



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 5

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Housing & Redevelopment Authority Hires New Director

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority has a new executive director. Fran Pheeny, who has made a career in housing advocacy and development, started on the job October 19, and is busy learning the ropes at an organization with many behind-the-scenes functions in our county.

Pheeny replaces onetime Montague town planner Robin Sherman in the position. After seven years at the organization's helm, Sherman is moving to Alaska.

Pheeny has also assumed Sherman's role as director of Rural Development, Inc. (RDI), the nonprofit that owns developments including Montague's Crocker and Cutlery Block buildings, and of the Shelburne Housing Authority.

"I've been a traveler," Pheeny



Fran Pheeny

says. Geographically, this has meant coming full circle. After attending UMass-Amherst as an undergraduate, she worked as a paralegal at a law firm that specialized in landlord/tenant issues, where she says she first "got bit by the housing bug" 25 years ago.

She went on to attain a master's

see FCHRA page A5

State Expands Discovery Center Winter Hours, Staffing

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The Great Falls Discovery Center in will continue its regular hours of operation during the coming winter, a representative of the Friends of the Discovery Center told the Montague selectboard at its Monday meeting.

The status of the Center's winter season was cast into question when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in early August that it was ending its financial support for

the Center, due to federal budgetary constraints.

But the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will apparently pick up a good deal of the staffing slack, at least until the end of next April, when expanded summer programming traditionally begins.

On Wednesday DCR announced that the center would be open during the coming winter between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Wednesdays through

see CENTER page A6

Town Wins Grant for Parking Lot at Sculpture Park Site

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last week, state Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development awarded Montague a \$352,785 MassWorks grant to develop a parcel on the corner of Canal and Third streets into a thirty-spot parking lot in 2016.

A concept design for the project has existed for 14 years, dating to the beginning of efforts to knock down a hazardous abandoned garage and remove toxins from the soil. And for years, the town has cited the potential parking lot when

trying to entice developers to the empty Strathmore mill complex that sits across the power canal.

But its main interim use has been a highly visible public art project marked as the "3rd Street Youth Sculpture Park."

Next year, town planner Walter Ramsey said, town hall will "give everybody the opportunity to come in and remove their personal pieces, and the site will be cleaned" in preparation for the new construction.

"We have one year to complete the project from when it's awarded," Ramsey explained. "We're planning

see PARKING page A6

Ketchup and Poetry Make a Good Pair at the Wagon Wheel

By NINA ROSSI

GILL – If you don't go to poetry readings because you've imagined it as a forum for ponderous work that takes itself too seriously – to the point of being inaccessible to the general public – then you need to experience a Wagon Wheel Word night on the next first Monday of the month.

You don't necessarily need to commit to being there to hear the readers at this open poetry mic, since you may go in under the guise of just having dinner, and leave when you are finished. But, I'm willing to bet that you will stay on long past your dessert of homemade ice cream – Cider and Donuts, Cherry Pie, and Nutella Swirl, among other inventive flavors – to hear the offerings of area writers, because it's actually a fun time.

The event is the brainchild of Lea Banks and Eric Wasileski, and it was a stroke of brilliance to bring "word night" to this homey restaurant on the French King Highway in Gill.

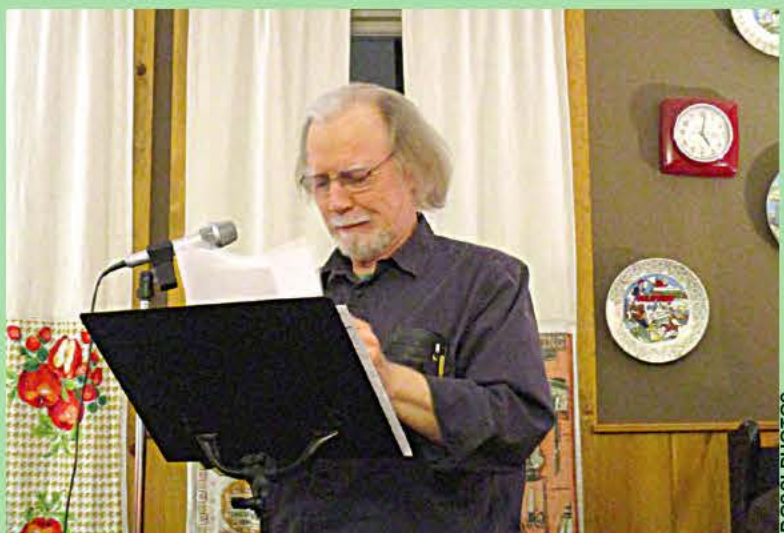


Candace Curran reads from her poetry collection "Playing In Wrecks" at Monday's Wagon Wheel Word event.

Amidst an eclectic collection of kitchen clocks, with old-fashioned dishtowel curtains on the windows and a wall of paint-by-numbers art, a diversity of "word" unrolls over the course of two hours to nourish the mind and heart of an equally diverse audience.

And as Trish Crapo exclaimed

see POETRY page A4



Chris O'Carroll elicited laughs from the audience with his humorous poems.

GILL SELECTBOARD

That's a Paddlin': Gill to Host Canoe, Kayak Race in August

By EDITE CUNHA

Patricia and Peter Heed of Keene, New Hampshire appeared before the Gill selectboard on Monday night to inform them of a national paddling competition scheduled to take place on the Connecticut River between Gill and Northfield in the summer of 2016, and to ask for the town's cooperation and support.

Peter Heed is the president of The United States Canoe Association (USCA), and co-director of the national competition. The 2016 USCA Marathon Nationals is hosted by the New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association, a 33-year-old non-profit paddling organization dedicated to promoting paddle sport in the New England region.

According to Patricia and Peter Heed, the event will attract 600 to 900 competitors from across the country, many of them Olympic-quality paddlers.

"It's a family event," said Peter Heed. "Competitors bring families with them. Some camp, and some will stay in hotels, motels."

The event moves around the country. "We were in western Pennsylvania last year, and in Michigan the year before that," Peter Heed explained. "Gill has the kind of New England beauty the organization loves. Most of the competitors are from the Midwest, and they really want to come to New England."

Patricia Heed said that it is

see GILL page A5



JACKSON PHOTO

Over the last eight years, the youth sculpture park has grown familiar to locals.



JACKSON PHOTOS

Ivy Bettencourt (above, with Bill) and Jaxon Daniels (right, with Denise) took prizes in the "cutest" category.

Left: Turners Falls' Halloween Rag Shag parade headed up the Ave on Saturday. Below: Luke and Corin Wisniewski won a prize for most inventive costume (boys').



The Montague Reporter

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Just Leaf Them There

Every New England season comes with its traditional domestic chores, indoors and out. When deciduous trees brace for cold, they sever and shed their leaves. A typical tree will have anywhere from 20,000 to 200,000 leaves, and then its branches are bare, and the ground is covered with them, and we sigh and get out the rake.

As California goes, so goes the nation (perhaps), and perhaps 2015, the year of an epic drought out West, will go down in history as the beginning of the end for the traditional U.S. American lawn.

Science hippies have for years been suggesting we should neglect our raking chores, and just let the dead leaves sit and rot and smother and wreck the grass.

The more polite among them will concede that the mulching properties of leaves can also be harnessed and redirected, but the pee-and-don't-flush crowd, who seem to think the natural world will become whole again if we agree to let its respective fragments fester, look on raking as a gateway chore to burying styrofoam or giving your backyard shalefield a good spring fracking.

And sure, it probably stands to reason that plant litter protects soil from erosion and wildfire, feeds the worms and earwigs, and re-

stores minerals and other goodies to the earth if we let it decompose.

But it doesn't make it normal. Keeping an orderly and well-sculpted lawn has been a sign of being a good and responsible neighbor – traditional crew-cut yards and shrubs still contribute to neighborhood home values, after all – but the social values that underpin them are being cast into murk and confusion in this new era of national landscaping introspection.

When no less a bellwether than *Montague Reporter* parent publication *USA TODAY* is now warning its readers off raking, the times are indeed changing.

Assuming it's not all yet another science hoax propagated by lazy teens on their smartphones, there are still some good strategies that will let you combine the no-raking directive with hard work and a smart, inedible spring lawn.

The best among these is outfitting your gas-fueled lawnmower with special mulching blades and a side discharge chute. Mow in a pattern that brings you back over the discharge, and pulverize the leaves into a fine, quick-rotting powder, feeding carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus back onto the ground.

There, you're doing a good job again. Until, that is, they find a reason to tell you not to shovel snow.

Letter to the Editors



Pretty Much, Yeah

Isn't it sad – this world we live in? We run around like children not yet fully comprehending how the game has been rigged and how we're the ones getting the shaft.

The corporate class must be applauded for its ingenuity and zeal in concocting state-of-the-art methods to keep the majority of human beings from admission to the banquet of life. The corporate class wants it all. The corporate class is stuck in an addictive mode: there is no such thing as enough. This disease carries the additional feature of stimulating a fierce rejection of the idea of dignity and prosperity to all. These folks are very happy to feed off the misery of the human condition.

Their new gimmick of deception is the arbitration clause you may easily overlook if you find yourself signing a contract related to the purchase of a consumer good, or related to employment.

The arbitration clause, essentially, prevents the individual from participating in a class-action suit against the corporation. It is impossible for the individual to go up against a corporation except through class-action. Corporate legal teams can squash the individual claimant like a bug.

Arbitration is a rigged game as well. It has been found to be heavily favorable to the corporation, ruling against the individual in issues as crucial as mysterious fees added to your monthly bill, defective consumer products, discrimination in the work place, and breach of contract. No means of redress.

They can do whatever they want to us. They make the rules that get their grasping little paws into our pockets. And they feast while we grind away trying to make the next monthly payment, trying to keep the credit clean, trying to make the numbers work, trying to keep it all together under the enormous pressures that economic factors put on families.

And the politicians? They do nothing! Or they collude in the plunder!

Ralph J. Dolan
Haydenville

"A Life In Leaves"



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Look to the Skies

Encke's Comet is a three-mile-wide lump of space dirt and ice, spiraling incrementally toward our sun in a wobbly, egg-shaped orbit.

Every 33 years it passes within 25 million miles of our own planet. Every 10 it is close enough to the sun to be visible from the Northern Hemisphere.

And roughly every year, around late October and early November, we drift through a wispy trail of pebbles and dust that travel in its wake: the Taurids.

Many of us are more familiar with the Perseids, the late-summer debris tail of the larger and usually more distant Comet Swift-Tuttle.

The Perseids can best be watched lying on a blanket in a dark August field in the hours before dawn, and perhaps for related reasons, the ancient Romans believed they were the issuance of the god Priapus as he fertilized the gardens and orchards.

It's colder out when we pass through the Taurids, and fewer of

them enter the atmosphere, but those that do can appear as spectacular, streaking fireballs.

This year the shower is expected to be a strong one, peaking on November 11 and 12. Around the *MR* office we've heard several mentions of bright shooting stars this week.

From wherever you are, find Orion, and follow his bow toward the bull Taurus. Many of the Taurids will seem to emanate from this section of the sky.

But that's not all to watch for.

Science hippies are still trying to figure out quite how it happens, but our sun is just so big and just so hot that the churning convections of its plasma generate ever-pulsing waves of electromagnetic energy.

These create a vast magnetic field that itself shifts and changes year by year, its varying flux density creating perturbations in the star's protosphere known as sunspots.

Where these stiller, cooler spots cluster, there is an increase in the rude

ejections of gas and energy out through its corona into the solar wind.

These days the intensity of this magnetic activity is rising and falling at a rough eleven-year rhythm. Last year we passed the crest, or maximum, of this cycle, and as a result, magnetic ripples borne on the solar wind are disturbing the magnetosphere at our own planet's poles more than normal.

This plays around with the charges of particles, causing them to emit different frequencies of light – excited oxygen and nitrogen atoms can create a shimmering greenish glow, capped with red, in the northern sky.

This week, a coronal mass ejection produced a spectacular wave of this "aurora borealis," visible much further south than usual.

It seems to be subsiding, and so far southern New England has missed out on the show, but it is worth checking on *spaceweather.gov* this week, and stocking up on hot cocoa.

We are lucky to have been born in such a fantastic universe.

Seeking: A Science Editor

The *Montague Reporter* has for years published a monthly poetry page, and this October, we were proud to debut a new feature, a monthly Spanish-language page, which we hope will be of interest to learners and native speakers of Spanish.

If you're interested in getting involved in either of these projects, email poetry@montaguereporter.org, or spanish@montaguereporter.org, or just call us at 863-8666.

We're hoping to expand the idea a step further, and we know what's next on our wish list: a science page. There are plenty of professional and amateur scientists in the area, and our science features are always well-received.

We'd like to get this started as early as December or January, but we're lacking the right skill set in house to oversee the project. If you think you might want to give it a shot, please do get in touch: email Mike at editor@montaguereporter.org, and Nina at features@montaguereporter.org.

Also, if you're interested in writing for the page at some point, drop us a line and let us know about your specialties, or what it is you're curious about.

And if you or your business are interested in underwriting local science journalism and features writing, contact Hannah at ads@montaguereporter.org.

As with every aspect of this paper, absolutely no prior experience of any sort is necessary – just a love of learning, and a willingness to puzzle things through together.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Tomorrow evening, Friday, November 6, at 7 p.m., the **2015 Pioneer Valley Transition Towns Film Festival** will be held at GCC's Cohn Dining Commons.

The juried films cover topics including: how a vet is helping on the home front; recycling food waste with goats; eco-friendly diaper service; sustainable agriculture in Holyoke; reconstructing the Norwottuck rail trail; electrifying bicycles; and more.

Films from this season will be shown on local access stations including MCTV and GCTV. The festival's main sponsor is the Pioneer Valley Institute. Admission is free and open to the public.

Our Lady of Peace Women's Group will be having their annual **Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls.

There will be homemade crafts, multi-affle table; baked goods, homemade apple pies; attic treasures; a children's room; Christmas items; gift baskets and much, much more. Lunch will be available at the Christmas Cookie Café.

Also on Saturday a **Holiday Craft Fair** just down the road at St. Kaz, 197 Avenue A, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Santa will visit from 10 a.m. to noon.

Stop by and meet some of the people who **welcome immigrants into our community** at Immigrants Day in the community room of Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, November 7, from 10 to 11 a.m.

This event will provide information about services for people who have come from other countries to join our community. For people who were born here, come learn about

volunteer opportunities. Sponsored by the Franklin County Immigrant Service Providers Coalition.

Also on Saturday, November 7 from 12:30 until 4 p.m., families can experience **how logs were cut and transported** down the Connecticut River in the late 1800s.

Join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff to learn how to use a hand-held saw and a peavey to cut and roll small logs.

