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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 5

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 31, 2013

Montague Selectboard Affirms Support for Proposed Medical Marijuana Dispensary, and Keeping the Amherst Bus Line



By JEFF SINGLETON

The new medical marijuana industry, or at least one business component of it, came before the Montague selectboard on Monday seeking “support or non-opposition to locate a registered marijuana dispensary in the town of Montague.”

The business is called Absolute Medical Resources Incorporated. Their spokesman, Michael Ruggeri, and five colleagues appeared very professional, well-groomed and extremely non-threatening to the social order of Montague. Even the police chief, Chip Dodge, who said that he was initially very concerned about the location of a marijuana dispensary in town, stated that he had been “set at ease.”

Absolute Medical Resources appears to have a building in mind, although references to the exact location were carefully avoided during the course of the selectboard discussion. The board was told that the dispensary will be very accessible, but “will not stand out.”

Direct access to the building itself will be limited, “not open to the public.” Ruggeri assured the board that marijuana dispensaries are strictly regulated by the state. The proposed location will become

known if and when the dispensary requests a permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ruggeri stated that Absolute Medical Resources will employ 10 to 20 employees, “mostly from the area.” The facility will grow and produce “100% organic” marijuana, which will be sent to a state lab, inspected, graded and issued certificates “by doctors.”

The business will produce “different strains [of marijuana] that do different things.” It will also produce “marijuana-infused products,” or MIPs, such as “cookies, brownies and lollipops.” Tinctures, or liquid marijuana, will also be produced and distributed.

Michael Ruggeri, a former Greenfield town council member, is the owner of Ruggeri’s Beverage and Redemption Center on Deerfield Street in Greenfield. Aside from his liquor store, Ruggeri has also been active in real estate.

At the meeting there was a short discussion of taxes. It appears that the business is a private non-profit, although not a 501(c)3, business that is tax exempt. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio raised the possibility that a “payment in lieu of taxes” agreement might need to be worked out with the town.

After support from both the
see DISPENSARY page A5



By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

The Montague Selectboard at their meeting on October 28 voted unanimously to affirm that the current Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) bus route from Turners Falls and Montague Center to Amherst is of vital importance to the community. This vote came after a lengthy presentation by Tina Cote, FRTA administrator and Michael Perreault, assistant administrator.

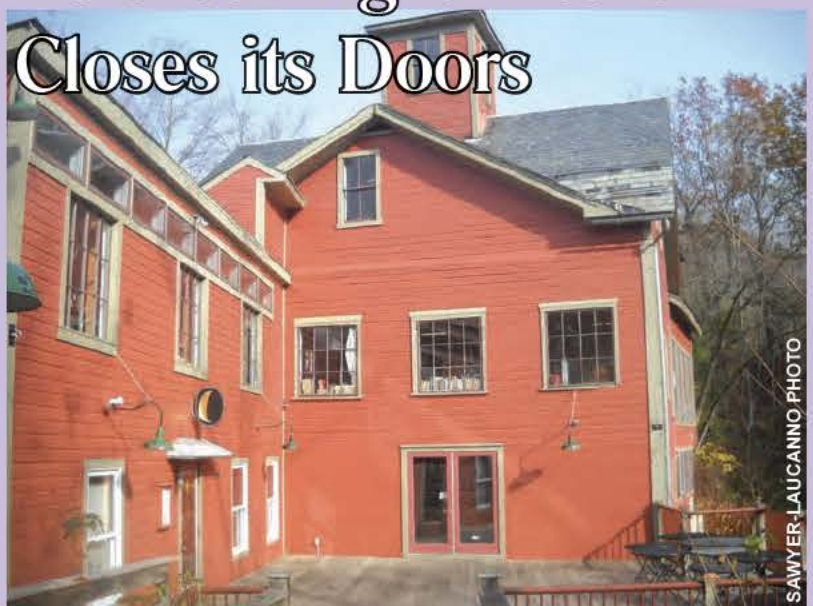
Perreault began his presentation to the board by stating that after a “comprehensive review, the FRTA had decided to propose eliminating the current Route 23.”

He stressed that this did not mean that those in Montague could not get to Amherst. In place of Route 23, the FRTA hopes to create a “Montague Center Shuttle” that will take riders, three times a day, between Montague Center and the JWO Transit Center in Greenfield. There they can board a bus, four times during the day, for South Deerfield, and from there, grab a PVTA bus to Amherst.

