

**A WIDE RANGE OF
ACHIEVEMENT**

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**CLOTHING FOR
BUILDINGS**

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**NUMBERING
THE STARS**

Page B1



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 6

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Abbondanzio Looks Back at Three Decades at the Wheel

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Frank Abbondanzio, who will be retiring in December as Montague town administrator after 32 years, rocked back in his chair, relishing the opportunity to reminisce about his career.

His interview with the *Reporter* was full of colorful anecdotes about local government, and of his efforts to transform downtown

Turners Falls from a bar-filled “combat zone,” as he called it, to a stable neighborhood driven by the “arts economy.”

There is the story of the first building on Avenue A that was rehabilitated in the style that has now become familiar to local residents. “Only the poles were historic,” he said. “I had done a basic facade rendering, but the contractor said see **FRANK** page A5



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Abbondanzio reflects on three decades at Montague's town hall.

AGAINST THE WIND Towns Reject Trump by 3-1 Margin

Wendell Tops State's 351 Municipalities in Support of Cannabis Legalization, Animal Cages, and Jill Stein

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Early voting was strong, overall turnout was nothing phenomenal, and the nation's next president, New York hotel baron Donald J. Trump, received under a quarter of all votes cast in the small Western Massachusetts towns of Gill, Erving, Wendell, Leverett, and Montague this week.

In towns that still use old-fashioned hand-cranked ballot boxes, volunteers were diligently tabulating votes, 25 at a time, even as news networks and online analysts had heard enough to announce the national election's results in equally surprised and final terms.

Trump will serve as the 45th president of the United States, an upset that former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani described as “one of the greatest victories for the people of America since Andrew Jackson.”

The GOP retained control of both houses of Congress, and Trump will nominate a justice to the Supreme Court, which has been caught in 4-4 deadlock over key cases since the death of Antonin Scalia in June.

The Trump Effect

The *Montague Reporter's* five coverage towns generally voted along with the state of Massachusetts as a whole. Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton received a total of 5,255 votes to the Republican Trump's 1,942, with Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party and Green-Rainbow candidate garnering 374 and 349, respectively.

Also reflecting the statewide trend, this was a marked decline for Democrats from the 5,828 votes received here by Barack Obama in 2012, as well as an increase for Republicans from the 1,541 cast for Mitt Romney.

Part of the erosion of the Democrats' local showing may have been due to a shift toward third-party candidates this year. But in every one of the towns we cover, more residents cast ballots for Trump than they did for either Romney or John McCain before him.

Erving, which abuts a swath of 48 contiguous central Massachusetts municipalities that favored Trump on Tuesday, showed the largest jump. There, he received exactly 300 votes – a remarkable surge over the exactly 200 who came out for Romney four years ago.

By percentage, Trump saw his strongest showing in that town, followed by Gill, Montague, Wendell, and Leverett. Johnson's support followed the same pattern, as did that of South Hadley resident Donald Peltier, who attempted unsuccessfully to unseat state senate president Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst).



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Cecile Chartier guards the ballot box at Hillcrest Elementary School, the polling station for Montague's Precincts 3 and 4.

Clinton's figures, on the other hand, followed the same pattern in reverse, ranging from 79% in Leverett down to 51% in Erving.

The Wendell Effect?

Green-Rainbow Party candidate Jill Stein's local support was highest in Wendell, and lowest in Gill. 591 of Wendell's 723 registered voters turned out – roughly the same ratio as during the 2012 election – and though only 8.3% of them may have voted for Stein, that percentage was her strongest showing of any of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns.

Wendell stood out statewide in two other contests: ballot questions 3 and 4.

Only four towns, Wendell, Erving, Bolton and Colrain, voted “no” on Question 3, which would prohibit the sale of meat or eggs from farm animals kept in cages.

Wendell's Diemand Farm is the only egg farm statewide which would be directly affected by the see **ELECTION** page A7

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Park's Second Phase? Up To Erving Residents.

By KATIE NOLAN

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said he had visited the former Usher Plant property on Arch Street to see the initial clearing for Riverfront Park Phase I construction. “It's good to see some work getting done down there,” he said, at the board's meeting on Monday.

Smith also told the Usher Plant re-use committee, “Thank you for all the work you've done. We appreciate all that.”

The board met jointly with the re-use committee to consider its requests, especially the request for

funding to prepare a Phase II grant application. Smith said that the board had wanted to see how Phase I of the Riverfront Park was used by townspeople before starting on a Phase II.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache agreed that voters wanted to “see something tangible first” before starting on a second phase of work.

Re-use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser said the Phase II application must be submitted by July 2017 for grants awarded the following December. Work on projects approved in 2017 would start see **ERVING** page A6

TFHS: The Week in Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week marked the first round in the playoffs for Turners Falls High School athletics this year. Both the volleyball team and field hockey teams were eliminated, while the

football team advanced to the D-IVA West Championship game.

Field Hockey Southwick 3 – TFHS 1

There's an adage in sports, made popular by Bob Walsh, purporting that it's hard to beat a team three times in a season. I'm not sure if that's true or not, but in last Thursday's game, it was extremely hard for either Southwick or Turners Falls to win or even score a single goal.

Although Turners had swept their last two matchups, they couldn't put the ball in the net in the third contest against Southwick. And in the end, that's all that matters.

The game was a scoreless tie throughout the first and second halves, and continued that way through the first and second overtimes. In the first shootout, neither team could score, and the teams had to go to a second one.

Throughout the game, Turners see **TFHS SPORTS** page A6

A Colorful Life Bursts Forth in Art

By JOE KWIECINSKI

MILLERS FALLS – Charlie Shaw is a real-life Walter Mitty – with one exception. Unlike the James Thurber literary character who first appeared in the *New Yorker*, and the screen persona of Ben Stiller in the 2013 movie based on Thurber's creation, Charles C. Shaw of Northfield is neither a daydreamer nor an imaginary figure.

Born in 1950 in Brookline, Shaw has lived, in a sense, many lives. He's been a carnival worker, a state champion wrestler, construction laborer, real estate entrepreneur, automobile salesman, operations manager, “repo man,” roofer, window installer, body piercer, maker of henna tattoos, clothing manufacturer, builder-manager of surfer stores, and an artist.

The six-foot, 235-pound Shaw embarked on a career in art in 2012. “All of a sudden it grabbed me,” said Shaw, “and I turned to something I had done as a college student. Back then, I had done two showings and

even sold a couple of paintings.”

Although he doesn't “always feel comfortable standing these days,” because of two hip replacements in 2010, Shaw has had shows of his abstract impressionism in Turners Falls, Wendell, Greenfield, Amherst, and Holyoke.

He rents a local studio at 26 Bridge Street in Millers Falls, in the

old Ward Block. The spacious setup measures about 1,200 square feet, with scores of completed paintings gracing the walls and plenty of room to practice his art.

His efforts are striking renderings, rich with color and resonance. What is his process? “My art is simply about ‘it,’” said Shaw. “I work quickly in

see **COLORFUL** page A8



Turners' Nick Croteau reels in a pass from quarterback Tionne Brown, with close coverage from Pioneer's Jake Wallace.



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Charlie Shaw stands in front of his creations in his Millers Falls studio.

The Montague Reporter

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Study His Program

There's no sense in piling one more opinion essay on the trash heap. President Trump is a danger to the world and the game has changed. Let's read his plan. (We've edited it for brevity.)

Parts sound like fine ideas to us; the rest is a mix of disastrous ideas and oppressive ones. Some will be stopped by his own party; some by the Democrats; some by simple economic infeasibility. Some can only be stopped by social movements capable of, to use his framework, dealing from strength.

"On the first day":

1. Propose a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress.

2. Place a hiring freeze on all federal employees, to reduce federal workforce through attrition (exempting military, public safety, and public health).

3. Require that for every new federal regulation, two existing regulations must be eliminated.

4-6. Five-year ban on officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government service; lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign government; ban on foreign lobbyists raising money for American elections.

7-10. Announce intention to renegotiate NAFTA or withdraw from the deal. Announce withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Direct the secretary of the treasury to label China a currency manipulator. Direct the secretary of commerce and US trade representative to identify all foreign trading abuses that unfairly impact American workers and direct them to use every tool under American and international law to end those abuses immediately.

11-13. Lift the restrictions on the production of \$50 trillion dollars' worth of American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas and "clean coal" [sic]. Lift the Obama-Clinton roadblocks and allow vital energy infrastructure projects, like the Keystone Pipeline, to move forward. Cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs and use the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure.

14. Cancel executive actions, memoranda and orders issued by President Obama.

15. Begin selecting a replacement for Justice Scalia.

16-18. Cancel all federal funding to Sanctuary Cities. Begin removing the more than 2 million immigrants from the country and cancel

visas to foreign countries that won't take them back. Suspend immigration from "terror-prone regions."

"Within the first 100 days."

1. A middle-class family with 2 children will get a 35% tax cut. The current number of brackets will be reduced from 7 to 3, and tax forms will likewise be greatly simplified. The business rate will be lowered from 35 to 15%, and the trillions of dollars of American corporate money overseas can now be brought back at a 10 percent rate.

2-3. Establish tariffs to discourage companies from laying off their workers. Leverage public-private partnerships and private investments through tax incentives to spur \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over 10 years.

4. Redirect education dollars to give parents the right to send their kid to any public, private, charter, magnet, religious or home school. End common core. Bring education supervision to local communities.

5-6. Repeal Obamacare and replaces it with Health Savings Accounts, the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, and let states manage Medicaid funds.

7. Fully fund the construction of a wall on our southern border with the understanding that the country United States for its full cost. Establish a 2-year mandatory minimum federal prison sentence for illegally re-entering the US after a previous deportation, and a 5-year mandatory minimum for re-entering for those with felony convictions, multiple misdemeanor convictions or two or more prior deportations. Enhance penalties for overstaying.

8. Create a task force on violent crime and increase funding for programs that train and assist local police. Increase resources for federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to dismantle gangs.

9. Eliminate the defense sequester and expand military investment. Establish new screening procedures for immigration to ensure those who are admitted to our country support our people and our values.

10. Enact ethics reform.

Another thing to keep an eye on now are his cabinet appointments, which have to do with establishing relationships with different factions of the GOP and beyond. Rumors include Gingrich for State, Palin for Interior and Giuliani for Attorney General.

We'll get through this, but we won't be the same when it is over.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Counseling Courage and Compassion

My first response was silence – as if silence would change the facts. Hide, run, hold the ones I love. These were the first responses to the news that Donald Trump was elected to be our 45th president.

But courage is perhaps the reaction I want to have. Hence this letter to the local newspaper. Courage to speak, courage to act, courage to listen – the courage of compassion.

Courage to reimagine what it means to be political. Courage to collectively imagine what it means to be presidential.

If *Citizens United* let it be known that corporations have free speech, a Trump presidency lets it be known that our nation can elect a corporate brand to the position of Commander in Chief.

If this is possible, then so is the idea that we can, collectively, create something radically different. Belief in possibility.

Today, I urge you to bake bread and give it to your neighbor. Get a subscription to the local newspaper, a treasured platform for free speech. Keep fascism at bay. Use your hands to make something. Stay off Facebook for 24 hours. Take a walk, especially at night. Find an action that inherently breeds new ideas.

We don't need anger, anger is not enough – we need new ideas, new actions, new compassion.

Hannah Sanchez
 Turners Falls

Coverage Counted

As chair of the Yes on 4 Committee, I write to commend the *Reporter* for thoroughly covering the September helicopter raid that destroyed Patti and Apollo's licensed medical marijuana garden in Wendell. Jen Holmes, the reporter, did a fine job of investigating, interviewing and writing.

The story, of course, went viral, gaining wide publicity in Boston and around the country.

Supporters of Question 4 will be forever grateful to the state police for conducting the raids in the first place. In the long campaign for legalization, we could not have paid for better "advertising" of the lunacy of marijuana prohibition.

