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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 2

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 16, 2014

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

An Emotional Dog Hearing

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The mood of Wendell selectboard's October 8 meeting was heated and dominated by an emotionally charged dog hearing involving close neighbors, a dog fight, and a personal injury that occurred September 6.

Both dog owners, Ariel Barilla and Yvette Segal, came along with nine other friends, neighbors, and character witnesses, including Elise McMahon, an animal behaviorist at Canine Head Start of Montague.

Wendell's dog officer, Maggie Houghton, did not come because she is a friend and neighbor of both Barilla and Segal.

The hearing began as hearings begin in Wendell, with selectboard chair Christine Heard giving the ground rules: courtesy at all times and comments and accounts are addressed to the selectboard, not towards other participants.

Visibly upset in bringing up the incident again, Barilla described what happened that day. In her account, she was walking her dog, Ruby, off leash in the State Forest when Segal drove past with her four dogs in the car, all barking. Ruby and one of those dogs, Kodiak, do not get along well, and have had several previous unfriendly encounters.

Barilla said she expected to see WENDELL page A4

Art Gilmore Remembered

By DAVID DETMOLD and CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

MILLERS FALLS – Longtime Montague resident Art Gilmore died on Saturday, October 11, at Baystate Franklin Medical in Greenfield, after a long illness, at the age of 93. If he had waited just one more month, he would have passed on Veterans Day, but as it is, he will be remembered on that day with special honor, for he did more than any other man of his generation to make sure all Montague veterans are accorded the care, respect, and honor they deserve.

When you walk by the Veter-

ans Memorial next to the library on Avenue A, pause for a moment to examine those granite stones, engraved with the name of every known Montague resident who served in the many wars this nation has fought since the Revolution, right down to the conflicts in Panama, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the unended wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those stones were a labor many years in the making, involving painstaking research, fundraising, and political arm-twisting. The Trustees for the Soldiers Memorial did the work, but it was their chairperson through the first decade of this century – Art Gilmore – who guided the effort and stayed the course until the opening ceremony in 2007.

After which, true to his humble nature, he resigned from the Trustees, and let others take their turn in the limelight.

Chris Boutwell, Montague selectman and a longtime member of the Veterans' Trustees said that Art was tireless in his concern and care for veterans, that it was Art who did the heavy lifting to move the monument to its present location, and see ART page A6



FILE PHOTO

Art Gilmore

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett's Fire Chief Denied Reappointment

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard met in a special Thursday morning session on October 2 and decided against reappointing fire chief John Moruzzi, who resigned over the summer during a protracted dispute about Leverett firefighters serving past the age of 65, and then, when the selectboard changed the conditions for senior firefighters to continue serving, offered to rescind his resignation.

The selectboard decided it would be "in the best interests of the town" to advertise for a new fire chief to take Moruzzi's place once his resignation takes effect in January of 2015.

The board communicated that decision to Moruzzi in a letter following the special Thursday morning meeting, which was posted on a bulletin board at town hall in accordance with the state's open meeting law, but not posted on the town website, which is usual. In another break from normal procedure, the press was not notified of the special selectboard meeting.

Board chair Rich Brazeau said there was nothing out of the ordinary about the board meeting on a Thursday morning. He said the board held such special sessions



Chief Moruzzi had originally submitted his resignation in protest of an employment policy later struck down as illegal. Photo courtesy Amberst Firefighters Local 1764, used with permission.

routinely, on the average of about once a month.

Moruzzi, with his wife Kate and about ten firefighters, showed up at Tuesday's meeting to take issue with the selectboard's handling of recent interactions with the fire department.

Moruzzi asked why he had not been reappointed, after rescinding his resignation in writing.

The board explained they had consulted town counsel, and learned that once an employee resigns, he or she cannot simply rescind their

see LEVERETT page A5

PUMPKINFEST TO LIGHT UP TURNERS

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

The fifth annual Franklin County Pumpkinfest will be held from 2 to 9 p.m. this Saturday, October 18, throughout Turners Falls. The event will feature 80 food and craft vendors and booths for non-profit organi-

zations.

There will be live entertainment on three stages: in the town band shell in Peskeompskut Park, in front of Spinner Park (Fourth and Avenue A) and on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street.

Local breweries will host a beer tent in the park. There will also be a place for people to carve pumpkins, as well as a large children's area in front of the post office.

Last year, over 8,000 people attended the event, and organizer and selectboard member Michael Nelson expects as many or more this year.

Since most of Avenue A will be closed off, and parking limited, non-downtown festival goers are encouraged to take the free shuttle bus from either Turners High School, Sheffield School or the Kuzmeskus bus lot on Main Road in Gill. Buses will operate from 2 until 10 p.m.

The highlight of the event is the carved jack-o-lanterns and lantern parade. This year Uppingil and Red Fire Farm together donated nearly 150 pumpkins for carving.

Visitors to the event are also encouraged to carve a pumpkin in advance and bring it to add to the display.

As usual, there will be ribbons for the best pumpkin

carving in a variety of categories.

At dusk, the pumpkins will all be lit, transforming the downtown into a realm of glowing eeriness.

Pumpkin check-in opens at noon at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. Pumpkin carving and lantern making begin at 2 p.m. and continue until 6. Other activities for children, including games, piñatas, crafts and coloring are ongoing from 2 to 6 p.m.

The music also kicks off at 2 p.m. in three locales: in the Peskeompskut Park bandshell, and at the stages on Avenue A. Karen's Dance Studio will perform dances in the park in between music acts.

At 5:30 p.m., pumpkin lighting begins. A fire dancer will perform at 6 o'clock. And at 6:30, the lantern parade will begin, starting from the intersection of Third Street and Avenue A and wandering along the bike path.

At 7:30, ribbons will be awarded in several categories for pumpkin carving skill. The event ends at 9 p.m.

Among the many musical acts, on the three stages, will be Lake Side Drive, Ruby's Complaint, Tommy Fuentes Band, Curly Fingers Dupree, Robert Lord, Radio Vendetta, see PUMPKINS page A3

POWERTOWN CRUSHES PANTHERS 39-0

By MATT ROBINSON

NORTHFIELD – The Turners Falls Football Indians lived up to their nickname by overpowering the Pioneer Panthers 39 to 0 up in Northfield on Saturday, October 11. In fact in the last 10 quarters, Powertown has outscored their opponents by a combined score of 81 to 0.

The Panthers won the toss, and for whatever reason, elected to kick. Jalen Sanders returned that kick deep into Pioneer's territory but a block-in-the-back penalty moved the ball back to the Tribe's own 25. When Turners was unable to get the first down, they were forced to punt.

After a wonderful punt, Jalen and Tanner Castine stuffed the punt returner. This coordinated pursuit was a harbinger of things to come. In almost every play, almost every Indian was involved. This was true on both sides of the ball and on special teams.

Two, three or even five different names were called out by the Turners faithful each and every play. "Nice block Alex." "Good hit Tyler." "Way to play the ball Jalen."

Each play was by committee and most of the tackles were gang tackles. A huge loss, an almost interception and a knocked down pass gave the ball back to Turners and at 5:39 of the first quarter, Jalen scored his first touchdown of the afternoon.

The defense continued their flawless play, more gang tackles, another blocked pass and the Tribe got the ball right back. The offensive eleven then marched down the field.

Again the Turners fans called encouragement to the runners and also to the blockers. I asked Coach Chris Lapointe about the blocking after the game. "I think they executed their assignments much better and played to the whistle." He explained. "We also did a better job of getting off our first block into the linebackers which created some lanes."

And with open lanes, the running backs took over. Trent Bourbeau evaded tacklers, took a couple of hits, was almost tackled, went over one Panther and around another and scampered 46 yards into the end zone to

see FOOTBALL page A8



ROBINSON PHOTO

Turners' Spencer Hubert and Tyler Charboneau open up holes in the defense.



LINDA MINER PHOTO

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Who We Honor, and How

Columbus Day, for many of us, is basically a break from work. We might run errands or peep at leaves, or even go to our jobs, but few do much reflecting on the real meaning of the day.

For the older generations, Columbus Day was the day when "Columbus discovered America." Columbus, of course, did not do that. By the time he arrived in 1492, the continents were already heavily populated by indigenous peoples whose ancestors had arrived millennia earlier.

Nor was he even the first European to set foot on American soil. The Vikings were already established along the Canadian coast in probably the 11th Century. Others might have also made it to these shores well before old Christopher.

In many Latin American countries, the anniversary of the encounter is remembered as *Día de la Raza* (Day of the Race). While Columbus was not entirely left out of the equation, the commemoration was also intended to include the indigenous groups. This, to us, seems appropriate.

Long celebrated by Italian immigrants, the holiday was federally recognized in the U.S. as Columbus Day 1937, essentially as a way to honor their contributions. Like so many immigrant groups have, Italians were facing a fair amount of discrimination at hands of "nativist" earlier arrivals. In many Italian-American communities it is still a day for parades and feasts and celebrations of Italian ethnicity.

In the last couple of decades there has been a backlash from some quarters regarding the celebration of Columbus. Some cities, including Minneapolis and Seattle, as well as the state of South Dakota, have changed the focus of the day to one that honors the hemisphere's indigenous residents.

The criticism centers on who Columbus was and his legacy of European conquest of native peoples. And the criticism is justified. Columbus, while an important figure, was not a hero to us.

History books tell us that when he set sail in 1492 he was attempting to discover a shorter trade route to the Indies. Another part of his mission was to bring back to Spain whatever represented wealth in the lands to which he ventured. Gold was welcome, but so were spices. And slaves.

He first landed on an island in the present-day Bahamas. The people he encountered there, the Arawak,

were quite welcoming. Rather than reciprocate their hospitality, he took special note of the gold earrings they were wearing. This spurred him to take some of the Arawaks prisoner and insisted they guide him to the source of the gold.

Thus began what would become an establishment of European supremacy over the native peoples of the new continents.

He wrote of the natives in his journal on October 12, 1492: "They ought to make good and skilled servants, for they repeat very quickly whatever we say to them. I think they can very easily be made Christians, for they seem to have no religion. If it pleases our Lord, I will take six of them to Your Highnesses when I depart, in order that they may learn our language."

Things got progressively worse. On December 5 he landed on an island known as Hispaniola, now the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Gold was now his mission. Little was to be found on the island. But people abounded.

He quickly wrote to his royal sponsors about the Taino who, like the Arawaks, greeted him in peace: "They are well-built, with good bodies and handsome features.... They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane... They would make fine servants... With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want. Here there are so many of these slaves... although they are living things they are as good as gold..."

On his return trip, he and his comrades began what would grow into a genocidal campaign against the indigenous people.

Columbus' childhood friend Michele da Cuneo wrote that on their return to Spain after this second voyage "we gathered... one thousand six hundred male and female persons of those Indians.... For those who remained, we let it be known [to the Spaniards] in the vicinity that anyone who wanted to take some of them could do so, to the amount desired, which was done."

The Taino continued to suffer. Enslaved by Columbus and his followers under the *encomienda* system, the Taino population quickly declined. Overwork, murder, European diseases and mass suicides claimed many native lives.

According to the 16th Century Spanish historian Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdés the pre-Columbian Taino population was perhaps 250,000 to 300,000 when Co-

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Ugh, it's terrifying to watch these people seizing sovereign territory and murdering those who resist.



Also, why does everyone have such a problem with Columbus Day?

Letters to the Editors

Open Letter To State and Federal Officials

For many years, the Town of Wendell, Massachusetts has been the target of frequent helicopter flyovers, presumably searching for marijuana plants.

These searches have been conducted at very low altitudes, and have proven to be extremely upsetting to our residents and very disturbing to their livestock.

In 2013, we reached out to our State and Federal legislators in an attempt to determine which agency was responsible for these flights, whether or not they were being conducted legally, and if any FAA regulations regarding minimum altitudes were being violated.

We ultimately heard back from the office of then Interim Senator William Cowan indicating the Drug Enforcement Administration was likely conducting these flyovers, although the DEA was quoted as saying the operations were "conducted in accordance with applicable law."

Last month however, on Friday, September 26, 2014, an incident oc-

curred which clearly could not be construed as drug enforcement by any standards.