Cote noted that her job was to create service for the larger region. “We are a regional transit authority,” she said. She emphasized the need

see TRANSIT page A5

Beloved Night Kitchen Closes its Doors



Diners only have a few days left to eat at The Night Kitchen.

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

MONTAGUE CENTER – The Night Kitchen, the popular restaurant at the Montague Book Mill, will close this Sunday, November 3, after nearly ten years. “It’s bittersweet,” said owner/chef Max Brody. “But it’s been a great run. After ten years you find other things to do in life. Your priorities change. But change is good.”

Brody said the main reason he decided to close the restaurant was to “spend more time with a family I keep hearing about.”

The Night Kitchen opened in early 2004. From almost its opening day, the restaurant began to attract customers from Montague and surrounding towns. Its cuisine

was eclectic: a mix of American country organic healthy food with more than a dash of European *savoir faire*. Within a year it was being written up in *The Boston Globe* and other publications. It became a destination.

Brody is proud of what he accomplished. He seems even prouder of his staff who made it work so well: “I learned early on that the key to success is to surround yourself with people who make you look good. And I had an amazing group of people who worked with me. They saw the big picture.”

He also noted that many of his staff had been with him since near the beginning. He mentioned Lauren Flynn, who began working at the restaurant when she was just a

see KITCHEN page A4

Forum Brainstorms For “Clean” Energy Future



A breakout group brainstorms solutions to energy problems.

By MARK HUDYMA

GREENFIELD – The future of green living in Franklin County should be in the hands of its residents, according to the organizers of the Clean Energy Forum.

The forum was part of an effort by the state of Massachusetts to create sustainability strategies that originate within the communities they intend to serve. It took place at Greenfield Community College on October 22, the second in a series of public sessions. The plan is to compile data that is brought up by community members, then to bring in several experts who can advise the towns on bringing about those goals.

The campaign is organized by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) in collaboration

with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (CEC) and the Department of Energy. The CEC provides assistance in identifying goals, such as this meeting, as well as help in meeting those goals, by providing access to grants and funding through, for instance, community solar.

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center was formed in 2009 to support the growth of green businesses and municipal sustainability projects. It seeks to promote economic growth by investing in start-ups that focus on sustainability. While independent, the CEC receives funding through the Renewable Energy Trust Fund, a creation of the Massachusetts legislature.

The towns participating in the session were Montague, Buckland, and Shelburne, but there were many visitors

from other towns. The diverse crowd contained student representatives from Greenfield High School, Greenfield Community College students, and teachers, as well as members of each supported community. All were eager to contribute their ideas to the future of their communities.

After brief speeches by Stacy Metzger from FRCOG, and Chad Laurent of Meister Consultant Group, the audience was split into four groups, and spent the rest of the evening brainstorming strategies for the creation of green, sustainable communities. The question was left deliberately vague, said Laurent, hoping to inspire fresh ideas. Each group was facilitated by a representative from Meister, but participants were left to pursue their own ideas.

Corkboards quickly filled up with ideas sketched on index cards. These were then compiled into major categories, such as education, transportation, and infrastructure.

The groups produced many similar ideas, and each group also contributed very unique takes on the existing problems, and solutions to those problems.

Ideas ranged from a community-wide reduction in energy use by 50% to the development of mass transportation capable of replacing cars, even in rural areas. One was bold enough to hope for “no fossil fuels by 2035.”

see ENERGY page A3

A Full-Time Firefighter For Leverett?



The Leverett Fire Department may soon hire a new full-time firefighter.

By DAVID DETMOLD

Responding to the approaching retirement of the five senior members, including the chief and the training officer of Leverett’s call firefighter department, the committee appointed by the selectboard to look into that problem has recommended hiring a full-time firefighter in addition to the part-time chief. About two dozen residents, along with eight members of the fire department, turned out for a public hearing in front of the selectboard on Tuesday night; the crowd appeared to broadly favor the study committee’s approach, which would require town meeting support to implement.

“For those of us who are not firefighters, it has been an education,” said fire department study committee chair Judy Weinthal. “This is

something that affects all of us. We want to bring you along with what we have gleaned.”