Well done, and thank you!

Dick Evans
 Northampton

Party Leaders To Blame

I have been saying this for months to almost anyone I know who supported Hillary Clinton during the primaries. Yes, her CV is impressive, but if you take a close look you'll see a war hawk, a corporatist, and someone who seems to be frequently under legal scrutiny. And someone who has made many back room deals... the most recent being how the DNC handled Bernie Sanders.

And most important of all, you will see someone who conservatives HATE with a white hot passion.

My argument during the primaries was if Hillary becomes the nominee, conservatives across the country will vote like we've never seen. They would have voted for anyone. Pick the name of the most heinous politician you can think of, and they would vote for that person to avoid having Clinton as president.

And they did.

Among other seriously troubling personality flaws, we now have a president-elect who chose a white supremacist for a campaign chief, Stephen Bannon. What kind of people will he hire to work in the

White House? And beyond that, across the country, people of that ilk are feeling vindicated, empowered, and a mandate. Make no mistake. Trump's personality flaws will become branded on us all. At home and abroad.

Is this what conservatives (and some Democrats) were voting for? No. They were voting against Hillary Clinton. And they won on that point. We now have a president-elect who, during the campaign, promised to put Hillary behind bars. The icing on their cake.

I am loath to point fingers in the face of disaster, but I put ownership of this situation squarely on the shoulders of the DNC, specifically Debbie Wasserman, and even Hillary Clinton herself. The chicaneries that took place at the polls and the super-delegate system employed by the DNC blocked the person this country needed right now, and confirmed to anti-Clinton voters where their path pointed.

Mik Muller
 Greenfield

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Mass Audubon is thanking the men and women who've served their country in the military this Veterans Day, November 11, by offering them and their families free admission to its wildlife sanctuaries across the Commonwealth.

The largest nature conservation organization in the state, Mass Audubon will be inviting vets and family members this Friday to discover its network of sanctuaries and nature centers, ranging from the beaches and saltmarshes of the Cape & Islands to the mountains, woodlands, and rivers of the Berkshires.

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, there are almost 370,000 veterans living in the Bay State, and Mass Audubon is grateful that they and their spouses, partners, and children are among the more than half-million visitors who enjoy Mass Audubon sanctuaries each year. To learn more, please visit www.massaudubon.org.

The Montague Congregational Church, located at 4 North Street in Montague Center, will hold their "Fete Noel" on Saturday, November 12, from 8:30 am to 1:30 p.m.

This Fall Festival Fair features crafts, homemade food, raffles and more. See the sidebar ad on this page for more details.

The Farren Care Center, at 340 Montague Street in Montague City, invites the public to their annual Farren Festival on Saturday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be nine areas with a variety of vendors, raffles, bake sale and tool/tag sale. Breakfast and lunch are also available.

Join in for co-ed pick up soccer at Highland Park on Lyman Street in Millers, 10:30 Saturday mornings.

Come run around on a mild fall mornings for a friendly game on a nice field. Everyone welcome!

Before 1978, Indian adoptees were often placed with non-native families, or sent to residential boarding schools.

Award-winning Native American journalist Trace Hentz will discuss her book *Stolen Generations: Survivors of the Indian Adoption Projects and 60s Scoop* on Wednesday, November 16 at 12 p.m. in the Library solarium at Greenfield Community College.

Hentz is former editor of the *Pequot Times* in Connecticut and editor/co-founder of *Ojibwe Akiing* in Wisconsin. *Stolen Generations* is the third book in her series, the "Lost Children of the Indian Adoptions" project.

Using firsthand accounts by Native American adoptees, *Stolen Generations* illuminates the struggles

and challenges facing Native American adoptees prior to 1978, when the Indian Child Welfare Act was passed with the intent of keeping adoptees with their native communities.

A concert for Beatles lovers of all ages will be held on Friday, November 18, starting at 7 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School (28 Northfield Road). This is a free concert sponsored by the Friends of the Erving Public Library and the Erving Recreation Department, but donations will be accepted for the proposed new Library building.

This will be the first official fundraising effort of the Friends of the Library whose mission is to raise awareness of the Library and its services.

The band, known as Beatles For Sale, is an award-winning, New England-based Beatles tribute band that is committed to recreating the sounds of the Beatles live in concert. Don't expect to see Beatle wigs or Sgt. Pepper suits – they feel that the most important thing about the show is the music. What you will see is a fun and energetic performance complete with original instrumentation and vocal harmonies that are as accurate as possible to the original Beatles recordings.

This year's Little Drummer Craft Fair will be held November 19, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Franklin County Technical School. Proceeds support the FCTS music department and drumline.

This juried fair features artists and craftspeople from throughout New England, presenting unique handcrafted products. The fair is held indoors, with plenty of free parking. Admission is free, and the

school is ADA accessible. There will also be extensive raffle tables. Refreshments, including luncheon items and baked goods will be available for sale throughout the day, courtesy of student chefs and bakers from the FCTS culinary department.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to enter our magical realm and build their very own fairy houses, using natural and recycled materials, at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, November 19, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Fairy snacks will be provided. Feel free to wear your fairy best.

Evan Pritchard, Director of the Center for Algonquin Culture, will be the guest speaker at the 4th annual Beaver Moon Gathering at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, November 19, from 1 to 3 p.m.

His topic will be "Waterways and Crossroads: Connecting Sacred Sites in Nolumbeka," a continuation of his September presentation "The Great Configuration and Islands of Fire."

For Native Americans, the Beaver Moon was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. The event is free and co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and DCR.

During October, 2,136 people visited the Great Falls Discovery Center, either on the museum side or attending events, programs and a coffeehouse concert.

This is believed to be the highest one-month total of attendance in the history of the center!

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Berkshire Gas Must Widen Supply Options

By KATHRYN EISEMAN

Questionable business decisions led to the Berkshire Gas Co.'s moratorium on new and expanded service in the Pioneer Valley.

The company then put on blinders against any way to end the moratorium other than Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline. Our communities would be wise not to accept Berkshire Gas' latest vision of the paths forward to end the moratorium: the company's tunnel vision leaves too many options unexplored and too many questions unanswered.

The two options to lift the moratorium that Berkshire Gas now puts on the table are in fact intended to allow the company to more than double the amount of gas it sells in the Pioneer Valley.

One proposal – a new pipeline down to Kinder Morgan's mainline in southern Massachusetts – would cost about \$60 million, and the other – a massive new liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility in Franklin County – would cost about twice that. Ratepayers would fund whatever new infrastructure is built.

The new pipeline option that Berkshire envisions would be 19 miles long and 12 inches in diameter, running through unspecified Hampshire and Hampden County communities to make a new connection between the existing systems of Berkshire Gas and Kinder Morgan. The hypothetical new LNG facility would have a capacity of half a billion cubic feet; this size tank is typically more than 10 stories high.

Either of these options floated by Berkshire Gas at the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) would also require the construction of 16 miles of additional pipeline parallel to the company's existing lines in the upper Pioneer Valley.

Other options exist. Berkshire has rejected, out of hand, targeted infrastructure modifications to end the moratorium

that were recommended by a gas market expert hired by the town of Montague in a previous proceeding concerning the NED project. He recommended immediate upgrades to approximately two miles of Berkshire's pipeline in Franklin County and, if necessary, adding a much smaller LNG tank to the company's Whately LNG facility, at an estimated total cost (tank and upgrades) of around \$10 million.

Demand-reduction opportunities also must not be overlooked. Massachusetts law mandates that "natural gas resource needs shall first be met through all available energy efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective or less expensive than supply." Gas saved through improved demand management would be available for new customers.

Are community members – gas customers and others – taking full advantage of energy efficiency programs offered through MassSave? Is Berkshire Gas doing all it should to promote its energy efficiency programs?

Experts in energy efficiency and demand management dispute Berkshire's claims that significant cost-effective energy savings are no longer available to the company.

Certainly the region will be better off if more of us reduce our consumption of oil and gas by harnessing efficiency and sustainably sited renewables, rather than perpetuating the fossil fuel shell game. Data regarding the amount of methane released in shale gas extraction and transportation suggest that the climate benefit of natural gas over other fossil fuels is minimal or nonexistent.

On an individual level: if you are going to go through the expense of installing a new heating system, might you be better off with high-efficiency heat pumps or upgrading your oil furnace rather than switching to another fossil fuel?

Do ratepayers really want to pay for massive

gas infrastructure expansions designed to last for generations, when cleaner alternatives are increasingly available?

This year, Northeast Biodiesel in Greenfield started producing biodiesel, made from recycled cooking oil from area restaurants, yielding a life-cycle greenhouse gas emission profile 86 percent lower than diesel and gasoline emissions. This clean-sourced biodiesel can not only power vehicles, but heat your home.

Farms in Hampshire and Franklin Counties are installing anaerobic digesters to heat and power their farms with farm and food waste, and selling electricity to the grid. Ongoing efforts toward more energy self-sufficiency at UMass could reduce the university's reliance on Berkshire Gas.

It's ultimately up to stakeholders engaged at the DPU to make sure that Berkshire Gas does not stake out a plan that locks in an oversized role for fracked gas in our communities. It's also up to community members to engage on this issue now with our elected officials.

Economic development tied to greatly increased fossil fuel combustion does not reflect the vision and innovation we are capable of here in the Knowledge Corridor. Nor is it a viable model for complying with the state's Global Warming Solutions Act.

Berkshire Gas should take a serious look at updating its business model if it wants to provide services that align with the goals and needs of our region. Otherwise, the company may ultimately be left behind, while trailblazers lead the way to more sustainable, thriving communities in the Pioneer Valley.

Eiseman is the director of the Massachusetts PipeLine Awareness Network.

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Middle School Recognizes Student Greatness

By **LEE WICKS**

TURNERS FALLS – Normally when an adult asks a child, “How’s school?” – perhaps the most boring question in the world – the response is, “Okay, I guess,” maybe with some eye rolling.

But that was not the case when I recently asked a neighborhood child about her experience as a new student at the Great Falls Middle School. She beamed and told me it was great.

I’d come away with that impression last year, too, after writing a few stories about activities there, especially ones involving student leadership.

I went back again to talk with David Kennedy about the Student of the Week Program, an award that recognizes those hard to define qualities in students who enrich the school community. High grades, or high scores on a sports team, are easy to identify. Engagement, kindness, improvement, service and leadership can be harder to pinpoint, but a team of teachers at Great Falls Middle School are finding those students and recognizing them every week.

The sunny hallways at the school are decorated with posters that encourage everything from healthy eating and the value of reading, to clubs and activities open to all. Of course, there is a bulletin board with all the names of the Students of the Week this year.

On my way to the middle school, three high school students passed me carrying a load of camera equipment; they were on their way to the school’s TV studio. A sense of pride is on display in the form of posters proclaiming school values, and a giant poster declares that Turners Falls High ranks 40th out of 358 high schools across the state last year.

The middle school is a school within a school. Housed in the same building as Turners Falls High, the sixth, seventh and eighth grades each have a wing, separate from each other and from the high school. Though they share some facilities with the high school, including Principal Annie Leonard, the iden-

tity and educational mission of the Middle School is geared towards the particular educational, emotional and social needs of young people.

On the website it states that, “The middle school model bridges the gap between elementary school classrooms and the specialized subject-field approach of high school. We believe students making the transition from childhood to adolescence need a special learning environment. This environment should emphasize experiences that foster growth from dependent learners to independent learners.”

In keeping with that philosophy, the Student of the Week program recognizes students who are engaged in school life, said David Kennedy, director of PE and the Related Arts Team Leader. Each week one student from sixth, seventh and eighth grades are chosen and the award is announced on Fridays at the school meeting.

School meetings are held on Monday and Friday of each week, and they also help to forge a sense of community in the school. Mr. Kennedy said, “When you look at a whole year of awards you see that the Student of the Week program recognizes a wide range of achievement. Students might be singled out because they are giving back to the community or because of improvement, not just in grades but also in class participation and involvement in clubs.”