During a funeral ceremony for a local fire fighter that was taking place on our Town Common, a helicopter, presumably on orders from the DEA, circled the Common no fewer than six times, making the memorial service inaudible and otherwise distracting from attempts to pay respects to a much-loved community member.

There is video footage of the incident, and by all accounts, the aircraft was flying at a very low altitude. Our own fire chief estimated that the helicopter was flying at 100', close enough that the occupants' clothing could be identified, and therefore certainly close enough that the occupants could identify firefighters in full uniform in attendance.

FAA regulations indicate that these operations must be conducted "without hazard to person or property on the surface," but if this heli-

copter were to have experienced any mechanical failure while circling over the memorial service, attendees to the ceremony would certainly have been at risk.

Aside from the question of why, in the current fiscal climate, resources are being spent looking for marijuana on a town common during a funeral in a state that has legalized its medical use and decriminalized its general use, the more immediate question of common decency begs to be asked.

What action can your office take to help end this seasonal outrage that not only violates the privacy rights of the residents of Wendell, but is also an egregious misallocation of substantial tax payer resources that could be much better spent?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Christine Heard
Daniel Keller
Jeffrey Poeser**

The Wendell Selectboard

Why I'm Voting for Kulik

We, in the First Franklin district are fortunate to have Steve Kulik as our Representative. Steve has held this seat because he has a consistent record of voting in the House in support of the people in our district.

He's stood for workers' rights, supported union contracts for UMass workers at all levels, spoken on behalf of labeling GMOs, and many other important issues.

Currently he is one of the strongest voices opposing the Tennessee Gas Pipeline extension that threatens to bring pressurized fracked gas across our protected waterways and pristine conservation lands, not to mention family farms and beloved neighborhoods, from the border

with New York all the way to Dracut.

Steve has risen in the ranks at the Statehouse to Vice Chair of Ways and Means, a seat of power that brings needed attention and funds to our part of the state.

Why on earth would we want to upset this stable political base by inviting a first-time Republican candidate with no record other than affiliation with Wall Street to replace him?

Remember Scott Brown?

Voters, please return Steve Kulik to the State House by voting for him on November 4.

**Sylvia Snape
Plainfield**

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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

PUMPKINS from page A1

The Package, Groove Shoes, Crazy Diamond, Soul Works, the Greenfield High School Band and the Franklin County Community Chorus.

From 4 to 5 p.m., the North

County Line Dancers will perform, and from 5 to 6 p.m., the Zumba Dancers will show off their moves at Third and Avenue A.

Nelson says that this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever.



Compiled by DON CLEGG

What's Shakin' at the Shea Theater? Come and meet current Shea Theater board members and find out their plans for the upcoming year on Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Turners Falls branch of GSB.

Share a coffee and light pastry with some of the Shea Board members and help them move forward with community wishes and input. No reservations necessary, open house atmosphere.

Slave Songs & Drumming: Healing Racism Through Music, a workshop with Gloria DeLayne Matlock will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

The workshop is designed for adults and children accompanied by adults. Donations welcome. Child-care available, RSVP for childcare to email@massslaveryapology.org or (413) 625-2951.

Pumpkinfest is almost here and Avenue A in Turners Falls will be full of vendors from 2 to 9 pm on Saturday, October 18. The **Montague Reporter** will be set up just outside their one year old location at 177 Avenue A.

The Reporter has numerous staff and volunteer writers who have published their own books. These fine reads will be part of the raffle prizes for lucky winners.

Next to the Reporter will be the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center showcasing their **new brochure and traveling exhibit** which was produced from a national grant process through the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. There will also be something scary and educational for the young ones.

Music in the Meetinghouse presents: **The Woman Songwriter Collective**, a group of five female singer/songwriter musicians, who perform a variety of their own music as well as a few cover songs.

Their performance features an eclectic fusion of folk, classical, rock, country and blues mixed with a lot of personality and spunk. This group is back by popular demand with several new musical compositions in addition to their older work, and their new EP will be available to purchase during intermission.

This concert will take place at the First Parish Church of Northfield, at the corner of Main and Parker streets, on Saturday, October 18, at 7 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door,

which will help support the concert series. For more information or a list of all scheduled concerts, please log on to www.MusicInTheMeetinghouse.com.

On Sunday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a **Not In Anyone's Backyard tag sale** in front of the Green Trees Gallery, at 105 Main Street in Northfield.

All proceeds will support the fight against the proposed Kinder-Morgan natural gas pipeline, which would run through Montague, Erving and Northfield. Pipeline signs, baked goods, books, crafts, and tag sale items of all kinds will be available. Rain or shine.

Kick up your heels at the French & Breton Dance on Sunday, October 19, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Leverett Crafts and Arts, 13 Montague Road, Leverett. The event features dancing, instruction, and live music in a French Café ambience. For more info email cynthia@crocker.com.

Open House and Family Day for the **Museum of Our Industrial Heritage** on Sunday, October 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. at 2 Mead Street, Greenfield.

Visit the museum in the historic Newell Snow factory building on the banks of the Green River in Greenfield (next to Berkshire

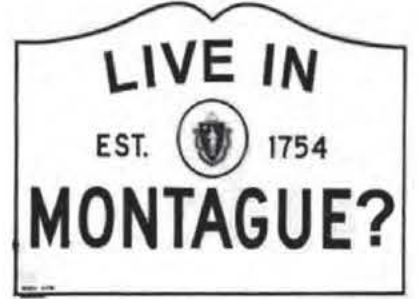
Gas and across from the Textile Co.). Take a walk on museum grounds and see the hidden Mill Street dam. In the exhibit hall, see tools and products manufactured in Franklin County from the 1800s through the 20th century, with a special exhibit on the history of Franklin County paper mills.

Join in activities to identify hand tools manufactured in the area, and use them, too (with supervision). Your donations to this free event will support museum programming. For more information, call 413-336-8275 or email them at info@industrialhistory.org

The 28th Annual Franklin County CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 19, at 2 p.m. The 4-mile walk starts and ends at First Congregational Church of Montague at 4 North Street in Montague Center.

While 75% of the funds go to help the hungry around the world, 25% comes back to our neighbors through such organizations at Community Meals and Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Organizers hope to raise \$30K this year. For more info, contact Steve Damon at davons_of_gill@yahoo.com.

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Another Letter Accessibility Still A Work In Progress

Since the disabled community began advocating for increased access with Montague officials, there have been some improvements in accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

These include: handicapped parking signage in parking lots, a resolution on placing a basketball net directly in the h.p. lot at the high school, reinstalling the h.p. lot at town hall, and correcting issues with the electric doors in the selectmen's meeting room.

Awareness of the ADA in new projects is necessary for compliance. In addition, people need to be educated in the usage of h.p. parking by those with placards.

I'd also like to remind landlords and town officials to keep snow and dumpsters out of h.p. parking spaces.

Everyone's support, education, awareness and intervention now and in the future is vital for ADA compliance to continue in Turners Falls. ADA is a "work in progress,"

and current and future leaders need to support the disabled in our community.

I would be thrilled to see any person with a disability run for selectman, or partake in any future livability and master plans for Turners Falls.

We are all a part of the community, and future ADA goals include increased seating accommodations for those in wheelchairs and the correct placement of microphones at selectboard meetings.

A town mission statement for ADA Priority needs to be enacted and the disabled need to participate on livability and disability issues committees.

These measures do not cost money. All we need is education, awareness and involvement. There is still much work to be done. Our voices shall NOT remain silent.

Betty Tegel
Turners Falls

Great Falls Students Find Their Voices

By EMILY KREMS

GREENFIELD – It's Your Choice. Use Your Voice. Be Your Self.

This slogan was devised by the six Great Falls Middle School (GFMS) students who attended the Third Annual Youth Conference for Preventing Substance Abuse entitled "Find Your Voice" on October 8.

The conference was organized by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and took place at Greenfield Community College (GCC). Over 200 students from 21 schools in the area attended the conference.

The workshop that the students attended focused on creating a Public Service Announcement (or PSA) that would urge youth to avoid the risky behaviors of underage alcohol and other substance use.

Students had just a couple of hours to create a

plan for their PSA, choose roles, discuss lines, and practice the scenes.

The various components of their PSA were then videotaped by a representative from Greenfield Community Television (GCTV). The PSA will be edited by GCTV and shown in a variety of venues.

GCTV created its own video about the conference which features GFMS students working on their PSA.

The video can be viewed at <http://gctv.org/videos/finding-their-voices>. The video, photos from the event, and the students' PSA will be presented soon at an all-school meeting at GFMS.



GFMS workshop attendees Samantha Bocon, Alyson Murphy, Mireya Ortiz and Tevon Sutton.



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WENDELL from page A1

encounter the group further along on her route, and that is what happened. Ruby raised her hackles and Barilla kept her between her legs for her protection. Kodiak ran towards them, and attacked Ruby. Two of the other dogs, Paddington and Mica, ran ahead and joined the fight.

Barilla tried to break it up, but was knocked over and hit her head. One of the dogs bit her, breaking a bone in her hand. By that time Segal was able to run up and pull Kodiak away. She tied Kodiak to a tree. Without Kodiak, Mica and Paddington stopped fighting. Segal's fourth dog, Farley, is mellow and did not get involved even when Segal dropped the leash to run ahead and pull Kodiak out of the fight.

Barilla went to the ranger station, called her parents and got a ride home.

Rangers there told her that the State Forest staff is too small to enforce adequately the Massachusetts leash law, and largely relies on an honor system with dog owners in the state forests. Ruby left with an open wound on her paw, which a vet treated with antibiotics, and Barilla had her arm and wrist put in a brace or cast, which she was still wearing at the hearing.

Segal came by to check on Barilla's condition soon after the incident. She began her talk in front of the selectboard saying she was truly sorry for what happened, that of course she would pay for the vet bills and Barilla's medical expenses.

Her story of the incident differed in that she said Barilla had picked up Ruby at first and then put her between her legs for better protection, and that the other two dogs were off leash from the beginning, but were staying close to her.

Segal said that dogs have been her life for forty years, and that she has had many rescue dogs that she has taken to obedience and socialization classes. She has a fenced yard for the dogs when they are outside the house.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser asked Barilla what she wanted from the hearing, and the answer was that the dogs be walked one at a time on leash, and that Kodiak should wear a muzzle.

Pooser was concerned that the town might find itself liable if it acted with insufficient severity. He said it would be easier to make a decision if Segal were an irresponsible dog owner.

Neighbor Jan Stiefel said that as a close neighbor of Segal for fifteen years, she has had no trouble with the dogs. She pointed out that everyone at the hearing shared the goal of preventing a similar incident.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith, also a neighbor, concurred. She said her dog has been enriched by her contact with Segal. She said she goes

walking with Beth Erviti, Barilla's mother, and Ruby, and that Ruby is not a mild-mannered dog.

Neighbor Court Dorsey said that Segal's dogs have been noisy but he cannot imagine any one of them needing a muzzle. He said that in the last month the noise has been much lower.

Elise McMahon, the animal behaviorist, said she has known Segal and all her dogs for thirty years. McMahon argued that muzzling a dog whose attack was based on fear rather than aggression would make that dog feel more vulnerable, as would being on a leash around unleashed dogs.

She said that both Ruby and Kodiak need some socialization, and that it might not be a bad idea for some of that socialization be done in the presence of the other dog. Segal came to her two days after the incident, and McMahon wrote a four-page evaluation of the dogs she has known, and left copies for board members to read after the hearing. She has not met Ruby.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the injuries are more than physical, and that socialization alone is not foolproof.

One of the people attending said that no dog is under its owner's control when off leash.

Board members were taken aback by the seriousness of injuries and the emotional strain of both dog owners, and recessed the hearing until the next selectboard meeting, October 22, allowing themselves time to assimilate everything.

Until then, Segal is restricted to walking one dog, on a leash, at a time. She reentered the meeting later to say that limiting her to walking one dog at a time is not a fair solution, and that she would bring more information to the next meeting.

Meetinghouse: Water and Septic

Nan Riebschlaeger of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse met the board at 7:30 to ask about connecting the Meetinghouse to the town water supply and septic system.