In the summary of her committee’s findings, Weinthal said fire service in Leverett, as nationally, has evolved from a straightforward if dangerous calling of fighting structure fires into a “complex professional job that encompasses many aspects of emergency services,” each of which requires extensive training to provide the required response. Older residents may still remember the days when Leverett’s volunteer department purchased its first fire engine, remaindered from Amherst, with an open cab and room on the back for firefighters to hang on through all winds and weathers on their way to a house fire or a day-long blaze at the charcoal kilns, but those days are definitely in the long

ago and far away past. Now, as training officer Stewart Olson said, only four of the department’s 13 call firefighters have managed to acquire the level of training needed to drive the department’s modern engines, and to operate their pumps.

Not only has equipment changed, but so has the nature of calls. Statistics show that 48% of calls received now by the Leverett department are medical calls, and that percentage is expected to continue rising as the population in town continues to age. Meanwhile, the department only responds to about three to four structure or chimney fires a year, although the nature of modern building materials requires a much faster response time (five to ten minutes instead of about twenty-five minutes for older structures built entirely of wood) to prevent an incipient fire from becoming a fully involved blaze.

These trends require a modern fire department to be able to respond more quickly than in the past, and to respond with personnel trained as first responders in medical emergencies.

The demographics in Leverett, however, show a long decline in the population between 20 – 40 years of age, the ideal age range for recruitment as firefighters – with only about 330 individuals in that cohort in town. As it

see LEVERETT pg A6

The Montague Reporter

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August, 2002

USA Freedom Act a Step in the Right Direction

We applaud the efforts of Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.), chairman of the Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee in the House, for introducing a bipartisan bill in congress on Tuesday, October 29 that will help restore Americans' privacy rights by ending the government's dragnet collection of phone records and requiring greater oversight, transparency, and accountability with respect to domestic surveillance.

According to Leahy, "the government surveillance programs conducted under the Foreign Surveillance Intelligence Act are far broader than the American people previously understood. It is time for serious and meaningful reforms so we can restore confidence in our intelligence community. Modest transparency and oversight provisions are not enough. We need real reform."

The USA Freedom Act is broad. Its main thrust is to reform Section 215 of the Patriot Act, and Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) that has been used to collect mass data on citizens in the U.S. and around the world. Senator Leahy claims that the bill "closes [the] NSA's 'back door' access to Americans' communications by requiring a court order" for a search of their communications."

In regard to Section 702, the bill would prohibit "reverse targeting" of Americans. This means that the NSA can't target a foreign communications (such as the cell phone of Chancellor Angela Merkel) in order to spy on Americans.

The bill is sorely needed. The NSA has clearly run amok, and has clearly violated the privacy of millions of Americans and foreigners. It's also unclear that all the snooping has yielded much. CIA director James Clapper originally claimed that the NSA program has thwarted more than 50 terrorist attacks. A few days ago he changed that number to "maybe two." No details, however, were forthcoming. It seems to us that this surveillance program has not done much except enrage Americans and our allies.

The NSA documents Edward Snowden made available to the press detailed that the collection of mobile phone data, or metadata – including numbers called and date, time and length of calls – began in 2006 and matched the NSA's collection of land line telephone data.

According to the previously top secret NSA cache the NSA collected more than 70 million French phone records in a one-month period late last year and early this year and intercepted more than 60 million phone calls in Spain during the same time frame. The Germans didn't make out much better.

Clapper and Alexander are now trying to spin this collection. "This is not information that we collected on European citizens," Alexander told the House Intelligence Committee this week. "It represents information that we and our NATO allies have collected in defense of our countries and in support of military operations." This doesn't sound like much of a denial.

Indeed, the U.S. has not denied that since 2006 it has been collecting communications here and abroad, including for years tapping the cell phone of Angela Merkel. But what Alexander's "clarification" does reveal is that in some cases the U.S. had some help. On Wednesday, the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* reported that the widespread surveillance of Spanish citizens by the NSA was done in collaboration with Spanish intelligence services.

The U.S. currently cooperates in gathering "intelligence" with various countries on four different levels. In the first group are our allies: the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, dubbed "Five Eyes." The second group, of which Spain and France are members, includes 19 countries, all of them European with the exception of Japan and South Korea.

We know from the documents Snowden released that the U.S. did have assistance from a number of other countries in collecting metadata. But the information from the Five Eyes was deemed the most trustworthy. According to *El Mundo* the NSA believed that any co-operation with countries outside this group needed to be carefully evaluated.

We are disappointed that the president has not taken the lead in reining in the NSA and CIA. We are heartened however that Senator Leahy and Representative Sensenbrenner are willing to stand up to the president and his merry band of spies.