When teachers meet with recommendations for the award, Mr. Kennedy said, “Sometimes consensus is easy, but if we disagree we keep talking until we all reach an agreement.” That’s a visible reflection of the school’s mission statement, which promises “to provide a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment, thus empowering students to develop and recognize their value and place in the global community.”

It would be hard to find a mission statement that did not say that or something similar, but it feels like the middle school is putting words into action in countless ways every day.



AMBER TAYLOR PHOTOS



Amber Taylor, 8th grader and GFMS yearbook photographer, took these photos of Students of the Week so far this semester. (Student names are not published with their images by school policy.)

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Short and Sweet

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Both selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich were not at the Wendell selectboard's November 2 meeting. There was only a short agenda for the meeting, and so the meeting was short – about 25 minutes.

Between the selectboard's prior meeting and this, the highway commission had checked the specifications of the Patriot Freightliner Western Star dump truck and found them satisfactory, so the selectboard accepted and authorized payment of the bid price, \$198,713. The board also approved a highway department credit application.

The board also approved \$15,000 for advice and help with the borrow-

ing that the town will have to do for its fiber-optic internet system.

The inspector for MIIA (the Massachusetts Inter Local Insurance Association) found that the house at 97 Wendell Depot Road, now owned by the town, was surrounded by high vegetation that needs cutting. Board member Dan Keller said he would ask Tom Chaisson to mow, as he is already boarding up the house.

The Mahar regional high school invited the selectboard to attend its annual Veterans Day observance on November 10. Keller said he might be able to go, and he would forward the invitation to former selectboard member Ted Lewis who has gone for years.

Building inspector Phil Delorey was not scheduled on the agenda,

but he was in the office at the start of the meeting with two items of information. He had a letter that requested a court order to allow him, along with others from the board of health and the conservation commission, to inspect the property at 131 Lockes Village Road.

He also noted that a house trailer has moved in and electric connection has been made on New Salem Road at the intersection with Morse Village Road. Zoning bylaws allow a house trailer during construction of a permanent house, but Delorey has not seen a building permit for that site. Also, the subdivision of the original lot into three lots would put the original house, with its three units inside, into a 3-acre non-conforming lot.

FRANK from page A1

'I can't use this.'

So Abbondanzio – not a trained architect – was forced to create a real design drawing himself. Town planners now put this sort of thing out to bid.

Another involves the origins of what became the Great Falls Discovery Center. In 1984, Abbondanzio was working with state senator John Olver to create what was then known as a "Heritage Park" on the current site. But the Franklin County government wanted to build an incinerator on the other side of the power canal, with the buildings now housing the Center torn down for an access road. This scenario had the support of two-thirds of the Montague selectboard.

One day, Abbondanzio and a number of county officials were touring the site. When Abbondanzio tried to make the case for keeping the building, one official responded, "What would you do, make a museum out of it?"

A museum, of course, is precisely what the building now houses.

But there is a more serious – and certainly more significant – side to Abbondanzio's biography. This involves the twists and turns of a long career in the evolving public sector, and the lessons learned by that experience.

Intelligence and Planning

Abbondanzio, who lives with his wife in Millers Falls and attends church at Our Lady of Czestochowa, is a baby boomer. He was born in 1947 in Brighton, Massachusetts – ironically the same neighborhood of Boston where his replacement, Steve Ellis, spent his early childhood.

His family moved to Quincy and then Braintree, both in metro Boston. "Quincy was the 'City of Presidents,'" he said. "There was history all around us. We used to look for artifacts near the site of the [1830s] railroad that carried

granite to Boston."

After he graduated from Braintree High School in 1965, he joined the Air Force as an intelligence analyst, stationed in Okinawa and Germany.

After leaving the service in 1970, Abbondanzio attended the University of Massachusetts, receiving a bachelor's degree in European History in 1974. From there, he went on to obtain a master's degree in International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Both degrees were funded, in part, by the GI Bill, a federal program created after the Second World War to finance college for returning veterans.

Abbondanzio's master's thesis at Carleton involved policy in COM-ECON, the trade and development alliance created by the former Soviet Union in its eastern European empire. In 1975 he sought, without success, employment with the US State Department.

"Those jobs were hard to get," he remembered. "It was extremely competitive."

So he "switched gears" later that year, and enrolled in the UMass Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. He graduated in 1980 with a planning degree, and soon found employment working for the town of Montague as an "administrative assistant."

Planning... and Management

This job involved personnel management and community planning. "It was anybody's guess which," Abbondanzio said, noting that there was a "split" on the selectboard concerning the job's priorities.

In 1986, the administrative assistant position became an "executive secretary," which included budgetary responsibilities formerly under the primary control of the town finance committee.

"At the beginning," he remembered, "the selectboard and administrator were not involved with the budget – it was mostly the finance

committee." These new responsibilities led him to take a UMass course on local budgeting.

In 1993, Abbondanzio left Montague to become the town administrator of Lee, a town in the Berkshires, where he worked until 1997. When he returned to Montague in the latter year, his old position had been transformed into its current version, the "town administrator."

This involved still greater responsibilities, but less authority than if Montague were to employ a "town manager." According to a 2014 study, out of the 296 towns in the state, 152 employ a town administrator, and 63 a town manager.

Asked if he thought Montague should consider a town manager, Abbondanzio mentioned that it would require a charter change approved by the legislature. "Sometimes it's difficult having the responsibilities, but not the authority," he said, adding that Lee uses what he calls a "strong town administrator" system.

He said that proposals to make the treasurer-collector and clerk's positions appointed ones, another proposal that comes up from time to time, had encountered strong opposition in the past.

"I've never had problems dealing with elected officials," he replied, when asked whether having two elected department heads, along with several others who serve on town meeting and debate town policies, creates managerial difficulty.

The Reporter also asked Abbondanzio about the town's challenges in finding younger residents to serve on its committees, given that Montague relies heavily on volunteer boards.

"That is a problem that may be pervasive in this era," he told us. "[Town planner] Walter Ramsey did a good job bringing a younger group into the recent Turners Falls Livability study. But we do need to think about that, given the role of volunteer committees."

Rehabilitating a Village

The biggest legacy Abbondanzio will leave is the development of downtown Turners Falls from a poor, declining factory town to one with a reputation as a vibrant and appealing arts community. "We had to rebuild the image," he said. "Turners had a negative image in the 1970s – people had given up on the town."

The selectboard held hours of hearings to reduce the number of downtown bars, and the town commissioned consultants to "assess the village's opportunities." A key development came in 1982, when the area of Turners Falls between Ninth Street and the Connecticut River and L Streets and the power canal was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Another key development was the Powertown project of the mid-1980s, which involved the rehabilitation of ten buildings. They were transformed by a private developer into affordable housing using historic tax credits.

That project was controversial, Abbondanzio said, due to its heavy reliance on Section 8 low-income subsidies, but "there really was no other way to do it."

During the same period, Avenue A itself was transformed by a streetscape project, financed by a \$550,000 bond approved by town meeting and a \$300,000 state grant.

After that came the Shea Theater and the Colle Opera House projects, which involved more state grants and town borrowing. The Shea opened in 1988, while Colle took well over a decade to complete.

The rehabilitation of the Crocker building, a former bank that was damaged by fire in the 1990s, and the Cutlery block, former housing for workers at the John Russell Cutlery, were completed in 2002.

The Discovery Center was originally conceived in the 1980s as a so-called state Heritage Park,

focusing on history and the local factory economy. After numerous ups and downs, the project became a state-federal collaboration, with a museum highlighting the Connecticut River watershed.

The facility, now a state park, is touted as a "gateway" to Montague.

These projects, along with the RiverCulture program that promotes the town's cultural scene, reflect a vision of Turners Falls Village driven by an "arts economy."

But can artist lofts replace factories as an economic driver? Can coffee houses and restaurants serving local produce replace "a bar on every corner?"

Abbondanzio stressed that this is possible – it has occurred, he pointed out, in other communities in both western Massachusetts and the eastern part of the state.

But all that will be a problem for a new town administrator to confront.

The man who began his career as an intelligence officer in the Air Force, and studied the economies of Eastern Europe during the Cold War, has certainly laid the foundation for the transformation of Turners Falls. This will be his most notable legacy to Montague when he leaves public life on December 9, after a two-week period spent in transition with his successor.

Abbondanzio, who has long harbored an interest in local history, hints that he may have some writing projects up his sleeve. But first, after over thirty years of service to the town, he plans to rest – and enjoy his retirement.

This Sunday, November 13, from 1 to 4 p.m., there will be a reception in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center honoring Frank for his years of service. There will be light refreshments, an exhibit of his many preservation and redevelopment projects, and a formal program at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.



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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

was the aggressor, consistently taking the ball away from Southwick and clearing it back toward the Southwick end.

Including overtimes, the Lady Indians had an incredible 22 shots on goal, and the normally taciturn adults standing in the back – including three former TFHS coaches – began cheering loudly along with the rest of the True Blue Faithful.

But in the second shootout, Southwick managed to put three in the net, while Turners only got one, and the remarkable 2016 season came to an end for the Turners Falls Field Hockey Indians.

Alysha Wozniak scored the lone goal for Turners, while Maddie Currier and Haleigh Greene each made five saves.

Volleyball

Sabis 3 – TFHS 0

Also last Thursday, Sabis International Charter School beat Turners in 3 matches, 25-10, 25-17, 25-17. The loss knocks the Lady Indians out of the playoffs and ends their 2016 season.

I really enjoyed watching the volleyball team this year. The Lady Indians progressed into a well-coordinated team that worked together and did some amazing things.

In high school sports, if a team gets into the playoffs and they don't win the states, their last game is always a loss. Losses are always hard to take, but I hope the Turners Falls Volleyball Indians remember that they had a wonderful season, and one loss should not take away from those successes.

Football

TFHS 30 – Pioneer 7

On Friday, November 4, Power-town defeated the Pioneer Gold Panthers 30-7, and earned a ticket to the Western Mass Championship game.

The Indians had two quick scores off Gold turnovers, and then outscored the Panthers 14-7 in the fourth. With the win, the Turners Falls Football Indians are a perfect 9-0, and will play for bragging rights against Mount Greylock at Williams College this Friday, November 11.

Friday's game was decided on the very first play because it led to 8 points and Pioneer was never able to make up the deficit. The Indians' knuckleball kickoff was mishandled by Pioneer and Owen

Ortiz jumped on the fumble, giving Blue wonderful field position on the Panther 30.

But then the unexpected happened. The Indians' tenacious ground game, which has been their bread and butter all season, faltered. Quinn Doyle and Jack Darling were only able to get 6 combined yards on three carries, and the Tribe was facing fourth-and-4,

alty gave the Indians a third-and-4 from the Blue 45, and then Brown completed a pass to Nick Croteau, who broke some tackles and advanced the ball all the way down to the Gold 27. On the next play, Brown hit Darling for the TD and then passed to him again for the 2-PAT, putting Turners up 16-0.

Both defenses dominated for the next three quarters, keeping the

Pioneer took over on their own 42 but on their first play from scrimmage, Darling reeled in a bouncing fumble, tucked the ball in his breadbasket, and sprinted all the way to pay dirt for a 42-yard score.

Brown, in a show of redemption, again ran the keeper on the 2-point attempt. This time, however, he was successful, and Turners took the lead 30-0 with 5:51 left in the game.



Squeeze play: Turners' Quinn Doyle (left) and Tionne Brown (right) take down Pioneer's Karl Wheeler.

well outside the Red Zone.

With his ground game sputtering, Coach Chris Lapointe decided to go to the air. QB Tionne Brown completed a pass to Ortiz, who advanced the ball to the 7, setting up a first-and-goal. Lapointe went back to his tried and true running game, and two plays later, Doyle charged into the end zone.

A Brown completion to Ricky Craver for the 2-PAT put Powertown up 8-0 at 9:17 of the first quarter.