The Friends have grants available but they require that the Meetinghouse have running water and a septic or sewer connection. Riebschlaeger noted that there is a hookup in the front lawn, and asked if that was not in anticipation of connecting the meetinghouse to the septic system.

Heard said that when the town was developing the septic system plan, a decision was made to limit the connections to town buildings only, and not include private homes which would have increased the cost dramatically.

Keller concurred and said that the hookup in front of the Meetinghouse is where the line from the town hall meets the line from the library and senior center and goes downhill to the office building, and the septic system itself.

He suggested a composting toilet, but Riebschlaeger did not like that idea.

The Meetinghouse lot is too small to hold the building, a well and a septic system, a problem that is common for old buildings in many small town centers.

Pooser questioned the capacity of the septic system and the town well, and whether either could accept another connection. The town well has some head space that acts as a reservoir, but produces only two gallons a minute refilling that reservoir.

He said someone's reaction to composting toilets depends on one's experience with them and that there

Can History Help Us Reinvent the Food System?

Local writer and public historian Cathy Stanton will present her new food and farm history project on Friday evening, October 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

Her talk, entitled "Food and Farming in Wendell: Rebuilding a History," will challenge common ideas about the long decline of New England agriculture, especially in the hill towns, and will propose a new approach in dialogue with present-day efforts to strengthen local and regional food systems.

Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

Stanton is a long-time resident of the North Quabbin area who teaches at Tufts University and has

written extensively about tourism, memory, and historic sites.

She is currently developing materials and models to help local-food advocates cultivate greater historical depth in thinking about food and farm policy and politics.

She launched a small, Wendell-focused segment of this larger effort, The Landcestor Project (landcestorproject.org), this past summer.

The October 24 talk will draw on local examples to present an alternative history of New England farmers adapting, surviving, and returning to the land, to balance the commonly-told story of abandoned hill farms and competition from larger-scale agriculture to the west.

are some along Route 2 that get heavy use and function well.

Riebschlaeger again brought up running water, something that Keller said a lawyer or the DEP could comment on. In response to Heard's question, she said the Meetinghouse could hold about 80 people, and in response to Keller's question of why not hold events, like weddings at the town hall, she said the Meetinghouse has more room, and because it is not a town owned building, liquor can be served.

Pooser said someone's reaction to composting toilets depends on one's experience with them.

She said the town should look at the Meetinghouse as a resource and that, as another venue for events, it could be an economic help to the town.

Assuming her role as chair of the energy committee, Riebschlaeger said that the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating and Air conditioning Engineers) audit of town buildings is complete.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo, and captain Asa de Roode have both asked for copies. One recommendation is that the town not replace the old fluorescent lights in the town hall with newer, more efficient fluorescent bulbs and instead go directly to LED lights which are more efficient still.

Helicopter Surveillance

On September 26 the town common saw a memorial for Laura Golden, who had died the week before. She was well known and liked in both Wendell and New Salem, and had been a New Salem firefighter, but had moved to Wendell.

People who knew her came to the front of the gathering and told their memories, and the active members of the New Salem fire department stood as a group in dress uniforms.

A helicopter was flying low in circles a short distance away, then came over to the common and circled it at least six times, completely drowning out the blessing of a Native American sachem.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo estimated its height at 100', and it was easy to see the person looking down from the open side door. On the scene, Cuneo made a phone call and the person answering said, "not one of ours," but even while Cuneo was talking the helicopter flew away.

In response, Pooser wrote another letter of complaint, which board members signed and sent to Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congressman McGovern, State Senator Stanley Rosenberg, State Representative Denise Andrews, the Flight Standards office at Bradley International Airport, the national and New England offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and to Colonel Timothy Alben, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police. (See Letters, page A2.)

Other Business

Before and after the dog hearing and Riebschlaeger's meeting the board conducted their normal business. They appointed Jenny Gross as Wendell representative to the Franklin regional planning board, and signed an appointment slip for Eric Newman as town hall kitchen coordinator. He is working now overseeing renovation of that kitchen.

Fees for kitchen use, clean up, and coordination with other town hall use which is done by town coordinator Nancy Aldrich all have to be arranged.

Aldrich said that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute survey of Wendell's town department needs was looking for towns that were likely to make a larger investment into hookups, servers and computers, but MBI will give the town its report.

The FRCOG asked for and got selectboard support for community innovation challenge grants, one of which would create a real time disaster map including water supplies.

The Massachusetts Fire Service Commission sent the selectboard a letter commending and giving credentials to fire chief Cuneo.

Jeff Lacey of the state DCR has asked to use the town office building meeting room for a half day training session for highway departments and snow and ice treatment.

Pooser said that the police station is still connected to Hughes Net with chief Ed Chase waiting for one state agency to recognize the new email address.

Aldrich noted, and the selectboard accepted with the fees waived, two requests to use the town hall: one on October 25 for a memorial for Clearwater Liberty, and one for the weekend of December 6 and 7 for the annual holiday fair, which over the years has raised \$9,000 for Swift River School.

Finally, Board members signed an appointment slip putting Diane Kurinsky on the Council on Aging.



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LEVERETT from page A1

resignation, such an offer has no legal standing.

Further, the board said the town and the department would be better served with a chief who would work together with the board to plan for the development of the department, administering such matters as training, advancement, and succession.

Board chair Rich Brazeau returned to the oft repeated issue of a succession plan for the retirement of senior officers, and asked again if Moruzzi had produced such a plan.

Moruzzi said it was impossible to predict when people would resign, and it was his job, as a strong chief, to make sure those positions were filled once they opened up.

He stressed that the three captains positions have all been filled, and although the position of deputy chief has yet to be filled, the department is still recruiting new firefighters and training them to move up the ladder of departmental succession in due time. He said it was the board's job to plan for his replacement, not his own.

Firefighter Steve Sengebush said the department had been working under the impression that the final report, presented by the selectboard's ad hoc fire department study committee last year, fulfilled the selectboard's request for a succession plan.

Sengebush said it appeared the selectboard had failed to move the main recommendations of that report forward, notable by hiring a fulltime firefighter to handle calls to the department during daytime hours.

The board responded that the ad hoc committee had been appointed to advise the chief, and it was his responsibility to move forward the recommendations of the committee, not theirs.

"We can't have the fire department without people competent to run it. We asked for a plan."

Rich Brazeau, Leverett selectboard

What the board required was a clear plan outlining where personnel were in terms of training and qualifications for advancement, so the town could be assured that competent people were in place to run the department at the point when senior firefighters, like Moruzzi, training officer Stuart Olsen, and captain Marty Moore, eventually retired from the force.

Moreover, the board said, money would be required to hire a full-time firefighter, money the town does not currently have available, and it might require a property tax override to come up with that money.

"The fact is, there is no money in the budget now, which is really unfortunate," said Julie Shively. The board has argued in the past that it would be an uphill effort to persuade town meeting to back a tax override without a clear plan for leadership succession at the department.

Sengebush persisted, "I'm trying to get to the gist of why you guys met and decided not to reappoint the chief."

Brazeau replied, "We asked for a plan of succession, basically, for the three senior people who were retiring. Stuart is over 65; we worked to get him back on the force. John's been saying for years he's going to retire. Marty's 65. We can't have the fire department without people competent to run it. We asked for a plan."

"You don't have to have that," said Moruzzi. "That's my job."

Stuart Olsen said to Peter d'Errico, "I take serious harm in what you said [in a recent letter to the editor] calling me a liar. Talk about disrespect."

The letter was in reference to a side dispute about whether a "hold harmless" waiver of liability for senior firefighters who might be injured in the line of duty originated with the selectboard, or whether it originated from a directive by Olsen and the fire department for the Leverett board to look into a similar policy once adopted by the town of Rockport.

Kate Moruzzi said she took particular issue with the tone of rudeness with which the board has treated the firefighters, including her husband, who have served the town "for years, through storms, with their children waiting at home for them."

Julie Shively said the board has always praised the operational strength of the town's fire department. The board has only been critical of administrative matters at the department.

Olsen said the firefighters did ask the selectboard to look into the policy adopted by the town of Rockport for keeping senior members on the fire department past the usual retirement age of 65. The firefighters did not know what that policy contained:

"We were trying to get as much information as possible. We asked you to call, administrator to administrator. And we expected you to at least come back and talk to us. You just presented us with a hold harmless letter.

"Even if we are not doing what you don't want us to do, if we go to the scene we could still get injured, and besides it's age discrimination. Your attorney told you so.

"We're trying to work with you. We're diligently trying to train new people. We're still accepting applications, for the town. We serve the town. But some of the disrespect that's coming to us doesn't make us feel good about it."

Former firefighter Tom Masterton said, "I've followed the dispute. I don't necessarily believe

everything I read in the paper. From my point of view, there is fault on both sides. I feel that John Moruzzi was incredibly slighted by the process you took.

"If you met on a Tuesday, you'd be looking John in the eye and telling him he's not wanted. Instead you met in a special session that was not well advertised. That's an incredible insult to a man who has served the town for so long."

Later in the meeting, the board appointed two new firefighters on Moruzzi's recommendation: Hank Silver and Kavern Lewis.

They then discussed town counsel Donna MacNicol's recommendation to come up with a blanket policy against "limited duty" assignments for town employees.

"If you met on a Tuesday, you'd be looking John in the eye and telling him he's not wanted."
Tom Masterton, former firefighter

In a town as small as Leverett, in MacNicol's opinion, employees needed to be employed at full capacity, not kept in their posts in limited duty when physical (or perhaps psychological) conditions prevented full duty.

The board came to no conclusion, and will seek input from the personnel board, and other towns, before acting on MacNicol's recommendation.

"There could be unintended consequences," said d'Errico.

Other Business

After noting that the town is now paying benefits for three veterans, after some years with no veterans requiring benefits, the board backed the merger of the Central Franklin County Veterans District with the Greenfield Veterans Services, and agreed to join the new Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District in July of 2015.

A special town meeting will be held on October 28, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school, to deal with a number of bookkeeping issues, along with a proposed cell tower bylaw revision being brought forward by the planning board, which reportedly will seek to limit present setback requirements.

Also, discussions will be held on elementary school regionalization and, perhaps, long term sustainability of the Leverett Elementary School, at that meeting.

Signups for the town's broadband service are proceeding at a brisk pace, approaching 50% of households. D'Errico said residents will be able to sign up for discounts at the special town meeting, before the special rates expire at the end of October.



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BROADBAND ACCESS MEETING IN MONTAGUE CENTER OCTOBER 20

A public education meeting for residents of Montague Center will be held on Monday, October 20, from 7-8 PM at the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague.

Kevin Hart, a member of the Montague Broadband Committee, will report on recent legislative changes that impact broadband

access in Massachusetts, update the community about potential options for a fiber network, and answer questions.

Kevin has been investigating the multi-faceted trends in the telecommunications industry to provide the most timely information.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

"Harvest of Empire" screening

Greening Greenfield and the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice will screen the documentary film "Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America" at the First Congregational Church on Silver Street in Greenfield on Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and donations accepted.

At a time of heated and divisive debate over immigration, Onyx Films has created a feature-length documentary that examines the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today.

Based on the ground-breaking book by award-winning journalist, Juan Gonzalez, "Harvest of Empire" takes an unflinching look at the role that the U.S. economic and military interests played in triggering an unprecedented wave of migration that is transforming our nation's cultural and economic landscape.

"Harvest of Empire" provides a rare and powerful glimpse into the

enormous sacrifices and rarely-noted triumphs of our nation's growing Latino community.

The film features present day immigrant stories, rarely seen archival material, as well as interviews with such respected figures as Nobel Peace Prize winner, Rigoberta Menchu, the Reverend Jesse Jackson and many more.

The discussion that will follow will be led by Attorney Buz Eisenberg whose experience in defending Guantanamo prisoners has given him a unique insight into issues of American imperialism and its effects on the people of other nations.

Accompanying Atty. Eisenberg will be Kit Carpenter, Director of the Center for New Americans whose own perspective into migration issues will, no doubt, add much to the conversation.

It is hoped that she will be accompanied by people who have immigrated to Western Massachusetts and who can tell us, first-hand, their own stories of displacement and starting over.

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Joseph Kochan

Grade 8
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ART from page A1

that even after he had become ill he continued to be involved in issues affecting veterans.

