maeve Beck in refining her act on the fabric.

The Clown

Costumes can convey characters, but communicating a storyline to an audience through aerials, acrobatics, and juggling alone is a challenge. To help clue audience members into their plot line, the TRC decided they needed a clown, and turned to friend and accomplished actor Jaz Blain, who also lives in Leverett.

Jaz, 17, explains, "I have a knack for being silly - I really like wild chaotic comedy and doing artsy and creative things. That's what feeds my soul - exploring human nature and dreams, making that a reality."

Clowning around is what Jaz does best. From childhood goofball to teenage stand-up comic, they have been hilarious at every stage, including the stage at the theater.

This slapstick artist worked together with TRC troupe members to come up with comedy routines to make little kids giggle and adults roll in their seats. This year another of Jaz's talents is on display: constructing stupendous costumes.

After quickly working up some sketches of the grandfather clock character, Jaz approached teachers at PVPA who had experience in foam sculpting for advice.

"I cut soft sheet foam into shapes with a band saw to get the box shape of the clock body and shoulders. Then I spray-glued all the pieces together, and attached hand-carved angular pieces

at the top. After that, I covered it all in fabric, and sewed the seams so it wouldn't come apart.

"The fleur-de-lis and the clock hand involved special carving on tougher foam because they're small and more detailed. I glued the clock hand to my face with spirit gum, which is always fun. It does not smell so pleasant!"

Asked about the clock character, Jaz explains, "there are going to be a lot of clock puns. My monologue will be in rhyme; that will be really fun, and make it easy to memorize." Jaz loves to watch the members of the troupe perform, particularly "watching these really young kids do these amazing circus tricks."

The Coach

Not many teenagers would take on the responsibility for mentoring 10 to 12 young performers of varying levels and ages. Many of the troupe joined with no previous experience, but that was no issue for 17-year-old veteran performer Lucia Mason.

Friends joke that Lucia Mason was born to climb. Even when she was still an infant, she refused to let her head be supported and wiggled constantly. As she grew, she learned to love scrambling up boulders and climbing 30-foot-high trees, much to the terror of mothers everywhere.

Diligent and precocious, Lucia never stops



Jaz Blain sports a grandfather clock costume in Timeless.



Members of the Traveling Rhubarb Circus.

moving and creating. With training from the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA), she learned to execute dramatic drops in fabric high in the air, suspend a partner by her feet on trapeze, juggle while standing on someone's shoulders, and build human pyramids. Lucia teaches these skills, and more, to a gaggle of young kids and teens who perform with the TRC.

As choreographer, she collaborates with fellow performers Ivy Muller and Celia Bales to come up with new story concepts and fun acts. She manages the role of being the person that everyone loads extra work onto with incredible grace and good humor, even when she has to stay up late constructing costumes or making posters.

Despite the stress and time commitment of being the head and founder of the TRC, she says that it is all worth it when the music for bows begins after the show. She says, "I metaphorically tear up because I'm just so proud of the work everyone's done. Only metaphorically though, because after a show I'm too exhausted to express emotions. But I just get so proud of all of them."

A resident of Montague, Lucia attends Four Rivers Charter School and stays in shape playing Ultimate Frisbee and participating in NECCA's advanced youth troupe. Her favorite thing about the TRC: "Being with everyone and pretending to lead the circus."

WENDELL:





LEFT: US Department of Agriculture loan specialist Steven Bonavita, former community kitchen committee chair Judy Hall and community kitchen coordinator Heather Willey stand in front of the range hood and fire suppression system in the recently renovated Wendell town ball kitchen.

Bonavita's inspection of the renovation was the final step in approving grant money for the town. According to Wendell treasurer Carolyn Manley, USDA reimbursed the town \$7,600 for the renovation in September.



LEFT: Mother Turtle gets the Old Home Day crowd chanting.

RIGHT: "The Kin of Wendell" rock out during Old Home Day.



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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Celtic Sessions, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

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

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: Evening Story Time. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Kidleidoscope. Hands-on environmental experience for young children, 3-6 years. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library Spanish Conversation Group. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5

EVERY WEDNESDAY

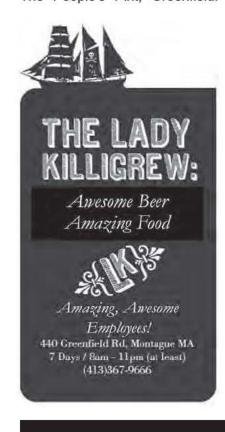
Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2-6 p.m. Through October 30.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Story Time: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield:



Derek Bridges, live acoustic quitar, 7 p.m.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: TNT Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: Story Hour, stories and a hands-on craft project. 10 a.m.