But Pioneer just didn't lie down and die. They're a good team in their own right, and on their first series, they drove from their own 39 all the way down to the Blue 25. But the Blue D forced a fumble, and Turners took over deep in their own territory.

Four running plays and a pen-

score at 16-0. Late in the third, a deflected pass and a Darling sack gave Gold a third-and-19 at their own 14. They decided to punt on third down, and Turners took over on their own 38 as the game went into the fourth quarter.

Turners ran the ball five times, and then on third and 7 from the Gold 48, Brown hit Darling again for a 33-yard completion, moving the ball to the 15. The Pioneer D forced a third down, giving up just two yards on two plays but then Brown threw a touchdown pass to Croteau.

This put the Indians up 22-0, with 6:07 left in the game. On the 2-point attempt, Brown tried to run an outside keeper, but was cracked out of bounds on the nearside 2.

It took sixteen seconds for Turners to score another touchdown.

The Blue D again stymied the Pioneer offense, and Turners got the ball back late in the game. But on third and 5 from the Blue 37, Tionne was picked off, and with a minute and a half left, Pioneer finally scored, putting the final score at 30-7.

Game Stats

The Blue Defense stepped up against Pioneer, denying them time and time again. They held Pioneer to just six first downs, took the ball away six times, and scored a defensive touchdown.

Tahner Castine led the Tribe in tackles, with 7, and caused a fumble. Ortiz had 5 tackles, and was Jonny-on-the-spot with three fumble recoveries. Will Roberge also made 5 tackles and caused a fumble.

Brown had 4 tackles and made

an interception. Darling also made 4 tackles, caused 2 fumbles, recovered a fumble and had a 12 yard sack. Ricky Smith made 4 tackles and caused the QB to hurry once. Kyle Bergman had 3 tackles and a hurry, and recovered a fumble.

Reilan Castine had 3 tackles and Doyle, Craver, Croteau, Mike Babcock and Kyle Dodge also made solo tackles.

On offense, with the Turners ground game limited to 103 yards, they were forced to throw. Brown completed two passes for touchdowns, threw two 2-PATS, and finished with a career-high 158 passing yards. He also ran in a 2-PAT.

Darling caught two of his passes for 60 yards, had 15 yards on the ground, a 13-yard kickoff return and scored a defensive touchdown. Croteau also caught two passes, for 40 yards and a TD.

Ortiz caught two passes for 58 yards. Doyle had 68 rushing yards and scored a TD. Craver had 14 yards on the ground and scored a 2-PAT. Marcus Sanders and John Torres also carried the ball for Blue, and Owen Darling had a kick return.

Onward

The Turners Falls Football Indians have made it back to the Western Mass Championship game, sporting a perfect 9-0 record. But they've had to endure some distractions in the past couple of weeks.

The first was whether Doyle would be healthy enough to play against Pioneer. The boys remained tight-lipped about that, concentrating instead on their own performances.

The second distraction was all about next year. The buzz in the stands, and on the sidelines in the Pioneer game, was about the proposed MIAA realignment of leagues next season, and how unfair it was that Turners would leapfrog into a higher division. Out on the field, the boys paid no attention.

The third distraction happened this week with the announcement that the Championship game would be played on Greylock's practice field at Williams College.

But I don't think it matters that much. The Boys in Blue traveled to Connecticut and had to face avid fans in Athol and Frontier and each time, the Blue Tribe came along for the ride and cheered them to victory.

ERVING from page A1

in spring 2018. She advocated submitting the Phase II grant application by July, and not waiting until the July /December 2018 funding cycle. She said, instead of stopping for a year, the town should "go forward while things are cooking." Schermesser said the cost for preparing the grant application would be about \$2,500.

The board asked the committee to develop a concrete cost estimate for Phase II, and to survey town residents to find out whether they want to proceed with it. Bastarache asked that the committee provide "full disclosure" to Erving residents that, although the grant would pay for most of the Phase II work, the town would also pay some of the costs.

"It is a reimbursement grant," said selectboard member William Bembury, "not a matching grant," so the town must pay for the work initially before being partially reimbursed by the state.

Bembury also said, "The recreation commission owns this park

– you should be having a discussion jointly with them. Do they want Phase II?" Schermesser assured the board that her committee has reached out to the recreation commission and was "actively seeking" their input.

Bastarache characterized the reuse committee as visionaries who could see the development of the park even before construction began. But, he said, Erving residents "are not all visionaries," and may need to see actual park features before approving additional funds.

Schermesser replied, "It's people who have vision that make things happen."

Smith said the committee needed to show that the park was not a "special interest group vision," because they were asking to spend taxpayer money.

Other requests from the committee included updating the town's open space and recreation plan, writing a letter from the selectboard to Pan Am railroad asking them to clean up along the tracks near the new Park, starting the Army Corps

of Engineers permitting process for Phase II work along the Millers River, considering invasive species control, and starting preliminary work for siting a public water supply well at the former Usher Mill property.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said the selectboard was working with the planning board to set up a committee to revise the open space plan. He said that, as long as the town was progressing on revising it, funding agencies would not fault the town for its out-of-date plan.

The board voted to send a letter to Pan Am about cleaning up along the tracks. The board asked the re-use committee to develop more precise estimates for the costs of preparing the grant application, permitting, invasive species control, and well siting, and return to the board at a later meeting.

Fire Department Coverage

Selectboard chair Smith recused himself from the discussion of a proposal for full-time fire department coverage, because he is a call

firefighter. Bastarache asked Wonkka if he had discussed the possibility of a full-time chief, and/or full-time firefighters, with town residents.

"Some people are for it, and some people are completely against it," Wonkka said.

The board asked administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to develop a survey, online and on paper, to find out what townspeople feel about the idea of full-time fire department coverage.

Bryan Smith will also prepare a short article for the December *Around Town* explaining the proposal. A longer article will appear in the January *Around Town*, and the selectboard will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposal in mid-January.

Other Business

Pride Environmental & Construction of East Taunton was the lowest of three bidders for the repair of the Renovator's Supply pump station, with a bid of \$34,331. The highest bid of \$41,172 was from

Sherborn Consolidated of Amesbury. The board voted to accept the low bid, pending validation of Pride's bid documentation.

Administrative coordinator Smith has been working on a database showing energy use in town buildings, and by town departments, over the last two years. The database will provide information for the town's draft Energy Use Reduction Plan.

At the request of David Brule and Cyd Scott, co-Native American affairs officers, the name of their position was changed to "archaeological preservation officer."

The board approved a revision to the town's longevity policy, changing the payment date to the employee's hiring anniversary date.

Under the policy, first established in 2006, full-time employees receive an annual payment of \$500 after five years of service to the town, and an extra \$250 annual payment after ten, fifteen and twenty years of service, capped at \$1,250 per year.

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ELECTION from page A1

legislation, and last week customers staged a rally in support of the large family farm, which has argued that the conditions of its laying hens are more humane than many cageless industrial farm operations.

The town led the state in votes against the successful question, with only 41.2% in favor.

Wendell was also in the news recently following a state police helicopter raid and seizure of a number of cannabis plants from a walled garden at the private residence of medical marijuana patients, who also received strong local sympathy and support.

That support, among other factors, translated into 460 “yes” votes on Question 4, which would legalize the recreational use of the herb while regulating and taxing it. At 79.2%, Wendell again led the entire state on the question, which passed statewide.

Question 4 garnered a sizeable majority in all five of the *Reporter’s* coverage towns, with 65% of voters overall favoring legalization.

Early and Often

Montague, an internally politically segmented town whose population exceeds those of Gill, Erving, Wendell and Leverett combined, tended as a whole to vote in the middle of the pack. Precinct-by-precinct figures were not available as of press time.

Questions 1 and 2, which would have expanded the state’s quota of slot machines and charter schools, failed statewide, and failed in every local town.

Neither of Massachusetts’ senators were up for re-election, and incumbent district representative Jim McGovern ran unopposed for his House seat.

For town clerks, one of the biggest stories of the election cycle was the introduction of early voting. 1,746, or 16.2%, of local voters voted early in the five towns.

“It was a very positive experience for everybody that came in for early voting,” Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo reported. “For the older residents, it was a nice option



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Ed Golembeski shows off the old ballot boxes in Gill, not in use for this election, but still in put to work at times. A more modern machine stands in the foreground.



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Al Cummings (left) and Robert Sulda (right) work the polls at the Highland School in Millers Falls, Montague's Precinct 2.

to just come to town hall and sit in the meeting room and do their ballots.”

Richard Newton, town clerk in Erving, said the new system “went pretty well. We had maybe 23% of the voters – I didn’t know what to expect. I was surprised it was that high, but maybe in retrospect I shouldn’t have been.”

“The response from the voters was extremely positive,” said Gretchen Smith, who holds the position in Wendell. “We just need to be ready for it next time, now that we understand the popularity of it.”

Montague’s Deb Bourbeau said early voting overwhelmed her office. “We had over 800 early ballots,” she said. (The final count was 892.) “It’s affected the office, bigtime. For two weeks straight, [assistant town clerk] Mandy [Hampp] and I didn’t do any of our regular work. I was up until 11 o’clock one night!”

Leverett town clerk Lisa Stratford said that Tuesday morning turnout in her town was very high. “It’s the busiest election I’ve

ever seen,” she said, around noon. “We had lines out the door until about 10 o’clock in the morning. Lots of people coming out to vote were inactive on the voter list, which would make me assume there are lots of people voting who don’t regularly.”

Voting leveled off after lunch, Stratford later said. She recruited an “enormous amount” of volunteer ballot counters, she told the *Reporter*, allowing volunteers to leave as early as 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Montague was not so lucky. It was nearly 1 a.m. when the final set of hand-counted ballots, and tabulated results, were delivered to the town hall from Precinct 2.

By then, everybody had already heard the strange news that Donald Trump – a reality TV show host with the lowest favorability rating, according to Gallup, of any presidential candidate, winning or losing, since the measure began in 1956 – had been elected president of the United States of America.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Approves Contract with New Town Administrator; Liquor License for Village Store

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of November 7 lasted for less than an hour. With newly appointed town administrator Steve Ellis sitting in the front row of the audience, the board approved an appointment to the Department of Public Works, a full liquor license for the Montague Center Village Store, a commendation for several police officers, and an easement for the Montague Center School apartment project.

The board approved a contact for Steve Ellis, recently appointed as the new town administrator, who will start work on November 28. Current town admin Frank Abbondanzio was asked if this was a “standard contract” similar to his own. Abbondanzio answered in the affirmative, in terms of the job description, performance evaluations, and pay.

Ellis was hired at an annual salary of \$102,041. Benefit levels are tied to the contract of the Town of Montague Employees Association (TOMEA), which represents town hall employees.

Above the Board

The DPW appointment involved local resident Kyle Bessette, who also recently participated in a “dog hearing” about excessive barking.

Bessette is soon to be married to the niece of selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, and is a friend of selectboard member Michael Nelson.

So, as in the case of the barking dog hearing, Nelson recused himself from the decision, but Kuklewicz voted, invoking the “rule of necessity.” This rule allows board members to vote despite a potential conflict of interest in order to achieve a quorum. Kuklewicz also mentioned that he “had nothing to do with the hiring” of Bessette.

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron described the process leading to Bessette’s appointment. He also noted that a number of other DPW employees who would be leaving their jobs, including Rebecca Walsh who resigned her janitorial position “right off the bat” and Dennis Dobias who will retire in December. The board approved Bessette’s appointment, with Nelson abstaining.

Next on the agenda was a full liquor license hearing for Ling Ling Corporation, better known as the “Village Store” in Montague Center. Representing the store was Dennis Lynch, who has been selling beer and wine for many years, but had a full liquor license approved by town meeting “two years ago this month.”

“Chris can tell you every time he

comes into the store I get on him,” said Lynch.