We hope that many other members of congress will support the USA Freedom Act so that at long last the Patriot Act can be de-fanged.



Khalil Bendib Illustration, OtherWords.org

Letter to the Editors

Entergy's Uncertainty Threatens Public Safety

Entergy, the corporation that owns the troubled Vermont Yankee, Fitzpatrick and Pilgrim nuclear reactors is cutting its workforce, failing to invest in key equipment, and showing increasing indecision about keeping its reactors running.

Entergy's uncertainty creates a unique safety hazard, and nuclear watchdogs have asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expand an investigation into how the plants' economic problems impact public safety.

The request is a supplement to a petition previously accepted for investigation by the NRC which was submitted by Citizens Awareness Network, Vermont Citizens Action Network, Alliance for a Green Economy, and Pilgrim Watch.

The NRC agreed on August 7 to investigate Entergy for compliance with the financial qualifications regulation at the three reactors. The supplement asks NRC to expand the scope of the investigation to look deeper into the ways Entergy's decision-making at the plants regarding staffing levels, equipment maintenance, and safety upgrades is affected by economic distress at the plants.

Entergy's decision and information released in its public statements confirm it is operating Vermont Yankee and Fitzpatrick in violation of financial qualifications regulations.

This development also reinforces the need to investigate Entergy's financial qualifications to operate Pilgrim. The groups focused on projected financial losses at all three plants; it asked the NRC to enforce

its financial qualifications regulations, which require companies to generate enough money to maintain a nuclear reactor. Enforcement action is necessary because:

1. Entergy's VY closure announcement and subsequent statements confirm that Entergy is not financially qualified to operate VY and Fitzpatrick, and possibly Pilgrim; it indicates that the financial conditions under which the corporation is operating the reactors are worse than projected by UBS.
2. Entergy's intention to continue operating VY for more than a year is unprecedented and poses new and un-reviewed risks to the public health and safety.
3. The succession of company-wide layoffs and the closure of VY may have a chilling effect on the workforce at all three reactors, presenting an increased risk of cross-cutting human performance and quality assurance and quality control programs (QAQC) issues.

Entergy announced in August that it would shut Vermont Yankee because it expected to sustain significant losses in operating the troubled reactor. That August 27 announcement sparked renewed speculation that the Fitzpatrick or Pilgrim reactors could be next. It also raised serious concerns about Entergy's continuing to operate Vermont Yankee for over 14 months. Entergy's decision is unprecedented and raises serious safety concerns.

The eventuality of Entergy operating a financially distressed reactor for such an extended period of time after a closure announcement poses

unprecedented threats to the public health and safety and must not be permitted. Entergy's decision is most likely based on its short-term financial interests rather than operational logistics. "This decision plainly puts profits and investor confidence ahead of the public and worker health and safety, despite the inherent danger in operating a reactor the licensee now has no long-term interest in maintaining," said Tim Judson, president of Citizens Awareness Network (CAN).

Operating a nuclear reactor under financial distress is dangerous and illegal, so we are calling on the NRC to do its job here and shut this reactor down before the cost cutting causes an accident.

This decision puts plant managers and staff in the untenable situation of continuing to operate a reactor for an extended period of time in which the parent company limits its investment in maintenance. The supplement also raises concerns that uncertainty at the plants could impact workers' willingness to report problems that could impact the company financially.

We are calling for a "just transition" for Vermont Yankee, Fitzpatrick and Pilgrim workers as well as the communities that they operate in. This transition focuses on shutting down the reactors, and then retaining as much of the workforce as possible for cleanup while funding job-creating renewable energy projects in the county.

Deb Katz, Executive Director,
Citizens Awareness Network

Congrats to Adams Scholars

Congratulations to the 16 TFHS students receiving a John and Abigail Adams scholarship! (*Montague Reporter*, October 24).

The good news is that it provides free tuition for 8 semesters at any public college or university.

What many people don't realize is that in Massachusetts, tuition covers only a very small part of the cost of attending college. So, for

example, at UMass this year, tuition is \$1,714 and mandatory fees are \$11,544. Room and board is on top of that – another \$10,439.

No other state has such a bizarre distribution of tuition and fees, and it comes as a great shock to many scholarship winners.

The legislature has established a Funding Commission to consider different ways of financing public

higher education.