A case in point: When residents of Millers Falls looked up on national holidays to find American flags hanging from their lamp poles, whether they knew it or not, they had Art to thank, for he negotiated with the town and the fire department to make that happen.

When participants at many a benefit party or fundraising event got on the floor to kick up their heels to the upbeat tunes of an unassuming band, whether they knew it or not, they often had Art to thank, for leading the band. He was not only a veteran, but a veteran musician, and he knew the American songbook like the back of his hand.

Indeed, if veterans' affairs were Art's issue, music was his passion.

Art was born and died in Greenfield, lived part time in South Hadley, but Montague was his true home, and the town that he loved best.

He could not claim to be the longest continuously serving member of town meeting – Robert Sojka or Dickie Guy could have arm wrestled for that claim – but Art dropped off for a term only to run again when his interest in town government got the better of his illness.

Town clerk **Deb Bourbeau** remembers Art as a “wonderful, thoughtful compassionate man who always had a smile on his face. He loved his community and this country,” said Bourbeau.

She comments that as a town meeting member, he “cared for the people he represented and he represented them well by speaking his mind in search of positive solutions. He was often the voice of reason at town meetings when discussions got tense, or if the topic would waiver too far off course.”

Finance committee chair **John Hanold** notes that Art “was one of the shining examples for the rest of us of how to say something relevant, clearly, politely and leaving room for disagreement about being disagreeable. Any time he asked to speak, the room quieted down; any time he talked about not running again people pleaded with him to hang on.

“A class act, and a fascinating musician, to boot – his performance several years ago at a *Reporter* benefit at the Night Kitchen was enthralling. When I grow up I want to make music like Art, as long as he did. Precinct 2 and his close friends may be the first to feel his loss, but the whole town is the poorer for his death.”

Pam Hanold, energy committee and town meeting member, also remembers that magical night at the benefit: “My favorite memory was singing the old songs to his accompaniment, followed by hearing how important music had been in shaping his life. Well played, indeed.”

Finance committee and town meeting member **Mike Naughton** says that music was always part of Art's life: “He used to go

to area nursing homes and play music ‘for the old folks’, as he told me, when he himself was well into eighties!”

Art grew up in Greenfield, where he distinguished himself as a young man as a musician and ski jumper. Art was such a good ski jumper that he won the Class B event on Feb. 11, 1939 on the Bingville jump, and retained the trophy throughout his life.

When World War II broke out Art enlisted in the army with the 717th and 732nd Railway Operating Battalions and served in England, France, Belgium and Germany. Following WWII, he reenlisted in the Air Force as a musician, where he rose in the ranks to become a First Sergeant and Band Superintendent.

He performed for President Nixon, President Kennedy, and played at President Eisenhower's Inauguration. He was also instrumental in forming the Air Force Academy Band.

In later years, in addition to his band duties, he was the director of Armed Forces Radio and Television at Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico until his retirement from the military in 1965.

After his retirement he taught in the public schools, including in Turners Falls. Until his death he was also an adjunct faculty member at Westfield State College.

Art accomplished many things in his life, but one thing that bothered him until the end was his inability to get the town of Montague to open a reasonable access road to one of the town's own public cemeteries: the Dry Hill Road cemetery, in his own village of Millers Falls.

In a phone call the day before town meeting, he asked other members of town meeting to press for a resolution to that longstanding problem.

“There are veterans buried up there – at least one of them is from the Revolutionary War!” said Gilmore. He believed their relatives, and the people of the town, should be able to visit their graves and pay them due respect.

Town moderator **Ray Godin**, who was once a student of Art's in music class in high school, always paid Gilmore due respect, even when he failed to stand for lack of strength, or failed to wait for the microphone because of his impatience to state his opinion on matters of civic import.

Godin recalls that “as a town meeting member he not only represented his precinct, but the entire town. He was always well spoken, and took the time to look into many of the articles that he would be voting on ahead of time. Although he did not speak often, when he did the other members paid close attention to what he had to say. Art was a true gentleman, and he will be missed.”

The town of Montague has lost a great man, whose gentleness, good humor, concern for his fellow citizens, and most of all his respect for the sacrifices, the scars, and the healing of our veterans was unmatched in modern times. We know

he will be standing by our side in spirit, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the mystic bell tolls eleven times, reminding us of all who have served, and the many who have fallen, in America's many wars.

Former selectboard member and poet **Patricia Pruitt** chose to remember Art in verse:

Poem for Art Gilmore

*So now you've gone on
unable to wait any longer
for the world to improve
Already days have gone by
Without you around
You had your concerns –
Dry Hill, veterans' honor;
Your loves – Mary and music,
Family and friends
But you did what you could,
Even love couldn't stop you
And now you are gone...*



REPORTER FILE PHOTO

Born in Greenfield on May 15, 1921, the son of Arthur E. Gilmore, Sr. and Mary (Coynne) Gilmore, Art leaves behind his beloved wife of 42 years, Mary Ann (Dymerski) Gilmore, as well as the comfort of his life, his cat Callie.

Among his survivors are three daughters, Donna M. Briseno and her husband Raul of Alabama, Denise P. Oberg and her husband Gary of New Hampshire, Debra A. Letourneau and her husband Michael of Gill, a son, Michael and his wife Karen of South Deerfield, six grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, one great great granddaughter, one niece and two great nephews.

Calling hours will be held this Saturday morning, October 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Kostanski Funeral Home, at 1 Kostanski Square in Turners Falls.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church with the Rev. Timothy J. Campoli officiating. The burial will be held Monday, October 20 at 1 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, 706 Haddonfield Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, or to the Veteran's Committee c/o The Montague Lodge of Elks, 1 Elks Ave., Turners Falls, MA 01376.

A space to leave sympathy messages has been made available at www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.



The Montague Reporter is seeking writers to cover local meetings on a regular basis. Modest compensation and editorial guidance provided. For information, contact (413) 863-8666 or editor@montaguereporter.org

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION
MONTAGUE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY (CDS) ANNUAL UPDATE**

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 – 7 p.m.
2nd Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall
One Avenue A, Turners Falls

The purpose is to review Montague's CDS. Local citizens are encouraged to attend. Review the plan at www.montague.net or at the Planning Department. Session to be held in conjunction with the regular Planning Board Meeting.

**Comcast Negotiations Revived,
But Off To Rocky Start**

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

MONTAGUE – It has been over a year since the town of Montague, represented by its Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), last met with Comcast, the company that provides cable service to the town. If the discussions on Wednesday, October 8 are any indication, it may take a good deal more time before the parties will be able to come to an agreement on a new license.

The CAC and Comcast have not met since the town sent an official “letter of rejection,” dated August 20, 2013, responding to the company's license renewal proposal.

In a cover letter to the rejection the town indicated that “the Cable Advisory Committee will be contacting you shortly to arrange a meeting to discuss ways to resolve the issues that were raised” in the denial letter.

Since then, the CAC has struggled to meet regularly and devise a strategy for dealing with the cable company.

There has been at least one key retirement from the committee, and several new members joined this past summer. The committee has also become embroiled in a contentious and labor-intensive debate over the renewal of the town's contract with the local access provider, Montague Community Cable Incorporated (MCCI, also known as MCTV).

With an evaluation of MCCI due to be presented to the Selectboard this week, the CAC may now be able to turn its attention to negotiating a new Comcast license.

This may not be an easy task. The Montague rejection letter contains a formidable list of twenty-one complaints directed at the Comcast proposal.

For example, the town wants Comcast to guarantee that it keep a customer service center in Greenfield or a “contiguous com-

munity” and expand the number of channels dedicated to public access to three.

Montague and Comcast are also at odds over the issue of the capital grant to the local access station (Montague has proposed \$150,000 over the ten years of the license). The town has also requested that Comcast expand the number of connections or “drops” to public buildings, a proposal not included in the Comcast renewal license.

To further complicate matters, the CAC and the Comcast representative appear to be at odds over the very basis of future negotiations. At the October 8 meeting the CAC chair Garry Earles complained about a license proposal sent to him to sign in August of 2013.

The proposal was apparently not copied to the town lawyer, a fact that led Earles to feel that an effort had been made to “snooker” the CAC. Yet the Montague rejection letter refers to a Comcast license proposal made four months earlier, in April of 2013.

The Comcast representative at the negotiations at first seemed unwilling to discuss any of the points in the Montague rejection letter. He claimed that Comcast was not willing “to go back to the original RFP [issued by the town]”.

As the meeting proceeded, however, participants began to discuss the issues raised in the Montague letter.

The cable license renewal process is heavily regulated by the federal government. The next phase appears to begin with the formal rejection letter from Montague so it may not be possible for Comcast to avoid the issues raised there.

For its part the CAC will no doubt need to devise a negotiating strategy, a process that will probably require the assistance of their lawyer, who was not at the October 8 meeting.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Pump Station Letter the Highlight of Unexpected Selectboard Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, October 14 was short and to the point. The board had not originally been scheduled to meet, due to the federal holiday. But the previous Wednesday, at a joint meeting with the Finance Committee, it had been asked to sign a document concerning the replacement of two sewer pump stations that it had not seen, much less had time to review. Thus, a meeting this week was in order.

The document in question was a loan application, to the state revolving fund controlled by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The loan will finance bidding and work on two of the town's seven sewer pump stations (on First Street and Poplar Street). The project has already been approved by Montague town meeting.

Water Pollution Control Facility head Robert Trombley and Bob Button, of the engineering firm CDM Smith, presented the board with a thick file, including design specifications, that will be sent along to the state.

Button outlined the time frame for the project, which is now scheduled to be put out to bid in January and to begin in April.

The Selectboard authorized its chair, Chris Boutwell, to sign the letter to the state. The board also executed an agreement with CDM Smith for "bidding and construction services."

Payroll

In other business, the board, acting as the town Personnel Board, approved several appointments to the town payroll. These included a part-time janitor for the police station while the current janitor is on medical leave and a full-time mechanic at the highway department.

Tom Bergeron of the highway department (DPW), which also oversees the town transfer station, came to request the board sign a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for a "Third Party Inspection."

Bergeron said this also involves the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its regulation of hazardous waste and other materials.

The transfer station currently accepts oil, propane, metal and electronic equipment which are subject to state inspection. Apparently the regional solid waste district, not the DEP, will do the inspecting, so the chair of the Selectboard signed the MOU.

Liquor License Requests

The Board approved two requests for applications to the state for full

liquor licenses.

One was from Robert Obear, who is rehabilitating the Powers Block and adjacent buildings in downtown Millers Falls that will include a restaurant. Obear, who appeared before the board, stated that he needed a license to make the project viable.

The second request for a full license was from Dennis Lynch who owns the "mini mart," now called the "Village Store," in Montague Center. Lynch currently has a beer license.

There was some confusion about whether Robert Obear was really Robert Obear, since he did not look exactly like the individual seen previously by members of the audience. Obear stated that he was Robert Obear, Jr., the son of the developer.

Both of these license requests will have to be approved by town meeting, along with a third, for the former Montague Inn on Route 63. The petition to the state will involve expanding the total number of full liquor licenses in town by a total of three.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson stressed that he was voting in favor of the requests in order to give town meeting the opportunity to weigh in on them.

The Montague Selectboard then read and approved the entire warrant for the upcoming Special Town Meeting, scheduled for October 29.

The exercise was arduous due to the fact that the warrant included a lengthy and complex revision of the town's zoning bylaws.

Joint Meeting with FinCom

Last Wednesday, October 8, the board had discussed and approved most of these articles at a joint meeting with the town finance committee.

Many of the articles involve requests by departments for funding "emergency" items not in their original budgets.

This precipitated a good deal of commentary from Finance Committee members, who felt that the departments should present more realistic requests to the annual town meeting in May, rather than waiting until special meetings later in the year to make additional requests.

The special town meeting warrant and its length were roundly criticized at the joint meeting by audience member Jean Golrick, who seemed to question the legitimacy of such town meetings.

Other audience members questioned why Montague Center School was now being sold for \$1 when the original bidding price was \$50,000.

This precipitated a lengthy discussion of whether the Montague Center School issue was really "Finance Committee business." The consensus on the committee appeared to be that it was not.

