



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 6

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Non-Plant Objects Resurface As Hottest Town Hall Controversy



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Rodney Madison and his shop's planter decorations.

By JEFF SINGLETON

The expected controversy over the resignation of two members of the Montague Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) did not materialize at the town's selectboard meeting on Monday, November 10. The two now former CAC members, chairs Garry Earles and Eileen Dowd, did not appear at the meeting, so the board simply voted to accept their requests to leave the committee.

Instead, the board returned to a former concern that, as in the past, drew a large and passionate crowd: the colorful objects on the sidewalk and in the planter in front of Rodney Madison's store on Avenue A

in Turners Falls. Madison's store is filled with idiosyncratic and often artistic objects. He tends to display quite a few on the sidewalk and in the planter in front of his store.

Last year, when the store was on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street, Madison, after much negotiation, obtained permission from the board to display some objects on the sidewalk. The planters were a thornier issue which produced heated debate over the purpose of the planters which line the Avenue and whether Madison's displays were "art."

After several packed meetings (mostly packed by people who see MONTAGUE page A5

TFHS Principal Osborn Talks Restorative Justice

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – Thomas Osborn, principal of Turners Falls High School, spoke to me after the visit last week by Secretary of Education Matthew Malone.

The secretary had said some very complimentary things about the district and the high school in particular. Specifically, he said to Osborn that he liked the social justice program he had in place in the school.

After he left, I asked Osborn what Malone had meant. We sat in his office while he answered that and several other questions for me.

Osborn described what he called restorative justice, a method now being used in the high school for students who face suspension. This follows a discipline philosophy about harm reduction and how harm can be repaired.

Osborn gave an example of a student who throws a rock and breaks a window. He said the traditional approach would be to suspend the student, punish him for doing a bad thing. But what does the student learn from this? And what does he do that repairs the harm he had done?

The student has lost time in school and the window is still see OSBORN page A3



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Education Secretary Matthew Malone (left), visiting TFHS last week, with Principal Thomas Osborn. Cameo by English teacher Karl Dziura (rear).

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

State Responds on Helicopter Surveillance; Board Discusses Pay Conflict

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At the Wendell selectboard meeting on November 5, a number of issues were discussed including a conflict that will arise for the chair. The dog issue also briefly returned to the agenda. And a number of other matters kept the selectboard busy, including a response from state police concerning the board's demands for an end to low-flying helicopter surveillance.

Before the November 5 meeting town coordinator Nancy Aldrich made a chocolate pumpkin cake with orange frosting. It was on the selectboard table during the meeting and was very tasty.

Aldrich read from and passed out copies of a letter from State Police Superintendent written to the Wendell selectboard. (See article sidebar for the full text.)

Board members did not comment on the letter. State senator Stan Rosenberg said there is little he can do in the state senate to end this kind of flight, but that he has sent an email on to U.S. representative Jim McGovern.

see WENDELL page A6

RADIO ACTIVITY: Fighting Hunger in the Valley

PART I: The Road to Amherst Is Paved With Good Intentions

By DAVID DETMOLD

Monte Belmonte, the pied piper of Turners Falls, dressed as Evel Knievel in an All American cape and crash helmet and pushing a high tech shopping cart instead of a motorcycle, led a small but intrepid band of marchers on a 26-mile fundraising marathon from Northampton to Amherst to Greenfield on November 6 to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Belmonte, a resident of the Patch, is the morning disc jockey at WRSI. Last Thursday's rain-soaked excursion was the fifth annual fundraising march the radio station has sponsored to help alleviate hunger in the four counties of Western Massachusetts. Belmonte has rolled his shopping cart from Northampton to Greenfield each time, all told raising more than \$165,000 in donations for the non-profit food bank (www.foodbankwma.org).

Going the distance with Belmonte again this year were Food Bank director Andrew Morehouse, Congressman Jim McGovern, and Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan, with rolling support from members of the Pioneer Valley Roller Derby club, dozens of Hampshire Educational Collaborative Academy high schoolers, eight Waldorf seniors from the Hartsbook School in Hadley and some half a dozen knights in rusting armor with their damp ladies in waiting from Montague's own Mutton and Mead ensemble.

It was a bizarre entourage, fired with charitable intent, wearing weatherproof sneakers with extra arch support.

Down the narrow shoulders of Route 5 &



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Our reporter (left), doggedly tailing Belmonte (right).

10 in Deerfield, as the dusk descended into dark, Belmonte led a dripping crew beneath their motley shawls and umbrellas, keeping up a running banter over his remote mic and crash helmet headset with thousands of listeners in radio land all along the way, urging them over and over again to contribute to the cause, pausing only long enough to accept checks from waiting bystanders along the route, most of whom he interviewed live.

Belmonte seems to think nothing of getting up in time for a six a.m. sendoff in Northampton, but DA Sullivan had to stop for four cups of coffee at the Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters outlet along Route 9 in Hadley, some of which found takers before he drank the rest to

see MARCH page A4

Montague's Civic Commission Explores Shea Theater Use

By CHRISTOPHER CARMODY and CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Montague's newly reinstated Civic Commission, tasked with determining a vision and strategy for the use of the town-owned Shea Theater, held its first of two public meetings on November 4 and 10.

About 25 people attended a Visioning Session on the 4th, facilitated by Debra J'Anthony, who served as the theater's executive director from 1992 to 2007 before taking a similar role at Northampton's Academy of Music.

J'Anthony presented her credentials which include teaching at elite boarding schools, formerly managing the Shea, and talked about the process that had brought her back.

After the nonprofit Shea Community Theater Inc., the current tenants of the theater, did not file renewal paperwork on time earlier this year, the town was advised by counsel that it must issue a new Request for Proposals (RFP) and put the building's future use on the table.

The Civic Commission will oversee the RFP process, which J'Anthony said would help explore whether the Shea has potential to become something beyond the scope of its mission and vision of the past 24 years.

Commission member Pam Allen of K Street stood ready with an easel and markers as the floor was opened to public comment.

Franklin County poet Paul Richmond and current Shea board president Michael Glazier discussed possible "diverse" uses other than music and drama. Shared uses were viable but had problems, said Glazier, including limited access for those with disabilities.

Robin Paris of the Shea's board of directors said she was hopeful about the health of the community and the recent reworking of the organization's mission statement to draw

more diverse offerings. "We all have to get along," she pointed out.

Commission member Jamie Berger of K Street expressed concerns with communications around appointments to the commission and a lack of clarity over the process. "I might be deciding something, but no one has told me," he said.

The visioning session was intended to give guidance to the new commission before its first meeting on the 10th. "That doesn't answer his question," said Paris.

Beverly Ketch of K Street asserted that a friend had been willing to join the commission but was ruled out due to membership requirements. This led to a brief discussion of changing requirements.

see CIVIC page A7



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

On advice of counsel, the town will request proposals for the use of its Avenue A theater building.

The Montague Reporter

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August, 2002

And the Winners Are...

Last week's elections had Republicans coming up like weeds in a garden neglected for some time. And while yes, the GOP was certainly triumphant, the real winners were Citizens United and voter apathy, or perhaps voter disillusion.

That's not just our opinion. David Bossie, chairman of the conservative advocacy organization Citizens United, said the same thing the day after the elections: "Citizens United, our Supreme Court case, leveled the playing field, and we're very proud of the impact that had in last night's election."

What Bossie means by leveling the playing field is that those with the most money can buy elections. And spend money was what the various and often nefarious outside groups managed to do extremely well this election cycle. Although firm totals aren't yet in, spending on this year's elections is estimated to have reached at least \$3.67 billion, a record for a midterm election.

Much of the cash flowing into campaign coffers this cycle was in the form of secret donations.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, this so-called "dark money," raised and spent by groups that do not have to disclose their donors, amounted to at least \$216 million. 69 percent of it went to Republicans.

Super PACs, that are obligated to disclose their donors (though there is no ceiling on donations) pumped in an additional \$554 million – \$301 million from Republican-aligned shops, \$225 million from Democratic allies.

It is not that outside campaign spending is new. It had an initial trial run in the 2010 mid-term elections, when \$161 million was spent by secretive outside groups.

Dark money guided by special interests had a major impact on this election. Mitch McConnell picked up \$11.4 million in dark money. In Colorado, Cory Gardner netted at least \$18 million in anonymous donations, helping him beat Mark Udall who only managed to collect \$4 million in dark money.

In North Carolina, \$13.7 million in secret donations was spent for Thom Tillis, who won over Senator Kay Hagan, who only had \$2.5 million in dark money to spend.

And while the public may not know who contributed to these campaigns, McConnell, Tillis and Gardner, along with all the others who benefitted from this cash, most certainly are aware of the special interests that helped them get elected.

Which means, of course, that they are now indebted to certain benefactors. Come January, those who helped will likely begin to receive a certain amount of payback in terms of legislation passed or not passed.

But it wasn't just money that put the GOP in power. It was also voter apathy, or perhaps extreme voter disillusionment.

The exact number of those who went to the polls last Tuesday is not yet complete but according to Associated Press statistics, only 83 million Americans voted. That amounts to just 36.6 percent of the electorate. In other words, nearly two-thirds of eligible American voters sat this one out.

And this made a difference. Many on the left, disappointed with the president or with congressional gridlock, opted not to vote. But by not voting for the Republican opponent, they effectively put the Republicans in power.

There were other reasons for the low turnout: shorter early voting hours, overly complex Voter ID laws, voter roll challenges, redistricting, and moving polling places, among other obstacles.

But many of these same challenges to voters have been in place before, yet the electorate still managed to show up in greater numbers than they did last Tuesday.

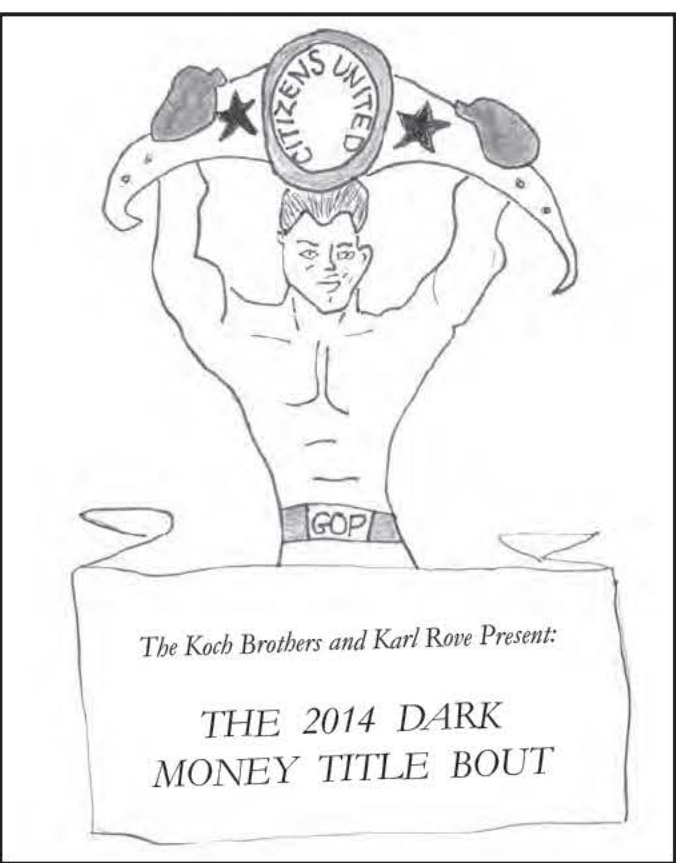
So what's going on? Perhaps the blitz of negative advertising has so turned off large groups of voters that they feel neither party represents them.