The biggest need is greater state support for GCC, UMass, and the other public colleges, but this strange situation the scholarship winners find themselves in is clearly one of the other things that needs fixing.

Ferd Wulkan
Montague Center

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.
No paper last week of December.
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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Franklin County Tech Eagles** football team closed out their regular season with a 36-0 win over Dean Tech on Saturday, Oct 26. Kyle Laffey had 22 carries for 214 yards and 3 TDs and now has 1,044 rushing yards and 15 rushing TDs this season. Laffey also has a TD reception and has thrown a TD pass. Ethan Wickline threw a 32 yard TD pass to Dale Daignault, and Zaviere Washington had 52 yard interception return for a TD. Drew Stebbins, Zaviere Washington, Jake Brooks, and Ethan Wickline all intercepted passes in the winning effort.

The win clinches a playoff berth in the Division 6 playoffs for the Eagles. There is still one more week of regular season games to be played to determine the seeding, location, and opponent, but the game will be on the weekend of November 8 or 9. The other 3 teams that have also clinched a berth with the seeding to be determined are McCann Tech, Mohawk, and Turners Falls. The Eagles are 6-2 overall and 6-1 in league play. A win over Pioneer on Thanksgiving will clinch a league title.

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is excited to present their own local version of a **horse whisperer**. Colleen Campbell will bring her skills, knowledge and expertise to this presentation on Saturday, November 2 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Campbell has a degree in Equine Studies from UMass, attained an instructor certification and participated with the UMass equestrian team. While she learned a natural horsemanship method of training and riding from Joe Delano, she has now developed her own style focusing on balance, centered riding and Horseback Yoga, to name a few. Ms. Campbell will highlight her particular program as well as entertain questions from those attending. You do not need to own a horse to participate in this program or any of Ms. Campbell's private sessions. Seating is limited so please call 863-4316 to reserve a seat.

The **Petersham Curling Club**, one of only four in Massachusetts, is holding an "Open House for Spectators" on Saturday, November 2, from 6 to 10 p.m. so you can get a taste of what the Olympic sport of curling is all about! The public is invited to come spend an evening

watching live curling matches as the men and women of the mixed league play their regular games starting at 6:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

Club members will be on hand to teach you the basics of the sport from behind the glass in the "warm room". Light refreshments will be served and there is a cash bar. Come try curling, make some new friends and watch the winter fly by. The Club is located at 150 North Main Street (Rte 32) in Petersham, and is only minutes off of Exit 17 of Rte 2. For more information, go to www.petershamcurling.org or call (978) 724-3210.

Cider Days is a community event celebrating all things apples in Franklin County for 19 years. There will be two days (November 2 and 3) of orchard tours, cidermaking and tastings, workshops and much more. This is for all who love apples, fresh or hard cider, apple cuisine, apple orchards or just being in New England in the fall. There is a charge for some events, but there is no admission for many of the activities at local orchards or for the workshops or Marketplace at the Shelburne Buckland Community Center in Shelburne Falls, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Check the CiderDays website, www.ciderdays.org, for a complete schedule.

The **American Red Cross** will be holding a **blood drive** in collaboration with the Greenfield Community College Nursing Program on Wednesday, November 6, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Main Campus, East Building. Appointments and walk-ins are

welcome. For information, 413-775-1763, zamojskim@gcc.mass.edu or www.redcross.org.

On Friday, November 8, **StrawberryAfternoon** will perform at the Great Falls Coffeehouse at 7 p.m. Strawberry Afternoon explores classic folk, rock and blues and playfully puts their own spin on the songs they play.

The coffeehouse takes place in the historic Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center at 2 Avenue A, in downtown Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and homemade baked goods are available. The museum and museum store are open during intermission. Suggested sliding scale donation \$6 to \$12, free for children. Donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free nature programming for the public. The Discovery Center is wheelchair accessible. For more information, please call the Discovery Center at 863-3221 or see greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org.

Our Lady of Peace Women's Group will be having their annual **Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls. There will be handmade crafts, a multi-raffle table, baked goods, homemade apple pies and meat pies, attic treasures, a children's room, Christmas ornaments and much, much more. Lunch will be available at the Christmas Cookie Café.

A free support group, "**Living Fully, Aging Gracefully**,"

Befriending Death" meets every other Monday, 6:30 to 9 p.m., in South Deerfield at the Senior Center, 67 North Main Street. There is a guided discussion plus shared poetry, prose and song. New participants are welcome to attend regularly or occasionally. For more info call John at (413) 325-4533, or johnpberk@gmail.com.