Montague Elks Donate Funds for Skatepark

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS - Fundraising to build a permanent Unity Skate Park continues to gain momentum. On Wednesday, October 15, Exalted Ruler Jacob Rose and Lecturing Knight Paul Cloutier of the Montague Elks presented a check for \$2,000 to Montague parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz.

The check will be used to augment the Unity Skate Park committee's fundraising effort for a new concrete skate park in Turners Falls.

Rose said that the money came as a grant from the Elks National Foundation. "The Montague Elks are always looking for a way to give back to the community," Rose noted. "And this, we felt, was something the community could really use."

On hand for the presentation

were David Detmold and Anne Harding, both members of the skate park committee, as well as Montague selectman Mike Nelson.

Last May, Montague town meeting approved the borrowing of up to \$400,000 for designing and constructing a new skate park at Unity Park. The actual amount needed will likely be considerably less.

In July the town applied for a Massachusetts Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant to greatly offset the cost. PARC funds would pay for 68 percent of the park's cost. The remaining 32 percent must be covered by the town and skate park committee. The committee expects to learn whether the grant application was successful within the next month.

Over the last year, the skate park

committee has raised over \$43,000 from private donors and grants.

They're hoping to raise more this Saturday with a raffle at their Pumpkinfest booth.

The actual amount required to build the new skate park is estimated to cost \$250,000 to \$350,000.

Below: The Montague Elks present a check to Parks and Recreation director Jon Dobosz, to assist in building a permanent skatepark in Turners Falls.

From left to right: Skate park committee member David Detmold, Elks Lecturing Knight Paul Clouthier, Montague selectman Mike Nelson, Elks Exalted Ruler Jacob Rose, Montague parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, and committee member Anne Harding.

The skateboarders in the rear, from left to right: Nic Garland, Dallas Willer, Anias Politis, Rasziel Alica, Joseph Bonaiuto, Nate Jackson, and Barry Scott.



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

LOOKING BACK:

Legal Action Considered On Chopper Searches

By WENDELL POST STAFF

WENDELL - A group of Wendell residents met with Attorney Stuart Eisenberg recently to consider a legal challenge to the practice of random aerial searches by police. Wendell is just one of the area towns that have experienced aerial searches for marijuana in August and September of recent years.

Last September 8, police flew low, repeated passes over several fields in town, in some cases reportedly dipping below treetop level, and stirring up the wrath of some local residents who felt their privacy invaded.

The police had no warrants for the searches, but rather used them as a means to obtain warrants for the arrest of at least one Wendell resident.

The method's success in finding

marijuana is often used as a justification for using a method that would be illegal if it were on the ground.

Eisenberg, who expressed a great interest in the case, said the challenge will be based on constitutional protections in the U.S. and Massachusetts constitutions.

Other people concerned about this seeming abuse of police power and its potential for further excess are invited to participate, either as plaintiffs or in a support capacity.

A successful meeting was held in the Town Hall on April 16. Fundraising Committee, Organizing Secretary and Plaintiff "searchers" as well as several plaintiffs volunteered.

The meeting was well attended by the media, and excellent coverage was heard on NPR Amherst and seen in the Morning Union, the Boston Globe and the Greenfield

Recorder.

There will be a meeting of people interested in becoming plaintiffs with the lawyers on Wednesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church, Wendell Center. All supporters and those interested in submitting testimony are urged to come.

This article first appeared in the Wendell Post, Vol. 8 #6 (April-May 1986).

Back issues of the Post, which started in 1977 and has been on hiatus since 2001, have been expertly scanned, catalogued and made available to the public in digital form by the UMass-Amherst Library's Special Collections & University Archives.

They can be browsed at scua.library.umass.edu/ead/mums762.html. We recommend it, in fact.

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FOOTBALL from page A1

give the Blue its second touchdown of the first quarter.

But with seven minutes 29 seconds left in the half, Tionne Brown was picked off and Pioneer took over on Turners' 45 yard line. This could have been a turning point in the game. Pioneer was only down by 13 and they had the ball in Turners' territory. But Coach Lapointe took off his head set and simply said, "I want two more scores before the half."

A pretty bold statement but it was what the players needed to hear. The defense forced a fourth and 9 and then Jalen, Trent and the rest of the Offensive Eleven marched down the field.

With five minutes 32 seconds left in the half, Trent scored another Touch and the Tribe was up 19 nil. The next touchdown of the first half came at two minutes 13 when Trent hammered into the end zone giving Turners a 25 point lead.

One of the dangers of having a high scoring offense is that the defense tends to get lax while the opposing offense goes into high gear. However, the Powertown defense never let up. The offense kept scoring and the Defense gave no quarter.

So how good were the Turners Falls Football Indians against Pioneer? By the end of the game, Turners amassed 523 all-purpose yards; 365 of those yards were on the ground. Jalen Sanders ran for 143 yards and with his receiving yards, and his kickoff and punt returns, ended with 219 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns.

Trent Bourbeau had 199 rushing yards, had 3 touchdowns and banged out 239 all-purpose yards.



ROBINSON PHOTO

Trent Bourbeau pounds into the Pioneer end zone.

Tionne Brown threw his usual three passes and of course, one was for a touchdown.

Alex Carlisle, Jack Darling, Quinn Doyle, and Tionne each took turns carrying the ball, Quinn scored a touchdown. Emmitt Turn added three PATs. On the defensive side of the ball, along with the sacks, gang tackles, and blocked passes, Nick Croteau returned an interception 25 yards.

Last season, as you may remember, an undefeated Turners Falls team played an undefeated Easthampton team. But that was last year.

On Friday, Turners Falls puts its undefeated record on the line against an Easthampton team still smarting from an overtime loss to Frontier. Also at stake is the Tribe's 11-game home winning streak, a possible Intercounty League crown, and playoff implications.



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Suzanne Strempek Shea at Leverett Library October 30

Author Suzanne Strempek Shea will read and discuss her current work of nonfiction, *This is Paradise: An Irish Mother's Grief, an African Village's Plight and the Medical Clinic that Brought Fresh Hope to Both*, at the Leverett Library on Thursday, October 30, at 7 p.m.

The book is the story of Mags Riordan, an amazing woman from the west of Ireland who ten years ago founded the Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic in Malawi.

The medical clinic is named after her son who drowned there. Mags will join Suzanne for this reading. The evening will begin at 6:30 with a short reception and business meeting of the Friends of Leverett Library, sponsors of the event. The library is located at 75 Montague Road, Leverett. All are welcome to this free event.

Suzanne is from the Palmer area and is an author of both fiction and nonfiction. In fact, just this week her

latest novel, *Make a Wish But Not for Money*, was published.

This novel is about a palm reader in a dying mall (inspired, I believe, by the old Mountain Farms mall in Hadley).

But Suzanne was asked to come to Leverett to speak about her work of nonfiction listed above which was published in late spring. It is the story of an amazing woman from Ireland who lost two infants, and then 20 years later lost her son to an accident in Malawi.



Suzanne Strempek Shea (left) and Mags Riordan.

Her strength and determination in founding a medical clinic there in his memory is an incredible story that deserves to be heard by all.

We invited Suzanne to speak a while ago, and were absolutely delighted to learn that Mags is traveling in this area now and will be joining Suzanne at our event. We hope to collect donations for the clinic, and I believe there will be some crafts from Malawi for sale.

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OCTOBER 16, 2014

Searching for the Best Burger

By LEE WICKS

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Early this summer, inspired by warm weather ahead and the smell of meat grilling, I proposed a story on finding the best burger in the paper’s circulation area. Little did I know how complicated this would become.

First I had to ask myself how many burgers I planned to consume. Since I only eat red meat once a week, I already had a problem. Then I had to think about the meat, because I do not eat meat produced in factory farms and raised on a hefty diet of antibiotics and hormones.

The issue of antibiotic resistance has been out there a while. It is frightening to think that life-threatening, flesh-eating bacteria are developing the power to resist the antibiotics that once killed them. This is happening because of the tremendous quantities of antibiotics used in the production of meat and poultry.

In her new book *Unnatural Selection*, to be reviewed in a couple of weeks, Montague Center resident Emily Monosson writes, “Of the 37 million pounds of antibiotics consumed in the United States, about 7 million pounds are tossed down our throats or injected into our veins. A whopping 30 million pounds are fed to pigs, chickens and cows.”

If that doesn’t kill one’s appetite for mass-produced meat, the smell of a midwestern pig farm or photographs of animals raised in cages or chained to cement slabs will do it, at least for me.

I like Michael Pollan’s advice: “Eat food, not too much, mostly plants.” By “food,” he means something our grandparents would recognize as food, not processed food product filled with artificial colors and flavors.

When he writes about plants he argues for local organic produce. He favors meat and poultry raised without hormones or antibiotics for the reasons stated above and also because it is lower in fat and higher in essential nutrients.

Anything grown or raised locally tends to taste better and contains more nutrients than products shipped from far away.

Doubters should compare corn picked and eaten on the same day to corn that has lost its sweetness in travel. Pollan’s common sense advice informed my quest this summer, while Monosson’s new book confirmed my approach when I sat down to write.

The good news is that sustainably raised meat is not hard to find here. The weekly farmers markets are a good source. You can drive up to **Wheelview Farm** in Shelburne for a great assortment of cuts.

People who want a month’s worth of meat and chicken at a time can join the CSA from **Chestnut Farms** in Hardwick. Pick up is once a month in Amherst, Deerfield or Northampton, and you can order as little as five pounds if you have a small family.

Green Fields Market, the **Village Coop** in Leverett, **McCusker’s Market** in Shelburne Falls and **Elmer’s** store in Ashfield also have local pasture raised meat in their freezers. You no longer need to store half a cow in the freezer while dreading a power outage.

With that in mind, I narrowed my quest for the best burger, and decid-

ed to only sample those restaurants that demonstrate their commitment to local farmers by proclaiming it on their menus.

The Rendezvous in Turners Falls, **The Wagon Wheel** and the



Seth Crawford, chef at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls, with a hot-off-the-grill Voo Burger.

Gill Tavern in Gill, **Hope and Olive** and **The People’s Pint** in Greenfield, and the **Blue Heron** in Sunderland all made the cut.

I’ve included the Blue Heron because the owners, Debbie Snow and Barbara White live in Montague, and because they dedicate each Wednesday night to burgers.

This was not a scientific study. I did not sit at a table, blindfolded, nibbling, cleansing my palate and then tasting some more. I ate each burger with the memory of the one before, and here’s the good news: I have no bad memories.

see **BURGERS** page B4

ROCK PRIMER, PART THREE: THE HISTORY OF PESKEOMSCUT, MA

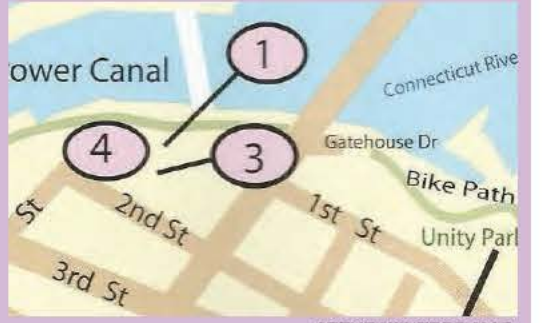
By JOHN FURBISH

THE GREAT FALLS – Last week I wrote about three of my favorite downtown geologic locations. This week I’ll be continuing my journey exploring the local environment.

My tour begins with walking north on Avenue A where I head to rock-site 3. This is a good starting place for anyone wanting to embark on a tour of their own. As I wander along the Avenue, I notice the preponderance of handsome brick buildings.

What some may not know is that almost all the bricks used to construct fire-resistant buildings originated from the 100 feet of clay at the bottom of glacial Lake Hitchcock. The bricks were manufactured in brick yards in Turners Falls and Greenfield. Today, the clay still gets used commercially to line and top landfills.

After crossing the Discovery Center’s inner courtyard, I stand facing the rocks in the center display. The buildings in the Riverside section of Gill catch my



STEVE WINTERS MAP

peripheral vision, and I jump up to try to catch a view of Barton Cove. But alas, gravity is too much for me and I have to go into my memory to “see” the water above the dam.