In addition, the reluctance of some Democrats to stand up for liberal values convinced a segment of potential voters that there was little difference between the candidates. Latinos, who helped put Obama over the top twice, did not show up at the polls in the numbers that they did in 2012. African-American voting was also down.

We don't pretend to know precisely why 2014 may have set a record for the lowest number of voters since 1942. But the flow of dark money and voter disillusion is undermining American democracy.

It's unlikely, particularly now that the Republicans are in control of both houses, that there will be any legislative action on reining in the massive inflow of cash from special interest groups.

In the coming years, the only way to ensure that the country should be governed by everyone, not just business interests, will be to mobilize voters who feel this way in record numbers.



Letters to the Editors

Earles: Resignations Were Indeed Demanded

Former CAC co-chair Garry Earles sent this letter to the town on November 6, and asked the Reporter to print it in full, since he felt his concerns were not discussed or addressed at Monday's selectboard meeting.

I am in receipt of your email of November 4 (timed in at 10 a.m.) regarding an invitation from the Board Of Selectmen (BoS) to "...reconsider my request to resign from the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC)."

Your email further goes on to state that, "... Mr. Fairbrother acknowledged that his comments, contained in an email of October 17, 2014, which suggested that you resign from the board, represented his personal remarks and not those of the full Board of Selectmen."

While I sense that the BoS would prefer to have this on their agenda for [November] 10, I cannot and will not make such a decision in such a hurried manner, especially as I believe that there are other concerns attendant to this matter that require resolution prior to my appearance at any BoS meeting.

To wit:

1. Mr. Fairbrother did not *suggest* my resignation, he unequivocally demanded it: "Both Garry

and Eileen will submit your resignations from the CAC to the Town Clerk...."

Then:

2. Mr. Fairbrother *challenged me to challenge his authority* to do such: "If you don't think I have the authority to ask for your resignations by myself I'll be happy to get it onto the next available BoS agenda."

And finally:

3. He threatened to expose my "incompetence" and further, my "...embarrassment to the CAC, the BoS and our volunteer town government in general." This threat was solidified when he stated: "You can go quietly or go publicly. The choice is yours, but the fiasco you have presided over for the past several months is going to end."

All quotes are from Mr. Fairbrother's email to me at 7:45 p.m. on October 17, 2014. Any italicized emphasis is mine.

These actions, and quite possibly others, were undertaken by Mr. Fairbrother prior to and outside of a publicly posted meeting, without consultation and/or discussion by the BoS as a whole.

Also, neither a seventy-two (72) hour notice nor an option for an Executive Session, due to the nature of his directives to, and characterizations of, me, were afforded and

forthcoming to me.

Such procedures were preempted and essentially abrogated by Mr. Fairbrother's actions. Due process did not exist; it was annihilated.

Such behavior by a member of the BoS, the senior elected officials of our town is, to put it mildly, curious and inappropriate.

Therefore, I believe that the BoS needs to address these concerns prior to entertaining any thought about, let alone engaging me in, any discussion regarding the CAC and/or my submitted resignation.

Perhaps once these important, democratic and principled procedural matters are addressed and resolved in the necessary fashion, only then might I respond to your invitation.

If we, as we do here in Montague, depend heavily on community volunteers to carry out the duties of the various boards and committees, then those who currently serve and those who consider doing so need to be assured that they will be accorded legitimate procedures within which to conduct the affairs of a particular board or committee and not be subjected to such numbing actions by our elected officials.

Garry L. Earles
Turners Falls

Watchdog Groups File with NRC About Entergy

Watchdogs in three states told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) last month that nuclear operator Entergy Nuclear should not be allowed to obscure financial problems at its struggling nuclear reactors because public safety is at stake.

The groups reiterated their request that the nation's nuclear regulator enforce its rules and shut down reactors that do not earn enough revenue to cover operating expenses.

In their recent filing with the

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Alliance for a Green Economy (New York), Citizens Awareness Network (Vermont, Massachusetts), Pilgrim Watch (Massachusetts), and Vermont Citizens Action Network (Vermont) ask the NRC either to compel Entergy to prove it is financially qualified to operate the reactors, or to use the publicly available information provided in their petition to determine that the reactors are out of compliance.

The Nuclear Regulatory Com-

mission has an enforcement tool to prevent nuclear companies from compromising safety in lean economic times.

The "financial qualifications" regulation requires nuclear operators to show that they can continue to earn enough revenue to maintain operations, and gives the agency the authority to shut down reactors that cannot.

Deb Katz, Executive Director
Citizens Awareness Network

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

From 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. this Saturday, the Montague Congregational Church in Montague Center will be hosting its **Fete Noel holiday fair**, featuring crafts, drawings, gift items, homemade food and used clothing. Many foods will be available “to go.”

Get a glimpse into the old time native way of thinking known as the “**Beauty Path**” on Saturday, November 15 at 11 a.m. in the meeting room at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls.

Gale Blacksnake, descended from the Eel River Band of the Miami Nation, presents the powerful story of the walk along the Beauty Path.

There was so much interest in the Montague Libraries Sum-

mer Reading Program Lego series that they have decided to start a **monthly Lego Club**, beginning in January. However, the libraries don’t have many Lego pieces yet.

If you have unused Legos that you would be willing to part with, please consider bringing them to the Carnegie Library during open hours. Details about dates and times for the Lego Club to come.

On Saturday, November 15, from 8:00 until 9:30 p.m. join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center’s Education Coordinator, Kim Noyes, for an introduction to the **late fall and early winter constellations**.

Meet Pegasus the Winged Horse, Queen Cassiopeia and her beautiful daughter, Andromeda, and a cast of others featured in the night sky. Which constellations are visible

year-round and which are prominent only this time of year? Explore the stories behind some of the constellations, as well as learn to identify what they are and how to find them.

The program will begin indoors with a brief introduction, then venture outside to enjoy the night sky. Dress warmly, bring a flashlight and binoculars if possible. Discover a new way to enjoy the dark, chilly evenings ahead. This is a free event and is appropriate for ages 10 and older. Please call to pre-register at 1-800-859-2960.

The **Gill/Montague Senior Center Christmas Bazaar** is Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by and check out the raffles, food, crafts and gift selections. There will be white elephant tables with lots of Beanie Babies.

Profits will help fund kitchen supplies, social events, repairs, maintenance of equipment, and many other expenses not covered in the Council on Aging budget.

The center is located at 62 Fifth Street in Turner Falls. If your organization would like to make a donation to be raffled off please

contact the center at 863-9357.

The **Drummer Craft Fair** returns to the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 22. This juried craft fair features over sixty-five artists and craftspeople from throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond, presenting their unique handcrafted products.

All proceeds from this event benefit the FCTS Music Department and award-winning FCTS Renegades Drumline. Admission is free, plenty of parking, completely ADA accessible.

Freshly prepared refreshments, luncheon items and baked goods available, prepared by FCTS culinary students. Pick up a pie just in time for Thanksgiving dessert.

Handmade one-of-a-kind crafts, homemade baked goods and a light café style luncheon will all be for sale at the Leverett town hall on Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Leverett Congregational Church (LCC).

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

OSBORN from page A1

broken. In their new approach the student would sit with the custodian who has to repair the window and listen to him talk about how that action affected his work day.

The student could learn about what it takes to fix a window, how the custodian had to put off other work in order to spend time fixing the window, order new materials, perhaps even work extra hours that would keep him from his family.

As part of the effort to restore the harm he has caused, the student might then work with the custodian to fix the window.

Osborn said suspensions don’t cure the problem. Research has shown that suspensions do not serve the purpose they were intended to serve. Students who have

been suspended often fail to graduate and one suspension can have a permanently detrimental effect on their ability to succeed in school.

The high school now has an internal student suspension room where a professionally trained certified teacher remains available in the Justice Center each school day. The purpose is to get to the root of the problem causing bad behavior.

When students feel listened to, when they have a chance to talk about the problem they are having, this allows them to resolve these problems and find justice for harms done to them and avoid causing others harm.

Osborn emphasized the importance of students feeling listened to, which can reduce the feelings of isolation students may have and

bring them back into the school community in a better state of mind.

Proof that this is working? Osborn said high suspension rates in past years have now been reduced to less than ten suspensions this year.

Making use of the Justice Center, a considerable number of students use the option of self-referrals when they feel the need to talk to someone about anger or frustration that could lead them to do something unproductive.

Osborn made a list of other policies that are the foundation of his approach to student education: teaching students they are part of a greater community; making individual student success a common goal of the school; asking stu-

dents what they need; recognizing their problems are real; making the school 100% child centered; and remembering they deserve individual attention.

The high school has also added some unconventional classes based on what they perceived as a need of the students.

For example, while there was already a fine quality art program, there was no portfolio class for students who plan to go on to college to study art. Now they have such a class. They also have a lawyer teaching law and a class in plant and soil science.

Osborn said he has an open door policy. Parents don’t need an appointment to see him, and he is always willing to take their calls.

Great Falls Middle School Students Chat with DA Office Staff

By **EMILY KREMS**

TURNERS FALLS – On November 5th, the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee at Great Falls Middle School met with Caitlyn Rock, Assistant District Attorney, and Donald Gallagher, Director of Community Outreach and Education, from the Northwestern District Attorney’s office. Kimberly Hearn, assistant principal of Great Falls Middle School, also attended.

The purpose of the visit was to educate the DA’s staff about the work that the students in the club are doing, and to allow the students to ask questions about the prevalence and consequences of cyberbullying in our community.

The students learned that “sexting” – or sending nude photos through text or online – is still very prevalent, while other forms of cyberbullying seem to have decreased,

either because there are fewer incidents or because they are reported less often.

Eight students – 7th and 8th grad-

ers – comprise the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee, which was formed in the spring of 2013 when a group of students expressed con-

cern about mean things happening online.

Last year, the group was very busy with numerous activities to create awareness of cyberbullying. They organized a parent night featuring State Trooper Christopher Ware that was covered on 22News, presented to the School Committee and to all of the principals in the district and Erving to announce the parent night and provide cyberbullying statistics, met with Officer Bill Doyle and gave a presentation to the middle school which included a skit.

This year, the group plans to educate students in grades 4, 5 and 6 at Sheffield, Gill and Erving elementary schools. Additionally, they plan to administer a survey to the entire middle school to assess the amount of cyberbullying that students at the middle school are witnessing.



KREMS PHOTO

Great Falls Middle School students meet with DA office staff last Wednesday.

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week ending 11/7/14:

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Grade 7
Abby Waite
Kaitlyn Miner

Grade 8
Hannah Welles

RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of November 17
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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This Saturday: Greenfield Community College's First "Turkey Run" 5K

GREENFIELD – The Greenfield Community College Foundation is holding its 1st Annual 5K Run on Saturday, November 15.

Funds from this year's run will support the Food Pantry for GCC students and their families located on the college's Main Campus. Presented by Premier Sponsor Freedom Credit Union, the 5K Race is intended to provide an opportunity for community members to support this community's college, while engaging in an active, family-friendly event that promotes good health.

Sanctioned by USA Track & Field, the race will start and finish behind the GCC Main Campus building in Greenfield. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and race will begin at 9 a.m. rain or shine.

The registration fee is \$25 through Nov 14 and \$30 for race day sign up. The race route will include one pass through the adjoining neighborhood, a cross country stretch on the college grounds and two loops up the hill behind the building that forms the base of Shelburne Mountain.

Online registration is open at www.gcc.mass.edu/turkeyrun. The first 100 people to register will receive an exclusive GCC 5K Turkey Run t-shirt.