Afterwards the group will hike a quarter-mile unmarked trail to the riverside where log drivers worked to prevent and remove log jams that could clog the river for up to two years. Hard-working lumbermen ate a lot, and you will help build a campfire, bake bread on a stick and try another favorite lumberjack food.

Families will leave with new connections to the river – a hidden riverside trail, some useful woods skills and recipes, and a taste of the life of the "River Hogs." No wild-cat lugging required.

This is a free event and is appropriate for ages 6 and older. Please call to pre-register at (413) 659-4426.

The Leverett Congregational Church (LCC) on Sunday, November 8, 10 to 11 a.m., welcomes the community to join in a **Taize service of short readings** and simple repetitive songs, for a reflective, meditative service.

Taize services began in 1940s France, and embrace a tradition of peace and justice while seeking to include people, traditions, and languages worldwide.

The LCC congregation is open, affirming and children friendly. All are welcome to this free event. The LCC is located across from the Leverett Post Office.

The **Friends of the Wendell Free Library** are sponsoring a con-

cert, "Stephen Broll and Friends," on Sunday, November 8, starting at 4 p.m. in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Library.

The concert will include a clarinet duet by Stephen Broll and Mary Ellen Miller; Flootissimo, a flute quartet featuring Deb Kilyanczik, Amara Cunningham, Jen Kramer, and Laura Botkin; Paul Wanta on guitar, and Anna Wetherby on viola.

Refreshments will be served. Donations are welcome with all proceeds to support continuing Thursday hours at the library. For more information, call the library at (978) 544-3559.

All through November, **Leverett Crafts and Arts is hosting a Resident Artists Exhibit** of paintings, graphic art, pottery and more, in Barnes Gallery, 13 Montague Road, Leverett.

The gallery is open Sundays from noon to 5 p.m., and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday the 8th there will be a reception. Visit barnesgallery.org for more information.

There will be a training on Friday the thirteen of November at 10:30 a.m. for Gill residents to learn to use the new **state-of-the-art AV system recently installed at the Gill Town Hall**.

This equipment was purchased with PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) Access funds, a percentage of the money Comcast collects from Gill customers.

The system will enable multi-camera shoots to record town meetings and selectboard meetings, or any other events in the upstairs meeting room of Town Hall, and to broadcast them live.

Gill Town Hall is located at 325 Main Road in Gill. For more information contact jmasucci@msn.com or (413) 863-8694.

The Great Falls Coffeehouse in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center features a theme of "**Outbreak of Peace**" on Friday the 13th. Sarah Pirtle and friends present songs and stories for peace.

Each month the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center host an evening coffeehouse with local musical talent. Refreshments available. Museum and museum store open during intermission.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with

the concert starting at 7 p.m.

Montague Congregational Church, 4 North Street, Montague holds their "**Fair Noel**" on Saturday, November 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Plenty of crafts, homemade food, drawing for a fresh turkey, drawing for a Christmas Nook.

There's a used clothing sale, morning coffee with homemade cider donuts, muffins, lunch of corn chowder/gluten free minestrone and sandwiches. All proceeds benefit local and global mission programs as well as Church building programs. For details: (413) 367-2601, or 367-2812.

Meet the masseuse! The public is invited to an open house on Saturday, November 14, at Gretchen Wetherby, L.M.T.'s massage studio at 14 Bridge Street in Millers Falls from 1 to 5 p.m.

There will be Rossiter System demonstrations, refreshments, and chances to win a free massage. The Rossiter system is a two-person stretching program aimed to relieve pain and discomfort.

Many of the artists at **Sawmill River Arts at the Montague Mill** were able to enjoy and be inspired by the Van Gogh exhibit at the Clark Museum this summer. Now they have challenged themselves to create art works based on Van Gogh paintings.

These pieces will be featured throughout November, along with a Treasure Hunt for customers, who are encouraged to find each artist's Van Gogh and enter their Treasure Hunt form for a door prize basket of donations from gallery artists. The drawing will be Sunday, November 29.

Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. The gallery is closed Tuesdays. For more information, see www.sawmillriverarts.com, or call (413) 367-2885.

The *Montague Reporter* is still looking for a delivery person for parts of Erving and Millers Falls. Please call 863-8666.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

G-M to Upgrade Computer Systems

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

At their meeting on October 27, at Turners Falls High School, the Gill-Montague school committee unanimously approved a request from superintendent Michael Sullivan to purchase a new computer server, to replace the one that "crashed" in September.

The aging computer servers the school has been using function to support many desktop computers throughout the schools. Sullivan explained that the computer network used over the last several years is what's known as a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), with three centralized servers that host desktop operating systems.

The servers connect to a large number of desktop computers at remote locations that are used by both students and staff. Sullivan

explained the current system to the school committee.

"VDI is a relatively low cost form of desktop computing which does not require much computing power at the site of each user machine," he said. "Rather, the power and storage are at a centralized location."

Sullivan further explained that the choice of this system allowed the district to purchase a great number of low-cost computers to work with the central server, but over time the staff and student computers have been aging. At the same time, new systems and products have been developed, allowing many new possibilities.

With the crash of one of the three main servers in September, which has been causing significant problems with communications and other issues since it occurred, the need to make changes has become clear.

After reviewing the current system's problems, and conferring with technical experts, the decision was made to go in a new direction. Rather than spending an estimated \$8,000 to \$10,000 dollars repairing, patching and upgrading their old system, something that would require continued expenditures, the administration asked their technology department to see what else they could do.

With the help of Angela Burke, a technical director from the Collaborative for Educational Services, William St. Cyr, the district's director of technology, and outside consultant Andrew Baylock, a decision was made to purchase a new HP dual 18 core processor for \$22,260.

Sullivan said the purchase of this new stand alone server with allow them to begin the process of migrating away from the interconnected

network that has caused recent problems. He also noted the newer options for students and staff. The district will be able to replace the old desktop computers with more cloud based technology.

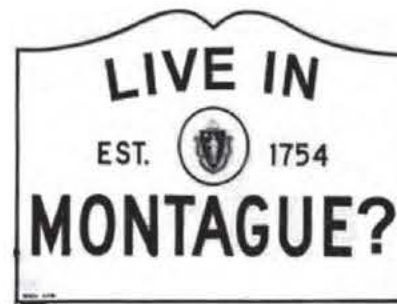
He said, "We have many teachers eager to make greater use of iPads and to begin to use Chromebooks."

Marjorie Levenson asked about future costs. "Servers generally have a five-year shelf-life so we should know that this is a cost that will come up – say every four or five years. This is not twenty-two grand plus for 10 to 15 years, but for four to six years," she said.

Levenson said she agreed with the current decision but cited a need to discuss, at a future meeting, a more long-range plan.

Sullivan agreed, and said that the district should consider with what regularity and at what cost it should plan for technology expenses.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, at the Turners Falls High School TV studio, at 6:30 p.m.



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week ending 10/23/2015:

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Avery Medieros

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Haleigh Greene

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Madeline Williams

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POETRY from page A1

when it was her turn at the microphone, “It’s **great to be in a place** that serves a BLT on gluten-free bread, and also has a bottle of ketchup on the book table!”

Each Wagon Wheel Word has a featured artist, and November’s was Candace Curran of Orange. Curran read at the end of the evening from her latest book, *Playing in Wrecks*, published by Haley’s of Athol, and from the anthology *Bone Cages*. She was awarded the Poet’s Seat Laureate award twice, before the rules were changed so no poet can win it more than once.

Curran’s work paints vivid images; the artist likens poetry to “small paintings.” Since the 1990s she has organized an annual collaboration between poets and artists resulting in a presentation and exhibit called “Interface.”



Event co-organizer Lea Banks reads one of her poems at the Wagon Wheel Word night.

Banks introduced Curran as an “astounding, quirky, heart-felt and heart-broke poet.” Her work is, indeed, as innovative and invigorating as Banks predicted. A few of the phrases in Curran’s poems stuck out for me, such as “sloppy grins like runny eggs,” “trees that look painfully plucked,” and “blood red berries [like] sequined sentinels.”

The contributions of the writers who read from their work during the rest of the night elicited laughter as well as sympathetic groans and sighs from the audience that filled the cozy dining room. Appreciation was shown by copious

applause, and generous donations to a collection plate on the book table, which helps cover expenses such as covering the dinner tab for featured readers.

Most who got up to the microphone read from sheets of paper, but also seen were people who hadn’t planned to read, and were reading from their phone. One poet placed his laptop on the podium to read his work, reading to an audience for the first time in 35 years. Another read from a volume that he’d had bound so as to feel that he was “getting somewhere.”

A lovely exchange was witnessed when one woman read a poem to her 8-year-old granddaughter, who sat enraptured by the sweet embrace of her words. The poem described how the two of them had formed a special bond over a mutual love of poetry that no one else in their family shared.

Chris O’Carroll elicited the loudest guffaws of the evening with his very humorous pieces. The first one was somewhat of a scolding addressed to the artists Van Gogh, Monet, and Warhol, on their methods and motifs. The next was from the perspective of a moon dweller who objected to cows jumping over his horizon all the time.

He finished up with a funny reinterpretation of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, in which the bears try to convince us that they are harmless members of the “ursine bourgeoisie,” “cuddlier than Paddington and Pooh,” and they don’t deserve being treated so thoughtlessly by this rude little girl. At the end, however, they turn out to be perfectly willing to “kill and eat her” as soon as she wakes up!

One reader was engaged in a “30/30 Challenge”: writing a poem a day for thirty days, as part of a fundraiser for the Center for New Americans. She read several “definition poems” which start from a single word and end up in some interesting places. For instance, the definition poem for Cheese ends up in an “Italian orgasm.”

Have you heard of “Scrabble poetry”? In this challenge, the winner of a game of Scrabble has to compose a poem using the words on the board – with or without additional words, depending on how



Veteran Eric Wasileski washes the American flag during his reading.

strict you want to make it.

Some poems dealt with serious topics, such as removing the burden of shame from abuse, and coming to terms with the loss of loved ones. There was a well-balanced emotional repertoire, with the more somber works serving to remind us that it’s the shadows of life that give full dimension to it.

Co-organizer Eric Wasileski is a war veteran working with fellow veterans to use the power of poetry to heal the psychic wounds of war. “Being with other vets, struggling together – writing poems saved me,” Wasileski explained.

His writing group is part of the larger organization “Warrior Writers,” based in Philadelphia. Warrior Writers has published four anthologies that feature “inspiring creative writing, poetry and visual artwork by post-9/11 veterans.”

Wasileski read a poem based on the statement of purpose of the Veterans for Peace organization:

To increase public awareness of the costs of war
To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons

To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To this end, he washed an American flag in front of the audience, a symbolic attempt to lift the stains of war and the sins of greed from its fabric.

His poem on Veterans and Memorial Day observes that we are “remembering wrong” if we think that achieving peace comes through the use of violence. Instead, he said, we need to “honor the dead by ending war / honor the living by making peace.”

December’s Wagon Wheel Word will bring Vermont’s newly appointed official poet laureate, Chard deNiord, to the microphone. Chard deNiord follows the distinguished footsteps of Robert Frost, Louise Gluck, Grace Paley and others in taking this poet laureate role for the next four years. His official duties involve promoting poetry within and without Vermont; his personal goal in that regard is to “break down the walls of fear and intimidation many people feel toward poetry.”

A noble goal, which Wagon Wheel Word promises to accomplish locally on the first Monday of every month.

All Articles Pass Wendell Special Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On the evening of October 29, about thirty Wendell residents came to a special town meeting, and in 45 minutes approved the entire six-article warrant.

Every article needed a hand count of votes because every article required a 2/3 vote – three because they changed a zoning bylaw, and three because they authorized taking money from the stabilization fund.

Article 1 changed the definition of the town center in the wireless communication bylaw from “the town library” to “2 Lockes Village Road,” which was the address of the library when the original bylaw was written. A new library was built since then, a short distance from the old one, and so the change in wording restored the bylaw’s original meaning.

Article 2 allowed the construction of multi-unit dwellings with more than three units, by special

permit from the zoning board of appeals. This removed the limit of three units.

Planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger said the planning board asked for this change in consideration of efforts being made in town to develop elder housing.

Citizen Joe Diemand questioned the measure’s impact on septic systems and on water supply, and was told that builders would still have to get approval from the board of health for both.

Article 3 established a solar overlay district in two lots in town: the capped old town landfill and the capped D and B demolition dump.

When asked by citizen Kathy Becker whether those sites are suitable for large- and extra-large-scale solar installations, Riebschlaeger said, “Probably not.” Such installations need access to three-phase electric lines, and there is only one of those in town, running from Wendell Depot to the top of

Locke Hill.

But for grants, the state requires at least a solar overlay district, if they are not allowed by right anywhere in town. Large-scale and extra-large-scale solar electric generating fields are still possible in town, but would need a special permit from the planning board.

Article 4 authorized taking \$5,000 from the stabilization fund to pay for a financial consultant to help with the large borrowing. The large borrowing that was not mentioned in the article would be for the fiber-optic internet lines that would connect every house in Wendell.

The last large borrowing the town took on was for the new office building and the new library, and that effort involved a financial consultant. Wendell is still paying those loans.

Article 5 took \$3,917.54 from stabilization, amended down from \$6,000, for the purpose of investing in sick leave pay.

Article 6 authorized taking \$5,000 from stabilization to hire a consultant to help the broadband committee with its work in getting a fiber-optic network established in town.

Both broadband committee members present – Ray DiDonato of the finance committee, and Geoffrey Pooser of the selectboard – said that they did not see an immediate need for a consultant, but that having the option available might be helpful.

Diemand spoke for people on fixed incomes and questioned when Wendell would ease off on its spending. After the meeting ended he spoke with fin com chair about joining the committee.

The motion for **Article 7** was to adjourn, and was passed by the consensus of people folding their chairs and putting them away at the side of the room.

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GILL from pg A1

important to the Nationals Committee that the event has a positive economic impact on the towns they hold the event in. Competitors bring family and friends with them, they bring their golf clubs, and most of them stay for a week, though the marathon lasts only 4 days. There will be a hospitality tent set up at the registration area with information about the area, such as lodging, shopping, and restaurants.

“We would love to have some food vendors there as well,” Patricia Heed said.

“Paddlers are coming off the river around 12 o’clock to one o’clock, and they will be hungry,” Peter added.

A main safety concern is keeping the motorboat traffic cooperative during the competition.

“It’s a very safety-oriented group,” said Peter Heed, “But the boats are tippy. We aren’t interested in shutting the river down during the event,” he added: “we just need people to understand that their wakes can be dangerous to the paddlers.”

Board chair Greg Snedeker said he felt confident that local boaters will be excited by the event, and willing to cooperate and help out.