The reference was to selectboard member Chris Boutwell, who is a liquor salesman, and who recused himself from the hearing. Board members felt that the long delay was caused by the state legislature, and was “out of our control” in the words of Michael Nelson.

The board approved the license, but Lynch will have to wait another month before he can actually sell spirits.

Commendations

Next at the front table was police chief Chip Dodge, who presented a letter to the board commending two officers and a dispatcher for their actions during a fire on Fourth Street in Turners Falls on August 30. Dodge said he had “looked into” the events of that night, and concluded that the incident “could have turned out much worse,” were it not for the actions of the on-duty officers.

The on-duty officers commended were Sergeant Richard Suchanek and Officer Jamal Holland. The dispatcher was Kyle Walker.

Dodge’s letter states that Suchanek was the first on the scene. He saw flames coming out of the building and heard “screams for help.” He also noticed the fire potentially spreading to an adja-

cent building.

He immediately contacted dispatcher Walker and requested “additional help.” Now joined by Holland, Suchanek “made sure that all residents were safely out of each building...” Suchanek “actually ran up to the burning building and knocked on many of the doors to get people out.”

During the “hectic scene” that followed, an “unruly subject” attempted to interfere with firefighters who had just arrived. The officers arrested the individual, who was subsequently charged with interfering with firefighters and disorderly conduct. Dodge concluded the letter by stating as a result of the officers’ “quick actions... many lives were saved and serious injuries prevented.”

The board endorsed the commendation letter.

The unruly individual mentioned in the letter was ██████, who some residents have told the selectboard had been terrorizing residents for several weeks while wearing a hockey mask. The police had investigated a number of complaints on the night of the fire about loud and frightening noise coming from Bell’s apartment.

According to the clerk of the Greenfield District Court, ██████ is scheduled for a “pre-trial conference” on the disorderly conduct and interference charges on December 7. A spokesperson for the state fire marshal’s office says the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Lots of Ledge

The board approved an easement involving Olive Street Development Inc., which is turning the former Montague Center School into apartments, and the electric utility Eversource. The easement allows the electric company to dig a trench to bring power to the apartment complex. The town must approve the agreement as part of its land development agreement with Olive Street.

Mark Zaccheo, owner of Olive Street with his partner Barbara, told the *Reporter* that reconstruction of the building was on schedule to start renting units in the May of 2017.

Asked if the project had encountered any unexpected problems, he stated that there was “lots of ledge” under the property.

Other Business

The board approved a permit request from the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Sawmill River Run, a road race which will take place on December 31 in and around Montague Center.

It also accepted an open meeting law complaint from Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick charging that the recent Request for Proposals (RFP) process involving the Railroad Salvage Annex violated state law. That complaint will be sent on to town counsel.

The board then retired to executive session, to discuss a grievance under collective bargaining. The next board meeting is scheduled for November 21.

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COLORFUL from page A1

acrylic oil, using segments of hollow-core doors. There are usually no deep meanings in what I paint. However it strikes you, that's it. I always hope it strikes a chord in people."

Shaw's most recent showing ran for three and a half weeks at the Art-space Community Center in Greenfield. The display was entitled "Live and Die in Dixie." A man with strong convictions, Shaw utilized his show to make an artistic comment on the area's controversy swirling around the Confederate flag.

"After nearly a century and a half," said Shaw, "the Stars and Bars were still making news in the letters to the editor. I can recall that the old Gill commune painted stars and bars in Turners on a number of buildings. The image is so potent that it has stirred emotions even today."

Shaw emphasizes his total disdain for finding romantic notions in the nation's dark days of the Civil War. "Some might find romanticism in the 'glorious' battle," said Shaw, "but the side that wins gets to call the shots. Any war is a nasty business. The conflict was more brutal than either side had anticipated. It was all the more tragic that fellow countrymen were fighting and killing each other."

In addition, the artist conveyed his sentiments in a commanding branded wooden sign, proclaiming "Black Lives Matter." The endeavor featured a figure in chains. "More often than not," said the multi-talented Shaw, "non-black ancestors may have had a memorable moment when they sailed by the Statue of Liberty. But black ancestors were kidnapped,

chained, brutalized, enslaved, and then sold. But yet, through all those things, they always kept alive the dream of freedom."

A year ago, he spotlighted his work at the Great Falls Discovery Center, where "some 50 of my works" were displayed. His paintings, spanning from about 18 by 18 inches to 18 by 24, creatively brought to life animals such as fish, turtles, and pigs, along with common objects.

Today, Shaw not only continues his painting, but also volunteers for LifePath's Meals on Wheels program, now conducted out of Millers Falls. He delivers lunches to some 25 clients, 10 in the old Athol High School building.



One of Charlie Shaw's "Live and Die in Dixie" pieces, with skulls in the place of stars. (Shaw emphasizes his total disdain for finding romantic notions in the dark days of the Civil War.)

True to his whimsical style, Charlie makes light of his kind devotion to duty. "Well, like Bob Dylan said, 'You gotta serve somebody no matter who you are.'" He contributes three hours each Monday through Friday, covering a route that takes him roundtrip from Millers Falls to Phillipston. And, Shaw is quick to add, the effort is truly satisfying. "It's

amazing how you can actually make a difference in somebody's life."

Charlie Shaw grew up in Norwood, learning about service from his adoptive parents, who spent their working lives in education. His father served as principal of a junior high, while his mother was a high school English teacher. His mother is now 99 years old and still lives in the same town.

Shaw began his peripatetic, Walter Mitty type of life when he was only six years old. He lived around the corner from his maternal grandfather, who owned a carnival, Henry's Transport and Amusement.

"I was a 'camy' as a youngster," he grinned. "I skewered candied apples, filled popcorn boxes, and rolled cotton candy papers." He was also a state wrestling champion for two seasons at Norwood High, graduating in 1968.

After his UMass years, Charlie grabbed a hammer and worked construction. Then, he moved into building maintenance, mastering tasks such as sanding floors and redoing bathroom floors. Next, he directed maintenance for 285 units in Amherst before becoming a landlord.

"Those were the days," said Shaw, "when you could get loans to buy houses without putting money down. I bought a three-family in Florence and walked out at closing with a check. The key to your success was strong, high appraisals. You can't do that today."

But times changed, the stock market did the Mt. Vesuvius twist, and the regulations changed. "I lost my shirt," said Shaw, who went bank-

rupt along with a lot of other folks.

The resilient Shaw walked into a Honda dealership in Northampton and talked himself into a job as a salesman in 1990. He sold 15 cars his first month.



A recent abstract painting by Shaw.

"It was a competitive, eye-opening business. I had never processed a credit card, never used a fax machine, but I learned those things and a lot more." He remained in the business for several years.

He also did repossession work for Gribbins Music Company in Greenfield, an organization that leased musical instruments. "Once," said Shaw, "I recovered an entire drum kit."

In 1998, he put on his work belt again and worked in home renovation at Valley Home Improvement for a couple of years.

Next, Shaw went out to the Mission Bay section of San Diego to help his oldest son, Jacob, build a group of five stores in the city. The businesses offered surf supplies, clothing, bicycle rentals, and in-line skates. Unfortunately, Jacob Shaw's business fortunes took a turn for the worse when the economic hardships of 2008 hit. "His business slowed way down,"

said his father, "and we had to close stores while salvaging inventory. Luckily, we were able to start up a sports bar and a delicatessen, and Jacob is still doing well today."

"Jacob is a smart man and a hard worker," added Shaw. "He became a millionaire by 30, and just bought his second house."

Shaw's hips and back were giving him a lot of pain, so he returned to the Bay State where he underwent his two hip surgeries.

In 2011, he started Old School Clothing, a name derived from the Northfield school he and his wife, Ginny, had purchased in the mid-1980s and converted into a home. The Shaws have sold their wares at swap meets and fairs. "We also began branding wood, making signs with sayings," said Shaw.



Charlie Shaw calls this painting "Space Dog."

Married for almost three decades now, Charlie and Ginny Shaw will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary next August, and are planning a trip to Alaska "to see the icebergs."

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YEAR 15 – NO. 6

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Making “Shady Deals” for Generations

FLO ROSENSTOCK PHOTO



Roger King installs the new awning at the Shelburne Arts Coop in Shelburne Falls.

By NINA ROSSI

CHARLEMONT – Recently, I had a very interesting visit to the King Awning workshop off of Route 2 in Charlemont. They were working on a new awning cover for the Shelburne Arts Cooperative, where I am a member, and they invited anyone who wanted to do so to come out to see the process.

The small blue building was tucked up a rise above the road, hidden in the trees. A pile of firewood, an axe driven into a stump, and two lawn chairs outside were the only signs of life as we searched for the right building. No, there was not a hand-lettered awning marking the doorway!

Inside, Roger King was busy stitching together the new awning at an antique industrial Singer sewing machine, one of several that he uses in his shop.

Roger is the third in a line of Kings to run the business, and one of

the few craftsmen in this line of work nationwide. Much of the equipment he uses was used by his grandfather, Harold King, who founded the company on Long Island.

Even earlier, Harold’s father and grandfather (Henry Morgan King) were in the awning business in England. Sir William Alkin King, Bob King’s great-grandfather, made furniture for Buckingham Palace. If you count Roger’s son, Jay Wyant-King, who currently helps his dad with the business, that’s six generations of Kings who have been making “shady deals” as their slogan says.

Roger grew up helping in the family business, but spent many years in construction until he took over from his father Robert in 2000. A series of stencils used to label the awnings with the business name were displayed on the wall of the shop, illustrating the succession from Harold and Robert down to Roger.

“I actually enjoy the sewing,” commented Roger as he fed mate-

rial under the walking foot of the Singer. “It’s not like I do it eight or ten hours a day. It’s once in awhile, three or four hours of sewing. It’s a joy – meditative – and I can make a living at it.”

The material the Coop selected turned out to be made in Italy, which is unusual for Roger to work with since he uses mostly American fabric. “What they do to get this effect,” he explained, pointing out the brown flecks standing out on the tan acrylic fabric, “is basically blow lint on the fabric as it is being woven.” The stray bits get woven into the fabric with a pleasing random effect.

The old and very faded orange awning that was being replaced was lying on the floor on top of a plywood work surface. “Bright colors fade first,” Roger said. “There was also a linden tree in front of the coop that used to drop pitchy stuff on it. That’s these spots all over it.” The new fabric will have a teflon coating that will make it much easier to brush dirt off of it.

Sue Wyant, who does the hand-printed lettering for Roger, was standing by to copy the letter forms she did on the old awning. Roger clamped down the edges of the awning to the plywood and sliced off the lettered part with a hot wire cutter for her. Afterwards, someone will pick up the old material from him to recycle it, so the unsightly yardage will not just go into the trash.

We talked about how she does the hand lettering: she carefully traces the letters onto the fabric first, usually from a computer printout. Although you can adhere special stencils to the fabric and do it that way, she prefers the hand-drawn method.

“Do you ever make a mistake?” I asked.

“Oh no!” she replied. “You can’t

see AWNINGS page B6

PLANETARY BLUEPRINTS OF OUR LIVES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mara Bright

By TIA FATTARUSO

WENDELL – What is your soul contract? What are you here to learn? What are your challenges, and who are your allies?

The first time she received an astrology reading, says Mara Bright, she was blown away.

“This is who I am, there isn’t really a problem,” she recalls. “It let me off the hook. I didn’t have to fix this or that.”

Bright came to astrology as a lifelong seeker, interested in evolving to a higher level of consciousness, and it stuck. Astrology, she says, “supports the desire and process to look deeply.”

“We all tend to have patterns,” Bright says. “Do we come in with them? Are they reinforced by our childhoods?”

Through astrology – not the popular stuff of newspapers, but natal readings, transits, and solar returns, among others – Bright offers insight into one’s “unique blueprint,” as related to the position of the planets in the sky.

Though she does not use astrology for divination, it was her interest in that art that led Bright to study with Barbara D’Amato of Hadley. She spent two years with D’Amato, looking at astrological charts, or diagrams that explain the position of the stars and planets at a given time,

studying transits and progressions.