All registrants will receive a GCC 5K Turkey Run gift bag with a Turkey Run water bottle and GCC pen. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest male and female runners in each age division, along with oldest and youngest runners and "most enthusiastic" as demonstrated by attire and attitude!

GCC President Bob Pura, who is registered to run, will also welcome the runners to the GCC campus. Freedom Credit Union President and CEO, Barry Crosby, will offer remarks to kick off the start of the race.

Other sponsors for this first time event to provide expanded access to food security for GCC students and their families include Gold Level sponsors Barr & Barr Builders (the company responsible for the significant core renovation of the college campus), Cartelli Ford/Toyota of Greenfield, WHAI/Bear Country, Silver Level sponsor Florence Savings Bank, and Bronze Level sponsors Australis Aquaculture, Cohn & Company Realtors, Diane Esser Law Offices, MedCare and Mowry & Schmidt Contractors.

For more information, call the GCC Foundation at (413) 775-1600 or visit the website at www.gcc.mass.edu/turkeyrun.

MARCH from page A1
fuel the march.

We started in the gray before dawn, a dozen walkers and one chihuahua-terrier named Diego. Northampton mayor David Narke-wicz accompanied us to the far end of the Coolidge Bridge.

Dawn had broken by then, revealing an autumnal Thomas Cole canvas framed by the rusty oranges and dusty greens of the Holyoke Range, as the Connecticut curved out of sight unruffled beneath the gathered clouds.

A half mile earlier, a mother and father and their striped-pajama-clad baby waited with a neighbor at the end of a driveway across from the Tri-County Fair Grounds. The baby handed over a check for the Food Bank.

"You better get going," said the neighbor. "You'll never make it!"

Norwotock, the town of Hadley, was settled in 1650 by families from Hartford who sheltered, for 15 years at the pastor's house, the regicide generals Goffe and Whalley, who signed the death warrant for King Charles I. But relics of Hadley's illustrious past are hard to find amid the strip malls and chain stores that now hold the town in thrall, and Route 9 is a brutal path for roller skaters. Jake Fahy, a member of the Pioneer Valley Roller Derby squad, managed to keep the pace.

Dodging roadside detritus, he explained Roller Derby is a uniquely American sport, which originated in Chicago around 1935 during the dance marathon craze. Bouts feature two five-member teams competing in a rolling circle around an 88 foot long by 55 foot wide track. Four members of the team serve as blockers for the jammer, who scores points by advancing in relation to the jammer from the opposing squad.

"It's not really aggressive. That's not the word I would use," said Carol Michelfeller, a member of the team, wearing a Quabbin Missile

Crisis sweatshirt and striped purple tights. "There's good contact."

Banked tracks have given way to flat indoor rinks during the sport's current revival, but tree root heaves and broken cement make for rough skating. Nonetheless, the skaters stayed with the march for many miles.

Ken Kaiser, of Greenfield, pulls over on Cross Path Road by an abandoned Getty station, on his morning commute to Springfield, and hands Belmonte a \$20 bill.

"I thought of it every year, and I really wanted to stop and make a donation," he said.

Forty-two crows fly by, tracking northeast in a ragged squadron along the river from the direction of the Northampton airport.

Georgiann Kristek, of Northampton, trim, gray haired, raised over \$1300 in pledges to walk the entire 26 mile route with Belmonte last week.

"He's an inspiring guy," said Kristek. "I listened to him last year and said, 'I really want to do it.'"

Her diminutive terrier, Diego, kept up the pace as far as UMass, then needed to rest all four paws, and accepted a ride home from Kristek's husband.

Dan Peters and his four-year-olds, Jonathan and Alexa, each with big eyes and a one dollar bill, gave their donations to Monte along Route 9.

Pausing to reflect on November 2nd's grim election news, where a tidal wave of austerity politics swept over the last scaffolds of the Great Society in Washington and around the country, Food Bank director Morehouse told the listening audience on WRSI, "We can't count on others to take care of our community. In the last 12 months," said Morehouse, "we've distributed nine million pounds of food to more than 200,000 people in Western Mass."

Dave Powicki, from Leverett, is waiting in the driveway of the Salvation Army Thrift Store to make

his donation, as Belmonte marches by.

In front of the Aldi Food Market, the talk turns to children waking up hungry in the Pioneer Valley. Congressman McGovern says, "Together we can eradicate hunger in this community."

Then the blockers from the Pioneer Valley Roller Derby squad fan out across the Home Depot parking lot, turning in graceful S-shaped patterns, their hips swaying from side to side like bellbuoys in a slate gray harbor. Smooth pavement at last.

Along North Maple Street, the trees flare out in phosphorescent bursts of red, orange and yellow.

The towers of Southeast rise above a field of dry and stunted cornstalks. Old brick farmhouses mingle with modern ranch homes, settling into their foundations.

Ruthy Woodring has joined the march.

Woodring, a cofounder of the Northampton-based Pedal People Coop, a working bicycle collective that hauls trash and recyclables for 600 clients including the City of Northampton, year round, using bike trailers supplied by a mom and pop outfit in Iowa called Bikes at Work, is a slim, elfin presence, merry eyed, of an indeterminate age that could be anywhere from late twenties to early forties.

For her 17 member collective, "Trash seems to be the most reliable thing to haul," but they also provide bike-transported farm share deliveries, diaper and linens, and Valley Green Feast drop-offs.

By the UMass Sunwheel, a kind of miniature Stonehenge, Congressman McGovern greets the Waldorf students from Hartsbrook who are joining the walk for the uphill trek to the center of Amherst.

He tells them, "We have a Congress that cuts food benefits for people," referring to the \$8 billion in food stamp benefits cut out of the 2014 Farm Bill. "We have to work

extra hard to make up for this."

He added, "Tuesday night (November 2nd) was disheartening. We have a lot of work to do to make sure the people who are vulnerable and the people who are struggling get the help they need."

Morehouse's figure of over 200,000 people in Western Mass utilizing the Food Bank's network of food pantries, brown bag lunch sites for seniors, and community meal programs, makes it likely the Food Bank's website understates the severity of the problem.

The website estimates one out of eight people in Western Mass suffer from food insecurity – or hunger. Morehouse said the more accurate figure now is one in six – or even one in five – residents of Western Mass who struggle with food insecurity.

Since Morehouse became the Food Bank director in 2005, he said, the amount of food his organization has provided to meet the needs of Western Mass residents has more than doubled.

Along the sidewalks of Mass Ave, hordes of UMass students mill by in headphones and earbuds, hands in pockets, bookbags on backs, their eyes indrawn. They never glance at the strange entourage passing them by in a tight wedge, led by a weirdly Doonesbury-esque man in a Captain America helmet and cape.

"The students will wave, but they won't donate," says Belmonte. "Maybe if we set a sofa on fire..."

"Jesus!" snarls a burly young man in a red bill cap, riding a skateboard down the center of the sidewalk, as he crashes into Georgiann, half his size, almost knocking her over.

She apologizes. "You can't take up the entire fucking sidewalk," he says, as he skates off past the Lederle Grad Research Center, doing just that.

Rain began to fall, a light mist at first. The walkers trudged on.

Continued next week.



BEHIND THE NEWS



A recent edition of the Montague Reporter, hot off the presses at the Hampshire Gazette printroom in Northampton. The Reporter has been printed at the Gazette since early 2012. We upload digital copies of each page to a file transfer site around midnight on Wednesdays, the night shift makes the plates, and the morning shift usually prints the run. We pick it up by noon on Thursdays and bring it back to Turners Falls for distribution. Their printroom staff is very diligent and even calls us when they spot errors. Thanks guys – keep up the good work!

Public Information Session

MONTAGUE HOUSING PLAN UPDATE

Montague is updating the 2004 Housing Plan. The plan demonstrates Montague's commitment to promoting quality housing that is affordable for residents and to addressing community housing issues. The 2014 update explores how the community has developed and identifies short and long term strategies to improve Montague's housing stock. The Session will be interactive and your feedback and participation is strongly encouraged. The plan is available for review at www.montague.net.

The Session will be **Tuesday November 25**
at **7 p.m.** at Montague Town Hall.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

supported the store as a valuable addition to Turners Falls' downtown revival) Madison agreed to "tone down" the planter installations.

The Selectboard endorsed a set of rules for the use of planters which included the provision that they were mainly for plants and not "non-plant objects." A Planter Committee was established to coordinate use of the planters and rule on any disputes that might arise. Such rulings could be appealed to the Selectboard.

Since then Madison has moved one location up the street, to number 104, but apparently failed to apply for a permit to relocate objects on the sidewalk. The number of objects in the planters, including several nailed to a small tree, has raised questions about whether the planter displays have, in fact, been toned down.

These issues and others were raised at the Selectboard's November 3 meeting by Police Chief Chip Dodge. Dodge stated that he had received a number of complaints about the store and that the community policing officer, Michael Sevene had become frustrated in his dealings with Madison.

Dodge also suggested that racial issues were raised by Madison when he was confronted with the complaints. That is, Dodge claimed, it was suggested Madison was being targeted because he is black.

So Madison and the Chief returned to the front table of the Selectboard meeting room last Monday night.

Dodge, in his presentation, went beyond complaints about sidewalk permits and planter objects, to suggestions that Madison was "not running a legal business."

He stated that Madison was operating with "cash only," did not have proper insurance, was perhaps living in the store, and that the business was not properly registered with either the town or the state.

The board seemed a bit uneasy with these charges, in part because they dealt with issues not on the agenda, but they allowed Madison to respond. Madison, producing a state ID number, said that he was properly registered and insured.

He shared pictures of the planters, which showed large amounts of moss he had obtained "on my walks." He also denied that he had raised racial issues.

"For every person who complains, five people stop in front of the store and love it," said Madison.

He had brought a completed application for the sidewalk displays to the meeting, but this had not been received at town hall in time to be put in the board's packet and did not include the proper insurance proof.

The audience soon got involved, once again supporting Madison's displays as a positive benefit to the economic and cultural development of Turners Falls.

Several claimed to be "deeply concerned" about the treatment of

Madison. Paulette Watkins stated that she often passed the store in a wheelchair and found plenty of room in both directions.

Chief Dodge stated that he did not want to be perceived as the "bad guy" and was not hostile to Madison but that he (the chief) needed to "enforce the rules."

Building Inspector David Jensen noted that rules for the planters had been established, and the Planter Committee should "get the first crack" at that issue.

In the end, the Selectboard voted to give Madison permission to use the sidewalk and planters until the next board meeting, November 18.

Madison was urged to submit his application with proper insurance materials by the required Thursday deadline. The board will review the current status of the Planter Committee.

The board did not respond to the other complaints raised by Dodge. Mark Fairbrother suggested that while Dodge was free to conduct an investigation, these might not be Selectboard issues.

Minutes Released

In other news, the board made major progress in reviewing and approving a formidable backlog of meeting minutes. The board voted to release minutes of nine public meetings and seven non-public executive sessions.

The latter included discussions involving collective bargaining, a pay and classification study, and negotiations involving the sale of the former Montague Center School building.

Object On Sidewalk

Meredith Merchant and Ashley Arthur of the new "Five Eyed Fox" eatery on Third Street requested and received permission to place a sandwich board advertisement on the corner of Avenue A and Third.

There was much discussion about how to deal with the sign during the winter snow season.

Other Business

Mike Nelson made several applications to the board for next year's fall Pumpkinfest event. These included a request for use of Peskeumpskut Park, a one-day liquor license for a specific area to be used for beer sales within the park, and a banner advertising the event between October 3 and October 24.