“We can’t really patrol the river,” said emergency management director, Gene Beaubien. “But we will do what we can to help.”

Beaubien and the selectboard agreed that the committee should contact the Department of Environmental Police’s Montague office, as well as the local boating clubs and organizations.

The event will take place from August 12 to August 14, 2016.

Emergency Management

Beaubien announced that his department’s Epson Smart Board Projector has died and been taken to Chicopee for evaluation. Thus far he has learned that the problem may be with the optic mother board. The cost of repairing the old unit would

be \$1,086.68, not much less than the \$1,228.73 required to purchase a new one.

“We do use it,” said Beaubien, adding that the department would like to get a new unit, rather than rebuilding the old one. The old unit was purchased about two years ago on a state bid and had a two year warranty.

The selectboard agreed and approved the purchase.

The board also approved Beaubien’s recommendation that the EMD stipend for FY’16 be approved at \$3,500, same as last fiscal year. In the past the stipend has been covered by the Vermont Yankee fund. Selectmen briefly discussed setting up a line item for the EMD stipend in future years, since, with the recent closing of the nuclear power plant in Vernon, that fund will no longer be available.

Updates

Treasurer Ronnie LaChance reported on bids for renewing the loan on the Mariamante parcel. The town purchased the land for around \$240,000 in 2005 without taking out long-term financing, expecting to sell it quickly, and has taken a series of one-year loans ever since.

LaChance recommended the low bidder, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, at 0.68% interest. The board unanimously approved her recommendation. The town still owes about \$121,700, and is paying about \$13,700 a year.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington reported on two of the new LED streetlight improvements on Walnut Street in Riverside, where glare has been a problem. One still has problems after being adjusted. Purington has requested a representative of the manufacturer to come out to advise the town on how to resolve the issue. He is also exploring improvements to the lighting in front of the town hall.

The heat pumps at the Riverside municipal building are installed and operational, and the heat recovery

ventilator should be installed this week.

The Safety Complex roof project is nearing completion, with about 5% of contracted work remaining.

Town officials and residents appear to be very pleased with the new offices in the town hall. There has been “continuous affirmation and positive response,” according to Purington, from people coming in to pay bills and conduct business in the building.

The selectboard also approved the highway department declaration of the following surplus equipment: a 1979 Galion rubber tire roller, a 1986 Motrim Arm Mower, a 1986 Woods 3-point hitch brush mower, 10 used 11R24-5 truck tires, a 2004 Ford Explorer V8, and a stainless steel sander.

Purington reported that he will be in touch with officials in Wendell and other towns which have successfully used an auction process to sell their surplus equipment. The selectboard agreed that this may well be a good option for the town.

In the advent of Montague’s announcement that sewer rates will be increased by 10%, from \$5.75 to \$6.33 per 1,000 gallons, Purington is looking into what Gill’s corresponding rate should be.

He said he would like to have preliminary rates to discuss at the next board meeting on November 16, with an eye toward adopting new rates on November 30.

Public Service Announcements

The Gill Energy Commission is sponsoring a free Building Science Home Energy Workshop on Saturday, November 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gill Elementary School. The workshop will inform participants about ways to reduce home energy use and costs through low and no cost methods.

Registration is required. To register, call Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or email jmasucci@msn.com. The project is funded by a Green Energy Grant.



between the power canal and the river, is a complex organization with dozens of employees.

Many local residents, if they are landlords or tenants, encounter it as a major local administrator for Section 8 housing, determining rents for voucher-holders and reimbursing landlords with Housing and Urban Development money.

“That’s not an easy program to administer,” Pheeny said. “You have to bridge the communication gap, and make sure people stay qualified for the program that they’re receiving their voucher from, and that the unit they’re moving into will meet housing quality standards.”

But the HRA also provides counseling for potential first-time homebuyers, and works to transition formerly homeless residents from emergency to permanent housing.

In her second week on the job, Pheeny got to preside at her first ribbon-cutting – at Orange Teen Housing, a program house the HRA developed in partnership with Dial/Self that provides housing to young adults at risk of homelessness.

It also directly manages 250 units of affordable housing, clustered in sites throughout the county. These include state-subsidized homes for seniors, such as the Winslow-Wentworth House in Turners Falls and Stoughton Place in Gill, single-occupancy sober lodgings at the Moltenbrey Apartments, and the rehabilitated Crocker and Cutlery blocks.

New Affordable Housing

Pheeny says she is eager to get to work on financing more of these major projects. “One of the things that I’m really excited about is, because we have [both] the HRA and the RDI, we have the opportunity to reinvigorate an affordable housing development program,” she explains.

“We know there’s a real need for affordable housing in the county, and we want to be out there looking for new opportunities to create more.”

Examining Franklin County’s demographics, Pheeny says, “The thing that has really struck me is the population is really aging, and the housing infrastructure – the homes people are living in – is not suitable for the aging population.”

The HRA currently administers senior housing projects in towns including Gill, Bernardston, Northfield and Shelburne, she says, but the need is large, and growing.

Some of this need may be met by funding rehabilitation of existing homes, so people can “age in place,” but she also wants to develop more large-scale projects.

Pheeny sees her first task as assembling a development team. “Putting together the financing for rural development, you need a very long lead time,” she says. “It’s so much more complicated because we can’t go out and build a ten-story, 300-unit project – we have to be cognizant of the scale, and it becomes more complicated to make the projects be financially sound.”

Though the area’s stock of large, disused industrial buildings comes

up in any discussion of redevelopment, it may not be the best match for new affordable housing. Pheeny cites “a lot of issues you don’t have with rehabs of other buildings” at former mills and warehouses, including environmental remediation, accessibility barriers, and higher insurance costs, especially if they are located in floodplains, as is often the case with buildings sited with hydro-mechanical power in mind.

“It’s been done, and it’s been done well in this state,” she says, “but because we’re in a rural area, making the cashflow work is a little more complicated.... Not to say that we’re not going to look at those opportunities, but they have unique challenges.”

She adds that more exotic structures may not be appropriate for seniors, or families with children: “You don’t want to be worried about them falling into [a] canal, right?”

Block Grant Programs

Another realm of the HRA’s activity has been working with towns, including Montague and Orange, to administer their community development block grant (CDBG) funding.

Pheeny says that she wants the organization to move toward “more engagement, not only with the towns, but also with the communities” over the composition of CDBG applications, and describes more outreach and feedback, even if it will mean starting project cycles earlier.

Towns’ CDBG applications tend to combine housing rehabilitation with open space and social service segments. Montague has recently revived its community development advisory committee, a group that will work to assess the town’s priorities in seeking the grants.

According to Pheeny, what ends up in the applications “depends on what the community requests,” though it also makes sense to repeat practices, and relationships, that have been established as successful.

Assistant Director Retiring

As if all this weren’t enough, another milestone change at the HRA is about to make Pheeny’s brand new job harder.

On the heels of Sherman’s departure, longtime assistant executive director Joanie Bernstein is retiring this week. “She’s an institution in and of herself,” Pheeny said. “I’m very lucky, because she’s been a huge help bringing me up to speed.”

Bernstein, who served as an interim director after the retirement of Paul Douglas in 2008, will not be replaced. This means Fran Pheeny’s department will be a leaner one than her predecessor’s.

“It was a budgetary decision,” Pheeny says. “As federal resources dwindle for affordable housing, we have to make adjustments.” But she hopes that the organization will, in the longer run, identify more alternative revenue sources, especially through the use of the RDI to bring more housing projects online, to offset these pressures.



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degree in public administration, and worked on affordable housing development for city and state governments, including the Housing Preservation and Development department of New York City and the Florida Housing and Finance Corporation.

Since January 2008 – “it was fabulous timing,” she jokes – Pheeny has been developing foreclosure prevention programs for the Federal National Mortgage Administration, or Fannie Mae, first in Florida and then in Boston.

After she started telecommuting from her Haverhill home, she and her husband started looking westward, to a part of the state she says she has remained interested in since college. “As long as I had high-speed internet,” she says, “that’s all I needed!”

She moved to Shelburne last December. “Quality of life is why I moved out here,” Pheeny says.

“It’s beautiful, it’s got all the resources you need, and it’s a different lifestyle.... Once we decided we were going to move into this area, we couldn’t do it fast enough.”

When the post at the HRA opened up, she felt she could bring her entire arc of experience into leading the organization.

The Entire Package

Jane Banks, chair of the HRA’s board of commissioners, said that the hiring committee narrowed “a pretty decent pool” of applicants down to nine, and then to two, and that the board was “pretty unanimous, across the board” in their feeling that Pheeny was the right candidate.

“We’re looking at doing a little more development work, and building our overall capacity in the region, and Fran brings that skill set for us,” Banks says.

“It was the entire package: she’s

really smart, she’s got history with finance and housing; and she has a real knowledge base and understanding of how a regional housing authority works. She brings a lot to the table relating to development: contacts, relationships and connections, and a financial perspective.”

Banks adds that in a time of transition, Pheeny “had the right personality to be able to bridge the old leadership and the new,” and that she “is doing it in a very thoughtful way.”

The fit seems to have felt mutual. “It’s sort of the culmination of all the different pieces I’ve worked on in my career, under one roof,” Pheeny explains, including community development, homeowner programs, affordable housing development, and Section 8 administration.

Many Departments

The HRA, headquartered in an old, brick building in Turners Falls

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PARKING from page A1

to build it next construction season. It's a grant project for shovel-ready projects. In our case, we have ownership of the land; we have a conceptual design. We just have to put it through a final design phase, which the grant covers."

That conceptual design, completed by Tighe & Bond in April 2002, envisions a single entrance on Third Street, and a long row of thirty parking spots. At its far southern end, a staircase would lead down to the canal district.

Ramsey said some of the sculptural installations at the site may be able to remain, pointing out that the construction would not require any blasting of the rocky outcrop in the eastern part of the parcel.

He added that he would like to thank "Governor Baker, Secretary Ash from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, as well as our local legislators, Steve Kulik and Stan Rosenberg, for their support of Montague's economic development efforts."

Jack Nelson, co-owner of Carriage House Designs and the lot's abutter on Canal Street, took the news that the sculpture park's days were numbered in stride.

When Nelson and his partner Eileen Dowd moved from Northfield in 2005, the New England Regional Environmental Protection Agency was still finishing up a major cleanup operation on the site. The lot was once home to the Sweeney Ford garage, and was later acquired by Richard Dubois, who used the building for storage.



Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito present a \$352,785 MassWorks grant to Montague's state representative, Steve Kulik, last week.

Between the two owners it was contaminated with PCBs, lead, and other toxic chemicals. The building was cleaned out and torn down in 2004, and Nelson describes watching the soil remediation: "They dug a huge 30-foot hole, dug out all the dirt, and backfilled it in. A year later, they dug it all up again, trucked it away, and filled it in again. They still have test wells on the property."

When he heard the lot would likely remain unused for years, Nelson went to town hall with the idea to use it for community art projects.

"I knew it was going to be [turned into a parking lot] when I put the sculpture park together, so it definitely doesn't come as a surprise.... When I went to the select-people, and they gave me permission, it was well understood by everybody."

"The downtown needs more parking anyway," he added, pointing out that the current streetscape improvement project eliminates two spots from Avenue A for a curb bumpout.

Nelson said most of the sculptures were created during three "art jams" held in the lot over the years. He teamed with sculptor Joe Landry and others on a committee, partnering with a number of local organizations over the years, including the Brick House, the Montague Cultural Council, Great Falls Middle School and the Montague Police Department.

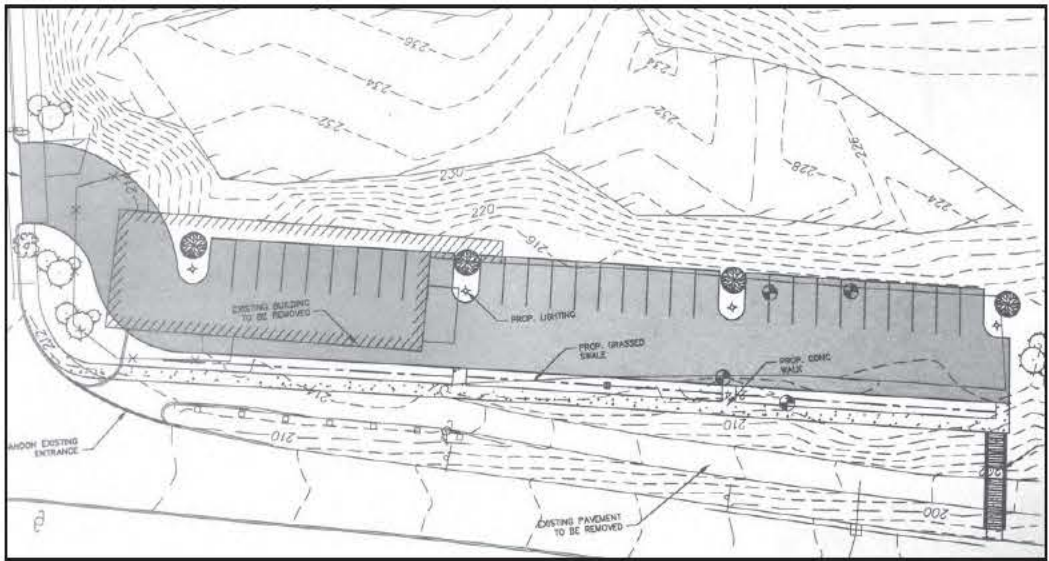
The garage's foundations are still present, Nelson said. The large red doors were salvaged during the renovation of the old Third Street firehouse into the Brick House.

The first pieces the group created were the lips and eyes still visible on the rock face beside the lot, and the most recent, a green guitar and two "totem pole"-style obelisks, were built offsite and installed in 2012.

Nelson said he and town officials have discussed plans to disperse the sculptures. "It's been discussed, with no finality, that there are other places downtown, or within the town," he said. "They could be positioned in other strategic, interesting parts of town."

"There is also some interest to move some of them out of town, and as far as I'm concerned that's a no-go."

"The parking isn't great," said Ashley Arthur, one of the owners of the Five Eyed Fox, a caf -bar that opened last fall between Canal Street and Avenue A on Third. "But I'm less concerned for commerce than for



A detail from the Tighe & Bond design, which has sat on the shelf since 2002.

residents... An additional lot for residents is a great thing."

Arthur noted that at least three on-street parking spots on the block had been occupied recently by vehicles that didn't seem to move for several months.

"Frequently it's a challenge," she continued, "and I can only imagine it'll get worse in winter," when the town's on-street overnight parking ban goes into effect, come December 1 or the first serious snowfall.

At the same time, she said, she would be sorry to see the sculpture park go. "That park was definitely something that gives Turners its charm," she said. "It's a funky freaking park."