“Everything will illuminate something about a personality,” she says.

Transits compare the position of a planet in the sky right now to the planets in the birth chart. The transiting planet activates the areas of the birth chart that it touches.

Astrology usually divides the horoscope into 12 houses, whose position depend on time and location. Each house has 30 degrees (zero to 29). Bright uses a method of progression that moves a person’s chart forward one degree for each year, so that somebody 43 years old would move their natal chart forward 43 degrees to see what progressions have happened.

Bright has also studied with evolutionary astrologer Steven Forrest of California, a practice that can touch on past life themes. People who come to Bright for that brand of reading are often in transition, or on the precipice of something, she says – they are wondering what their assignment is.

“People in pain want to get to the bottom of things, to excavate that subterranean place.”

An astrology reading can help cut to the chase, she says. “What you’re feeling makes complete sense, and this is why, and here are some of the gifts you have to meet this challenge.”

see ASTROLOGY page B4

OYSTERGIRL'S guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

#20: Halloween Weekend in the Valley

TURNERS FALLS – My original plan for this column was to spend the whole day at Pumpkinfest with my son and my mom, who was in town for the weekend from Rhode Island, and write about it.

However, through a series of events and laziness, we were not to attend Pumpkinfest in any significant way. But we did have a lovely weekend, and I want to tell you about it.

Friday evening: Gill Tavern dinner, Gill library party

One of my son’s favorite restaurants in the area – because I’m training him to be a snobby foodie just like me – is the Gill Tavern. It’s a special-occasion restaurant, and we wanted to take my slightly-less food-snobby mom there.

I say food snob, and it certainly caters to that, but it’s also surprisingly homey and kid-friendly. I appreciate the local, seasonal fare and unique food combinations, and my son chants “apples, cheese, and bread” (his kids’ menu entree) while coloring in their provided coloring books with their provided crayons.

After dinner, we saw a sign for a ghost-story-telling Halloween party at the Slate Memorial Library next door.

It was a small party in a small library in a small town, and it

was lovely, but I honestly didn’t know how long my five-year-old would last, especially when the lights dimmed and people began telling real-life ghost stories to a quiet, still audience. Either he was genuinely fascinated, or his two months in public school have taught him to sit still when it’s expected, but he listened with rapt attention.

Saturday morning: Turners Falls library party

Saturday morning was the Halloween party at the Carnegie library, here in Turners.



The entrance and exit of the seven-acre corn maze at Gaines Farm in Guilford, VT.

We were impressed with the spread: a “cafe” section with some decent food, all kinds of crafts, and games with wholesome prizes that my son kept going back for. (He now has an impressive collection of smiley-face necklaces and Pokémon pencils.)

Lots of families showed up, filling the entire upstairs. Kids ran from station to station. This is the kind of party my son wants to go to again and again and stay forever and ever.

The Montague libraries have free family events all the time. see OYSTERGIRL page B4



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

The Growing Dark

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – This splendid foliage season is having difficulty letting go. Although the colors have lost their sharpness, the beauty of sunlight makes the yellows, rusts and the dark red of oaks glow.

We are grateful for this bright light as we enter the time for the changing of the clock. Soon it will be dark an hour earlier, although this would happen without our mechanical intervention. The angle of the sun has dropped lower as the earth turns. It makes driving tough mid-morning and late afternoon,

but by five o’clock the dusk has already fallen, and it is still dim morning when the cat awakens at six.

It’s time to put the garden to bed.

We’ve pulled the weeds, dead plants and remaining straw mulch. The mulch could be left to break down but we want to access the bare soil for a final treatment of lime and bone meal. Lime will sweeten our naturally acidic soil. Bone meal will help to replenish nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the soil. The best additive will be administered in the spring: organic compost.

Composting vegetable and fruit scraps, grass clippings, leaves, see GARDENERS page B3

Pet of the Week

Have you ever met a rabbit whose personality shows through all its crazy fur? Saltine Cracker is peppy and loves to hop around and explore everything and everywhere!

He's very affectionate and loves to hang out with his people. It may take a little while for him to adjust.

He would be able to form a bonded pair, and would most likely do

better with a female friend.

He's goofy and has crazy hair! Ask an adoption counselor about taking this handsome boy home!

Bring a picture of what your kennel space will look like.

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



“SALTINE”

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 14 to 18

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Tues & Weds Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 11/14

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/15

SHINE Appointments

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 11/16

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

11:30 a.m. Fire Safety w/ Captain

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 11/17

9 a.m. Tai Chi!

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 11/18

1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregating meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for

meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 11/14

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

12:30 p.m. RAD Class

Tuesday 11/15

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 11/16

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

Thursday 11/17

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast)

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Friday 11/18

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

Noon Thanksgiving Dinner

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

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

Millers Falls Group Launches Weekend of Sports, Art, Learning and Community

MILLERS FALLS – Join the Millers Falls arts community on Veterans Day weekend for art, music, food, service and celebration. Events during the weekend are evolving organically as projects pop up and people become involved.

The schedule includes public service projects conceived by the Millers Falls Improvement Association. This community organization was formed in Millers Falls back in the 1930s and has been revitalized thanks to efforts spearheaded by Richard Widmer of the Millers Falls Arts Bridge.

“Times have changed,” notes the group’s Facebook page, “but there is still so much beauty and potential here.”

The group is organizing a public clean-up activity, focusing on the public stairs which lead from West Main Street to Grand Avenue, and on the Veterans Monument and Highland Park, at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Earlier Saturday morning, starting at 9 a.m., folks are invited to ponder – and perhaps paint – a mural under the railroad bridge on Newton Street, which has been prepared with a coat of white paint.

This is to be followed by all-ages soccer games in Highland Park at 10:30.

On Sunday, November 13, a variety of activities are planned and the list continues to grow. Check online at millersfallsartsbridge.org for updates.

The former St. John’s Church at 7 Church Street, home to the Millers Falls ArtsBridge organization, will be hosting a Kundalini yoga class with Emily Blanchford at 10 a.m., followed by “10 Beautiful Arabic Words” with Riham Darwish at 11:30.

Head over to the old Ward’s Block to tour open art studios from 1 to 4 p.m., or engage in Capture the Flag at Highland Park. Catch the 80th anniversary rededication of the Veterans Monument in Highland Park at 3:30.

Exploded View will perform at the Millers Falls Arts Bridge at 4 p.m. This is an encore performance for this group of eight women artists/writers. They formed to



present a dynamic pop-up installation of word, image, movement and music at the Greenfield Annual Word Festival in October. Member artists Lea Banks, Candace Curran, Edite Cunha, Trish Crapo, Elizabeth MacDuffie, Nina Rossi, and Samantha Wood will recreate the event for next Sunday’s audience, followed by a reception. Some content of the performance may not be suitable for young children and parental discretion is advised.

The community is invited to a “BYO Dinner” at the Ward’s Block at 5:30 p.m. Come break bread with friends and neighbors and meet some new people. There will be some spoken word and a concert might occur later – you just never know what you will find at the first Millers Falls Arts Community Weekend!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Battling Foot Jock



By FRED CICETTI

Q. What’s the best way to get rid of athlete’s foot?

As a victim of athlete’s foot, I’ve had a lot of experience battling that nasty nuisance, so I can add some personal notes on this subject. I’ve had the most success treating my athlete’s foot with an Australian remedy. I’ll get to that later.

Athlete’s foot is caused by tinea, a fungus that can also cause jock itch and ringworm. You can catch it from another person, from animals or wet surfaces such as the floors of public showers.

Athlete’s foot symptoms include dry skin, itching, burning, scaling, inflammation, and blisters. If blisters break, tissue becomes exposed and this can be painful.

Athlete’s foot usually shows up between the toes, especially the last two toes. Tinea thrives on feet because they are usually in shoes, which are perfect for fungus – they are warm, dark and humid.

The fungus can spread on the feet. It can also travel to other parts

of the body if you scratch your feet and then touch elsewhere.

Before attempting to treat what you think is athlete’s foot, you should have your feet examined by a doctor. Symptoms you assume are from athlete’s foot could be from eczema, psoriasis or other maladies such as a skin reaction to shoe dyes.

For a mild case of athlete’s foot, your doctor may recommend an over-the-counter or prescription preparation. There are antifungal sprays, powders, creams and lotions. If you have a severe case of athlete’s foot, your doctor may prescribe an oral medication.

After the medication works, athlete’s foot recurs in some people because they are prone to get it. The tendency to get athlete’s foot repeatedly is a genetic condition.

This brings us to a remedy that works better than any I’ve tried since my first of many cases of athlete’s foot about 40 years ago. It’s tea tree oil. You can get it in health food stores.

Tea tree oil is an essential oil distilled from the leaves of *Melaleuca alternifolia*, an Australian plant. For many years, the leaves of the plant were used for treating cuts, burns and infections.

A randomized controlled trial examined the use of 25 percent tea tree oil solution, 50 percent tea tree oil solution, or placebo in 158 people with athlete’s foot. After twice daily applications for four weeks, the tea tree oil was found to be significantly more effective than placebo.

I have used many over-the-counter products on athlete’s foot. A few did not work at all. A few were effective after several weeks. I applied 100 percent tea tree oil twice a day and my athlete’s foot was gone in a week. I’ve continued to apply it once a day to prevent a recurrence.

Do not apply tea tree oil to your feet without consulting a physician. There are possible side effects that include allergic rash, redness, blistering, and itching. I experienced a mild burning sensation when I applied the undiluted tea tree oil, but had no other problems.

There are ways to prevent getting athlete’s foot. The best general advice is to keep your feet clean and dry. Here are some good specific tips:

- When you can, remove your shoes.
- Change your socks at least once daily.
- Avoid walking barefoot in public areas. Wear sandals or flip-flops in communal showers.
- Never borrow other people’s shoes.
- Dry carefully between the toes after showering.
- Apply antifungal foot powder daily to feet and inside shoes.
- Wear shoes and socks made of natural materials that breathe.
- Don’t wear the same shoes two days in a row; give shoes a chance to dry out.
- Have a veterinarian check your pets for fungus.

Questions? Write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

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Shannon Madigan - Property Manager

GARDENERS from page B1

coffee grounds and wood ash is a great way to reuse and recycle, and when added to the garden it is the best form of food for the soil.

Compost energizes the soil food web which is made of bacteria, fungi, earthworms and some small insects. It enhances the ability of plants to resist disease, and helps to retain moisture in the soil.

Composting is easy. A pile can be created on the ground or in a specialized container. We have two large black plastic bins with locking lids and air vents. We fill one and let it rest while we start on the other. We are not fussy, although we never add meats or oil, or diseased plants or weeds. We do add soil.

This year's hanging plants finally gave in to the cold temperatures. They and the soil they grew in have been added to the working compost bin.

More serious composters turn the pile and add water to speed up the process and distribute the heat which is breaking down the recycled materials. This will speed up the production of usable compost, but as we have two bins and other things demanding of our time, we take the slower route. Both methods will yield moist, odorless "black gold," for which your garden will thank you.

Feed your garden with compost, bone meal and well dried manure and you will never need chemical fertilizers. You'll also grow the tastiest vegetables you can find and in an organic manner.

As the year and the light wanes, it is as important to feed the spirit

as it is to feed and nurture mother earth. We spend as much of the treasured daylight outdoors as we can, watching the colors and soaking up the light, then retreat to the warmth of the woodstove and warming food and drink.

Always before bedtime, we step out to scan the night skies, admire the growing moon and the set of the planets.

This month's full moon will be on November 14 and it promises to be an historical "super moon," as the moon will be as close to the earth as it has been since 1948. Hope for clear skies and a spectacular sighting.

The spirit draws inward to reflection as the dark builds and the year moves to closing. There is more time for reading and contemplation. This is prime time for self-expression by writing, painting and other creative arts.