200 million years ago, when the original rift was filling, the entire region from Peskeomscut through South Hadley was a tropical paradise with vast swamps and trees the size of redwoods.

All of this was a food-rich mecca for roaming dinosaurs who might leave their footprints in lakeside mud to dry and harden, then get covered by a protective coating of sediment during the next rainfall, making in the end the rocks called fossils – which are unfortunately beyond the scope of this article.

Many dinosaur footprint slabs were found at an abandoned rock quarry in Gill (now submerged under Barton Cove), and over 10,000 slabs were collected in the 1800s by Professor Edward Hitchcock. Several are now displayed at Amherst College’s Beneski Museum of Natural History.

Standing in the middle of the Discovery Center courtyard, I lean over to study the display of reddish sedimentary

see **ROCKS** page B4



Sedimentary rocks in the courtyard of the Discovery Center.

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: TURNING TOWARD THE AUTUMN

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – This part of the year has somehow helped to weave flying squirrels, clambakes and class reunion into the fabric of these chronicles. Not so unusual really, considering the different worlds that make up this writer’s existence.

Last evening in the gathering dusk, steaks grilling on the oak and maple campfire on the edge of our woods (no gas grills for me!), I heard them.

Flying squirrels were chattering softly just beyond the edge of the firelight, off in the treetops. Their voices are discreet, unheard or just lost in the overall noise of other night voices in the summertime, katydids, crickets, grasshoppers.

Now their squirrel conversations at dusk are audible, the voices of the autumn dusk, reminding us of the summer on the wane. A few katydids still call, much slower now, reluctant to give up on the joys of summer nights.

Sitting in the growing chill just beyond the wood fire, thoughts turn toward autumn chores, not the least of which are putting up my vintage storm windows.

First bought during the Depression, ten in all were needed to button up this old house; every window had to be washed, ungainly balanced, then hung up on the hooks, and screw-eyed tight into place.

Now most of our windows have modern double-glass panes, permanently in place, airtight, and efficient. David Detmold and I replaced the two next-to-the-last windows, the ones going back to the 1870s, just two weeks ago.

We did that with great reverence to be sure, both of us conscious of the service these old panes had done over the last one hundred and forty years.

Sometimes it feels as though autumn is

Act III of the four act play that is the year of seasons.

The plot has developed during the first two acts and we can see the possible twists that may occur by the *dénouement* and the final curtain. But who knows for sure how it will all turn out?

One thing for sure, each year, you can count on The Clambake at the Scheutzen Verein.

Some see it as the last blast of summer, the true harvest festival for folks hereabouts when tons of steamed clams and seaweed-smoked lobsters get a final dunk in hot butter before slipping down the gullets of four hundred-plus devotees of the bake.

For sure, it is the last blast of summer and it doesn’t go without a whimper.

For some of us, it’s not only about the ritual of the clams, it’s gathering of the *clans*, of old neighbors, high school friends, where once a year many of the tradesmen and townspeople of our villages meet.

(Occasionally an intrepid politician shows up once every four years, but not this time! They can never be sure of the reception they’ll get!) I can count on my yearly update with Brian SanSoucie, our village locksmith, who tells me he has no lack of customers.

His rare skills are always in demand up and down the valley and into the hilltowns;

see **WEST ALONG** page B6



Glaucomys sabrinus – Northern Flying Squirrel.

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Mid-October Garden

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – This season’s fall color has evolved slowly. First, was the soft maples at the edge of ponds and reservoirs. Their brilliant reds and oranges came on a couple of weeks ago when the last of the pond lilies were still in late bloom. Now the hillsides are dotted with bright yellow, red and orange but still sport patches of green.

We look forward to another week or more of viewing depending on the weather. If we get a heavy frost followed by wind, the bright colors will fade and fall quickly.

The current forecast for the week ahead calls for temperatures in the seventies, and if this holds true, the colors will hold and the bright spots will increase.

The air is full of the scent of leaves and their brisk crunch underfoot as the earliest of the turning trees drop their bright dresses. Another warm week will suspend us in the feel of early fall. This would be a great pleasure, allowing for a few more gardening tasks. We’ll set in the garlic cloves soon and put the asparagus bed to rest for the winter as soon as the



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

ferns die back.

This is the perfect time to do a bit of raking before the task becomes daunting. We plan to rake up the maple leaves already on the ground and drop them into the vegetable garden. We’ll top these with composted manure, ensuring a rich layer of compost come spring planting time as the winter snow will leach fresh nutrients into the soil.

Later on towards the end of the month, we’ll pull the last of the weeds in the strawberry bed, and cover it with leaves for winter warmth. These later fall leaves will also provide winter cover for the garlic cloves and the rose bushes.

As the dark deepens earlier each evening and the tem-

peratures fall off abruptly, we are enjoying our fire pit, making bright blazes which extend the time of the light and the warmth. We think of how fire and light color the celebrations of the season as the winter comes on.

Still the sunny days are bright and hot and it’s too soon to put away the hats and the sunscreen. We notice that while the geese gather and fly high in their ragged V’s, they often turn to land again on the river, not really in a hurry to move on.

Soon enough for the frights of All Hallows’ Eve, for the feast of Thanksgiving, the winter solstice, Christmas and the celebration of the New Year.

Now we’ll delight in the see **GARDEN** page B4

Pet of the Week

I'm looking for a job.

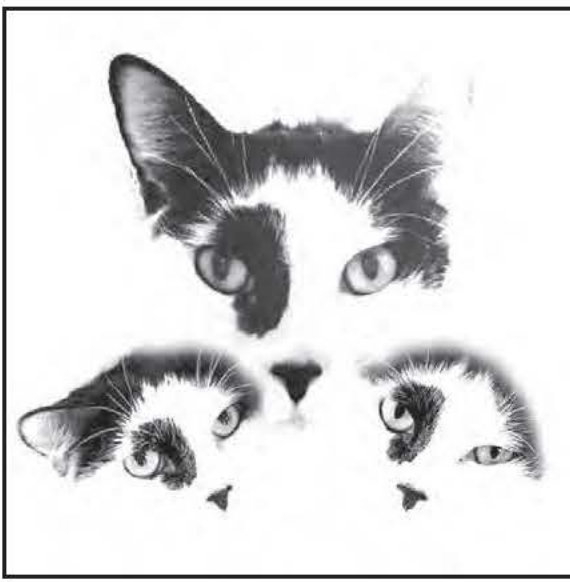
I would like to use my skills as a lap warmer to make your home a better place!

My goals are to brighten your day by purring and keeping you fit by asking to be picked up often!

I tend to be a quiet girl at first but just need the chance to come out of my shell.

Hire me for the position of loving cat and you won't be disappointed!

I get along well with other cats both in my previous home and here in the Dakin colony room.



CHUCHO MARTINEZ

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

Senior Center Activities October 20 through 24

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 10/20

8:30 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 noon Potluck & Bingo
1 p.m. NO Knitting Circle

Tuesday 10/21

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Five Crowns
1 p.m. Painting w/ David Sund

Wednesday 10/22

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/23

9 a.m. Tai Chi
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 10/24

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

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

Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call 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 10/20

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12 noon Quilting

Tuesday 10/21

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness
11 a.m. Senior Business
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 10/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo

Thursday 10/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Noon Cards

Friday 10/24

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.

FACES & PLACES



CATHY AMBO PHOTO

On Friday evening, October 10, the Gill selectboard presented Gill's oldest citizen, Angelina Adie, with the town's Boston Post Cane.

Mrs. Adie was the wife of 73 years of Alan Adie, Sr., and they made their home together on Walnut Street in Riverside.

Angelina and Alan met in Montague when Alan was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Fewer Fevers?



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. Is it my imagination, or am I getting fewer fevers than I did when I was younger?

The immune system doesn't function as efficiently in older adults as it does in younger people. The body's fever response to infection is not always automatic in elderly people. More than 20 percent of adults over age 65 who have serious bacterial infections do not have fevers.

This brings us to germs, which are defined as microbes that cause disease. Infectious diseases caused by microbes are the leading cause of death.

Microbes are microscopic organisms that are everywhere. Some microbes cause disease. Others are essential for health. Most microbes belong to one of four major groups: bacteria, viruses, fungi, or protozoa.

Bacteria are made up of only one cell. Less than 1 percent of them cause diseases in humans. Harmless bacteria live in human intestines, where they help to digest food.

Foods such as yogurt and cheese, are made using bacteria.

Some bacteria produce dangerous poisons. Botulism, a severe form of food poisoning, is caused by toxins from bacteria. However, several vaccines are made from bacterial toxins.

Viruses are among the smallest microbes. They consist of one or more molecules that contain the virus's genes surrounded by a protein coat. Most viruses cause disease. They invade normal cells then multiply.

There are millions of types of fungi. The most familiar ones are mushrooms, yeast, mold, and mildew. Some live in the human body, usually without causing illness. In fact, only about half of all types of fungi cause disease in humans. Penicillin and other antibiotics, which kill harmful bacteria in our bodies, are made from fungi.

Protozoa are a group of microscopic one-celled animals. In humans, protozoa usually cause disease. Some protozoa, like plankton, are food for marine animals. Malaria is caused by a protozoan parasite.

You can get infected by germs from other people in many different ways, including transmission through the air from coughing or sneezing, direct contact such as kissing or sexual intercourse, and touching infectious material on a doorknob, telephone, automated teller machine or a diaper.

A variety of germs come from household pets. Dog and cat saliva

can contain any of more than 100 different germs that can make you sick.

Mosquitoes may be the most common insect carriers of disease. Mosquitoes can transmit malaria. Fleas that pick up bacteria from rodents can then transmit plague to humans. The tiny deer tick can infect humans with Lyme disease.

We become immune to germs naturally and artificially. Before birth, we received natural immunity from our mothers. Once we are exposed to a germ, we develop natural immunity to it from special cells in our immune systems. Artificial immunity can come from vaccines.

Most infections caused by microbes fall into three major groups: acute infections, chronic infections and latent infections. The common cold is an acute infection. Hepatitis C, which affects the liver, is a chronic viral infection. Chickenpox is an example of a latent infection that can emerge many years later and causes a disease called "shingles."

Handwashing is a simple and effective way to stop the transmission of germs. Health care experts recommend scrubbing your hands vigorously for at least 15 seconds with soap and water.

It is especially important to wash your hands before touching food, after coughing or sneezing, after changing a diaper, and after using the toilet.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org.

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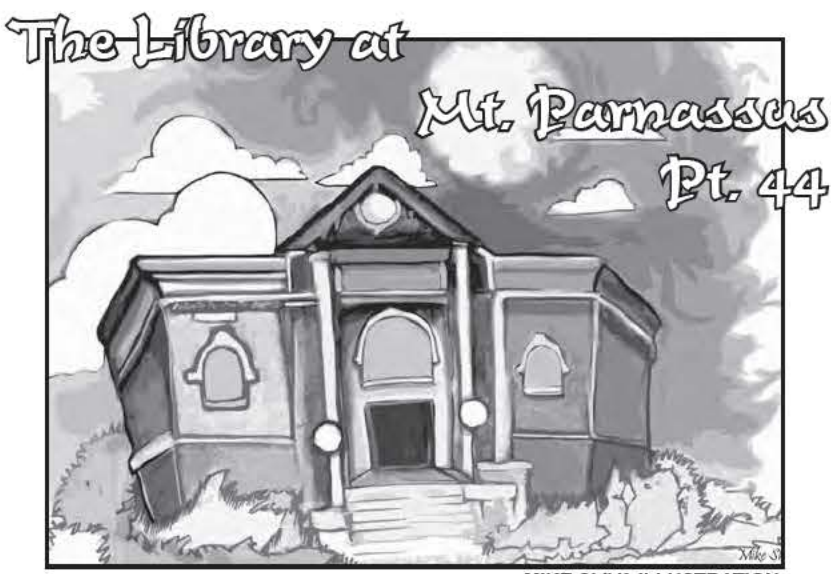
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To market, to market.



By DAVID DETMOLD

Outside the snow had stopped and the wind was rising. Plastic bags and sheets of newspaper were blowing down the street like ersatz tumbleweeds. I crossed the Avenue and headed for the market.