Across the street at Dolan Casework, cabinetmaker Bryan Dolan felt differently. "The sculpture park I could do without," he said. "It's already been abandoned... I've found three needles so far behind that big guitar - I put them in soda bottles and threw them away."

But, Dolan said, "I'm sad about losing the space for other reasons.... Generally, I think we should be a walking town. It's sort of retrograde, that people are still focused on parking so much. It's kind of like building the last horse-drawn carriage stable in the 1900s."

Dolan said he felt two existing municipal lots, one on Second Street by the Discovery Center and one behind the Shady Glen on First Street, are currently under-used. But he did note parking congestion.

"Now that the Five Eyed is open, and there've been farmshare pickups happening [at the Brick House], it does get a little tight," he said, adding he noticed a parking shortage

during big shows at the Shea Theater, and dance recitals at the Brick House.

"As a town, we've been pretty good about finding a place for art of all types," said planner Ramsey, when asked about the future of youth sculpture in Montague and Turners. "I don't imagine that would change..."

"There's plenty of spaces, and underutilized areas, that can be used for art. I'd be happy to work with anybody that wants to propose it."



Musician and writer Ian Svenonius researches local youth culture during a tour this spring.

CENTER from page A1

Sundays, and by appointment on Tuesdays.

Events this month at the center include a presentation on "The Hidden History of Millers Falls," at 1 p.m. on November 7; the Great Falls Coffeehouse on the evening of the 13th; a children's story hour about turkeys on the morning of Friday, November 20; and from noon to 3 p.m. on November 21, the Nolumbeka Project's third annual Beaver Moon Gathering.

The Discovery Center has been a partnership between the federal Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), which calls the facility the "flagship visitors' center" of the Conte Refuge System on the Connecticut River watershed, and DCR, which helps operate and finance the center as one of its state parks.

The third key partner is the Friends of the Discovery Center, a local group which consists mainly of volunteers who help promote and staff the facility. Don Clegg, the president of the board of directors of the Friends, spoke at the Montague selectboard's November 2 meeting.

The Town of Montague, which played a key role in creating the center a decade ago, no longer has a direct affiliation with the center, beyond the fact that it continues to own the empty former Cumberland Farms building on the block through a semi-autonomous entity called Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation.

Despite not having a formal institutional role in the center, the town considers the facility vital to the development of downtown Turners Falls. The Montague selectboard has

protested the decision of Fish and Wildlife to end funding for staffing. In September, the board sent a letter to the federal agency urging it to reconsider the decision, and last Monday the board issued a "public comment" stating that:

"FWS's plan to divest in the Discovery Center is not acceptable to the Town. We only ask that you consider the watershed impacts of this FWS staffing decision. In Turners Falls the poverty rate is estimated to be 23% for all people..."

"The village is just now turning a corner as we implement a Downtown Livability Plan funded by US Department of Housing and Urban Development. To divest in the Discovery Center would cut the Town at its knees..."

The public comment, submitted as part of a process to produce the Conte Refuge's new "comprehensive conservation plan," also mentioned the project to study the 1676 Battle of Turners Falls, which is funded by a grant from the National Park Service.

Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz and town planner Walter Ramsey also attended a large meeting with federal wildlife officials last Thursday at the Discovery Center. The goal of these efforts is to convince Fish and Wildlife to rethink its staffing decision. However, at the moment the state appears to have increased the level of staffing at the center to compensate for the federal cutback.

Neither the federal decision to withdraw staff from the center, nor the state decision to expand it, appear to have involved consultation among the key parties.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Leaf Vacuum Abhorred; Winter Burial Discussed

By REPORTER STAFF

Katie Nolan, our regular Erving selectboard correspondent, was out this week. These notes have been compiled by David Brule in consultation with town clerk Betsy Sicard.

Erving's selectboard met on Monday to conduct a number of routine business items needing their attention. Arthur Johnson and Jacob Smith conducted the meeting, in chairman Bill Bembury's absence.

Highway foreman Glen McCrory informed the board of his desire to put the old leaf removal vacuum out to bid. It no longer can do the job required, and it's occupying too much space.

With the retirement of Dana Moore, the town's heavy equipment operator, the board has decided to review the job description for this position, as well as the pay scale to be prepared for, when and if the job is posted.

An Erving family raised an interesting question concerning the town's cemetery bylaws. They made an inquiry into potentially proposing a change which would allow burial within twenty-four hours of death, even in wintertime. Like many New England towns, Erving has a vault where the deceased await a spring burial.

The board tabled the discussion until November 22, when they will also discuss the request by the same family to permit "green" burial in a simple pine box, currently not allowed by the present cemetery bylaws.

Water commitment procedures, a twice-yearly routine, were next on the list of routine tasks: the board must officially sign off on the mailing of water bills to townspeople. The bills will be in the mail on Wednesday. In addition there were two water shut-off notices for vacant homes served by the Erving district.

Ken McCance, a representative of Yolan Energy, proposed a plan to save costs on utility bills to the town. The board took the proposal under advisement, and will request town counsel to review the document.

Residents living near Laurel Lake, on North Shore Road, have requested that the town accept to begin trash removal on their street. The board decided to table the discussion and decision until spring.

Finally, the town will sign a contract with Neopost to provide a folder/insertion option on computers, to permit rapid, automated stuffing and folding of envelopes for town mailings. Bembury will complete final arrangements with this company, and sign the contract next month.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Bell Funds, New Pole Locations, and Pipeline Liaison Approved

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of November 2 began with a "public comment" from Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick, returning to the weekly meetings after a lengthy absence. Golrick wanted to know the status of the position of town administrator since Frank Abbondanzio has been granted a leave of absence for health reasons.

Selectboard chair Michael Nelson responded that Abbondanzio is scheduled to return on January 1 so that he will be "fresh for the new year."

Next the board, acting as the personnel board, appointed Ann Cenzano to fill a recently vacated seat on the board of assessors. Cenzano had stated in her application that she wished to serve on the board in order to "be part of helping the town continue to prosper."

Golrick asked if the seat should be filled by a special election. The response was that the selectboard could fill the seat until the next election, which will be in May of 2016.

The board next was to consider appointing Ariel Elan as "Pipeline Liaison." Rich Kuklewicz noted that this position involved going to meetings in Boston, but suggested that the board hold off on the appointment until Elan arrived at the meeting.

This led to the early appearance of Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Hunter asked that the board approve and execute a

change order for modifications to the light pole bases that are part of the Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project. The board approved the request, which turned out to be approximately \$7,650 less than anticipated.

Next on the agenda were four telephone pole location hearings, involving a grand total of 20 poles. Eight of these were new poles, and 12 involved relocating existing poles.

The reason for all this pole activity is the Greenfield Road project, which also involves the widening of Hatchery Road. During each location hearing, the Eversource representative, Jerry Molongoski, was questioned closely by Golrick about the placement of the poles.

Molongoski stated that he would be willing to meet with adjacent landowners with concerns but the overall plan was a product of state-level decision-making.

Don Clegg of the Friends of the Discovery Center came before the board to request that it endorse a "public comment" directed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The comment, which is part of the process for creating the agency's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, protested the recent removal of federally-funded staff from the Discovery Center. The board approved the letter.

Clegg also announced that the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) was adding staff for the next six months (see story, page A1).

Bell Job Funded

Next at the front table was building inspector David Jensen. Acting as a private citizen, Jensen presented a request from the Lake Pleasant Village Association for additional funds to complete the restoration of the Lake Pleasant Bell. A significant crowd of Lake Pleasant residents were in attendance.

The current bell, which sits on top of a gazebo-like structure near the western side of the lake, was placed in its current location in the mid-1970s. The village, and the various spiritualist meeting houses once located there, date to the late nineteenth century.

Jensen showed the selectboard pictures of the bell and building in very poor condition, a well as the nearly completed restoration, and David James presented some numbers about the project's cost.

The board approved the use of \$5,000 from the Community Development Discretionary Fund. Some of this will go to pay previously incurred bills, some to complete the work, and some toward a village "wish list" that might include adding LED lights on the Bridge of Names. The funds remain under control of the town, with the Village Association presenting bills as they come due.

Next, Jensen presented the latest version of policies for the use of planters on Avenue A. Unlike other meetings on this topic, the room was not crowded, and there was no discussion of the relationship between non-plant objects and public art.

The proposed guidelines state that "non-plant items such as rocks, art items, tchaotchkes [sic], etc may be used to enhance, but not dominate the overall effect of the trees, plants, and flowers." The duties of a planter coordinator are defined in great detail but this person "is not the enforcing agent of this program." The guidelines were approved by the board.

Elan to Liaise

Next Ariel Elan came before the board to seek selectboard support for a bill filed by state representative Steve Kulik. The bill would require the state's Department of Public Utilities to automatically allow municipalities, representatives in the legislature, and organizations of more than five people to intervene "in any adjudicatory proceeding regarding any petition, request for approval, or investigation of a gas company or electric company..."

The bill, which applies to those in the service area of the company, is a response to the refusal of the DPU to give Kulik and towns like Montague intervenor status in a recent case involving several local

YOUR INPUT NEEDED: NEW DOWNTOWN SCULPTURE

Turners Falls RiverCulture will hold two community meetings to discuss the theme of the sculpture being commissioned for the new pedestrian plaza, now under construction on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street.

Input from these meetings will be included in the Request for Proposals which will be released in December. Installation of the sculpture is planned for the fall of 2016.

The meetings are open to the public:

Tuesday, November 10 at 4 p.m.
Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A

Friday, November 13 at 7 p.m.
The Brick House Community Center, 24 Third Street

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Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 7
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COURTESY LAKE PLEASANT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

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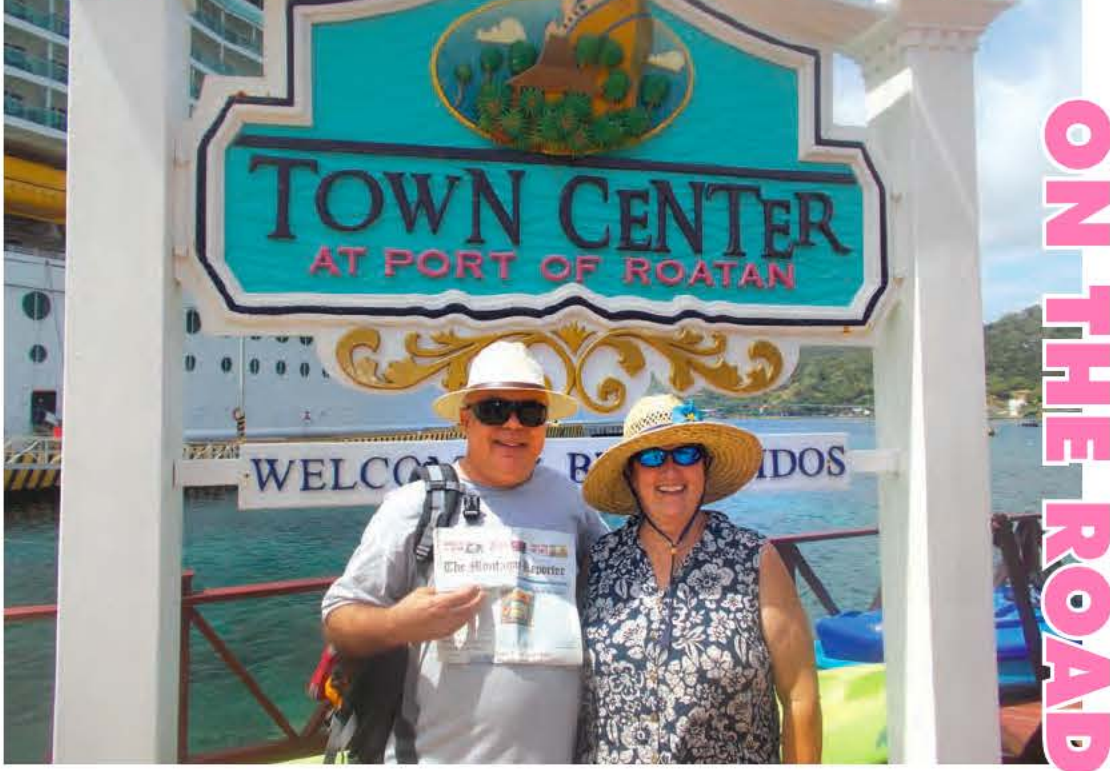
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ON THE ROAD

When Pam Morawski and Michael Brule went on a cruise at the end of September, they brought their trusty Montague Reporter with them. Here they are in Roatan, Honduras, one of three ports they visited. Pam writes: "We had to explain, several times, what we were doing. Great fun was had by all."

Going somewhere? Bring us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

The Montague Reporter
is now soliciting
POEMS, including KIDS' POEMS,
for our DECEMBER Poetry Page.

Send your work to
POETRY@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG
or c/o Poetry Editor, 177 Avenue A,
Turners Falls, MA 01376

1676 and Beyond: Tribes, Race, and Untold Histories

GREENFIELD – The Saturday, November 7 session of Racial Justice Rising/Mass Slavery Apology's monthly free program series will feature David Tall Pine White of the Nipmuc tribe and David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project discussing the Native history and culture of our area.

David Tall Pine White, is a cultural educator and facilitator. He is a Nipmuc language instructor and is the vice chairman of the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck Tribal Council.

David Brule is a historian, environmental activist, and writer. His latest book is *Looking For Judah, Adventures in Gene-*

alogy and Remembrance, a story of ancestry, place, and race.

Both presenters are active with the National Park Service Battlefield Grant which is studying the 1676 massacre at the falls in Montague.

The program, at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street in Greenfield, will be from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 9:30. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

For more information or to reserve childcare: email@racialjusticerising.org or (413) 625-2951. More about Racial Justice Rising/Mass Slavery Apology at www.massslaveryapology.org.

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Jinx: Growing Up in the Cutlery Block

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

This first entry sets the scene for further events. Collins, who lives in Arizona today, prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.”

We hope you enjoy the trip through time that these excerpts provide.

- Eds.



Turners Falls’ Cutlery Block, rear.

By JERRY COLLINS

To get an understanding of this young urchin’s life, one has to know about the history of the village of Turners Falls, and the effects of the Depression on its inhabitants.

Turners Falls came into being in 1876 primarily as a result of the Industrial Revolution and the idea of using waterfalls along the Connecticut River for generating electricity to power new industry.

A prominent entrepreneur of that era, named Alvah Crocker, seeing the potential for construction of a dam to generate electricity at the

falls, and envisioning industrial development there, proceeded to obtain the rights to the land on both sides of the abandoned canal.

He brought the first industry to the new village, the Cutlery, where knives and other eating utensils would be produced and hundreds of workers employed. This created need for housing and thus came the building of the first tenement blocks.