The board, with Nelson abstaining, approved all the requests.

Lisa Enzer of Chestnut Hill was appointed to the town broadband committee.

There were a number of statements made at the "public comment period" at the start of the meeting, and the board allowed audience members to make comments and ask questions after each agenda item.

This reflected a return to a previous policy, after a brief experiment with audience participation limited to the public comment period.

**LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was on November 11, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Cultural Tourism in Turners Falls

Ask people in Turners Falls whether they think their downtown is attracting visitors, and more than half of them are likely to say no.

That's one result of a study conducted by UMass regional planning and landscape architecture graduate students, presented on November 9 in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. The students interviewed residents of Turners Falls at polling places on election day last week to gain a local perspective on the potential for arts-related tourism in the downtown district.

A majority of the 117 respondents cited inhibiting factors to tourism in the downtown they view as a "dirty, rundown, unsafe environment," according to James Errickson, a regional planning grad student taking part in a grant-funded team studying the economic potential of the arts in downtown Turners for the past two months.

The crowd of two dozen local artists, residents, town officials, and legislators who gathered to hear the presentation laughed good-naturedly when they heard the Shady Glen was picked as Turners' top draw for visitors to the downtown by more than half the respondents.

Chris Janke, a Turners Falls business owner with a hand in numerous arts-related enterprises asked about the secret to the success of Brattleboro and Shelburne Falls.

"It happened organically," replied Errickson, with local entrepreneurs taking the lead in Building a Better Brattleboro and the Shelburne Falls Business Association.

Janke remarked on the "spotty history" of similar business association efforts in Turners, and, looking around the room at the gathered grad students and officials, said "The whole model here is inorganic."

Town planner Robin Sherman said plans are taking shape for the reuse of the old Cumberland Farms building at the Discovery Center as a tourist welcome and arts center, and may also incorporate a component about the Native heritage of the village.

Wheelchair Challenge

The October 30 wheelchair parade through Turners Falls was a challenge to the town selectboard to try to navigate their way around downtown, encountering firsthand the obstacles differently abled people meet on a daily basis. All three members of the board, Pat Allen, Patricia Pruitt, and Alan Ross accepted the challenge.

The event was the brainchild of Sandy Facto. Facto said she came up with the idea "when I fell at the corner of Sixth Street and Avenue A... I believe the wheelchair challenge helped educate the selectboard to how hard it is for people who are handicapped to get around, and how much the streets and roads and sidewalks need repairing."

As the selectboard maneuvered over bumps, cracks, and steep grades along the way, town administrator

Frank Abbondanzio photographed problem areas. "I learned just what the handicapped members of our communities experience when they use the sidewalks, and what they have to negotiate, particularly at the curb cuts. It gave us a chance to see exactly what the needs of the handicapped in town are," he said.

Since the event, the town has responded promptly, temporarily repairing some of the worst problem areas with asphalt flash patches.

Wendell: Pond Flexible

The Wendell open space committee met with the selectboard on November 3, and indicated a willingness to be flexible about the details of the conservation restriction and management plan for the town's proposed purchase of Fiske Pond, approved at special town meeting.

Board members have heard from numerous citizens objecting to the committee's recommended restriction on hunting, fishing, and timber harvesting on the 125-acre parcel. Accordingly, the committee took a more relaxed approach to the restriction in discussions with the board last Wednesday.

After the meeting, committee member Ray DiDonato said, "It is more appropriate to deal with hunting and fishing in the management plan, which can be amended by local boards, rather than in the conservation restriction, which can only be amended in Boston."

"There are multiple uses for the land. The town should have leeway for managing the land in a way that will please everyone."

Open House and Benefit Raffle At Element Brewing Company

MILLERS FALLS – Element Brewing Company is celebrating its fifth anniversary with an open house at the Brewery from 6 to 9 p.m. on December 13, 2014.

The event is open to the public and will include a live musical performance by Walking Ghosts and light appetizers (while they last), beer tastings, and a tapping of a special cask of 6:56 with a toast.

For the event, the Brewery has produced a limited edition, double-strength Summer Pilsner Fusion (SPF) beer called 6:56, named for the time the first beer was sold on December 16, 2009.

One of these three-liter bottles, painted by local artist Allen Fowler, will be raffled off and all profits donated to the Great Falls Discovery Center and Turners Falls River Culture. The drawing will be held during the fifth anniversary open house. Winners will need to pick up the winning bottle but do not need to be present to win.

To enter the raffle go to www.elementbeer.com. Raffle tickets will

also be available from local merchants including the Rendezvous, Loot and Great Falls Harvest.

Only 342 bottles were made of this beer, and one cask – which will be tapped at the anniversary party. As with all the previous 6:56 releases, this beer will not be distributed and will only be available to purchase at the Brewery.

The Brewery has obtained a one day liquor license and will be offering beer by the glass during the party. All four of the year-round beers (Extra Special Oak, Red Giant, Dark Element and Plasma – gluten free sake-IPA) will be available, as well as Element's newest creation, Winter Ion, which is an 8.5% Alcohol by Volume Chocolate Wit beer.

Element underwent a dramatic expansion in 2011, adding eight more brewing vessels, which more than tripled the Brewery's capacity. This expansion has allowed the company to expand its distribution within Massachusetts as well as other states and recently shipped beer to Australia.

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Helicopter Surveillance: State Police Respond To Wendell Town Hall

Below is the text of the letter sent to the Wendell selectboard:

Dear Selectboard Members,

I am in receipt of your letter of October 9, 2014 concerning the disturbance of a funeral ceremony by a helicopter flying at low altitude over the participants.

While I would suggest to you that no professional pilot would ever intentionally disrupt a funeral or show such outward disrespect, I appreciate and concur with your outrage over the incident.

If this were a state police helicopter, which are painted in traditional state police colors and clearly marked in large lettering “Massachusetts State Police” on the sides, I’m certain you would have stipulated such in your letter. You did not say such so I am assuming this is not a letter directed to the state police.

Nonetheless, I inquired of our Airwing as to whether any mission might have brought them to fly in Wendell on the date in question. The answer was ‘no.’

Generally speaking, our aircrafts are not utilized for broad marijuana detection or eradication

missions, though we have utilized them (and will continue to do so) in specifically directed criminal investigations that may involve the illegal cultivation of such substances.

In terms of ‘what can your office do to end this seasonal outrage...’, I can offer you very little satisfaction. With all due respect to your clearly articulated position on the matter, marijuana cultivation remains an illegal activity at both the federal and state level.

The kind of ad-hoc large scale cultivation we are discussing here has little relevance to the proposed legalized medicinal application or to the issue of decriminalization for the possession of small amounts of marijuana. The cultivation of marijuana in its present form and under the law remains criminal activity.

While marijuana eradication, in this context, remains a relatively low priority for this department, I have no authority over federal agencies (or for that matter other state and local authorities) with whom we regularly work on criminal matters.

**Respectfully,
Colonel Timothy P. Alben
Superintendent**

Wendell Council on Aging to Hold Housing Forum

The Wendell Council on Aging invites townspeople to the Wendell Community and Senior Center on Wednesday, November 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., to talk about ideas and plans for living in our rural area as we retire, face health challenges, or income drops.

As we age, some of us may in time find it hard to maintain a home, may wish to be a little less isolated without having to leave our town, or find that we need daily personal care.

Last October, the Wendell COA sponsored a housing forum that presented many local programs that provide services to help seniors stay in their homes or community.

It is now time to gather together to discuss whether we want to

consider a senior housing/cohousing/small-house cluster that would meet the needs of those who cannot or choose not to stay in their current homes.

There is a recognition at the state level that the baby-boom age group will put a strain on existing services; now is a great time to propose facilities and services that will meet our needs!

New housing legislation is being crafted now. Our parents' senior services may look quite different from those that we design now. Our own local senior housing will take years to plan, fund and build if we want it, so we need to get started!

Your ideas count, whether you might benefit from this type of housing or not.

WENDELL from page A1

“Double Dipping”

Christine Heard heard about an issue with her selectboard pay being in conflict with her pension. Heard, chair of the Wendell selectboard, plans to retire in January from her regular job as secretary at Swift River School.

In that position she has contributed to the Franklin County pension system and so she should begin to collect her retirement benefits then, but there is a snag.

She was told that her pay as a selectboard member would be considered double dipping, and so she should forfeit one or the other. She can stay on the selectboard for the remainder of this term, until May 2016, but she would have to do that without getting paid.

Selectboard pay is not high, but it may be enough to cover the expense of getting to meetings every second week and the extra meetings thrown in as needed.

She said staying on without pay would be tight, and someone suggested taking a collection.

Dog Ruling Maintained

Heard said that Beth Erviti had sent her an email about the conclusion of the dog hearing that was part of the prior two selectboard meetings. Erviti is Ariel Barilla’s mother, and the hearings followed an incident where Barilla was injured by one of three dogs that attacked Ruby, the dog she was walking.

The outcome of the hearing was that all four of the dogs that were being walked by Yvette Segal that day had to be leashed whenever they were out of the yard, and that Segal could only walk two dogs at a time.

Erviti’s email suggested that Segal’s fourth dog, Farley, who was there that day but did not take part in the fight, should not be restricted to being on a leash. Heard said that a message from Barilla herself might carry more weight and she was inclined not to change the ruling.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said he emailed town counsel, David Doneski, and the exchange concluded that the state leash law applies within the state forest, along with the rest of the state.

The area of state forests and the limited number of staff prohibits intense enforcement of the leash law. The selectboard did not change its decision.

Penalty Dispute

Town treasurer Carolyn Manley came in with a report about a four-year-old dispute with the division of unemployment.

The town is being fined regarding a former employee, and interest and penalties are being added, but she has not been able to contact anyone in the division to learn why the penalty, and why the interest.

Telephone calls are not answered, letters are not answered, and the fines and penalties keep mounting.

She said if the town pays even an unwarranted fine, it will never see the money returned, but if the town does not pay, the fines and penalties keep mounting.

Board members suggested that she send a registered letter and pay the amount billed, over \$7,000, under protest. Heard said, “Once you pay it they really won’t respond.”

Town Hall

Aldrich said that Good Neighbors put \$500 in the town hall donation account. She also said that she got a garbled cell phone call from the electrician who is expected to come and take care of several small electrical projects.

His estimate for all the work was \$2,800 to \$3,500, which is higher than anticipated, and so board members made a priority list of those projects.

Most important is hard wiring the connection to the internet antenna on the town office roof, then the motion detector lights in the fire station so that a late night responder does not have to walk across the equipment bay to turn on the lights.

Brush Truck

Just one bid came in for a replacement brush truck for Wendell’s 1972 International. That bid, from Sarat Ford of Agawam, was \$38,267 for an F350, four wheel drive diesel and \$8,135 for a utility body.

The unit will be assembled locally to suit fire department needs. Heard and selectboard member Dan Keller voted to accept the bid.

Last Mile

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser arrived near the end of the meeting having spent the first part of the evening at an MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute) meeting concerning getting internet connection to the “last mile,” or every house on a town road and served by electricity.

No Air Packs

Fire Chief Joe Cuneo met the board at this point and told them that the grant application that would have given firefighters new SCBA’s (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, or air packs) was not awarded.

He said the best approach for the next round of grants might be regional which would require a memo of understanding (MOU) among the communities involved. One town would have to assume fiduciary responsibility.

Town Flag

Board members approved and signed a thank you letter to the people who submitted town flag designs that were not chosen. Five people sent in designs, and two were combined by the artists to create the final design.