The Memorial Hall Theater continues its season of live broadcasts from the **Metropolitan Opera** on Saturday, November 9 at 12:55 p.m. with a presentation of Puccini's TOSCA. Puccini's timeless verismo score is well served by an exceptional cast, led by Patricia Racette in the title role of the jealous diva, opposite Roberto Alagna as her lover, Cavaradossi. George Gagnidze is the villainous Scarpia.

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$11 for students and are available at Mocha Maya's and Boswell's Books in Shelburne Falls and World Eye Books in Greenfield, as well as at the door. The theater is located at 51 Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls. For more info, call (413) 625-3052.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE GMRSD COMMITTEE

Goals and Evaluations Set

By PATRICIA PRUITT

The October 22 meeting of the school committee began with the happy task of recognizing and congratulating the 16 recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship award. Many of the recipients did not attend due to participation in various sports practices and/or games. But those who did attend were accompanied by their parents. Enthusiastic and proud congratulations were exchanged between members of the school committee, Superintendent Sullivan, and the students and their parents.

Superintendent Sullivan, in his report, spoke of attending the bi-annual meeting of the Franklin County Communities that Care Coalition where he learned of the "impressive collaboration" among the county's human service and social support organizations.

He was also pleased that one of the presenting groups at that meeting was none other than the "Plants to Plate Project" which involves students of all ages in our schools in the growing of vegetables. The foods grown are consumed in the school cafeterias. Christine Bates (after school coordinator), Jim Loynd (food service director) and Robin Harrington (high school science teacher) made the presentation.

Sullivan also reported on his meetings with central office administrators and principals to set goals and evaluation expectations for the year. Goals and evaluation areas of emphasis are to be well aligned with the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) and include the following areas: standards-based lesson and unit plans; student engagement; critical thinking; differentiating in-

struction; creating safe and caring classroom environments; the use of assessment data to inform instruction; creating systems of support for low achieving students; professional collaboration; effective communication with parents.

With respect to his own evaluation, Sullivan and the School committee were meeting with Deb Moiles of DESE to establish his evaluation goals for the year on October 29.

In other news Sullivan reported that the administrative team has been reviewing "in depth" MCAS scores from last spring as well as NWEA MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) or tests of student achievement and growth in Math and English Language Achievement (ELA) given each fall, mid-year and at the end of year in grades K-10. There will be a presentation of the findings at the November 12 meeting.

The school committee then tangled with five resolutions from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) for which the MASC was seeking support of the GMRSD school committee. When these resolutions were initially presented in 2012, Gill Montague did not vote on them.

There was willingness to vote on them this time, but Gill member Sandy Brown said she couldn't support one of the resolutions which sought to appoint elected public school committee members to boards of charter schools. After some help from Robin Hamlin who realized that the charter school resolution actually was the 6th item on the list and could be voted separately, the school committee voted that one down and passed the 2012 slate of resolutions unanimously.

the loftier goals of the groups were highlighted, such as: decentralized production of energy, severe reduction in car use, and a massive education campaign – all well received by the crowd.

This meeting will be followed by a third meeting--yet to be scheduled--in December, where consultants on a variety of green energy and sustainability topics will be present. Those interested can contact Chad Laurent at (617) 209-1986.



Madison Seeks Sidewalk Permit Reinstatement

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Rodney Madison, owner of Madison on the Avenue, is heading to the Montague selectboard on Monday, November 4 to present his case for the reinstatement of his sidewalk permit that was revoked on October 17 due to his failure to buy liability insurance by October 10.

Madison has now purchased one million dollars worth of insurance, and felt "optimistic" that the selectboard would reinstate the sidewalk permit they had originally granted him on October 1. "I've complied fully," said Madison. "I removed everything from the planter and from the sidewalks as they asked me to do. And I bought the necessary insurance."

He said that with the purchase of insurance he felt he should be able again to display a few items on the sidewalk near his building. "I al-

ways understood why [the town] wanted me to have insurance. I just hadn't been able to get it [the insurance] by the date [they had specified] and I couldn't get an extension." He said being able to have interesting outdoor displays contributed to his presence on the avenue and helped with sales.

On October 21, the Montague selectboard voted to ratify a decision made several days earlier by board chair Mark Fairbrother to revoke the license that had allowed Madison to place "a sign or an object in the right of way."