During the last year Jinx lived in “The Block” he and his friends would frequently crawl under the only remains of the [cutlery]

see JINX page B4

METAL MENAGERIE ALSO A UNIQUE MEMOIR



By ANNE HARDING

GILL – When you take a left off Main Road onto West Gill Road, it’s not long before you pass by the long, meandering driveway of Annie and Bob Perry. This modest home has been in the family for two generations, and it is the keeper of thousands of memories both old and new. Annie’s beautifully tended gardens are a treat to behold when they’re in bloom, and even when they’re being put to bed for the looming winter there’s much to be seen.

Tucked in amongst the shrubs, guarding the gardens, perched beneath trees and strategically placed on the lawns, is a veritable menagerie of fanciful welded creatures adorning the property.

When Bob Perry retired from the Northfield Mountain Project in September 2013, he’d been working there for 41 years. He was only 22 years old when he was first hired as a summer ranger, and left as the Environmental Coordinator, attending to regulatory reporting requirements for water quality, asbestos, PCBs and many other hazardous wastes.

In addition to his day job, Perry has been a licensed pyrotechnician for the past 30 years, and one of the few technicians in the tri-state region with a license to shoot fireworks indoors. No doubt you’ve

seen his work at many local and regional fireworks shows.

After retirement, Perry started cutting back on shows and stopped renewing his licenses, but that doesn’t mean he’s been sitting idly in his rocking chair.

Instead, he’s building on a hobby that started in 2011 while he was cleaning out his basement and kicked an old, broken shovel out of the way. Something about the angle and the light struck him, and before long it was turned into a prehistoric-looking fish-like creature that he gifted to his wife. It still lives in the garden.

Over the years, his welding skills

have improved and he’s learned to drill, pin, use set-screws and other methods of attaching metals that don’t weld together well. He’s made close to thirty sculptures that can be found inside and outside his home.

They are built of old tools and farm implements, broken lawn mowers, and assorted other objects. Many of them, in pragmatic New England style, have been housed in his three-car garage for decades.

There is a mix of prehistoric-looking, multi-legged creatures, along with ones that resemble insects, birds, sea creatures and arachnids. It is obvious from the

see PERRY page B6



The good life: Bob Perry grinds a coelacanth in his driveway.

A MESSY HALLOWEEN: TFHS 15 - CATHEDRAL 0

By MATT ROBINSON

SPRINGFIELD – The Turners Falls Football Indians traveled to Springfield and shut out the Cathedral Purple Panthers 15-0 on Saturday, October 31. In doing so, the Tribe earned the number one spot in the D-VI playoffs and will host McCann Technical on Friday, November 6.

In Saturday’s game, Cathedral won the toss but deferred possession, giving the vaunted Blue offense a chance to score first. But on the very first play from scrimmage, quarterback Tionne Brown ran a keeper and lost the ball after being

swallowed up by a bunch of Purple tacklers.

Cathedral took over on the on the 26 and were in wonderful field position to draw first blood. The Blue D answered with a Jalen Sanders sack, but a face mask penalty moved the ball 15 yards closer to pay dirt. A completed pass gave the Panthers a first and goal from the 8, and the Powertown defense had to dig in to prevent the short yardage score.

After a 1-yard loss, the Panthers almost scored on second down, but were stopped on the 2. Then they pounded ahead but were stopped inches from the goal line. This

brought up fourth and inches and the Powertown goal-line defense held, dodging a bullet and giving the ball back to their offense.

Then Turners fumbled again. This time, they fell on the ball just outside the safety zone. Unable to get the first down, Turners was forced to punt end zone, but an illegal block-in-the-back moved the ball backwards to the Blue 44.

Turners took over after three consecutive incomplete Purple passes, but an interception gave the ball right back to Cathedral. The Blue D kept up their hard hitting. On first down, they forced a fumble, and won the hot potato back on the Purple 30.

Quinn Doyle, John Driscoll and Jack Darling pounded ahead, and on first and goal from the 3, Jalen Sanders was hit immediately. He thrust his body forward, and as he was going down, he stretched his hand forward, placing the ball just over the goal line for the first score of the game. Tyler Lavin added the PAT, and with 29 seconds remaining in the first, the Tribe finally led, 7-0.

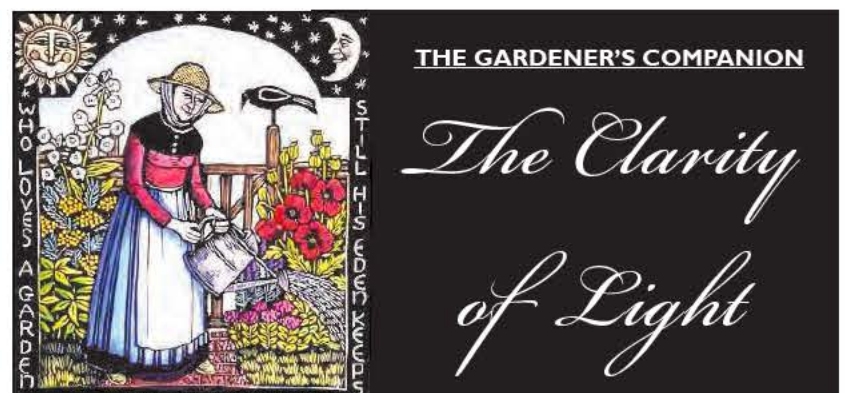
Turners had a chance to add to their lead with 2:19 seconds left in the half. They started their drive on the Panther 49, ran five plays, managed the clock and advanced the ball to the 28. But another interception spoiled the drive, and Cathedral took over on their own 3 with ten seconds left on the clock.

Cathedral could have gone into

see FOOTBALL page B5



Running back Quinn Doyle (20) looks for an opening as John Driscoll (40) blocks the Panthers’ defense.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – The lovely extended foliage season is waning. We travel the back roads to Williamsburg, noting the occasional bright orange or yellow splash of color amidst the muted golds and browns.

The red, orange and yellow leaves build on the forest floor and in our yard. But there is still much lovely color to see. As the sun burns through the clouds, the trees are burnished again in other-worldly light.

Back at home, we sit in the yard taking pleasure from the increased view of the river and the two young deer climbing up the edge of the woods to disappear in the cover above. The sun drops down behind Greenfield Mountain a full hour ahead of the time it fell yesterday.

We have changed the clocks, “fallen back”. Even this small change rubs uncomfortably against our internal body time. Even the cat has brought herself in an hour earlier.

As the leaves fall, the views widen. In full summer we are tucked in a small space ringed and guarded by thick-leaved trees of maple, oak and ash. Now the oaks and evergreens remain, but the spaces between are held by lovely skeletons of trees

baring their bones to the sky so that we can see out to the river passing and the mountains beyond.

As the sun descends, the clouds brighten with pinks and orange. Later, the sky is pale blue, etched by the stark black lines of the bare trees. Every night now, the honking vees of geese pass overhead, turning southward, following the river. Slowly the stars appear in the sky.

Unlike the soft, gauzy air of summer, this new light is clear and sharp. It does not make for daydreaming; it brings on clear-headedness and long range thinking.

This is a time for planning ahead, storing up for the future and putting by. The hours and minutes of these shorter days are more cherished, as they give way to the long nights. The squirrels dash about finding and hiding food for the winter to come. We too preserve the garden bounty.

But while we often think of November as a gray and sullen month, this first week of the new month is a bright and temperate one, a regression to Indian summer. We accept it gratefully as we know that the cold will wrap us soon enough.

For now, the fall cleaning indoors will keep; it is far too nice out to be inside. We have already closed

see GARDENER’S page B4

Pet of the Week



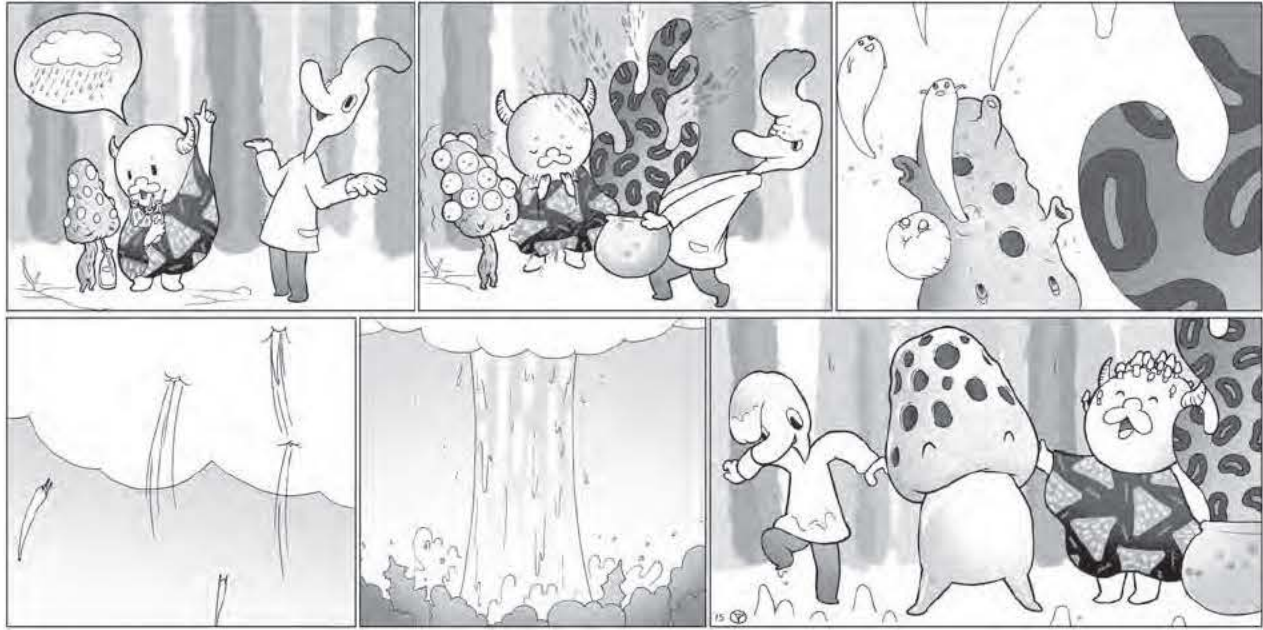
MEIKI

Hello there. Are you looking for a sweet and playful girl who loves to explore? Then look no further because here I am! I love to get atten-

tion when I'm not doing my own thing. I can be a bit shy at first but don't let that get you down! Once I get comfortable in my new place I am queen of the roost and will explore and claim all couches as my own. So why not ask an adoption counselor for more information!

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

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Have you wondered what this *Weird Healing* comic is all about? The local creative duo responsible for *Weird Healing*, Jason and Aya Brown, AKA *Overture*, have been working together since 2004.

As *Overture*, they create stories of animism and cosmic nature with funny creatures, colorful worlds, and music. Collaboration and improvisation play key roles in hand drawn animations, illustrations, comics and a variety of live events and performances.

Overture has created a number of animated short features that

you may view on their website, opertura.org.

Their work has screened and been presented widely domestically and abroad, including at *Raindance Film Festival (UK)*, *Animated Dreams (Estonia)*, *International Trick Film Festival Stuttgart (Germany)*, *Krakow International Film Festival (Slovakia)* and more.

The work of *Overture* will be featured in the South Gallery at *Greenfield Community College* from November 10 through December 11. *Overture* is opening up their creative process in this show, which is

called *Offering For Furtherance*.

They are working on a new series that explores the phenomenon of food and will be sharing elements of conception, production and past work. Expect to see moving images, watercolor illustrations, and small, detailed sets.

Overture will give a gallery talk on November 18 at noon in the GCC gallery.

Hours at the Gallery are Mondays-Thursdays 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The gallery is accessible and free.

Senior Center Activities November 9 to 13

GILL and MONTAGUE
Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch

Monday 11/9

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/10

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 11/11 Open

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

11:11 a.m. Friends' Meeting

Noon Birthday Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 11/12

9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach

10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Card Games & Scrabble

Friday 11/13

Reflexology by Appointment

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2

Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy

Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours

and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

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

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

Monday 11/9

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 11/10

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

9:30 C.O.A. Meeting

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Painting Class

12:45 p.m. Jewelry Workshop

Wednesday 11/11

Closed Veterans Day

Thursday 11/12

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones; SNAP

Noon Card Games

Friday 11/13

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza & More

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.

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

During my research on many health topics I have been amazed repeatedly by how pervasive the effects of smoking are on the body.

I quit smoking cigarettes in 1969, five years after the U.S. Surgeon General's first report said that smoking causes lung cancer. I was convinced the report was right when it came out, but it took me five years to develop the willpower to give up my Marlboros. But, at the time, I didn't realize that smoking could harm you in so many more ways.

A later Surgeon General's report on the health consequences of smoking said, "smoking harms nearly every organ of your body, causing many diseases and reducing your health in general." The report also said, "quitting smoking has immediate as well as long-term benefits, reducing risks for diseases caused by smoking and improving your health in general."

If you smoke, you owe it to yourself to quit. And I believe you have an obligation to try to help others to quit. I'm going to do my part with this unusual three-part series. No

scolding or exaggerated scare tactics. I'm going to give you just the facts in a chain of bulletins.

You can tack these columns up on bulletin boards and refrigerators. I recommend giving them to a smoker you love.

Here goes:
Smoking damages the immune system and increases the risk of infections.

The general health of smokers is inferior to the health of nonsmokers. Many illnesses in smokers last longer than in nonsmokers.

After surgery, smokers have a greater risk of complications and a lower survival rate.

When smokers get skin wounds, they take longer to heal than those in non-smokers.

Women who smoke usually reach menopause sooner.

Smokers tend to have lower bone density. Postmenopausal women who smoke have an increased risk for hip fracture over women who never smoked.

Smoking cigarettes causes heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States.

Smokers who have a heart attack are more likely to die within an hour of the heart attack than nonsmokers.

Cigarette smoking doubles a person's risk for stroke.

Cigarette smoking causes emphysema, which destroys a person's ability to breathe. An early warning sign of emphysema is "smoker's cough."

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Up In Smoke

Smokers commonly suffer from chronic bronchitis.

Smoking causes peripheral artery disease that can affect the blood flow throughout the entire body.

Smoking causes many types of cancer, the second leading cause of death in the United States. These include cancer of the lung, esophagus, larynx, mouth, bladder, pancreas, kidney and cervix.

Smoking increases your risk of developing sciatica, a pain that runs down the back of your leg from spinal-disc pressure on a nerve. Smoking can block the body's ability to deliver nutrients to the discs of the lower back.

Smoking causes cataracts.

Smoking during pregnancy is linked with the higher risk of miscarriage, premature delivery, stillbirth, infant death, low birth weight, and sudden-infant-death syndrome.

Smoking dulls your senses of taste and smell.