Outside the automatic doors, a boy with a ragged muffler was sitting in the wind selling raffle tickets. He was raising money for the high school wrestling team, the Myrmidons.

"How are the Mighty Myrmidons doing this year?" I asked him, as I stopped to buy one. I was feeling flush.

"They're 0 for 3."
 "That's pretty bad," I admitted.
 "What do I win if I win?"

"Seats at next week's meet with Sparta."
 "No thanks." I stuck the ticket in my pocket and handed him back the pen. "Good luck. You can keep the dollar."

Inside the store, I strolled along the produce aisle. A woman with flaming red hair was picking through a display of waxed tomatoes.

"What's wrong with these?" she asked, as if I would have the answer.

I picked up a tomato and turned it over in my hand.

"It's like they've been genetically mutated or something," she muttered. "Hard, square, flavorless..."

I gave the tomato in my hand a squeeze. "It's like they've been forced to do things against their will," I said.

"It's a shame," she said, dropping her tomato.

I dropped mine too. Not willing to let me go so easily, she added, "All these vegetables look the same." She shrugged her shawl tighter around her shoulders and gazed forlornly down the aisle.

"Lifeless, gray, desiccated..." I said, getting into the swing of it.

"As far as I'm concerned, they can take all this stuff and just dump it in the compactor," she said, waving it away.

"They might as well," I said. "It's rotten. Who knows when they picked this?" I held up a piece of limp celery.

"That is so gross," she said, waving her hand in the air.

"I think they should take everything off the shelves that isn't grown in the local area and throw it all away," I told her. "In wintertime, they should only sell things like pickles, lichen, and moss..."

She interrupted, "Moss doesn't grow around here in the winter. Does it?"

"Well, no, but you can find it if the snow isn't too deep."

"I still have some kale in the garden," she offered.

"And root vegetables," I added. "Though they tend to get a little mealy."

"Yes." She seemed dissatisfied again. She picked up another tomato and turned it over, frowning. "But these..." she said. "These are disgusting." She moved away from me, still clutching the tomato.

As I came around the end cap, I saw Cadmus in the meat department, poking at a package of top round.

"What's up, Bo?"
 "Aaah," he said bitterly. "It's hard to shop for one."

"I'm with you."
 "Maybe I'll just stock up on some jerky. I'm hittin' the road in the morning."

"Where to, old man?"
 "Going to look for my sister."
 I didn't want to encourage him. We all suffer from delusions.

"I've been scratching round this one-horse town too long," he said. "Time to head up North, I guess. Up by the Pindos. I might find word of her up there. Or at least a better barber."

He rubbed the coarse white bristles on his chin with the back of his hand. "One who don't mind a close shave."

"I don't want to eat alone tonight, Bo. Whyn't you and me head over to the Golden Mean? Dutch Treat." It would be two weeks before I got my first pay check.

He stopped poking the bloody cellophane and shrugged, accepting the invitation. "I'll keep you company," he said.

On the way out we passed an old man in the lobby leaning on the window ledge. He grinned at us with his few remaining teeth. He called out to, "Fund the poor!" and we dropped some coins into his bowl.

Out in the parking lot, Cadmus tested his boot against the icy pavement. "She's OK," he said. A gray and black striped cat darted past us in the cold mist and slipped around behind the dumpster.

I held onto Cadmus's arm as we walked slowly down the sidewalk, past the Family Dolor store, with its brightly lit display. Though it was the middle of winter, the store manager had decided to cheer up the windows with four full length white lace wedding gowns, one in each bay.

They were draped attractively on dress forms, with lacy veils arranged above where heads should have been. It made a certain amount of sense that the thrift store would have too many bridal gowns. They were expensive items most women would use only once or twice before passing them on.

But they looked oddly out of place on display in our little town in the middle of a freezing cold snap. As if there were a line of waiting brides none of us even were aware of.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Autumn in New England: Smashed Pumpkins, Squatters, Skaters, Rowdy Football Crowds, and Stolen Firewood

Monday, 10/6

7:12 a.m. Caller reports that someone smashed pumpkins in her driveway last night and that some of the pumpkins hit her vehicle, causing damage to the bumper. Report taken.

8:40 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street requests that an officer check on a subject that may be squatting in her building. Caller heard someone walking around upstairs; when she went up to see who it was and ask them to keep it down, the subject told her "Go f--k yourself!" Responding officer advised that when he knocked on the door, a subject left via a window.

5:16 p.m. Complaint regarding skateboarders in and out of traffic on Unity Street/First Street. Officer spoke to four involved parties and sent them on their way.

Tuesday, 10/7
 8:39 a.m. Caller reports observing a 5-6 year old child on the roof of a house at the corner of Turners Falls Road and Coolidge Street. Officer spoke with male party at residence; DCF contacted.

9:57 a.m. DPW requesting an officer to respond to South Prospect Street; operator was on the flail and some debris broke the window on a minivan. Van owner will contact DPW to work out repairs.

6:06 p.m. Complaint of two skateboarders at First Street/Unity Street. Parties advised of the laws regarding their activities and sent on way.

8:21 p.m. Caller reports that a suspicious blue Jeep has made several passes into and out of a gravel pit that a relative owns. Referred to an officer.

8:40 p.m. Bottle of Adderall reported stolen from an East Main Street apartment. Investigated.

10:20 p.m. Grey mountain bike and 12" chop saw reported stolen from a garage on Marshall Street. Report taken.

Wednesday, 10/8
 7:30 a.m. Caller requests that officer check on two vehicles parked in front of her residence on Vladish Street. Responding units found that vehicles belonged to a boyfriend and girlfriend who were meeting up to spend some extra time together. Officer verified with TFHS staff that the couple are dating and that the school had advised them that they could not meet in the parking lot anymore.

5:51 p.m. Officer spoke with a party skateboarding in the roadway on L Street. Party provided with copy of "Coasting Laws" and advised that if he did not agree with the law, that he could address this with Town Meeting.

Friday, 10/10
 12:28 a.m. Caller reports loud disturbance/fighting in Fourth Street apartment. Officer reports that noise was due to someone knocking over a potted plant, cleaning it up, and accidentally knocking

7:09 p.m. Complaint that Avenue A resident was out on sidewalk screaming and yelling at passers-by. Officer located subject, who stated that she was yelling for someone to go inside with her and "make [her] a sandwich." Officer advised her that she is not allowed to disturb the peace. Subject, in turn, asked officer if he would make her a sandwich, to which he replied no. Subject then slammed door in officer's face.

Thursday, 10/9
 6:15 a.m. Caller reports that there is a large hole in the road on Canal Street that appears to have been worked on recently. Same had approximately six reflective traffic barrels around it, but now there are only a few left. Caller is concerned that a motor vehicle could go into the hole. DPW advised and will be en route to make safe.

4:05 p.m. Second call regarding large hole in road on Canal Street. Barrels located and put back in place; they had been knocked over by the wind.

7:28 p.m. Vehicle vs. deer at Montague City Road and Turnpike Road. Motorist uninjured; deer left the scene, but believed to be injured. Deer later found with a tag on its ear that stated "Do not consume; contact Mass Department of Wildlife." Environmental police contacted and stated that this deer was hit with a dart and would have drugs in its system that could be deadly if ingested. DPW contacted and took deer for disposal.

8:28 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that her in-laws contacted her to say that they had taken some of her belongings to the Salvation Army. Officer advised caller of options; caller swore at him and hung up. Officer also spoke to in-laws, who stated that caller had been told that her belongings had to be out by the end of September (had been there since March).

11:16 a.m. Caller reports that he intended to take in a stray cat from the neighborhood, but his neighbor beat him to it. Caller believes that neighbor did this out of spite. Caller inquiring whether he has any recourse. Referred to an officer.

3:58 p.m. Officer alerted to an intoxicated male who was being disorderly behind Booska's Flooring. Subject sent back to residence.

5:28 p.m. Firewood reported stolen from a Sunderland Road residence. Report taken.

9:50 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Saturday, 10/11
 9:46 a.m. Two vehicle accident on Montague City Road. No injuries. Both cars towed. Written warning issued to one operator for failure to use care in starting.

2:32 p.m. Officer advises that the referee at the TFHS football game told him that they are having problems with some of the fans and that they may need officers' assistance in asking some of the fans to leave the game.

9:08 p.m. Caller reports that he met three people last night in Northampton, all of whom wanted to rent a room that he has for rent in his home. Caller did not get a last name for any of these parties; however, he did give them the keys to a vehicle that is listed under his deceased mother. Caller states that parties took vehicle at 12:30 p.m. to get rent money. Caller has spoken to parties twice, but vehicle has not been returned. Caller knows that parties live near the 7-11 on King Street in a house that is very familiar to the Northampton police department. Vehicle located, unoccupied and unlocked, by Northampton police on Sunday at 1:03 a.m.

Sunday, 10/12
 12:10 a.m. Passerby stopped in to report that someone is lying on the ground near the cemetery with a bike nearby. Caller did not stop, unsure what the situation was. Officer checked on three parties, one with a bike. They were reportedly on their way home.

12:16 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD in responding to a call from a male whose girlfriend is intoxicated and "won't leave him alone."

2:43 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant complains of being awoken by a train on the track nearby. Spoke to Pan Am; they are changing crews, and train should be moved soon.

5:06 a.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer regarding drug paraphernalia that he found in his garage that belongs to "some guy I allowed to stay here for one night." Officer removed items and brought them to station.

2:19 p.m. Caller states that she is in Food City and a female known to her is harassing her. Caller states that the female is upset with her because of something she posted at the senior center. Caller is still shopping; other party is checking out at register 4. Caller would like to speak with an officer in person, but she would like to finish shopping first. Caller advised to call back when she is done shopping and an officer will meet her at Food City. Caller later called back to advise that as she walked out of Food City, a "colored man" (in her words) walked by her and said something to the effect of "I know you're the f--king one, I'm going to get you," then entered the store and went about his shopping. Caller was calling from the bench outside Food City by the soda machine; did not feel safe remaining there, but also did not feel safe returning home. Did feel safe walking to Pesky Park to meet an officer. Officer spoke with caller and advised her of options.

6:27 p.m. Passerby reports 4-5 youths on the side of Greenfield Road with what appeared to be toy guns; youths were shooting objects at vehicles passing by. Area search negative.

7:57 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that a horse belonging to her daughter broke free of its stall at its new quarters and returned home. Caller reportedly notified daughter and stated she would house the horse until the daughter could return and get it.

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ROCK from page B1

rocks, the Sugarloaf Arkose, which are different from everything I've seen in Turners today.

According to Steve Winters, these rocks were formed in Sunderland about 200 million years ago when "Alpine-scale mountains to the east were being quickly eroded by monsoon-like storms. Mountain stream waters, containing huge amounts of rocky sediment, poured into our ancient valley. We know this by the streambed features and the large, angular pebbles and small boulders you see in these big red rocks."

GARDEN from page B1

lull between fall and winter, remembering the fast moving summer days and the pleasant crisp air of early fall.

This is the grand season of cool hikes, of apple picking, of harvest suppers. It is also a time of clear, bright starlit skies, views which seem to stretch forever and temperatures which put a spring in the step.

Here are a couple of recipes to enjoy as the cooler temperatures kindle our taste for deeper and heartier foods:

Favorite Apple Pie

Peel, core and slice thinly 6-8 juicy apples.
Mix ¼ cup sugar with ½ teaspoon of cinnamon and ¼ teaspoon clove.
Stir the sugar mix into the apples and fill your favorite pie crust. Cover with a lattice pastry top and dust with cinnamon sugar.
Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, then lower the temperature to 375 degrees.

Total baking time is about fifty minutes or until the fruit is bubbling. You may need to cover the pie crust with a piece of foil to prevent burning.
Enjoy with cheese or ice cream while still warm.

Winter Squash Soup

Two acorn squash, a red pepper and a small apple.
Cut the squash in half and roast, top up in a 375 degree oven for 45-50 minutes until soft.
Cut the pepper in half and remove the seeds. Add to the roasting squash after 30 minutes. Peel, core and chop the apple.
Chop a small onion and two cloves of garlic and brown over medium heat in a pan with 2 tablespoons of olive oil.
Add the apple and 2 cups of chicken stock. Simmer until the apple is tender.
Scoop out the seeds of the squash and add the meat to the pan. Simmer for 5 minutes and let cool slightly. Add the roasted red pepper.
Puree in a food processor or blender. Thin the soup as desired with 1-2 cups more chicken broth.
Flavor with salt and pepper as desired and a pinch of nutmeg, allspice or clove.