In a burst of creative energy, we also put up the much needed hand-rail for the cellar stairs.

Having hoarded all during the growing, sunny season, we go through things, often finding the unused or unneeded we can let go of. This brings a pleasant sense of tidiness, not to mention a sense of control over our possessions and our lives.

As the fall season lingers, we look ahead to the coming season of holidays and are content. We look forward to the arrival of the colorful catalogues which will help us plan for next year's garden while we enjoy a well-earned gardening rest.

Happy gardening to all!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Halloween Crime Wave Shakes Downtown Area; Loose Pug; Injured Possum; Struck Deer; Sick Fox; Pig in Breezeway; Final Days Of More Stable And Hopeful World Unknowingly Enjoyed

Sunday, 10/30

5:55 p.m. Caller came across a loose pug on Seventh Street. Dog is friendly and has a rabies tag; however, it is faded and from Ashland. Dog transported to pound.

5:58 p.m. Off-duty officer calling in for an injured opossum in his yard that may need to be put down. Officer responding.

Monday, 10/31

4:30 a.m. Caller reports a vehicle parked on Fifth Street that has been blaring its horn for the last hour. Officer clear; parties are waiting for someone. They were advised to stop the horn.

5:32 p.m. Caller requests to have on record that as he was driving home in Lake Pleasant, he passed an adult and child who were out trick or treating. Caller advises that in his estimation, he left enough room between his vehicle and the pedestrians, but the adult followed him to his residence, confronted him, began causing a disturbance, and advised she would be reporting him.

7 p.m. Caller reports that attached vehicle was speeding on Dell Street and almost struck a child who was trick or treating.

7:27 p.m. Caller from St. Stanislaus Society on K Street reports that a male just entered the establishment after being stabbed.

[Redacted] was arrested and charged with attempted murder and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

[Redacted] was arrested and charged with being an accessory after the fact.

7:55 p.m. Employee from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine reports that a female came into the store requesting emergency medical services; stated that 3 subjects in masks walked by her and one of them sprayed her in the eyes with an unknown substance. Female's eyes are burning and she cannot see. MedCare and TFFD responding; female transported to hospital. Report taken.

8:56 p.m. Multiple callers reporting that one or more masked subjects entered Hubie's Tavern, stole a female's purse, and took off running. Suspects last seen running into wooded area near Unity Park/F.L. Roberts. Second caller from Between the Uprights reporting another instance of a female's purse being stolen just moments ago. Report taken.

9:14 p.m. Officer flagged

down by a party reporting a residential breaking and entering that occurred earlier this evening on Second Street; window(s) were broken and two bowls of candy were stolen. Possibly related to previous call. Report taken.

9:57 p.m. Report of 16-20 subjects that appear to be ready to fight on Second Street. No weapons observed. Attached males were taunting victims of previous breaking and entering and using fighting words. Peace restored.

10:26 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts advising that a subject wearing a mask entered the store a short time ago; calling in case this is relevant to the police investigation into masked subjects committing crimes in downtown TF tonight. Subject did not cause any issues in or around the store.

Tuesday, 11/1

9:50 a.m. Caller from Our Lady of Czestochowa requesting to speak with an officer re: a couple of concerning encounters she had 2-3 weeks ago with another member of her church. Officer spoke with party and advised her of her options.

10:05 a.m. Caller reports being robbed in alley between Fourth and Fifth streets after getting money out of an ATM. Male subject came up to caller from behind, grabbed her shirt, and demanded the money in her wallet, making a statement to the effect of "if you give me the money, we will both walk away from this." Caller advises that after the subject grabbed her shirt, she tried to turn around, at which time he burned her head with a cigarette. Unknown age, race, direction of travel. Officer checked downtown area; unable to locate suspect. Will continue to be on lookout. Report taken.

12:10 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering at Loot Found & Made.

Investigated.

1:03 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls post office requesting assistance with disorderly patron who is holding up the line and arguing with employees. Patron is upset about a money order that the post office is unable to cash. Peace restored; parties advised of options.

11:07 p.m. Caller from Hubie's reporting that a male patron in the bar is being rude and disrespectful. He has been asked to leave but is refusing. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 11/2

9:18 a.m. Report of loud explosion type sound coming from area of Our Lady of Peace Church. Fire captain advises he heard a similar sound. TFFD responding.

10:46 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street requesting options re: a dumped chair that has been outside since this past summer. The chair was initially further down the street, but it has been moved several times in front of different residences. Officer spoke with DPW, which will pick up and dispose of the chair.

Thursday, 11/3

5:43 p.m. Building owner from L Street reporting that a man kicked in the door to one of his apartments and may have left with 3 or 4 rifles that he concealed under a tan blanket. Caller witnessed subject leave the building and walk over to T Street. Based on description, officers have a suspect and are searching the area for him.

Friday, 11/4

1:24 p.m. Report of brush

fire near Swamp Road and Turners Falls Road. Shelburne Control notified. MPD officer on scene to assist with traffic.

4:02 p.m. Officer out with motorist who ran through barricades on Lake Pleasant Road. Per officer, no damage done. Driver stated he did not see barricades.

Saturday, 11/5

7:10 a.m. Caller reports that she just hit a deer in the area of Field of Dreams; her car has heavy damage. Deer ran away; vehicle does not require tow.

9:39 a.m. County units searching for runaway near the river on Mineral Road. Unable to locate.

11:17 a.m. Caller reporting cars parked on both sides of T Street.

2:06 p.m. Caller from Randall Road reporting an unhealthy-looking fox walking around between the houses in the neighborhood. Message left for animal control officer. Area checked; unable to locate.

3:40 p.m. Report of pig loose in breezeway eating caller's garbage on Wills' Ferry Road.

7:28 p.m. Caller from K Street states that her vehicle, which was parked in her driveway, was broken into and \$5 worth of change was stolen.

9:01 p.m. Loud music complaint on Marshall Street. Responding officer advised parties to turn music down.

Sunday, 11/6

12:44 a.m. F.L. Roberts employee reporting shoplifting about 8 minutes ago. Report taken.

3:08 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that there is a male wearing a tan oversized winter jacket in the back of his home yelling at his child. Nothing physical; no weapons seen. Male is walking away but still located in the back of the property. Officers spoke to both subjects and advised them of their options.

A Novel in a Month?

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – November, besides featuring Veterans Day as a holiday, is also National Novel Writing Month. It's a project that goes on from November 1 to November 30, in which people try to write a novel in a month's time.

It has an official website to its name, nanowrimo.org. On that site, I learned that the writers who are involved in this are pretty widespread – so much so that it would be fair to say this project is practically worldwide, when it comes to the writers' locations.

The site also helps you do a "virtual write in," offering people who can't find a local group writing together to go online to "be with us" as a group doing that. Not that getting rid of your writer's block is something you will have to worry about, because tips for curing it are offered to writers on the website.

But this project, which started in the San Francisco Bay area, has been going on "since July 1999," and "the first year there were 21 writers." Its has undergone quite a leap since then, when it comes to the number of people writing, and the areas they come from.

Now, some people might think writing a novel in a month is an impossible thing to do. But some of my answers to the question, "can you write a novel in a month?," prove that not everyone believes it's impossible.

"The only way I can see you doing it in a month," a man named Scottie told me, is "if you already

have the idea in your head."

"I would be very good at starting it," said one woman named Jen. "But I wouldn't finish it, because that's just me." This woman sounds like she would greatly benefit from tips offered to writers for curing writer's block.

Another woman has a more certain attitude, when it comes to writing a novel herself. Her name is Melissa, and she said, "Absolutely – because I can run a story very fast in my head. If I can write or type fast enough, before I lose the thought."

That sounds a little like me when it comes to writing. I wrote a review of *Heaven is for Real* right after I saw the movie. The words just came to me for the review. I started to write the piece as the car was going home from the movie.

So who knows – a novel might be an easier thing for me to write up. I write plays, short stories and articles for this newspaper. Sometimes when I write, the words just flow effortlessly out of me.

And I make up my stories. Some of my short stories have ended up being five pages long, and writing short stories is one of my favorite things to do. My huge imagination helps me out with this. I have written quite a lot of short stories.

I am a good writer, and other people have said so. I have gotten a Letter to the Editor for one of my articles. So that is something that shows people might be interested in seeing me write a novel, or just seeing more of my writing!

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was November 9, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Hillcrest Forum Focuses on District Unity

On Thursday at Hillcrest School, the series of statistic-laden, emotionally fraught public hearings on the fate of Montague's elementary schools came to a close.

More than 60 parents and teachers were in attendance for the fifth and final hearing. The school committee sat on the stage behind a line of folding tables. The audience filled the back of the multipurpose room, leaving the first 3 rows of folding chairs empty, as if they were reluctant to get too close to the administration.

As the meeting got underway, superintendent Sue Gee stood at the podium at the front of the room, explaining the costs and saving associated with closing one or another of the district schools. She took a seat by herself as parents began talking, many reading from lengthy prepared statements, others speaking extemporaneously, from the heart.

Making Good Dirt

The Main Road reconstruction project in Gill proceeded at a tur-

tle's pace until early this fall, when work got underway in earnest. The lowly wood turtle – a “species of special concern” in Massachusetts – held the job up until proper accommodations were designed for a suitable underground turtle crossing. The solution came in the form of specially designed culvert, to encourage the turtles to cross beneath the road, rather than try to race with cars topside.

With that settled, F & J Inc. of Ludlow have torn up the Main Road of Gill from the vicinity of Upingil Farm to the Robert Wallner property. They are digging the roadway a couple of feet deep and trucking the material to the gravel pit of Bernardston Auto Wrecking, where F & J has a 20' x 30' portable jaw crusher plant crunching up the blacktop, gravel, and underlying bed of fieldstone boulders. On the return trip, the trucks haul processed gravel back to the job.

The boulders were placed there when the road was originally built, in a Yankee version of Roman roads. Roman roads were sometimes built five feet, or more, thick, depending on the locality. They typically started with a layer of large boulders, as was done on Main Road, for stability and drainage. They then added progressively smaller stones in layers, with a final layer of gravel, or sand, topped sometimes with

concrete and paving stones.

Crushed rock from the boulders provides additional aggregate, and rock dust fines to turn out desirable processed gravel. In the succinct words of F & J's crusher operator Richard Small, “It's making good dirt.”

Grease Car Conversions Come to Greenfield

Daryl Beck used to be a backyard car mechanic. Now he's running his own business on the corner of High and Silver streets, converting three or four diesel engines a week to run on vegetable oil grease as an alternative fuel.

By adding a separate fuel tank, an additional fuel filter and a few switching valves, any diesel engine can be converted to run on grease, Beck said.

“It's ridiculously simple – and the benefits are exponential.” Beck is the owner of Evergreen Motors, in the old Portland Glass building.

“You can run on vegetable oil all year long, you can use biodiesel or [petroleum] diesel in the main tank, and you're using a renewable resource to fuel your car,” said Beck. “Plus, the carbon cycle becomes a closed loop, releasing less carbon into the environment. Most of it goes back into production of the plants.”

ASTROLOGY from page B1

For instance, the moon-Neptune aspect, or degree of angularity of the moon to Neptune in a chart (0° is conjunction, 60° is sextile, 90° is square, 120° is trine, and 180° is opposition), is not always, but often, indicative of addiction. Size of the orb, or degrees apart the heavenly bodies are, plays a part, too. The closer the moon is to Neptune, the more likely addiction is the theme.

The relatively recently discovered asteroid, Chiron the centaur, is seen as the “wounded healer,” when it shows up in a chart. The aspects to Chiron help determine the type of trauma that wounded healer experienced, says Bright. In aspect with the sun, it is often a troubled relationship to a father, and, with the moon, the mother.

A sun in Jupiter could make you either a golden person, or an over indulgent one, and with Neptune in Pisces, you are likely compassionate, sensitive and spiritual, or on the flip side, tend toward escapism and addiction.