Smoking makes your skin age faster.

Smoking increases the risk of sexual impotence.

[In the second installment of this series on smoking, we'll report on nicotine, cigarettes of all kinds, cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco.]

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

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Pumpkins, Detectives, and Untold Histories

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

November is here and the leaves are falling fast!

If you're looking for something to do this weekend, there is a presentation over in Greenfield on "1676 and Beyond: Tribes, Race, and Untold Histories" as part of Racial Justice Rising's free monthly event series. This presentation will be given at First Congregational Church (43 Silver Street) by David Tall Pine White of the Nipmuc Tribe and David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project, both of whom are active in the National Park Service Grant which is studying the 1676 massacre at the falls.

For more information, email@massslaveryapology.org or (413) 625-2951.

The following items are now available online & on the TV schedule:

- GMRSD Meeting 10/27/15: Agenda items included a presentation by the Director of Teaching and Learning on curriculum and professional development initiatives, as

well as ongoing business on the development of school committee specific goals and action plan for community engagement.

- PumpkinFest 2015: Live entertainment, music, fire dancers, and jack-o-lanterns! Re-experience the festivities again and again.

- Fat Detective Season 1: Now you can download the entire season in one compact file, or catch up on what you've missed and watch it through: no interruptions.

- Selectboard Meeting 10/26/15: Agenda items included modifications and budget amendments to the Avenue A Streetscape Enhancements project, an update from the Broadband Committee, and the Town Administrators' report.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment! (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Wendell Climate Action: Renewables are Ready

On Tuesday, November 10, the new Wendell Climate Action effort in Wendell will sponsor *Renewables Are Ready*, a slide presentation with Traprock Center for Peace and Justice director Pat Hynes. Discussion will follow.

Renewables Are Ready was developed in response to a critical issue of our time – climate change. "Our goals are to inform about the advances in renewable energy technologies and their potential, together with efficiency, to power our

country by 2050 and to identify the political obstacles in getting there," says Ms. Hynes.

"The program includes inspiring examples of action and activism that serve as a springboard for brainstorming about individual and community actions to make renewables our energy future."

The free program will start at 7 p.m. in the Herrick room at the Wendell Free Library. All are welcome, and light refreshments will be served.

No Food In America

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

I recently watched a movie I had not seen in a long time, called *Hidden in America* (1996). In the movie, a family gets into such bad financial straits that they end up not having enough food to eat.

That could seem like a complete work of fiction. But families can get into that type of situation in real life – even in America, where you would think it wouldn't be happening. America, after all, has clean running water and good houses, unlike some other countries.

The father in the movie, played by Beau Bridges, is a proud man who won't accept a handout. But he finally gets to a point where he has to fill out an application for food stamps. After going in circles to different lines, he is told he will get some emergency food stamps in three to five days.

He responds that this means it would be three to five days until his family gets to eat.

I can relate a little to that feeling of dealing with food stamps, especially since I am having a little problem of my own with them. Some paperwork that was needed didn't get taken care of. So I didn't have any food stamps on my card on the day I was supposed to have them for October.

To me, at the moment, it is just

a pain. But to someone like the father in the movie, it's probably kind of a problem that is happening in an emergency.

At the end of the film, it mentioned on any given night, up to 5 million children in America go to bed hungry. This fact to me proves that the people making this film did their homework on the subject. The film was co-produced by The End Hunger network, which probably helped with the film in order to remind people of the need to fight hunger.

I personally do not need food stamps as badly as the people in the film did. But the stamps are helpful in getting groceries when funds are low, at least for me. The guy in the film was stretching out money for the rent and other things, and therefore had little funds to spend on food for himself and his family.

I pray I never end up like that. But a lot of people find themselves in that situation. I can get why some wouldn't want to take a handout, because of appearances and the pride that can come with being able to provide for your loved ones. But when you are doing everything humanly possibly you can do and it's not enough, you need to get any kind of help that you can get.

So why is this going on in America?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hunters and Haters; Shea Handoff Turns to Shoving Match; Females Text, Trespass, Hide, and Taunt

Monday, 10/26

12:29 a.m. Male calling from the Rendezvous reports that an unknown male approached him and attempted to start a physical altercation. Ongoing feud between males. Peace restored.

9:38 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that 2 TVs, one or more coffee pots, and possibly other items are missing from her apartment. Caller later advised that she found one TV in a box under the bed; she did not look there for the TV because she did not think the box was big enough. Report taken.

12:22 p.m. Caller from the Crocker Building reports that they discovered feces on one of their carpets in the common hallway. Caller will review surveillance tapes and call back if the incident was caught on tape.

4:13 p.m. Caller advising of male party stealing donations from the back dock of the Salvation Army. Caller did not know exactly what the party took; described as a paper bag with something in it, a curtain/curtain rod of some sort and possibly a light fixture. Report taken.

6:36 p.m. Officer checking on vehicle in parking lot across from Town Hall on First Street. Female party was texting some friends; had an argument with her husband and was just cooling down.

7:51 p.m. Caller complaining of a large bump on the canal bridge; stated it damaged the exhaust system on her vehicle. Caller advised that this would be on record and her complaint would be passed along to the appropriate agency. Message left for MassHighway.

Tuesday, 10/27

1:01 a.m. Complaint regarding parties running up/down stairs at a building on Fourth Street. Caller believes this to be drug related. Officer spoke with involved party and advised her to keep it down.

12:10 p.m. Two reports of a disturbance involving an unwanted female at Montague Catholic Social Ministries. Franklin County Sheriff's Office has at least one trespass order that they have been trying to serve to this party. Three trespass notices served in hand by FCSO lieutenant.

2:43 p.m. Caller from Randall Road requesting to speak with officer regarding one of his tenants who is moving out and dumped a couch over an embankment behind his business. Officer spoke to caller and

tenant. Tenant denies dumping couch and stated she still has her couch.

Wednesday, 10/28

8:26 p.m. Following a disturbance outside the Pizza House,

was arrested and charged with failing to stop for police; disorderly conduct, subsequent offense; and operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended/revoked for OUI.

11:39 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that a male party known to her is slashing her tires at this time. Caller also reports that the male and a female party entered her home prior to her arrival there and caused damage to the apartment and her belongings. Summons issued.

Thursday, 10/29

12:56 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports that two females broke into her apartment and are now hiding in two rooms. Upon units arriving, caller states that one female went out the back door. Apartment search negative. Female will be staying with friend for night.

1:44 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that while on break from work the attached male party punched him in the face. Officers responded but had to clear due to a 911 call.

1:52 p.m. Call reporting heavy smoke coming from a house on Central Street. Three additional calls reporting flames coming from house. Two callers report that everyone is out of house. Gill officer reports that heavy smoke is visible from the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. TFFD advised.

3:02 p.m. Complaint regarding loud train parked in Millers Falls. Will make call to PanAm to advise.

Friday, 10/30

8:01 a.m. Caller reports that her trash can and recycling containers are missing from in front of her home. Caller called back to advise that she had located the trash

cans. Someone had placed them behind the house.

9:09 a.m. Caller reports a black pickup truck parked behind the tech school sign; felt this was suspicious. Responding officer advised this is likely a hunter due to the gear in the truck.

11:28 a.m. Report of an attempted breaking and entering at Third Street Laundry. Caller has footage of suspects. Thumb drive given to officer.

11:59 a.m. Employee at Turners Falls Pizza House reports they found a dollar bill with what they believe is cocaine residue. Officer advises that party soak bill for a minute in water then dry it out and it will be fine to use. Caller advised.

1:01 p.m. TFFD received a call direct regarding a vehicle in Lake Pleasant that has jumper cables attached and is smoking. Found to be melting jumper cables. Services rendered with MCFD.

8:25 p.m. Caller from High Street reports loud explosion in the area; it rattled her house and upset the dogs. Area checked; nothing found.

Saturday, 10/31

12:15 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports that she arrived home to find that her rear apartment door is wide open. Caller has not been inside; no one else should be inside. Responding officers cleared apartment. Nothing found; nothing appeared out of place.

9:42 a.m. Caller reports that there is work being done on an L Street property and two lifts that were dropped off yesterday each had all of their tires slashed. Caller also reports that the company that dropped the machines off gave the keys to an unknown person. Report taken.

10:18 a.m. Caller reporting he was just assaulted by a male party that he believes lives on Hillside Avenue. Caller states that he was in the area hunting and was getting his deer out of the woods. Caller approached an

older white male and asked if it would be OK to use the shared driveway to get closer to the deer. Party agreed. Before caller pulled close to the door, a younger male came out and told him he was not allowed to use the driveway. The older male then reportedly came out and began yelling at the caller, stating that he "doesn't like hunting or hunters..." and grabbed the caller and threw him to the ground. Caller declined EMS. Party advised to seek his own complaint if he chooses to.

10:33 a.m. Caller reports that a male party was just bitten in the hand by a pit bull on First Street and that the bite broke the skin. Caller stated that the owner and dog were known to them and have had previous issues with the animal control officer. Call transferred to Med-Care. Animal control officer notified and will follow up; he spoke to this dog owner last week and advised her not to take the dog out without putting a muzzle on him. Report taken.

Sunday, 11/1

12:10 a.m. Male caller reporting verbal dispute between theater group and current board of directors of the Shea Theater. Accusations of theft on both sides. Approximately 8 parties involved. While on line with caller, shoving began in the background; caller attempted to intervene. Responding officers advise that this was a property dispute and that the parties who escalated the dispute to physical have not been named and were gone upon officers' arrival.

9:58 p.m. Caller requesting officer assistance; he is being "thrown out of the apartment" and would like to get his belongings out of the female's car so he can leave. Female is upstairs "taunting" him. Officer advised caller of options; he will retrieve his items at another time.

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JINX from page B1
building where they'd find old defective pieces of cutlery that had been apparently dumped in the basement.

Soon after came paper and cotton mills, and Turners Falls started to boom. Germans, Poles, Irish, and French Canadians immigrated in large numbers in order to fill the need for labor.

It was in one of the tenement blocks, built to house the labor influx, that Jinx was born and spent the first eight years of his life, at 91 Third Street.

With the exception of the first six months when he lived with his Aunt Ethel and Uncle Tom, his father's older brother. Jinx's mother almost died during his birthing which created a long, touch and go recovery.

His family occupied the second and one half of the third floor of the building. His birth took place in a small corner alcove off the kitchen, separated only by a curtain, that served as his mom and dad's bedroom on April 7, 1935.

At the height of the depression, Jinx's dad and mom were only able to find occasional work. Times were tough, and so Jinx and his brothers also grew up to be tough and learned to do without. In the summers, they spent most of their days playing, barefoot (and stubbing their toes) on the town sidewalks, or in the cinder-covered alley behind the block.

When he became old enough, Jinx would go to watch his older brothers play pick up baseball at the park located at the end of Third Street, or he'd trail behind them to the polluted river and watch them dive and swim.

The boys never had "store bought" toys except at Christmas, when one of the four would get his name put on the only present that each was expected to share. He remembers when, at age six, it was his turn to have his name on the gift. It was a beautiful "Reindeer" sled, and Jinx was informed that he would have to share it with his three older brothers.

Jinx is sure they got to use it more than he did.

As for clothes: just before Easter each year, Mr. Cotton would come by in his panel truck full of shirts and pants, and Jinx's mom and dad would pick out a new one of each for the biggest boy (the rest of them got the hand-me-downs) to be used for church throughout the following year.

Their everyday clothes were hand me downs from their cousin Joel (the only child of their mom's sister Marion) and when the soles of their shoes wore through, cardboard was cut from boxes and put inside instead as protection from the elements.

Any clothes purchased from Mr. Cotton would be paid for "on time" and he would come by every Friday evening throughout the next twelve months to collect about 50 cents until the bill was fully satisfied.

Though the four boys weren't David Copperfield's characters, they came as close to those urchins as anyone in their day.

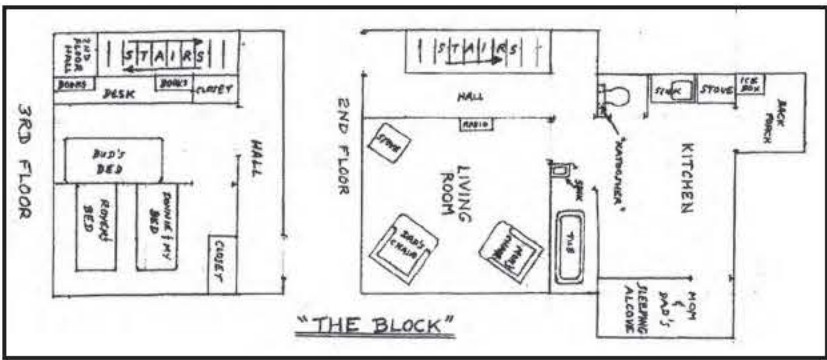
"The Block"

Jinx lived in one of many tenements in a long brick building that the family called the "Third Street Block," now known as the Cutlery Apartments.

The row consisted of about 40 apartments, with one half on the first floor having use of two rooms on the third floor. The other half, located on the second floor, had use of the other two rooms on the third floor.

The living room, kitchen and his mom and dad's bedroom were on the second floor, along with a toilet located in a small closet in one corner of the kitchen. The boys laughingly called it "the katoosher." The flush tank, mounted high on the wall above the toilet, had a long chain hanging down which, when pulled, caused the stored water to rush down a pipe with a sound like "katoosh" and sent your "duty" on its merry way.

There was no bathroom, so Saturday night baths were taken in a large galvanized tub in the middle of the kitchen floor with water heated on the black iron cooking



A plan of Jinx's family's apartment from the book.

stove (that had been converted from wood burning to kerosene). Heat for the kitchen and Jinx's mom and dad's bedroom also was provided by that stove.

The last year the family lived in "The Block," his dad built a tiny bathroom in the kitchen. It contained a tub and sink, neither of which had running water to them, so it required water that would be drawn from the kitchen sink, heated on the stove, and carried into the bathroom for use in its tub or sink.

With no drain line to the sewer, when baths or shaving had finished, the water would be emptied into a bucket and transferred back to the kitchen sink and dumped. At least the bathroom provided something larger than a galvanized tub and gave Jinx's mom some privacy.

Dishes had to be washed, by hand, in a galvanized sink that was located between the stove and the "katoosher." The sink also served as the drain when Jinx's mom washed, scrubbed, and rinsed the clothes (no washing machine).

The family did not have a refrigerator but, rather, an ice box located on the small back porch whose steps led to the alley between the block and a long row of woodsheds.

Perhaps you've read or heard stories of dads taking their misbehaving child to "the woodshed" for paddling.

But I digress. To purchase the right amount of frozen river water you wanted the iceman to leave, a card with 5#, 10#,15# and 20# printed, one on each edge, would be placed in the window, with the quantity desired appearing at the top.