New Sidewalk

On Saturday, November 8 a Stantec engineer plans to look at the proposed location of a sidewalk between the town common and the Wendell Country Store, and he hoped that a town official would be there to describe the project on the ground.

Heard said she would meet him.

New Month

The selectboard acknowledged and went along with a request to declare November “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.” Survival rate from pancreatic cancer is 6%, and Lee Trousdale, a former member of the finance committee, succumbed to the disease, in the memory of all board members.

My Enemy’s Enemy

On Wednesday, December 3 the state DCR will run a seminar titled “Sand is the Enemy,” in the town office building conference room from 8:15 a.m. to noon.

Highway superintendents from around the county are invited, and Wendell superintendent Rich Wilder is aware of this seminar.

Cane Pin

Because the Golden Cane, awarded to the town’s oldest citizen, often fails to return after a person’s death, the cane itself is now in a case in the town office building.

In its place the town has bought several pins, small replicas of the cane, and one of those pins will be awarded to Adam Drozdowski, who will turn 100 years old on March 4, 2015.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

A Quiet Meeting

By DAVID DETMOLD

It was a quiet night at the Leverett town hall on Monday, November 10, as the selectboard worked through a light agenda. Missing was the quiet presence of Sir John Leverett – his portrait has been removed from the second floor meeting room to seek estimates for cleaning and restoration – along with the somewhat less reserved figure of board member Peter d’Errico, also absent from the meeting.

The board heard a report from town administrator Margie McGinnis on the future of dual-stream recycling in the Pioneer Valley.

At their last meeting, the board had expressed concern that the Val-

ley’s tradition of successfully promoting curbside recycling in dual streams of paper and cardboard separated from glass and cans seemed to be threatened by the most recent contract between the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and the Mass DEP.

The new contract appeared to not only encourage single stream recycling (where paper, cardboard, cans and bottles would all be mixed in one container, and then separated by hand at facilities, mainly in the eastern part of the state, that, unlike the Springfield MRF, are set up to do that), but also threatened more than a 40% reduction in fee per tonnage reimbursement rates to the member towns, according to Franklin

County Solid Waste Management District’s director Jan Ameen.

McGinnis attended a meeting with Senator Stan Rosenberg and Ameen in Greenfield last week. She said the upshot of that meeting was that Rosenberg and Representative Steve Kulik would work to set up a meeting with the commissioner of the DEP to address the new contract, and, hopefully, to preserve the progress Pioneer Valley communities have made in achieving high rates of dual stream recycling.

“Single stream is fine for the communities that need it,” said McGinnis, referring to big cities to the east, where recycling may be more difficult to encourage in dense high rise apartment complexes, for example. “But those with dual stream are doing fine.”

The board agreed to support a request to the Mass Department of Transportation to install directional

signs north and south on Route 116 at the Sunderland side of Bull Hill Road pointing the way to Leverett Center.

“They get off Route 91 and they get to Bull Hill Road and they don’t know what to do,” said McGinnis.

“I think it’s kind of nice people can’t find their way here,” said Rich Brazeau, who nonetheless agreed to support the request for better signage.

The board renewed the annual beer and wine license for the Leverett Food Coop, at a fee of \$250.

Heather Hutchinson was appointed as Leverett’s representative to the Franklin County Planning Board and the Franklin County Comprehensive Development Strategy committee. Hutchinson served on the recently disbanded Leverett Elementary School sustainability committee; she produced the survey of town residents about sustainabil-

ity issues that is to be found on the town’s website, under the sustainability committee’s report. It makes interesting reading.

The personnel board has refined a job description for the fire chief, and a fire chief hiring committee has been organized, made up of Stuart Olsen, Judy Weinthal, Dean Alfange, Chris Nelson, and one other active firefighter to be determined.

The selectboard backed another personnel board recommendation: that department heads sign off on employee time sheets at all departments where supervisors are present during the work week. This new policy will not apply to town hall staff.

The board agreed to take further steps to make amplification and microphones available to meet the needs of hearing impaired people at public meetings in town hall and the elementary school.

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CIVIC from page A1

Betty Tegel of Turners Falls spoke of the need for improved access for disabled performers and audience, including a wheelchair lift to the stage.

Nick Waynelovitch of the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts, one of the main companies that rents the theater, complained about the building's state of disrepair and its relationship to the town.

"We're talking about the Shea like it was the jewel of Montague, but it's not," he said, calling it the "bad sister of the Colle Opera House."

Waynelovitch enumerated some of the building's ailments. "I've been at the Shea for 22 years, and it's leaked for 22 years, and it's leaked in the same place for 10 years."

Others agreed that roof leaks should be addressed before improvements are made to the building's seating and electrical system.

Shea director Jillian Morgan said she'd like to see the commission work as a liaison between the organization's board and the town. Others agreed, saying both parties were already "stretched."

It was suggested that RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto's position could include some leg-work for the Shea, or that the town

could create a new position that would help with promotions, booking, or grantwriting.

LoManto said she has "been looking out for grant money, especially for a marquee." But others argued against asking so much of her.

Glazier stated that the Shea is not a town agency, so "the town can't just give us someone." This brought a stillness to the room.

Christa Snyder, owner of Third Street craft shop FUNK*SHUN, said many town volunteers in town are saddled with too much responsibility, returning to Morgan's idea that the commission serve a liaison role.

The meeting's second hour discussed programming.

Paris explained that getting volunteers was a catch-22: "You've got to get the word out – and getting the word out takes volunteers."

Ketch said she was wondering if changing the theater's governance "might allow other things to bloom up."

A young man from the Young Shakespeare Players described a resident company model he said worked well at a similar community theater in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, saying "resident companies have more reason to care for the space."

Michael Glazier suggested booking models, including asking members of the business community to sponsor bigger artists, and a membership model that would avoid cash flow fluctuations and attendance uncertainty.

"It's spaghetti theory," he said, saying a profit-share model is serving well, but that "what works this year is probably not going to work next year."

Several times Glazier responded to suggestions by explaining "well, we do," and "we do that quite a bit."

John McNamara, co-owner of Loot, was quite positive about the future. He pointed to the completion of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge renovation, and asked those present to start thinking like a rich community ready for success: "Look at what we are, not what we're not."

Suzanne Rubinstein of the Young Shakespeare Players stressed the importance of the Shea as a venue, even if an imperfect one. "Kids love being in the Shea. They don't care if the floor is dirty."

Commission member Allen Fowler of Second Street said he'd like to see the Upper Valley Music Festival return next year, and board member Kim Morin quickly assured him that "it's been addressed."

Board Make-Up Discussed at November 10 Meeting

At the Civic Center Commission meeting on November 10, only the commission members, consultant J'Anthony and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to organize the commission and to begin developing the RFP for the Shea Theater.

Allen Fowler was quickly and unanimously elected as chair.

The commission wasted no time in getting down to business. Fowler said that the heart of the RFP was what the theater board should be and what it should be doing. He noted that a "functioning" non-profit board was essential for the Shea to move forward. He suggested that someone from town government have a seat on the board, "not as a secondary intermediary but as a full member."

J'Anthony stressed that the RFP, to some extent, would be setting parameters for a board. She also noted the importance of the board being community-based but said that as a regional theater "community has a broad definition."

J'Anthony emphasized that the main job of a board is to raise money and develop policy. She felt that the present board was not doing that to

the extent needed.

Jamie Berger stressed that the representation on the board needed to be diverse, with folks with different talents holding seats.

After a fair amount of back and forth, the commission members tentatively concluded that the new board should have between 8 and 12 members. Four of these should be community members.

They agreed that the board should have at least one person with tech knowledge; one with skills in marketing and public relations, and if possible grant writing. They also felt that someone with a financial or development background would be useful, as would someone familiar with the current music scene.

The commission also concluded that the board should also hire a part-time director to manage the ongoing activities of the theater, do booking and attempt to bring in talent from all areas of the arts.

The commission expects to issue an RFP in January after getting more input from the community at the next public visioning session, tentatively set for Tuesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.

J'Anthony said she would prepare a one-page list of recommendations for the commission to consider prior to that meeting.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Warrant Approved for Nov. 24 Special Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard approved the warrant for the November 24 special town meeting, after considering changes to articles and expenditure amounts recommended by the finance committee.

The finance committee recommended that the draft article requesting \$150,000 from free cash to secure the IP site be reduced to \$13,318 from free cash and \$86,682 from the Usher Plant demolition account, for a total of \$100,000 for IP site security.

Although selectboard members have an estimate of approximately \$85,000 for securing windows and entrances, the board felt that there would be additional expenses for securing and maintaining the property. They expanded the scope of the uses for the money in the article to include "providing necessary maintenance" as well as site security and retained the \$150,000 amount from free cash.

Usher Plant re-use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser presented a letter from the committee asking the selectboard to remove a draft article asking for \$98,000 for repair and restoration of the Boiler Building smokestack.

At its November 3 meeting, the board decided that the article should be removed and taken up at the annual town meeting, but asked for input from the re-use committee.

Bids for restoration of the stack from nine contractors were opened November 5: bid amounts ranged from \$78,000 to \$134,000. However, with no article on the November 24 STM appropriating that money, no bid will be awarded.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan commented that contractors who spent time and money on preparing the bids are likely to be upset if the article is not considered at the STM.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said, "Bidders understand that sometimes things pop up."

The finance committee recommended deleting an article asking \$50,000 for re-siding town hall and the selectboard agreed because work on the siding could be deferred until spring.

The finance committee made no recommendation on the article requesting \$3,000 for additional treasurer staff hours for human resources responsibilities. The board is consolidating human resources responsibilities in the treasurer's office.

The responsibilities include implementing the recently-approved personnel policy. Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said the money should be approved "If there are new responsibilities [for staff]." Sullivan, who is town treasurer as well as selectboard member, recused herself from the discussion.

One of the STM articles is formal acceptance of a gift of seven parcels of land from Erving Realty.

The board agreed to include deed restrictions proposed by Morris Housen:

- 1) the land will be used for the benefit of the public;
- 2) the land will be owned by the Town of Erving;
- 3) the land will be used for recreational and educational uses and limited commercial activity; and a monument with a plaque detailing the property's history be erected and maintained.

Schermesser said that submittal of the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant application by the committee is dependent upon the town accepting the parcels.

Sullivan noted that a monument with a plaque, specified as "granite (or similar) and bronze (or similar)" by Housen's lawyer, could be expensive.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Tenant Disputes, Warrant Arrests, Dead Possum

Wednesday, 10/15
11 a.m. Fire alarm at Erving Elementary. Found to be highway department flushing hydrants.

Thursday, 10/16
3:45 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for driving with a revoked registration and no insurance.

4:06 p.m. Two-car crash on Route 2 at Prospect Street. State police on the scene. No injuries.

Friday, 10/17
5 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute on Forest Street. Found to be a civil matter; took report.

6:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default war-

rant.

Saturday, 10/18
12:32 a.m. Suspicious persons on bridge near Box Car. Moved along.

4:40 p.m. Railway reported issues with track in Erving area, asked if there were power outages. Advised negative.

Sunday, 10/19
4:34 a.m. Motor vehicle crash, Route 2 east of Farley. Took report.

Tuesday, 10/21
8:35 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for a warrant.

11 a.m. Took report of motor vehicle breaking & entering on West High Street.

Thursday, 10/23
2:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for a warrant.

Friday, 10/24
7:15 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with accident on Gulf Road in Northfield.

Saturday, 10/25
9:10 a.m. Crash with injuries at Route 2, State Road an Maple Avenue. State police took report.

Sunday, 10/26
5:26 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for driving with a suspended license, revoked registration and no insurance.