The south node of the moon (where the moon crosses from south of the ecliptic to north of the ecliptic) can represent, and help de-

cipher, what we have come into our lives with and mastered, perhaps in past lives, our default settings. The north node (crosses from north to south), then, would be our work in this lifetime.

Bright calls Pluto a “heavy hitter” planet, representing the lord of the underworld, shadow, obsession, compulsion, power. Perhaps someone with a sun in aspect to Pluto takes up a lot of space. Then again, medieval astrologers would have placed a greater emphasis on the moon's aspect to a planet, Bright reminds.

And each part of a chart is mitigated by the other things around, says Bright. It is a study in context, a tool to help one learn how to manage their challenging aspects, rather than judge them, and to better understand one's strengths.

“Some planets are more comfortable in one sign than another,” Bright says. “But it's all just a guide.”

Bright will often see a theme in a reading. “A personality trait that comes up three times, there is no getting around. It's integral to who you are and why you're here. It is a growth opportunity.”

While the chart is a structure, Bright says she has noticed that the

more she does readings, “another level or dimension guides the reading, but only if I let go and let it happen.”

Bright explains that her relationship is strongest with the symbols in a chart, rather than the planets themselves. Her poetic disposition allows those symbols to become more than they appear, such that someone might contemplate a dahlia and understand its medicine, she explains.

Bright also offers solar return readings, a chart drawn each birthday year, just for the time between one birthday and the next, and synastry, comparing the natal charts of two people. Her offerings and contact information can be found on her website, www.astroki.com, where there is also information about Breema and energy work sessions.

Bright will be offering a free astrology series at the Wendell Library this winter, Thursdays from February 23 through March, from 6 to 8 p.m. Athol Public Library will host the same next fall, on Tuesday, September 26, and October 3, 10, and 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.

OYSTERGIRL from page B1

Many of them are during the week, for preschool-aged and home-schooled kids, but there's usually something happening on the weekend, too. Check out their calendar: montaguepubliclibraries.org.

Saturday afternoon: Shelburne Falls

We wanted to show my mom the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, so we headed out there, with the intention of returning around the Pumpkinfest 2 p.m. start time.

That didn't happen. Though the bridge had sadly been fenced off for the season, we ended up spending several hours strolling around town, and having a leisurely lunch and a leisurely warm drink.

By the time we got home, it was late afternoon, and we were so pooped out by our leisure that we needed a rest.

Saturday evening: Pumpkinfest

By then, we figured all the kid-friendly Pumpkinfest stuff was ending. My mom and son were perfectly happy not going, so I took this rare opportunity of free, in-home childcare and went by myself.

I walked into town in darkness. As anticipated, families and tired young kids walked away from town, and rowdy revelers skipped toward it. Pumpkinfest was hopping: loud music from several stages, shoppers chatting with vendors, older kids and drinkers running and yelling.

It was fun just wandering through, but I didn't really have a plan, or much ambition. I visited my friend Nina at Nina's Nook for a while, then got a baked potato which was warm and delicious, and a pumpkin whoopie pie which was so amazing it inspired me to make my own the following day.

Sunday: Corn maze at Gaines Farm

My mom left on Sunday morning, and we'd left the rest of the day unplanned.

I remembered a corn maze I'd seen on Route 5 on the way to Brattleboro. I looked it up – Gaines Farm, just over the border in Guilford, Vermont.

The corn maze costs \$10 per person over three years old. Adds up for a big family, but there's just two of us. The twenty bucks got us not only a great corn maze, but other kid-centered attractions: a massive “bouncy pillow” (a cross between a trampoline and a bouncy house), wagon rides, tetherball and other games, a petting zoo, that sort of thing.

It was a beautiful day, chilly and crisp, but the sun poking through just enough to warm your skin. A brisk walk/run through the corn maze, because my son kept running ahead of me and nearly losing me, but it's built with enough circles and dead ends to keep families together.

My son would have stayed all night, but it was a school night and we had things to do! So we went grocery shopping and made dinner and those whoopie pies.

Monday: Halloween!

And then it was Halloween! After a fun-filled weekend, and it being on a school night, it was a little anticlimactic. We didn't do the parade, we just trick-or-treated every inch of the Patch.

Autumn is my favorite time of year, and it seems to be western Mass', too. The landscape is beautiful, and there are so many things to do – outdoor things that keep you moving and ruddy up your cheeks, and indoor things to warm your body and soul.

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable. She writes about real food, natural movement, ancestral health, and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Folks, you don't want to miss this! The Turners Falls Lost and Found Fashion Show 2016 is now available for viewing on TV and on our website. This night of music, community, and fashion featured many designers, including Rachel Teumim, Andrea Glampyre, Anne Harding, Vic Maillo, Richie Richardson, and Gretel Schatz.

Stay up to date and follow our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/MontagueTV. We hope you all have a wonderful week, and a smooth Veterans Day weekend!

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a



camera and capture the moment.

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

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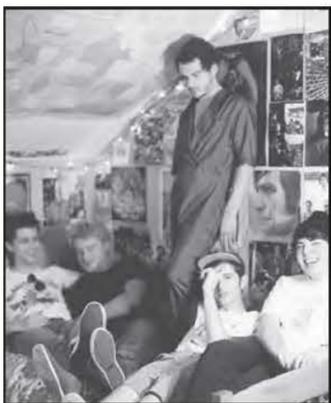
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Lux Deluxe will be performing rock and roll for the Full Moon Coffeehouse at the Old Town Hall in Wendell on Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, 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.

EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls-*Play Group*. Unstructured play-group. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Crafts and activities for children of all ages*. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)* activities for

homeschoolers of all ages, with Angela or special guest. 1 p.m.

New Salem Public Library: *Teen and Tweens*. Program for 11 to 18 year olds. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 to 11 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

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

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

FIRST THURSDAYS

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night*. 8:30 p.m. \$

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Montague Common Hall: *Montague Center. Montague Square Dance*. Family fun, October through May. 7 p.m. \$

EVERY SATURDAY

Highland Park, Millers Falls: *Adult Co-Ed Pick-Up Soccer*, sponsored by Montague Parks and Rec. 10:30 a.m.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *inside art iii* - an exhibit of photography and writing by residents of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Through December 2.

Discovery Center, Great Hall, Turners Falls: *Art Display of Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit*. Through December 22.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Annual LCA Resident Artists Exhibit*. Paintings, graphic art, pottery and more. Artist reception on Sunday, November 13 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through December 9.

Little Big House Gallery, Shelburne Falls. Open by appt.; see littlebighousegallery.com.

Madison Gallery, Millers Falls: Temporary space while Avenue A is being renovated. *DeBix Art - Released*, paintings by *Deborah Bix*, and wood turner *Jon Kopera*.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Ongoing art for sale on Ave. A*.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions, photographs by Sarah Holbrook*. Artist reception Saturday, November 19, 4 to 6 p.m. Also *Painting Nature: Botanical Watercolors by Thayer Tomlinson*. Artist reception Sunday, December 4, 4 to 6 p.m. Both shows run through December.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *Tree Forms*, group show through Nov. 21.

South Gallery, GCC, Greenfield: *Memory, Dream and Invention: Recent Work by Anna Bayles Arthur*. Gallery talk, November 30 at noon. Through December 9.

Sunderland Public Library, Sunderland: *Oil Paintings by Frankie Dack*. Landscapes with a human component. Through November.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *ArtSalon* returns to the Shea. Emerging local artists present works in the Pecha Kucha mode of 20 slides, each for 20 seconds. Come and meet/mingle. 6:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin All-Stars* w/special guest *Hillary Chase*. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series featuring Perugia Press 20th Anniversary reading w/Carol Edelstein & Lisa Allen Ortiz*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Seven Mile Line*. Bluegrass. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *People's Pint Staff Music and Theatrical Showcase*. 6 Bands and 1 theater troupe. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse presents: Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards* playing Americana, old country, and harmony. To raise money for Discovery

Center events for kids. 7 p.m. \$
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Felice Brothers*. 7:30 p.m. \$
Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. Indie rock. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Skell Entertainment* presents *Values, Brickshot, Arkillus, Anarchy Inc.* Hardcore. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Failure Police*, rock; *Unbeatable Spaceship*, psychedelic dance pop. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Shokazoba Conscious Fusion Funkestra*, w/DJ *Studebaker Hawk*. 9 p.m. \$

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Escape Route*. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

GCC, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Institute* presents the *Gem and Mineral Show*. Free meteorites for kids! 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Wetland and Wildlife Walk About*. 11 to 2:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *James Hearne*, Americana. With special guest *Sugar Ponies*. Country pop/rock/folk. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Promotorhead* presents a *Night of Thrash. Lich King, Goblet, Sonic Pulse, Thunderforge*. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Rodd Cummings and the Vibrators*. 9 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Community Smokes*. 9 p.m. \$

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Celebration to honor Frank Abbondanzio*. 1 to 3 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *David Rogers*, classical guitar crossover. 1 p.m.

Art Bridge, Millers Falls: *Exploded View*. Encore performance of multi-media exhibit and word performance by eight Pioneer Valley artists. 4 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

GCC Library, Greenfield: *Stolen Generations: Survivors of the Indian Adoption Projects and 60s Scoop*. Award winning Native American journalist, Trace Hentz, discusses her book which is the 3rd installment of the *Lost Children of the Indian Adoptions* project. 12 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Doug Hewitt Group w/special guest horn player Victor Haskins*. Rock/jazz classics. 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Seth Adam*, with special guest *Rivers*. Pop rock. 8 p.m.

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

Roots Cellar, Greenfield: *Cousin Earth w/Fat Bradley*. Folk/rock/fusion. 9 p.m. \$



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Roger, seated at the machine, and Susan Wyant in the King Awnings workshop.

AWNINGS from page B1

make a mistake. It's nerve-wracking work."

Susan has been lettering at King Awnings since sometime in the 1980's. She used to use the OneShot lead paint, but now uses acrylic paints, due to lead's undesirable fumes.

For a little while, she and Roger reminisced about reupholstering the seats in the Shelburne Falls Memorial Hall many years ago, and Roger brought out a portfolio of awnings projects that showed sort of a timeline of the businesses of western Mass. One photo showed the tiger-striped awning of Roz's Place in Northampton: the owner was so determined to have that effect that he came up to the shop and painted the stripes on himself.

The other Singer machines in the shop have particular setups, and I admit to feeling lust for them as he demonstrated their mechani-

cal duties. One was set up with double bobbins and twin needles for laying out a double stitched flat seam in one pass. Very nice trick! Another one fed twill binding tape onto the edge of the material and stitched it on as it was pushed through. Neat! There was also a foot-switch-activated grommet setter that automatically fed the hardware into position for fastening. Cool beans!

King Awnings also designs and fabricates all the metal framing that goes under the fabric. Steel is cut and welded here in sections to be assembled on site. Virtually any size, shape and color is available in custom awnings.

How efficient is an awning compared to air conditioning? His material suppliers say that a south-facing window can be shielded with an awning and achieve a 15- to 20-degree difference inside the room. This is often

the difference between using an air conditioning unit or not.

Why don't more people install awnings, then?

"It's an investment," Roger explained: the initial cost is higher than getting an air conditioner at the nearby big box store. "However, you are paying every month for the energy the air conditioner uses," he pointed out. Despite the popularity of air conditioning, business is good enough for King Awnings at about 20 projects a year, and the owner likes to take off to warmer climates in the dead of winter, despite the pile of firewood seen outside his door.

Everyone agreed that the Coop's new awning would look really "classy" with the new material and black lettering that stated "Fine Art Fine Craft." A big thank you to Roger and Susan for the invitation to visit their shop!



The heavy duty, industrial grommet setter.

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- Help the newspaper develop its presence online
- Attend and cover town selectboard meetings (No experience necessary!)
- Report on other news events on assignment. (No experience necessary.)
- Research grant opportunities aimed at supporting local journalism
- Help us coordinate all our volunteer help!

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