With a large black rubber apron draped over his back, to keep him dry from the very large block of ice he carried (with huge tongs) over his shoulder, the ice man would trudge up the old wooden stairs, open the top of the ice box, chip off the amount requested, close the lid, and plod back down to the alley and be off to his next stop.

The third floor contained two very small bedrooms for the four boys. The only heat to them came via a register that their dad had installed between the living room ceiling and one of the upstairs bedroom floors. It provided a little heat that would rise from a small kerosene stove used to heat the living room.

There were no storm windows, and in the winter the boys would amuse themselves by scraping ice off the inside of the panes, with their fingernails, in order to look out onto Third Street.

To get to these bedrooms, the boys would exit from the kitchen into the dimly lit front hall and climb a flight of worn wooden stairs, turn right and immediately right again into the first room.

This was Jinx's oldest brother's room, and it had just enough room for a small bed and bookcase/desk that his dad had built in.

From that room, the other three boys went through a doorway into the second bedroom. This one consisted of two twin-sized beds and a small closet.

As Jinx was the youngest, he had to share one of the beds with the second youngest of the family. Seniority Ruled in their family.



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and ghosts
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long to be free
now shadows
remain
missed by those
left behind
cherished memories
that will
never die...

Ken Lavelle

("written for my friend bill j. after he showed me pictures from vietnam, and etchings from the wall, and mostly his soul. thank you bill j.")

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS
Saturday, November 14:
"Zardoz" (R)

"In the distant future Earth is divided into two camps, the barely civilized group and the overly civilized one with mental powers. A plague is attacking the second group, after which its members cease to have any interest in life and become nearly catatonic. When Zed, one of the barbarians, crosses over, the tenuous balance in their world is threatened."

1974's *Zardoz* is the movie John Boorman directed between *Deliverance* and *Exorcist II*, and it stars Sean Connery (in suspenders and a loincloth) and Charlotte Rampling.

It is pretty much one of the favorite movies of this newspaper's managing editor, trapping contemporary viewers in a great retro-futurist soft-SF hall of mirrors.

Be warned: there are some pretty heavy themes, including casually portrayed sexual assault used in the service of social and population control. Also it may or may not have some dodgy/dysgenic politics behind it though it's not clear what was actually intended.

If you haven't seen it, or haven't seen it in 40 years, check it out Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Before the movie there will be a screening of a 1/2-hour episode of Tom Baker-era *Doctor Who*, "The Ribos Operation: Part Three."

This is the next in the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library, located in the center of Wendell. Free admission. For more information about the Library visit its web page at www.wendell-freeibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

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GARDENER'S from page B1

in the front porch with glass panes and loaded the carts down cellar with wood. Now we may be allowed some last basking in the sun as we rake the colorful leaf rug and mow the lawn at least one more time.

The warmth and the light are gifts which will help to tide us over during the times of dark and cold. These same symbols will herald the Solstice and the Yuletide celebrations.

In the meantime, enjoy this unusual burst of late summer revisited. The leaves you rake can be composted by spreading them on the garden for the snow to break down. We will spread ours in the woods where the daffodils grow, in what has become a very fertile space born of natural composting. Or you can copy many thrifty New Englanders who bag them up and use them to insulate the outside walls of their cellar or as a wind-break around the garden.

Even as the days shorten, enjoy the intense clarity of the light and take time to enjoy the expanded views of the edges of our world. Watch the summer birds leave and the winter flocks return.

Then, like the cat, you can turn in early for a well-deserved nap.



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FOOTBALL from page B1

the locker room trailing by a touch-down, but they decided to run a play. The Blue D stormed into the end zone and hit the quarterback as he released the ball. The pass was incomplete, preventing the safety and stopping the clock.

Again the Panthers ran a play and again, Blue pushed them back. This time, a swarm of Indians crushed into the ball carrier behind the line and scored a two-point safety, giving the Tribe a 9-0 lead at the half.

Second Half

Cathedral got the ball first in the second half but immediately fumbled it away. Turners made it all the way to the Purple 4, but were unable to capitalize. Neither team was able to get another first down until



Jack Darling sprints for a first down as Colby Dobias fends off the Panthers.

deep into the fourth quarter. That's when Tionne Brown,

who had been relieved by Trevor Mankowsky, came back into the game under center. The Tribe lined up in an I formation, with Sanders behind Doyle, and moved the ball fourteen yards to Cathedral's 43.

Then Jalen Sanders broke loose. After getting hit at the line, he shifted to the outside, turned the corner and sprinted past all the defenders to score his second TD of the game.

There was a false start on the PAT attempt, pushing the ball back 5 yards, and the kick went wide, so with 3:49 left in the game, the Tribe led 15-0.

Cathedral fumbled the ball away yet again and Turners got the ball back on the Purple 40 with less than two minutes left on the clock. They marched as far as the 13, but let the clock run out, content with their 15-point victory.

The Turners defense played remarkably well considering the number of turnovers in the game. They prevented a score on the six-inch line, scored a safety, and took the ball away throughout the game.

Tahner Castine led the Tribe with 11 solo tackles, including two for losses. Tionne Brown had 5 tackles, and Quinn Doyle and Colby Dobias each had 4.

Will Roberge, Cullen Wozniak, Sanders, Trevor Mankowsky, Darling and Croteau also had solo tackles for Powertown. Sanders and Dobias recorded sacks, and Roberge and Mankowsky each recovered fumbles.

On the offensive side of the ball, Sanders rushed for 92 yards, caught three passes for 27, and scored two touchdowns.

Doyle rushed for 87 yards. Darling, Driscoll and Brown also carried the ball, and Driscoll had a 24-yard reception. Mankowsky completed three passes, and Brown went 1-for-2 in the air. Tyler Lavin added an extra point.

Top Ranked

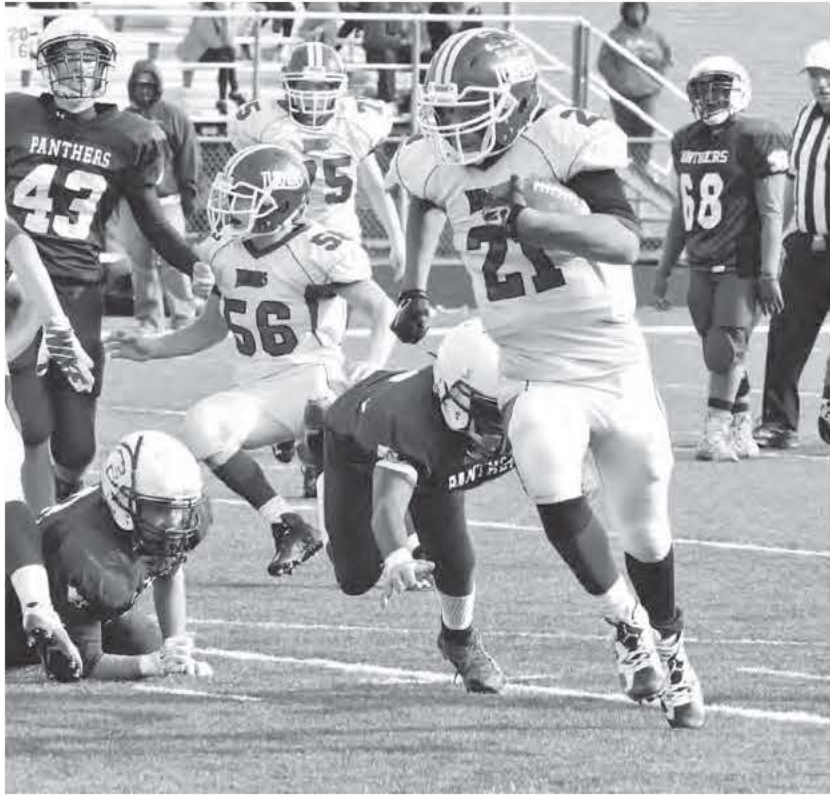
So, Turners Falls is once again in the playoffs. But this time, they're the favorites. Because of the ranking system, they are placed ahead of teams with better records, and interestingly enough, they are ranked above Lee, who defeated them two weeks ago.

You may remember their first opponent, McCann Tech. Turners has played them two years in a row for the Western Mass championship, but this year, the Hornets will have to travel to Turners Falls and will have to play in front of the True Blue Faithful.

Franklin Tech also made the playoffs, and will travel to the Berkshires to play #2 Lee.

The winners of those two games will meet in the Championship game, which determines who will

represent Western Mass in the state tournament.



Jalen Sanders (21) evades the Panthers defense as the Turners Falls Indians defeat the Cathedral HS Panthers 15-0 at Berte Field in Springfield.



Quarterback Trevor Mankowsky launches a 4th down pass to receiver John Driscoll.

DAVID HOIT PHOTOS

Gill Fire Department Promotes Simple Winter Heating Safety Tips

GILL – Snow as high as your front door? Icicles the length of your house? While the memories of last winter have faded in the warmth of summer, sadly it is time for Massachusetts' residents to start to prepare for winter.

As the temperature starts to drop and residents start to turn on the furnace or light up the wood stove, Gill fire chief Gene M. Beaubien and state fire marshal Stephen D. Coan urge residents to take simple steps to ensure they stay warm and stay safe this winter.

"As you plan for the winter months, it is more important than ever to practice safety first when heating your home," said Chief Beaubien of Gill's fire department. "Give furnaces an annual check-up because efficiently-running furnaces save money and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning." S/he added, "Certified professionals will check chimneys for cracks in the mortar and clean accumulated creosote to prevent chimney fires."

Heating is the second leading cause of fires in the home in Massachusetts. December through February are traditionally the peak months for house fires as the cold weather drives people indoors, heating systems are taxed, and there is more use of space heaters.

Heating is also the leading cause of carbon monoxide poisoning, so make sure you have both work-

ing smoke AND carbon monoxide alarms on each floor of your home. Test the alarms once a month and change batteries twice a year. Replace smoke alarms that are older than ten and CO alarms older than seven. Check on elderly neighbors regularly in the cold months.

"Tragedy frequently strikes in winter months where many fire deaths are caused by heating," said Coan. "We can't stress enough the importance of taking precautions with space heaters, keeping them at least three feet from anything that can burn, and properly disposing of woodstove ashes, as simple steps to safeguard you and your family this winter."

Space heaters can cause fires if they are placed too close to flammable materials such as drapes, furniture or bedding. Keep anything that can burn three feet away from the space heater. Avoid using extension cords, and use only heavy-duty ones where necessary. One of every 20 space heater fires in the past five years has caused a fire death.

If you heat your home by burning *solid fuels* (coal, firewood, pellets), make sure to dispose of the ashes properly. Place ashes in a metal ash can with a secure lid and place it away from the house, garage and deck. A single ember can stay hot for days without being detected and easily fanned back to life.

Do not place ashes in cardboard boxes or plastic containers, inside the garage, the breezeway, or under the porch. Have the chimney annually cleaned by a certified professional who can also check for cracked or broken mortar.

Natural gas and fuel oil are both safe and efficient. Make sure to have a professional clean and tune up your furnace and hot water heater every year. Gas leaks can be poisonous so the gas company adds something to make it smell like rotten eggs. If you suspect a leak, move outdoors and contact the local fire department immediately.

The Department of Fire Services, along with the Gill Fire Department, will educate residents about winter fire safety through the **Keep Warm, Keep Safe** public awareness campaign. Components will include radio and television ads, English/Spanish ads in public transit systems, multi-language flyers and brochures, and a grassroots outreach effort led by local fire departments.

The **Keep Warm, Keep Safe** campaign was launched in 2008 after a spike in heating-related fire deaths in 2007. Home heating fires in Massachusetts have decreased nearly 40% from 2008-2014 (2,495 to 1,540).

For more information on winter heating and fire safety, visit www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe or contact your local fire department.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Two Hit Deer; Illegal Dumping; Steam

Monday, 10/19

1 p.m. Report of breaking & entering into mill on Paper Mill Road. Under investigation.

6 p.m. Report taken of possible larceny.

Tuesday, 10/20

2:20 p.m. Suspicious subject operating a silver motor vehicle going door to door on Maple Avenue. Unable to locate same.

2:50 p.m. Box truck parked in driveway of Northfield Road resident. Unable to locate operator. Left message with number on side of vehicle.

Wednesday, 10/21

7:45 a.m. Report of fire alarm at French King Motel. Found to be steam from shower. 8:30 a.m. Report of deer hit on Route 2 near Old State Road. Same removed by state.

6:37 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint: Residents on Gunn Street

advise subjects racing motor vehicles up and down road. Spoke with owner of motor vehicle; will cease.

Friday, 10/23

1:30 p.m. Alarm at Old State Road. Found to be secure.

Saturday, 10/24

1:30 p.m. Report of parking complaint at Fire Station #2. Vehicle gone upon arrival. 10:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with underage drinking party on Caldwell Road.

Sunday, 10/25

5:45 p.m. Took report of stolen debit card.

Monday, 10/26

10:39 p.m. Took report of larceny on French King Highway.

Tuesday, 10/27

1:15 p.m. Investigated report of possible animal abuse on Lester Street.

4:25 p.m. Took report concerning larceny from Northfield Road residence.

8 p.m. Assisted on

scene of medical emergency in Prospect Heights.

Wednesday, 10/28

7:10 a.m. Report of deer hit on Dorsey Road.

Thursday, 10/29

8:30 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Arch Street. Under investigation.

Friday, 10/30

7:05 p.m. Fire on high-tension lines at Old State Road. Found to be electrical fire on tower.

9:21 p.m. Criminal complaints issued to

and for operating to endanger and speeding.

Sunday, 11/1

12:40 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to

for operating on a suspended license.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was November 3, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Veterans Seek to Regulate Vigils at Memorial

By DAVID DETMOLD — While ghosts and hobgoblins paraded down the Avenue Monday night, the selectboard took up a request from the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial to regulate another kind of public demonstration: the occasional candlelight vigils that have taken place in front of the Veterans Memorial in recent weeks.

The board quoted from a letter from Michael Cenzano, chair of the elected Trustees, which read in part, "Too many associations or individuals are using these memorials without permission." Cenzano sought a ruling from the board to determine whether "anyone wishing to use any memorial must come before the [Soldiers Memorial] committee for approval."

Further, Cenzano wanted the board's opinion as to whether his committee could in any circumstance refuse permission to a group wishing to use the memorials, without infringing on the constitutional right to free speech and free assembly.

Maure Briggs-Carrington, a Turners Falls resident, sent out an email on Tuesday, October 25, the day when news of the 2000th American fatality in the Iraq war first broke. In a campaign coordinated by the nationwide group *MoveOn.org*, peace activists around the country called for candlelight vigils at twilight on the following day.