3 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with search for missing juvenile.

Tuesday, 10/28
11:35 a.m. Criminal appli-

cation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and revoked registration.

Thursday, 10/30
5:15 p.m. Illegal burn at Lester Street residence. Erving FD advised to extinguish.

Friday, 10/31
11:30 p.m. Fire reported at Gunn Street residence. Erving FD on scene, under control.

Saturday, 11/1
8 a.m. Report of injured possum at Prospect Street. Animal control officer responded.

2:30 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute on Northfield Road. Found to be a civil matter; took report.

FY'16 Budget Timeline

The board set December 17 as the date for receiving preliminary budget requests from departments. The board will decide on a cost of living (COLA) increase for town employees by November 24.

Pole Hearing

The board approved allowing National Grid to add six lines to a utility tower near Dorsey Road.

The 1922 contract signed by the town allows seven wires to the

tower, but after removal of several wires and installation of new wires, there will be eleven wires.

Dorsey Road will remain open during the work, but police details will be needed.

Clothing Allowance

Sullivan asked that, for the FY'16, that the town eliminate the \$250 clothing allowance for POTW and highway department employees, and instead increase the salaries for those employees by \$250.

Town of Erving INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Town of Erving will hold an Informational Meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 6 p.m. at Erving Town Hall at 12 E. Main Street, Erving, MA to discuss and solicit public response to the update of the Town's Community Development Strategy (CDS) and to prioritize the projects and activities the Town plans to undertake in the next 3-5 years.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting where all wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. The CDS and a list of projects are available in the Selectmen's office at Town Hall, or at www.erving-ma.org.

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Guest speaker Master Sgt. Larry Parker, Ret. addresses the crowd.

Veterans Celebrated in Turners Falls

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

The annual Veterans Day celebration, as usual, was held under gray skies with more than a bit of chill in the air. This year, however, Art Gilmore, a stalwart presence at these events was not sitting in his customary place. But Art, who died just a month ago, on October 11, was not forgotten.

Montague selectboard chair Chris Boutwell, also a trustee of the Veteran's Memorial Committee, asked for a moment of silence in Art's memory. Taps were played. Boutwell then dedicated the service to Gilmore.

It was fitting tribute to a man who had spent years devoted to the cause of veterans.

The veteran's commemoration featured a rousing rendition of the national anthem by the Turners Falls Middle and High School Band. Several speakers, including VFW commander John Murphy, American Legion commander Brian San Soucie and guest speaker, Larry Parker, a retired Air Force master sergeant, spoke about the importance of the day.

Murphy told the crowd that recent attention by congress to the plight of veterans is quite welcome and neces-

sary. He also hailed the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. "For the first time in years uniformed troops will not be employed in conventional combat."

San Soucie reminded those in attendance that unlike Memorial Day which commemorates those who have died in wars, Veterans Day "honors all those—living and dead—who have served their country in uniform."

Parker spoke about the continuum of "courage, commitment and sacrifice" displayed by those who have served their country since the revolution. "Those who answered their nation's call have been faithful to this proud heritage."

Parker also recalled the death of his own brother in Vietnam in 1968, the year before he, himself, enlisted in the Air Force. He also reminded the crowd of how poorly veterans were treated during and after the Vietnam War. "But that was then, and now is now. Don't let that ever happen again."

The event concluded with the Elks performing their moving striking of the 11 bells and reminding all of what the day represented: the honoring of all who have served their country throughout history.

Watershed Council Annual Meeting To Focus On Pipeline

ATHOL – The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) is pleased to announce its 2014 Annual Meeting, to be held Wednesday, November 19 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, located at 100 Main Street. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The meeting will offer a brief review of the year's water monitoring, Blue Trail and other program accomplishments.

The main presentation will be made by Katy Eiseman, Director of the Massachusetts Pipeline Awareness Network (MassPLAN), a leading statewide coalition opposing the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) natural gas pipeline proposed to run through northern Mass. from Richmond to Dracut, including nine towns in the Millers River watershed.

Ms. Eiseman will discuss the latest pipeline and campaign developments, with generous time allotted for questions and answers.

Light refreshments will be served. For more information contact MRWC at council@millersriver.net or (978) 248-9491.

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WEST ALONG THE RIVER: “SNEGIR”

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – *This week's offering is a bit unusual: an elegy of sorts for an old friend, this tale is woven of memories of heady days in Russia after the fall of the Iron Curtain, a cherry tree in the back yard, and a snow bird of the far North.*

The news came down from the reaches of the Arctic Circle, winging its sad way across the plains of St. Petersburg and Moscow, across the Continent, and over the Atlantic.

A dear friend had drawn her last breath, in what was her simple and quiet way, never wishing to be an imposition nor a bother to anyone.

Ninel Nikolaevna Kaplieva passed quietly from our world just last week, a dear soul whose passing few would have noticed except for my writing this here.

Her name, Ninel, was actually *Lenin* spelled backwards, symbolic of the cult of personality during those decades of Communist Russia. But we always just called her Ninel.

We first met in those whirlwind *glasnost* days in Russia, during the *perestroika* of

Mikhail Gorbachev of the 1990s, when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was coming to an end. I found myself in Provincial Russia, off and on for almost two months, in the northern Republic of Karelia, in its capital city of Petrozavodsk, and in February no less!

Iconic teacher of Russian, Jude Wobst of Leverett, myself, and fifteen students from Amherst High School were guests of School Number 17, where we twice spent a number of weeks during our school-to-school exchange program.

Now, you have to realize what it meant to be an American in Russia in 1992. It almost felt like stepping into the mouth of the tiger, into the belly of the beast, into a machine that had threatened more than once to bury us all.

Growing up in the 1950s and well into the 1960s, we all lived in fear of nuclear annihilation at any moment at the hands of the Russians. Suddenly, it had all changed, we could actually go there and probably live to tell about it!

But, when we were there, we were not supposed to look or act like Americans: we were

see **SNEGIR** page B4



Pyrrhula pyrrhula – The Snegir, or Eurasian Bullfinch

BRING ON McCANN!

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Football Indians defeated the # 3 Blue and Gold Mohawk Warriors 26 – 2 on Friday November 7. The win puts Powertown in the Western Mass D6 championship game for the third straight year. Two years ago, they made it to the Superbowl. Last year, they were the Western Massachusetts D6 Champs and this year...

Well this year, they are the Inter-county League Champions and with Friday's win against Mohawk, they improved to a perfect 9 and 0 record which, by the way, is the same record as the 1971 Football squad.

"Nine and 0, Ho, Ho, Ho." (Anyone old enough to get that reference?) And if Turners beats McCann on Saturday, they'll equal the 1975, 10 and 0 record. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

To quote Coach Chris Lapointe, "We take one game at a time."

Do you remember Malcolm Smith? Melvin Moreno? What about Brody Markol? Or Sam Danford, Dustin Underwood, or Gabe Coira? Those are the names of the players who didn't return this season.

And with both Ricky Craver and Trevor Mankowsky out with injuries, Turners Falls needed to fill a lot of holes this year. "Why are they so good?" "Why do they keep winning?" "What's their secret?"

These are the questions I get asked a lot. In my opinion, it's because they don't rely on just one or two superstars. Not just two or three or six or even eight individuals. It's the entire Tribe. The Turners Falls

Football Indians have been successful simply because they play as a unit. A Defense-by-Committee and an Offensive Eleven.

Mohawk is a good team. In fact, going into Friday's game, they were ranked 3rd in Western Mass D6 and only had one loss which was against #1 McCann Tech.

They feature an explosive offense, scoring at least 42 points in half of their games and even put up 66 points in one game. Against Fourth Seed Franklin Tech, they scored 34 points. Yes, Mohawk is a very good team. And the Mohawk Warriors lived up to their name. They went to war against the Turners Falls Indians.

In Friday's game, Turners got the ball first. Jalen Sanders fielded the opening kickoff and was hit hard. He spun loose and dashed all the way to the Blue 49.

Not only does Mohawk have an explosive offense, they also have a hard hitting, stingy defense. They were ready for the Ground and Pound running game.

Trent Bourbeau pounded the ball straight into the Warrior's Gold Wall. Then he tried a pitch to the outside. But again the Warriors attacked him. And Turners was facing a third and 10.

With his infantry bogged down in the trenches, Coach Lapointe called out the air force.

Tionne Brown threw a bomb to Emmitt Turn who banged his way to the Gold 25 and the drive was kept alive. Trent, Jalen and the Offensive Eleven crashed and smashed their way to the 8 yard line and then to the 5 but a penalty moved the ball back to the Gold 20.

Facing third and goal from the 20, Trent fought his way back to the 5.

And the Tribe was facing fourth down. But the Cardiac Kids are used to these do-or-die situations.

The pass that Tionne threw was uncatchable for Jalen, so he simply tipped the ball into the waiting hands of Alex Carlisle and the Indians took the lead, 7 to 0 at 5:51 of the first quarter.

The rest of the first half was one big chess game between the two coaches. Each play was countered. When the offense changed formation, the defense adjusted. When a man went in motion, he was tailed.

When the QB set up to pass, the linebackers moved back or blitzed. When the ball carrier went up the middle or around the corners, he was pursued.

Blocker met tackler and tackler met ball carrier. And although both squads moved the ball, neither could score. That is, until late in the second quarter when the stalemate finally ended.

With time winding down in the half, the Tribe-in-Blue took over on their own 25 with only 1 minute and 15 seconds left. 75 seconds to move the ball 75 yards. Trent crashed for 8 yards but there was only 52.6 seconds left on the clock.

Then the Warriors stopped the Indians again, allowing only 1 hard fought yard. And after the whistle finally blew, the Turners Falls Football Indians were facing third and 1. And it was gut-check time.

Trent crashed, smashed and then dashed all the way to the Gold 30 Yard line. But there was only 19 seconds left. An average person could run 30 yards in less than 5 seconds

Walter Kostanski: Local Legend

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – When Walter Kostanski graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1943, he was going to try out with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Instead, Uncle Sam called and the tall right handed pitcher answered the "invitation."

"As I look back," said Kostanski, "I feel honored to have the chance to serve my country. I did my duty and I feel very good about that."

The nation celebrated those who have worn the uniform yesterday with Veterans Day activities. "It's nice to be recognized by our citizens," said Walter. "I do feel sad, though, that my World War II comrades are dwindling down as we get older. I still have memories of the war – some good ones and some bad ones. You go on with life."

Kostanski, along with many of his teammates, was drafted. He was a member of the United States Navy. On his first trip, his tanker, carrying high octane gasoline, was attacked by a submarine. He went on to see action on a tanker, visiting Africa, the Philippines, the Persian Gulf, and South America, among other ports of call.

"You could smell the gas fumes," he said, "when the seas became rough. I was only 18 on my first trip. You became a man overnight. It's hard to leave your family; you



Walter Kostanski at his home in Turners Falls.

miss them a lot."

Born in Erving on Dec. 10, 1923, Kostanski met Virginia, his bride-to-be, while attending Turners Falls High. They were married in 1947. "It was the most important thing I've ever done," he said. They have four children: Barry, Marilyn, Richard, and Mary, along with five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Walter Kostanski is 90 years old now and his life is the stuff of legends. Outstanding hurler for his high school's state champion baseball team; 14-year incumbency as a well-known state representative; close to a quarter of a century as a highly-regarded, innovative county registrar of deeds.

And yet when a person

talks to Walter or Virginia or others who know him, the word that keeps popping up in describing Kostanski is "kind." Ask his wife to talk about her husband and she immediately smiles.