Adjacent to the courtyard site 3, rock-sites 1 and 4 include a three-toed dinosaur footprint inside and falling raindrops preserved in the rock record outside, making these three sites of 1, 3, and 4 excellent spots to begin walking tours.

Also, sites 2 and 10 are excellent side trips. Site 2 lets you see how rock layers can get turned upside down in this plastic earth, so that older layers here are above the newer ones.

Richard Little tells us in his book *Exploring Franklin County: A Geology Guide* that every step away

from the river is a walk back in time. In fact, each step is equal to thousands of years of rock history.

Site 10 is a bit away from most of the Peskeomscut rocks, but it shows fascinating "armored mud balls", which exist in only 11 locations worldwide, with 10 of them developed from lake beds and only these in Peskeomscut getting formed in a stream.

Next week I'll be concluding my tour. In the meantime I would recommend continuing your tours as I did earlier, through rock-sites 5, 7, and 8.



The three-toed dinosaur footprint on display at the Discovery Center.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Bright Lights On Top Of Mountain Road

Monday, 10/6

11:45 a.m. Officer at Lillians Way address to discuss debris left at Lillians Way and Route 63. Same will be removed.
2:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with motor vehicle crash with injury at Dorsey and Cross roads.
4:30 p.m. Loose dog reported on West Main Street, Erving Center.
11:30 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at Strachen and Warner streets.

Tuesday, 10/7

2 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Lester Street.
4:38 p.m. Took report of past breaking & entering

into motor vehicle on Old State Road.

Wednesday, 10/8

7:30 a.m. Took report of a vehicle crashing into a fire hydrant on Prospect Street. Vehicle fled.
11:35 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on East Prospect Street.
1:20 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle, and subject knocking on doors, on Forest Street the previous day.

6 p.m. Report of intoxicated male at Weatherheads Store parking lot.
6 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a warrant.

9:30 p.m. Mountain Road resident called to inquire about bright lights coming from top of hill. Checked same, nothing found.

10:05 p.m. Checked alarm at Weatherheads Store.

Thursday, 10/9

8:05 a.m. Assisted Gill PD with collecting and disposing of several syringes at a West Gill Road residence, reported by a caller.

5 p.m. Complaint of five pigs in Northfield Road. Owners on scene to retrieve pigs.

Friday, 10/10

3:23 a.m. Took report of larceny at Pratt Street.

Sunday, 10/12

1:10 p.m. Report of disabled motor vehicle at Route 2 and Mountain Road. Not a hazard. Owner making arrangements.
6:30 p.m. Assisted Erving FD with brush fire at River Street.

Monday, 10/13

11:45 a.m. False alarm at French King Restaurant.
9 p.m. Motor vehicle crash reported to Greenfield PD in westbound climbing lane on Route 2 before Old State Road.

Tuesday, 10/14

5:50 p.m. Assisted motor vehicle that had run out of gas at Northfield Road.

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 14, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Turners Falls Postmaster Reassigned

The friendly face of Nancy Williams, Turners Falls postmaster since July 1990, will be absent next Monday morning, according to postal employee Dean Elgosin. "Nancy is being reassigned, and she's being sent to work in the Hatfield post office. Why? Because her husband Joe is also working out of the Turners Falls post office."

The reassignment will not reduce Nancy's pay, but it is still demoralizing to a career employee, and disheartening to be away from the customers she has grown to know and love.

Montague Selectboard Asks to Drop Dodge from Chief List

The selectboard formally asked the Civil Service to remove officer Charles "Chip" Dodge from the certified list of police chief candidates.

After an off-duty fight with another Montague police officer, Dodge had been demoted from sergeant to patrolman in the summer of 2000.

In a previous executive session, the board reviewed the circumstances that led to Dodge's demotion, and noted that Civil Service upheld the demotion on appeal. Under Civil Service regulations, a candidate for promotion may be removed from the list for cause.

The letter stated that the board wanted to assure both Civil Service and Dodge that this action should not be construed as prejudicial to Dodge's career as a whole, and that it would not affect his future chances for promotion, whether to sergeant or to chief.

Can Railroad Salvage Be Salvaged?

Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk faced a skeptical zoning board on October 12, who drilled him for specifics on his plan to create 86 apartments and 40,000 square feet of commercial space in the old Railroad Salvage building on Power Street.

The hearing was continued to October 27 to give the board time to study Kislyuk's structural engineering plans for the project, which building inspector David Jensen said he had not seen yet.

Wendell Balancing Concerns on Pub Proposal

The selectboard tried to balance the request by Wendell Country Store owners Vic and Pat Scutari - who are seeking approval to open a pub adjacent to their store - with concerns of citizens and neighbors of the store.

The two issues under discussion are the hours of operation and the type of license to be granted: beer and wine, or all alcoholic beverages.

It was determined that the selectboard has the authority to set the hours of operation, within the state limits, in granting the permit for the proposed business, to be dubbed Deja Brew.

The selectboard compromised on the hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weeknights, and an 11 p.m. closing time on Friday and Saturday.

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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, with Angela. Children are invited to come in their pajamas. 6:30-7:00 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.

Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

ART SHOWS:

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Chalkboard Windows* by Nicole Holmes. A blending of usable art with an antique feel. On display through October 25th.

Leverett Library, Art in the Community Room: Works by *Eggvard Munch and Pablo Peckasso, Macaylla Silver's Art's Eggs* on display through the end of October.

ues, all in downtown Greenfield. See as many as you can, maps/info on the Common, shows at 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Collective Copies, Amherst: Reading and Book Launch Celebration with Lever's Press publication of *Building Co-operative Power, Stories and Strategies from Worker Co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley*, 7 to 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Doug Alan Wilcox & special guest Shawnee Kilgore*, singer-songwriter, 8 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Mark Erelli*, a tribute to Bill Morrisey, \$, 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Turners Falls, Avenue A: *Franklin County Pumpkin Fest*, 2 to 10 p.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc*, reggae, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Wendell Town Offices, Wendell: *Edible Forest Garden* workshop. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come make history as we build and start planting one of the first Edible Forest Gardens on town property in the country!

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo!* Free, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

St. Kaz, 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Quartermania*. Vendors & crafters set up at 5 p.m, doors open at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, Americana, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Local writer and public historian *Cathy Stanton* presents her new food and farm history project, *Food and Farming in Wendell: Rebuilding a History*, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Northern Borders*. Director Jay Craven will be present to discuss the film and filmmaking. \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie with Dick Moulding, 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *Alan Reid and Rob Van Sante of Scotland*. Also featuring a song with the Leverett Community Chorus, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dana and Susan Robinson*, guitar-playing, banjo-frailing, fiddle-sawing, and harmony-singing blend of contemporary songwriting and traditional Appalachian music. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Damon Reeves Band*, roots/rock/blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:



Empty Bottle Ramblers at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Friends of Wendell.

CALL FOR ART:

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, OCTOBER 17

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Greenfield Community College Chorus* open its fall semester concert series preview concert: "Fall Cornucopia." 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Sloan Theater: *David Bollier speaks on the concepts of the "Commons"*. Sponsored by Traprock Peace Education Center as part of the *Roots of Peace* speaker series. Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Greenfield: *Double Take Fringe Festival*. 8 short shows, 8 venues, all in downtown Greenfield. See as many as you can, maps/info on the Common, 7 p.m.

Winterberry Farm, Colrain: *Annual Fall Shearing and Fiber Demonstration Day*, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with shearing starting 1 p.m. Fiber demonstrations, border collies herding, and animal visiting.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro* from The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD. Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte, based on the play *La Folle Journée*, ou *Le Mariage de Figaro* by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, \$, 12:55 p.m.

Greenfield: *Double Take Fringe Festival*. 8 short shows, 8 venues, all in downtown Greenfield. See as many as you can, maps/info on the Common, 7 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *The Empty Bottle Ramblers*, Cajun music. Open mic at 7:30 p.m. with main act at 8 p.m. \$.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Bernice Lewis with The Ladies Auxiliary Orchestra*, \$, 8 p.m.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Bowker Auditorium, UMass, Amherst: *The Pioneer Valley Symphony, Paul Phillips, Music Director and Conductor*. The concert begins with a nod to the season theme in the form of Tchaikovsky's suite from *The Sleeping Beauty*, and ends with Brahms's magnificent *Symphony No. 4* in E minor, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Top Hill Music Contradance Party*, \$, 8p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range Cats*, jazz & groove music, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Misty Blues Band*, groovable blues, 9:30 p.m.

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WEST ALONG from page B1 people are always needing help in getting into a locked space or getting out!

Ray Zukowski is the Bakemaster, towering over the bake team, giving orders and getting it done. The team is well-drilled, moving in perfect synchrony, back and forth between crates of clams and the red-hot rocks.

They pile heaps of seaweed over all, then pull wet canvas tarps over the whole mound. Billows of pure white steam reach up to the blue sky, as we all check our watches in anticipation of the arrival of the first bags of clams to our table; then the feeding frenzy will begin!

John Zywna presides over his roulette wheel barking out numbers and chiding those who came so close to the jackpot. Benny Rubin holds forth from the table just behind the Gessing clan, where he can be found every year in exactly the same spot.

Every family and group of friends has their traditional spot, renewable once a year.

Behind us the great Connecticut flows slowly on its 400 mile voyage, as it has for the past 15,000 years and more.

This year, a new twist to the plot: an exceptional event that occurs only once every 50 years: our TFHS Class of 1964 50th reunion.

Now these reunions over the years conjure up all sorts of conflicting emotions for many: nostalgia, anxieties, concerns about your gray hair (or lack of it!), expanding waistlines and body weight sinking down slowly due to gravitational pull, mixed emotions about seeing old girlfriends and old boyfriends, the real worries about checking in after fifty years to see how and where your life has gone, how to be your sixty-eight year old self and yet reconcile with that fresh face found in the old yearbook, and the totally

overwhelming joy and anticipation of seeing old friends.

The psychology of an American class reunion is complex indeed.

Our reunion, at the doorstep of October, was years in the making. Classmates communicated from Florida, Texas, California, Washington state, Georgia and of course, Massachusetts.

This class, like others, had scattered to the four winds. But on Friday night, all of those meandering roads converged on Frank Prondecki's newly renovated French King Restaurant for the ice-breaker.

And so, we stepped into that time warp of the first few hours of reconnecting; anxieties vanished, fears and reluctance gone. Hey! It is what it is, to invoke the American Zen attitude of this era. And we are what we are.

The background noise of '60s classics pushed voices louder and louder, drink loosened the tongue

and fifty years fell away, for a few hours at least, here at the threshold of autumn.

Ours is the generation who upset our parents' post-war years of conservatism. We thrilled to the inauguration of our young JFK, President from Massachusetts, elected in our Freshman year, and we fell shocked at his assassination in our Senior year.

We dwelt again on our classmates who have passed on; the name of our Billy Beaubien came frequently into our conversations, all of us still carrying the wound that never healed when we lost him on that fateful day in far-off Vietnam. He indeed is the symbol of the youth we once had, and the innocence that vanished during those years of turmoil and violence.

One of our favorite teachers, the enduring Mr. George Bush, straight from Fourth Street, held forth from his seat as Guest of Honor, and, re-

markable memory that he has, he chided us on our foibles and past mischief on the playing field and in the classroom.

Then, just as suddenly as it had all come together, we went off on our separate ways, returning to our real lives, the strains of the Beatles and Louie, Louie faded, our friends became shadows moving away in slow motion in varying shades of gray.

As for me, once at home, I pull up my Adirondack chair and sit in silence, the brilliance of our autumn trees working to drive away the melancholy. And to help out a bit, the last rose of summer is putting out its cardinal red bud, facing down the chill air, defying the years and the inevitability of age, and the fall season.

That rose is a good reminder that, as in all of us, there's still faith and fight in the old survivors that we have become!




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