Briggs-Carrington's email called for concerned residents to gather in protest of the war "in front of flags, next to Carnegie Library, on Avenue A, Turners Falls," clearly a reference to the Veterans Memorial.

This was the second such vigil held at the memorial. The first, in August, was approved on short notice by the chief of police after a call to town hall.

This time, Briggs-Carrington did not call town hall for permission. "There was no time. When the 2,000th soldier was killed, you can't plan ahead of time," she said. Besides, "We were standing on the sidewalks. It's a public place. It's the perfect place. It's on the Avenue. It's about the war."

"The flags represent the people who died in the war, which I believe is an illegal war."

Cenzano said his committee, elected to care for the memorials for those who served and died in America's wards, "should have the opportunity for people who want to use the memorials to come in front of our committee. That's kind of sacred ground. We're there to honor the veterans. That should not be a place to protest anything. If they want to protest, let them go across the street to Peskeomskut Park."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he would check with town counsel to see what kind of authority elected officials of the town would have to deny permission for citizens seeking to exercise the right of free speech and assembly on public property.

Board chair Allen Ross said, "The freedom to use public property for demonstrations needs to be maintained. The selectboard has that responsibility. Given what is going on in the country today, our protecting the right to use public property is very important."

Attorney Bill Newman, director of the Western Mass office of the American Civil Liberties Union, said, "Demonstrations *per se* may not need a permit at all. In a public park, which is a traditional public forum, persons have the right to protest."

There can be reasonable restrictions placed on the use of the sidewalks, Newman said. But he said those restrictions would already be spelled out in the town's bylaws, and could not be rewritten simply to address the activities of a particular group. The same rules have to apply to a peace group, a group supporting the war, or a group holding a bake sale.



HARDING PHOTOS

Perry's Horseshoe Crab.

PERRY from page B1

subject matter that Perry has spent a lot of time in the natural world.

Though he would be the first to say he's taken a lot of creative license with his designs, Perry endeavors to make his animals recognizable, and he likes it if people can also recognize the broken tools used for the features. He calls the business "Rustworks."

The addition of old glass bottles and other decorative elements is a newer feature of his work, and some of the more whimsical pieces also have lighting elements.

Perry's learned a lot since he started sculpting, and is much better at turning his conceptual idea into a finished piece — and he's developed more skills working with three dimensions and balance.

But that doesn't mean he mass-produces the sculptures. Each one is unique, and sometimes he gets stuck and has to leave the piece for

awhile, until the flicker of an idea emerges and the process resumes.

One of my favorite pieces is a mosquito poised atop a pair of 6 foot tall arching metal supports. It turns out when Perry was 14 years old, he and his dad and brother ventured up to Vernon, Vermont to dismantle an old farm building for the barn board, and the job included taking down the silo. These gracefully curving bars are the old bands that held the silo together.

When I asked Perry about the average selling price of his work, he admitted he gets attached to them and hasn't actually sold any. "They're kind of like my kids!"

It was clear when we toured the site why Perry hangs onto his creations — every one comes with a detailed story and triggers memories of people and places.

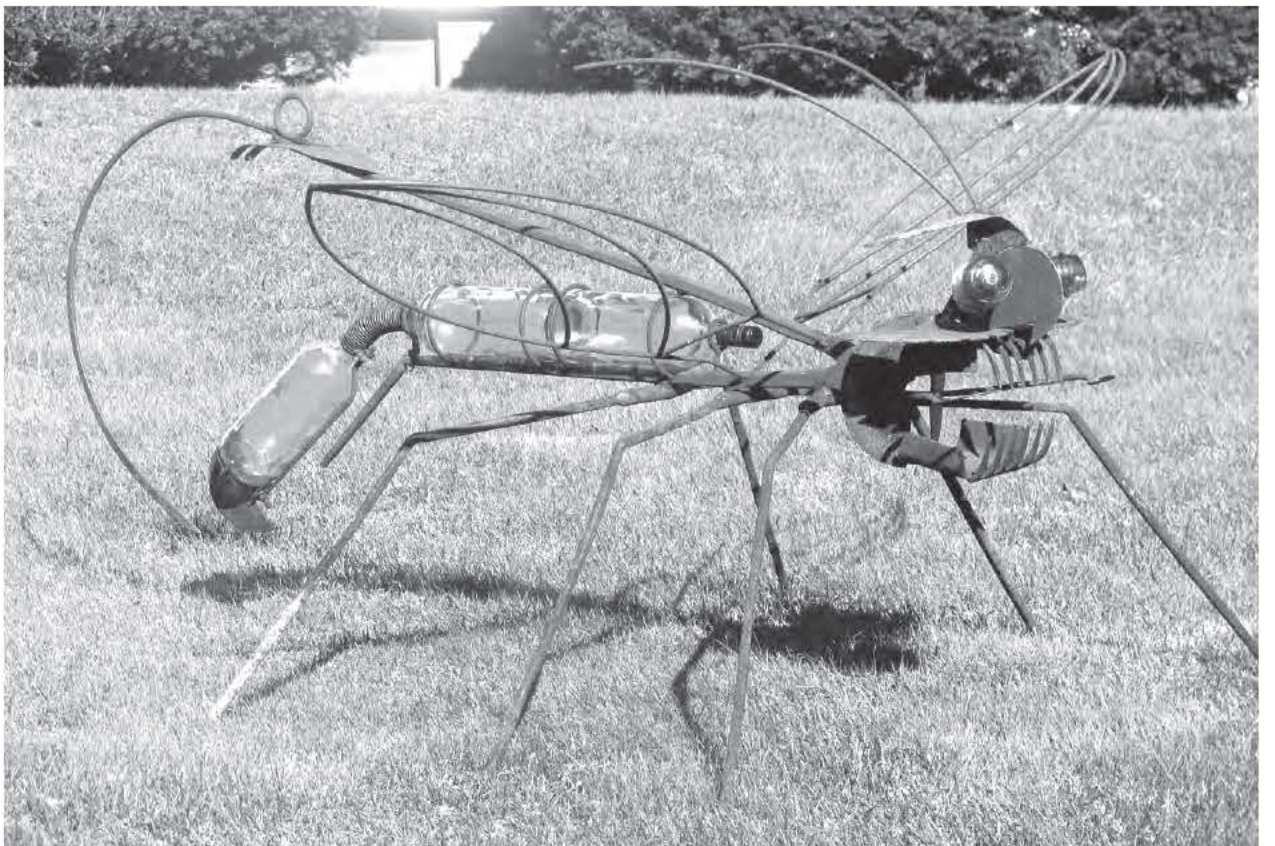
As we wandered about, I heard "these pieces came from my grandfather's harrow," "this was part of

my dad's lawnmower," "I fished these insulators out of a dumpster," "these are springs from an old couch we burned on our fire pit," "this is part of a post-hole digger that broke," etc. etc.

When asked about his favorite piece, Perry paused awhile and then admitted, "It's usually the one I just finished."

Retirement has given him more time to work on the sculptures and the most recent pieces are impressive in the detail and size.

He's currently working on a coelacanth, and judging by the size of the head, it will be 8 to 10 feet long; he also recently finished a life-size sea turtle. If we're lucky, maybe we'll see them in the Avenue A window galleries for one of the upcoming exhibits. The unheated space wouldn't be a problem for these beauties!



Perry's bluebottle fly is made of iron and blue glass bottles.

Challenges Native Americans Face in the 21st Century

TURNERS FALLS — Billy Myers will be the featured speaker at the third annual Beaver Moon Gathering on Saturday, November 21, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A.

A brief opening focused on "Giving Thanks" will begin at noon, followed by the keynote presentation by Billy "Iahtehotas" Myers of the Kanien' ke'ha (Mohawk) Bear Clan.

He will talk about the challenges

faced by American Indians in the 21st century while remaining connected to their nation, history, ceremony and commitment to the environment.

He will also share his experiences in activism, education and tolerance while touring the country, and the experiences with many Native nations, including issues with resources, alcoholism, and death rates on various reservations.

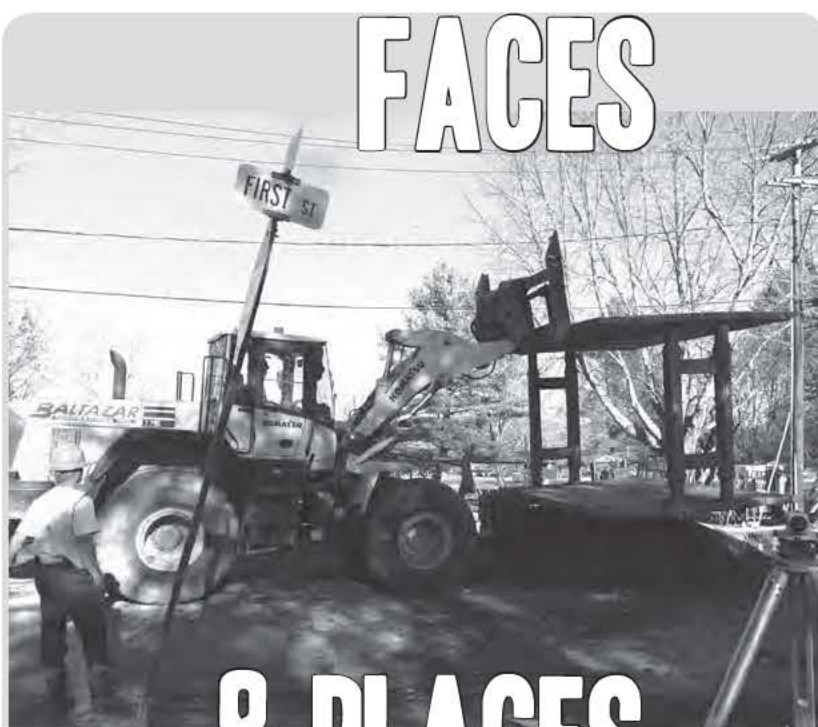
Myers is a professional conservator, artist, musician and touring

drummer for Gary Farmer, actor, musician, and activist.

The gathering is named in honor of the full moon on November 25. Traditionally, this full moon marked the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze to ensure a supply of warm winter furs.

Co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project (www.nolumbekaproject.org) and DCR (www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/).

Suggested donation \$2 to \$5.



Ann Jemas shared this picture of the work Baltazar Contractors has been doing on the First Street wastewater pump station in Turners Falls. What's going on here? Is that huge thing the pump station's housing? Let us know at editor@montaguereporter.org.

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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.

FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH

Montague Center Library: *Outside the Lines!* 1st Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m..

People's Pint, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls 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 guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

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

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Inside Art ii*, and *Reflections from Inside*. Exhibit of photography and a display of writings from men incarcerated in the Franklin County House of Correction. Reception is 11/6, 5-7 p.m. Exhibit through 11/20.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Nature of Life*. Group art exhibit by the Artists of Franklin County. Photography and multimedia with reflections on nature. Curated by Ellen Blanchette. Through 11/30. Hours for Discovery Center are now 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *LCA Residents Group Show*. Artist reception 11/8, 4-6 p.m.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *The Erection*. Ongoing exhibit chronicles the creation of Glenn Ridler's Little Big House. Photographs, printed text and video help tell the story. info@littlebig-housegallery.com

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Ordinary Storms*. Artist Barbara Milot's superimposed drawings on photographs exploring weather images. Runs to 11/12.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Peggy Hart: Wool Gathering*. Collection of local wool and linsey woolsey blankets woven on antique industrial looms. Opening reception 11/7. 5-7 p.m. Exhibit runs from 11/7 to 12/31.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Fine arts and crafts by member artists. Check website for seasonal hours: www.sawmillriverarts.com

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Follow the Thread*. A group show by fiber artists who are members of

the cooperative. Artists' reception is 11/7, 5-8 p.m. Show runs through 11/23.

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: Community Art Exhibit "In Someone Else's Shoes: A Reflection on Perspectives and Empathy." Performance work may be included and will be presented during the opening reception on 11/7, 6-8 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Fabric Art. Memorial Art Exhibit for Sara Clearwater Liberty*. 23 privately owned pieces, including floor coverings, tapestries and a quilt.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-operative gallery. For more information see www.sawmillriver-arts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.



The New York Times says "if this [Elephant Revival] doesn't make you smile, something is wrong with you." This 5 piece group from Nederland Colorado is playing at the Shea Theater on Saturday, 11/7 at 7:30 p.m. Their music has been described as "a groove containing elements of gypsy, Celtic, Americana, and folk." They say "Where words fail ... music speaks." Presented by Signature Sounds. \$

wendellmass.us.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

GCC Downtown Center, Greenfield: *Senior Symposia - What's Social About Social Media*. Discussion of generational divide around use of social media, how the arts reflect this use, and evaluating its value. 2-4 p.m. \$

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *The Waxwing Four Concert*. Gospel and Appalachian singing by men's a cappella quartet. 6 p.m. Donations

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series, featuring poets Gail Thomas and Jenifer Browne Lawrence*. Reading. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*. 60's and 70's gold. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: Northern Routes presents *Vampire Belt* (Chris Corsano / Bill

Nace duo), *Psychic Blood*, and *Peter Nolan*. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. Warm the Children fundraiser. Clothing and donations welcome. 7 p.m. Then at 9:30 p.m.: *Tawdry*. American music.

Arena Civic Theater, Greenfield: *Steel Magnolias*. Community production with six performances over two weekends. For more details: http://www.arenacivictheatre.org Opening tonight 8 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Ari & Mia*. Boston-based sister duo who reference Southern and Northeastern fiddle music with the early American songbook and jazz. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Signature Sounds presents *Elephant Revival*, with openers *The Mike and Ruthy Band*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: Open Mouth presents *Myriam Gendron*, singer/songwriter, *Ruth Garbus*, minimalist pop. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Back Track*. Beatles cover band. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Willie and the Poor Boys* (CCR and mo!). *Driftwood Soldier*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

the Arts Block, Greenfield: *Klezperanto*. Klezmer plus. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lazy Bones*. Old Time Jazz, blues and more. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Taste of Theater Tuesdays*. Reading of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (2008) by Sarah Ruhl. Surreal. 7 p.m. Donations.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 11

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. Southern String Band. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV 12

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin All-Stars*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lexi Weege*. Solo chanteuse. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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

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SPORTS CORNER

Senior Jess Loynd serves the ball on Senior Night at TFHS as the Indians defeat Greenfield 3-1.



Setter Sienna Dillensneider passes the ball during the Senior Night match against Greenfield.



Senior Nadia Hassan (No. 13) passes the ball as teammates Jordyn Fiske (No. 12) and Hailey Whipple (No. 6) get ready for the attack.



Jordyn Fiske receives the serve while Hailey Whipple (No. 6) is ready for the play.

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