"I'd have to write a book," said Virginia, "to do him justice. He's not a complicated man: most of all he's kind and loving with so many wonderful traits. When he was a much younger man, he was always especially kind to the elderly. And now he is elderly and many people are very good to him."

"He always had a sense of duty. When he was a state representative, he answered all his mail and returned each

see **LEGEND** page B4



Alex Carlisle steps around the Mohawk defence.

that is without pads and without the Gold Wall in front of him.

In football, a team could run two, maybe three plays in 19 seconds. But these are the Cardiac Kids.

Turners threw an incomplete pass and the clock was stopped. Then Blue ran their next play with 11.6 seconds left in the half. A bad snap chewed more time off the clock leaving only 5.1 seconds.

And as the clock went to all zeros, Jalen caught the TD pass and Turners led 13 zip. But the Mohawk Warriors were down but not out. Stephen Reynolds blocked the PAT

and ran all the way into the Blue end zone for a 2 point safety. And Turners went into the locker-room with a thin 11 point lead.

Turners kicked off to start the second half and the Blue D forced a fourth and 2. Mohawk ran a keeper but fumbled the ball away. Turners dodged a bullet and the Offensive Eleven started their next series on their own 37.

Trent got 3 yards and on second and 7 from the Blue 40, Turners ran a misdirection and Trent got through the Gold Wall and ran 49 yards, all

see **FOOTBALL** page B6

Pet of the Week

Are you looking for a beauty with long hair? Here I am. Cookie is my name. You can probably see me lounging in the cat tree snoozing.

I was brought to Dakin because the kids in the home weren't being nice to me!

I am as sweet as I can be. I am friendly to family and visitors, and very affectionate!

I love to purr and to get pets. I can live well with other cats. I like to be a couch potato at times, but I



COOKIE

play at a nice level.

I love to play in and around water – it's so fascinating to me! I can be your best friend. Who doesn't want the counsel of loyal cat?

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

Senior Center Activities November 17 through 21

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.
Monday 11/17
9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appt.
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 11/18
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
1 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday 11/19
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 11/20
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch
1 p.m. Five Crowns
Friday: 11/21
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 11/17
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 Quilting
Tuesday 11/18
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness
10:45 a.m. Senior Business Mtg.
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday 11/19
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo
Thursday 11/20
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Noon Cards
Friday 11/21
9 a.m. Bowling

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

WENDELL
Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs.
Call the Center for a ride.

FACES

& PLACES

Stuff, an eclectic shop selling art and unique objects, opens this Thursday in the newly-renovated storefront at 102 Avenue A, on the corner of Third Street, in downtown Turners Falls.

Crisis Poetry Book Launch

This Saturday, November 15 at 4 p.m., Levellers Press will hold a book launch for *Bad Atmosphere: A Collection of Poetry & Prose on the Climate Crisis* by local writer/poet, Don Ogden, producer and co-host of The Enviro Show on WXOJ-LP/Valley Free Radio.

The event, held at Levellers' Off the Common Bookshop in Collective Copies on South Pleasant Street in Amherst, is the culmination of decades worth of writing by Ogden that focuses on various aspects of climate change.

Joining the celebration are local singer/songwriters Tom Neilson and Lynn Waldron. Both collaborated recently with Ogden on the song "Clearcutting the Trees," the soundtrack for a YouTube video about logging in the Quabbin Reservation.

Ogden, known by many as d.o., has been active in environmental issues for most of his life. His poetry and commentaries have appeared in a wide variety of publications and on national and local radio. "This work is really just another manifestation of the outreach I've been doing all along", d.o. notes. "Poetry takes the critical issues surrounding the Climate Crisis deeper."

PVSC Concert

GREENFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus will present a concert on Sunday, November 16, at 3 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church.

The concert consists of choral works from the 16th to the 21st century all of which have texts by Shakespeare – including a world premiere of a work commissioned by the PVS Chorus, by acclaimed local composer Gregory W. Brown.

Advance tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$6 for youth, and can be purchased online at pvsoc.org/single-tickets, or by calling (413) 773-3664.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Senior Alcoholism

By FRED CICETTI

Q. How extensive is alcoholism among older people?

Alcoholism is a serious problem among seniors. Here are just a few statistics that tell the story:

About 70 percent of hospital admissions for older adults are for illness and accidents related to alcohol.

About half of older adults in nursing homes have an alcohol problem.

Older adults lose an average of 10 years off their lives because of alcohol abuse.

About 80 percent of doctors misdiagnose alcoholism as depression in older women.

The highest growing number of alcoholics is among 75-year-old widowers.

About 10 percent of patients over age 60 who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease are actually suffering from brain damage caused by alcoholism.

"Alcohol abuse among older adults is something few want to talk about or deal with," said Charles Currie, former administrator of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. "Too often family members are ashamed of the problem and choose not to address it. Health care providers tend not to ask older patients about alcohol abuse if it wasn't a problem in their lives in earlier years."

"Sometimes the symptoms are mistaken for those of dementia, depression, or other problems common to older adults. Unfortunately, too many older persons turn to alcohol as a comfort, following the death of a spouse, a divorce, retirement, or some other major life change, unaware that they are markedly affecting the quality of their lives."

A few definitions:

Alcoholism is a disease with four symptoms: craving or compulsion to drink, the inability to limit drinking, high alcohol tolerance, and physical dependence.

Alcohol abuse does not include strong craving, loss of control or physical dependence. Alcohol abuse is defined as drinking that causes problems in your life such as failing at work, getting arrested for drunk driving, hurting someone physically or emotionally because of drinking.

Moderate drinking is defined as consuming up to two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women and older people. A standard drink is 12 ounces beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits.

The American Medical Association offers the following list of physical symptoms to diagnose alcoholism. If an older person shows several symptoms, there is a high probability of alcoholism:

- Bruises, abrasions, and scars in locations that might suggest frequent falls, bumping into objects, physical altercations, or other violent behavior.
- Cigarette burns on the fingers.
- Flushed or florid faces.
- Jerky eye movement or loss of central vision.
- Damage to nerves causing numbness and tingling.
- Hypertension, particularly systolic (the first number).
- Gastrointestinal or other bleeding.
- Cirrhosis or other evidence of liver impairment, such as swelling in the lower extremities, and other signs of fluid retention.
- Psoriasis.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org.

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OBITUARY

John Hunter Detmold (1918-2014)

John Hunter Detmold, 95, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 9, 2014 in Leeds, MA, not long after watching his beloved Giants win the World Series. He had been in declining health since a fall earlier this year.

John was born in New York City on December 22, 1918, to George Justus and Mabel (Porter) Detmold, the second of their three sons. After graduating from Newtown High School in Queens, John attended Cornell University, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1943 with a B.A. in English.

John had a long career devoted to the advancement of higher education. After graduating, he was an editor at the Cornell Alumni News before moving on to Wells College in nearby Aurora, NY. At Wells, he was the Public Relations Director, Assistant to the President, and Editor of College Publications (1947-1956).

He served as Director of Development at Sweet Briar College in Lynchburg, VA (1956-1960), before serving in similar positions at Mills College in Oakland, CA (1960-



John Hunter Detmold

1964), Connecticut College in New London, and finally, from 1978 to 1981, as Director of Development at Smith College in Northampton, MA until his retirement with emeritus rank.

In 1983, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) presented John with its highest national honor, the Frank Ashmore Award.

John loved libraries, and he

visited them wherever he went. In retirement, he served on the Board of Trustees of Forbes Library in Northampton.

In 1993, he received the Trustees' Award for his volunteer service to Forbes, and he was a member of the building committee for the library's extensive interior renovations, completed in 2001. John also served on the Board of Trustees of the Northampton Historical Society.

John is survived by his wife Bess (Walsh), and their children, Hilary of Boston and Todd of Chicago; his former wife Jane Reynolds Fennelly and their sons, Michael and his partner Lisa Shabel of Columbus, OH, Peter and his wife Martha Conn of New London, CT, and David of Turners Falls, MA; two grandchildren, Robin and Rose Whitcomb-Detmold; and his daughter-in-law Dianne Bryan Detmold of Marysville, CA. John and Jane's son Stephen died in 1996.

Plans for a memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to a library or charity of your choice.

LEGEND from page B1

and every phone call he received."

Virginia Kostanski was attentive and devoted to her work, too. After graduating from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 1946, Mrs. Kostanski labored more than four decades as a registered nurse, retiring in 1987.

Certainly one of Walter's fondest memories is the 1942 state baseball title game. Playing at the New England shrine to the sport, Fenway Park, Turners Falls High School edged Arlington High. Art Burke was the winning pitcher.

A huge crowd welcomed the state champs at the railroad station in Greenfield before the team rode through Turners on a fire truck.

"The farmers went down to beat the city boys," said Kostanski. "It was an incredible thrill for all of us to play at Fenway."

Turners Falls went to the state finals three times under Coach Earl Lorden---in 1937 and 1940 before becoming state kings in 1942.

Kostanski's baseball teammate, center fielder Ray Zukowski, Sr., points out that Walter was a four-sport star. "He was outstanding in everything he did," said Zukowski. "He played football, basketball, baseball and, competed in track. He was a dynamic person, a good leader."

Zukowski, 88, stresses that there are seven living players from that

championship baseball season who saw a lot of action.

They are third baseman Chuckie Mucha, first baseman John Togneri, outfielders Paul Whiteman, Mike Mileski, and Zukowski, infielder George Bush, along with pitcher-reserve outfielder Kostanski. Assistant coach George Richason, now in his late nineties, is also still alive.

Dave Brule is a member of the *Montague Reporter's* board of directors and the author of two books, collections of essays and stories that appeared in the newspaper.

Brule remembers Kostanski as "a warm, very friendly gentleman who was impeccably dressed and quick to smile.

"I grew up in Turners and went to the high school in the 1960s. I recall when our basketball team went down to watch the Celtics. Walter, who was a state rep, met us at the Boston Garden. I was 16 years old and so impressed by how nice he was. He had a tremendous capacity to put you at ease."

Kostanski served in what was then the First, Second, and Third Districts from 1956 through 1970. "It was a lot of work," said Kostanski, "but I enjoyed it thoroughly. The best part of the job was helping people with their problems. It was a great experience. I met a lot of good people. I still follow politics today."

Ray Zukowski, Jr., the former po-

lice chief of Montague, was a fellow member of Walter's on the Police Station Building Committee three years ago. "When Walter spoke," said Zukowski, "people listened. He got the seniors out to vote, we got our new police station, and I can't thank him enough for his help. Walter was definitely one of the main cogs on our committee. He still carried a lot of influence."

Kostanski held the post of Registrar of Deeds for 24 years. He retired in January, 1995.

During his tenure at the registry, Walter was known for his attention to detail and introduced several new programs including more efficient and effective methods of searching titles.

"You had to make sure your deeds were in order," said Kostanski. "If you made a boo-boo, it could prove disastrous. You had to be exact. The responsibility was a big one." Kostanski directed a staff of seven workers.

How does Walter Kostanski account for his popularity despite the fact that he always dealt with difficult, stressful endeavors?

"I like people," said Walter. "I cared for them; I wanted the best for everyone I came into contact with."

"People always seemed to be good to me," he added with a grin, "especially when they voted for state representative."



SNEGIR from page B1

not supposed to draw attention to ourselves. Before leaving, I was advised to rummage through my father's closet, or the Salvation Army, and come up with a vintage 1950s topcoat if possible.

Underneath of course we could wear whatever warm clothing we could; we definitely had to find suitable, unpretentious footwear. Thus subtly attired, we tried our best to blend into the drab cityscape of this northern Russian outpost near the Finnish border.