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: September is Turners Falls History Month. Collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Turners Falls RiverCulture. Great Hall Art Display: Great Gods and Little Fishes, new paintings by Charles Shaw. September 1 - 26. Open 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

Leverett Crafts & Arts: Painting Buddies. LCA resident Susan Valentine and core group of painters from Greenfield Community College: Mari Rovang, Frankie Dack, Penne Krol, Sandy Walsh and Karen Chapman exhibit September 2-27. Artist reception September 13, 4-6 p.m.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: Lines Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines. New pencil and ink drawings as well as Da'Muse wire figures and layered sculptures of Glenn Ridler. Through 10/18.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Sculpture by Elizabeth Denny. Found objects transformed with humor and an acetylene torch. Show through 9/12.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists Group Exhibit. September 4-November 1. Artist reception is September 12 at 5 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Pottery, fiber art and clothing, jewelry, ceramic tiles, paper art constructions. Oil, acrylic and water color paintings. Photography. Original arts for children. Check website for seasonal www. sawmillriverarts .com Show through October.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: "Crisp! ", A group show by artists at the Shelburne Arts Cooperative; August 26 through September 28

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring

fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us

EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: 167th Annual Franklin County Fair. 9/10 through 9/13. For schedule of events and admission, see http://www.fcas.com

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Dave Plavin All-Stars. With special guest Abe Loomis & Bright Lines. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic Comedy with Zack & CJ & cohorts. 9 p.m.

turing The SIFT House Team law country. 9 p.m. and The Ha-Ha's. 8:00 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Seth Adam. Pop rock. Kevin Ray. Piano driven rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Zydeco Connection. Zydeco. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Shokazoba, Afro-funk. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

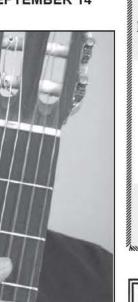
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: LIttle Birds. New folk. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Crow's Rebellion. Warped Americana. 8

Montague Bookmill, Montague: Causings. Experimental family music. 8 p.m. \$

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14



On Friday September 11, 7 p.m., Jim Scott will perform in the Great Hall

at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim is a composer, guitarist and singer. 'He brings a warmth and humor to his jazz and world music influenced songs." Doors open at 6:30 with coffee and baked goods available. All donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free nature programming for the public.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: Second Friday Fun From 4-6 p.m., hands-on art making for all ages; this month: Ancient Art--Discover how contemporary artist Jane Hammond gained inspiration from Ancient Egyptian writing and art. At 6 p.m.: Open Eyes: Guided conversation exploring a different work of art each month. Free.

Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse, Jim Scott. 7 p.m. (see photo)

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band. 7

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: Jim Armenti. Pop rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Barrett Anderson. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Arts Block, Greenfield: Happier Valley Comedy Show fea-

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Kidleidoscope. This week it's Raptors! See Every Tuesday for details. 10:30

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

RiverCulture, Turners Falls: Third Thursday Event: Latino History Day in Turners Falls at the Shea Theater and other venues downtown. See full details herencialatina2015-16.org and turnersfallsriverculture.org or on page A3. 4 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Half Shaved Jazz. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Tommy Filiault Trio. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Deja Brew, Wendell: Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros. Out-

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Making Eyes, Community Smokes. Eletropop/reggae/funk. 9:30 p.m.



Friday & Saturday September 11-12, 7:30 p.m. Francois Truffaut's "DAY FOR NIGHT"

Music at 7 p.m. Friday: Rick Murnane, singer/songwriter Saturday: Annie and Jason, pop duo.

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896



Friday, 9/11 9 p.m. Barrett Anderson Saturday, 9/12 9 p.m. Zydeco Connection Sunday, 9/13 8 p.m. Crow's Rebellion Thursday, 9/178 p.m. Tommy Filiault Trio

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Cool music on a hot summer's day: Tim Rieman listens as fiddlers Donna Francis (with her back to the camera), David Kaynor, Pam Gonyer, and Mary Beth Ryan play Irish reels and jigs, old-time tunes, and some newly composed music last week at the Great Falls Farmers Market.



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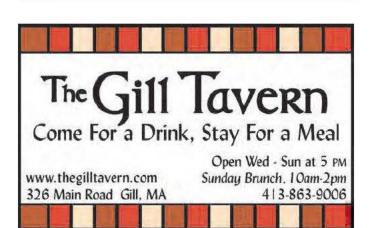
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