There, the sidewalks seemed to have a perennial coating of snow that fell slowly and steadily day and night, and that crunched underfoot.

The streets smelled of coal smoke, acrid and pungent, an odor that was achingly familiar if you grew up in the 50s in New England.

We made the acquaintance of Nelly at School Number 17, where the entire faculty at the time was made up of women. I was actually one of three males there, one of whom was the venerable Paul Korgan.

(As an aside, Korgan and I had an improbable link to one another. He and his sister were born, in of all places, *Brule*, Wisconsin. That city was named for a French *coureur des bois*, Etienne Brulé, who occupies a distant branch in my family tree.

Etienne and his *voyageur* companion, the Sieur Du Luth, did some exploring around the Great Lakes, and named the places they visited after themselves! Korgan himself was raised in the heydays of the Industrial Workers of the World movement, and was brought from the Midwest by his Russian-born parents back to Russia in the 1920s to help build socialism there.)

Nelly took us under her wing, in her modest way, and we were always grateful to escape the endless speeches and ceremonies with public officials, bureaucrats and functionaries by holing up in her apartment, high up in the Soviet-era tenement building.

There we feasted on the Russian equivalent of kielbasa, pirozhki, dried fish, all of it washed down by The Nelly Special: "50-50" (Pronounced *feefy-feefy*). This was a drink made up of 50% vodka, and 50% juice from the fruits of the snowbush and cranberry trees that she harvested near her summer *dacha*. To be sure, we spent many a happy hour in Nelly's kitchen!

We maintained our links to our Nelly through letters. In those days before e-mail, one needed to write letters in advance, then wait for someone who might be traveling to Russia, who could carry the letters through Russian customs, and then mail them inside Russia. Better still, letters were hand-carried to your correspondent. Letters seldom penetrated into the Soviet Union on their own.

When it came time for her students to return the visit to Massachusetts on their part of the Exchange,

Nelly spent many hours at the Wobst house, and on the Brule porch.

When she was visiting our house on the Millers River, after a walk in the woods and along the shore, she always marveled at the fact that we owned private property, a concept unknown and quite illegal in Russia at the time.

After our walk, or visit to the Montague Book Mill, we always sat out on our deck under the Montmorency cherry tree, to talk about whatever passed through our minds. Music and dance were often on her mind. We had introduced her to the New England contra dance tradition, which she and her students instantly loved. Holding a Russian-American contradance became our tradition all through the years our exchange lasted.

David Kaynor of Montague Center was always brought in as our fiddler and caller. Occasionally he participated in the dance, and one time David and Nelly were photographed moving around the floor, arm in arm during the promenade. The other dancers around them whirled by in a blur, but Nelly and her partner David were in sharp focus. She was captured looking shyly into the camera, clearly happy, her cares and Russian worries far away for a moment. She kept that treasured photograph framed in her small living room until the last.

For years afterward, I wrote letters to Nelly while sitting under the cherry tree, describing as best I could the changing seasons, the birds, and the animals along the river. I didn't realize it then, but I was honing my skills of nature writing, while writing to Nelly. Further along, those stories and the desire to write to her about our woodland creatures became the inspiration for my chronicles in *West Along The River*. But really, I started out just writing to Nelly, exiled as she was far from the natural world, in a drab high-rise apartment building, in the north of Russia.

And now she's gone. We know that last week she was laid to rest in a modest cemetery not far from School 17 in Petrozavodsk, where she had worked for a meager teacher's pay that was always six months late.

Years earlier, when walking by that same cemetery, in a low bush along the wall, I heard a quiet voice. A few feet away was a lovely, gay-colored and very unafraid snowbird, whose Russian name is *snegir*. Tame and unafraid as northern birds are, the very symbol of the Russian winter, much as our cardinal is for our New England winter, he was busy in the hedge, talking quietly to himself, unassuming and focused on his task.

I'd like to think that this *snegir* will keep an eye on our Nelly from now on. In fact I'm sure he will, and I'm counting on it.

Ninel Nikolaevna
Kaplivia 1945-2014
Proshchai, Nelochka!



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament*, with cash prizes.

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.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

ART SHOWS & MUSEUMS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Winter Hours* now through May. Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Face Nook*. Small self-portraits on



Bork-Tinen-Kahn Trio at the Great Falls Coffee House on 11/14, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. refreshments available, Great Falls Discovery Center.

canvas created by current and former students in the art department at Greenfield Community College on display through December 6. All proceeds from these sales will be donated to the Art Department. Most canvases are 6x6 inches.

UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst: Elizabeth Keithlines: *Only The Strong Survive*, full-scale woven wire animal sculptures on display in the Hampden Gallery. *The Meek Shall Inherit*, curated by Bernard Leibov and Elizabeth Keithline with multimedia works by Megan Evans, TaeHee Kim, Poger Peet, Randy Polumbo, Deborah Simon and Meredith Stern. Also *Dawn Howkinson Siebel: Animalia: The Endangered*, oil portraits of endangered species. On display through 12/2.

Smith College, Lyman Conservatory, Northampton: *Fall Chrysanthemum Show*. Dragons, a popular mythological figure in many Asian cultures, is the theme. Exhibit hours: daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through 11/16.

CALL FOR ART:

RiverCulture is looking for artists and designers to decorate the windows between #106 and #112 Avenue A, Turners Falls. The theme is "Winter". Electricity is available and the use of lights is strongly encouraged. Installation between 11/29 and 12/5 and will remain in the windows through January. Contact

Suzanne LoManto: (413) 835-1390 or riverculture@gmail.com

Call for art submissions for the Fourth Annual *Triple S: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* show. Looking for a wide spectrum of erotic art from regional artists, previous participants encouraged. Exhibit opens February 2015 at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls. Send to naban@verizon.net before Jan 23. www.ninasnook.com

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffee House presents *Bork-Tinen-Kahn Trio*. Contemporary acoustic/electric music, \$, 7 p.m.

ous aspects of climate change that moved him to put into words feelings and thoughts evoked by "the greatest crisis of our time". Music by Tom Neilson & Lynn Waldron. 4 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Do The Right Thing*, Spike Lee's urban fable, 1989, R, \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m. with Small Change, acoustic Swing.

Northfield Recreational Center, Northfield: *The Night Sky*, an introduction to the late fall and early winter constellations. 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Village Hill*, rock/jazz/fusion, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* with DJ Just Joan, \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Arts Block, Greenfield: Mohawk Trail Concerts presents a family concert with musicians *Masako Yanagita*, violin, *Estela Olevsky*, piano, and *Mark Fraser*, cello. Dan Pringle, PhD candidate in music at UMass, will speak on the value of music in child development, as well as the stories behind the music. \$, children 16 and under free, 2 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus presents *Shakespeare on Shuffle*, featuring *Gregory W. Brown* world premiere. Second Congregational Church, Court Sq., Greenfield. \$, 3 p.m.

Smith College, Northampton: *Smiffenpoofs Fall Jam*, Smith College student a cappella group performs, 4-5:30 p.m., Helen Hills Hills Chapel.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Mal Devisa*, *Small Wonder*, *Florist*, and *Music Was My First Gay Loone*. All ages / substance free, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: John Sheldon, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: BINGO! 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Smith College, Northampton: *Poetry Reading by Annie Boutelle*. This reading celebrates the release of "How They Fell," her fourth and most recent collection, which navigates the intimacies of love—romantic, corporeal, Biblical. 7:30 p.m. Neilson Library Browsing Room.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, original guitar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bright Lines*, Marlene Lavelle and *Tory Hanna and the Pond-siders*, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards, Americana, old

country, and harmony singing, commanding crafted melodies and poignant, introspective lyrics, backing them with delicate arrangements on ukulele, clarinet, guitar and banjo. \$, 8 p.m.

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

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Saturday, 11/15 9 p.m.
Village Hill, rock/jazz/fusion
Sun, 11/16 John Sheldon 8 p.m.
Thursday, 11/20 8 p.m.

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FOOTBALL from page B1
the way to the Gold 11. A holding penalty moved the ball backwards outside the red zone and the Turners Falls Indians were facing a second and 20.

Then at 4:40 of the third quarter, Alex Carlisle caught another Brown TD pass and Powertown now led 19 to 2.

Mohawk's defense played well. Throughout the entire game they stopped the Indians on first, second and even third downs but Turners Falls was determined to win the game. And to win the game, they needed to convert on third down and if they were unable to do that, they would have to decide whether to give up the ball, or go-for-it on fourth down. This is a game changing decision.

Early in the fourth quarter, Coach Lapointe was facing such a decision. "Go for it... Goooo for it." The Offensive Eleven pleaded with him. It was fourth and 2 from their own 37 and the Boys in Blue were determined to keep the drive alive and put the game away.

Coach looked at his players, rubbed his chin and called a play. And a Warrior jumped offside giving the Tribe in Blue an automatic first down and a fresh set of downs. But the stingy Mohawk defense banged and hit and forced another fourth down. This time on the Gold 49. And Turners went-for-it again.

The lines clashed and Jalen Sand-

ers bulled ahead, getting just enough yards to keep the drive alive. Playing four-down football, although fraught with danger, takes time off the clock and leading by 17 points in the fourth quarter, it's just what Powertown needed.

The Warriors continued to fight tooth and nail and on third down, the Indians needed 11 yards to keep the drive going. And Powertown did keep the drive going. Tionne Brown completed another pass to Alex Carlisle, who advanced the ball to the Gold 25.

But Mohawk refused to just roll over. The Warriors drove the Indians backward. But on third and 12 from the 27, Tionne pitched the ball to Trent Bourbeau who battled his way to the 6 yard line. Once again the Warriors pushed the Indians back and Turners was facing fourth and goal from the 13 yard line. Another cardiac moment for the Boys in Blue. One try to get 13 yards. Gut check time.

As is their practice, the True Blue fans became silent as Tionne set up to pass. Then the crowd erupted when Jalen caught the touchdown pass, giving Turners a 26 to 2 lead.

On Saturday, McCann edged out Franklin Tech. This means that Turners Falls will travel to North Adams on Saturday November 15. I'm sure that the Turners Falls coaching staff began preparing for this game immediately. They don't have the luxury of reveling in past exploits. They need to

think about McCann and the Western Mass Championship game.

But we don't have to worry about that. Not now. We can talk a little about the Mohawk game.

Mohawk did a good job containing the Powertown running game, holding them to 203 yards and no touchdowns. Tionne Brown, Jalen Sanders, Alex Carlisle, Trent Bourbeau and Tyler Charboneau each carried the ball. Trent eked out 166 hard fought yards. Tionne completed 6 passes. 4 were for touchdowns. Emmitt Turn, Jalen Sanders and Alex Carlisle were his targets. Jalen and Alex each caught 2 touches. Emmitt added two PATs.

The Blue D played hard from whistle to whistle. And as always they were a defense-by-committee. Emmitt Turn, Tionne Brown, Jack Darling, Nick Croteau, Quinn Doyle, Jalen Sanders, Will Roberge, Alex Carlisle, Trent Bourbeau, Colby Dobias, Tanner Castine, Tyler Charboneau and Owen Ortiz each were in on tackles. Jack Darling caused a fumble and Jalen Sanders recovered it.

So the Turners Falls Football Indians are playing for the Championship again. And again, Coach Lapointe can cross one more item off his 2014 bucket list. And on November 15, the entire Turners Falls Tribe will travel over the mountain to cheer on their beloved Boys in Blue.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Jalen Sanders is the intended receiver.

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