Madison has also asked the selectboard for permission to place some objects in the planter in front of the store. He said that he had not yet been invited to meet with the streetscape committee who has been given jurisdiction over the planters. He has also asked the selectboard to reword the policies governing objects placed in the planters. He said he was hoping to once again create "a whimsical garden" in front of his shop and was still very eager to meet with the streetscape committee. In this regard, he noted that several other planters have an object or two inserted among the flowers.

FREE SOUP & GAMES NIGHT
AT HOPE & OLIVE

44 Hope Street, Greenfield
Monday, November 4
5 to 7:30 p.m.

Eat free soup and bread
Play board and card games
with friends

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giant bake sale & 2 raffles
to benefit our nonprofit, local
newspaper, the Montague
Reporter.

All are welcome!

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FREE Introduction
to Zen Practice

Sunday, November 10
1 to 2:30 p.m.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Wonkka Reluctant to Use Mediator

By KATIE NOLAN

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan and town administrator Tom Sharp agreed to meet with fire chief Philip Wonkka to discuss Wonkka's reluctance to use the services of mediator Sophie Parker. Parker was hired by the town in August to work on communication within the fire department after the issue of the fire chief appointment became divisive in the department and in the town. Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin observed that there was a lot of support for the mediation process among townspeople and on the board.

Police chief Christopher Blair provided the board with a table showing officer wage schedules for the towns of Erving, Montague, Orange, Gill, and Deerfield. Blair said that Erving needed to maintain a competitive wage scale in order to retain seasoned officers. He said that it costs Erving money to train the officers, who then may decide to move on to another better-paying department.

Sullivan said, "We have a fine department now... it's much easier to keep the people you have" rather than dealing with department turnover. Goodwin told Blair he supports the idea of competitive wages for the Erving department, but that Blair would need to provide additional information to "tell the story" and promote acceptance of wage increases at the annual town meeting.

Blair, Wonkka, water/wastewater/highway director Paul Prest and water department director Peter Sanders discussed the change to a merit-based raise system for FY'15 with the board. Under this system, wages for all town employees would increase by a fixed COLA, as determined by the selectboard, and each department head would determine how to assign a separate merit-based "raise pool" among department employees. The department heads were assured that they would receive COLA and merit pool information in time for them to prepare fiscal year 2015 (FY'15) budgets.

School committee chair Jarod Boissonneault and Union 28 superintendent Robert Mahler told the board that the school year had started well at Erving Elementary

School. Boissonneault told the selectboard that EES had made some "thoughtful" security changes and that the emergency calling system had been tested. Mahler said that the school was waiting until the newest version of the iPad is launched before spending the money approved by the town, so that the school wouldn't be "stuck with the old iPad."

Asked by Goodwin about the FY'15 timeline, Boissonneault said that the school committee would have a first draft of its FY'15 budget ready by mid-December but that it would be "very preliminary" at that point. He said the committee would identify the "drivers" — individual items with the greatest effect on the total budget.

Ralph Cutter of ERSECO and Jeff Collingwood of Stantec Consulting Services told the board that they had recently toured the closed Erving Paper Sludge Landfill on Route 2 with Larry Hanson of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Cutter said that repairs are needed to prevent water from puddling in the ditch around the landfill's cap. ERSECO manages the landfill's maintenance, but because the town owns the land where the landfill sits, the selectboard needs to sign the application to MassDEP to start the work. The selectboard agreed to sign the application.

Alan Singer, Franklin County Development Corporation lending director, told the board that the CDC has hired a business development specialist to work with small businesses. He said that Ten Town Trust Fund money is available for startups and small businesses that want to expand in Ashfield, Bernardston, Charlemont, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Northfield, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

After an unsuccessful search for a copy of the legal notice that set the time for opening of bids to buy a used town truck, the selectboard relied on memory and opened the only bid received after 7:30 p.m. The successful bid was for \$8,000 from a bidder from Sandwich.

Christopher Stacy informed the selectboard that he will be resigning as tree warden as of March 1, 2014.

KITCHEN from page A1

junior in high school. "She's now in graduate school, and still there."

Even with such a dedicated crew, Brody still had major responsibilities. "Running a restaurant means that you're there nights and weekends and holidays. When most people are enjoying themselves, you're at your busiest, working to help them enjoy themselves."

He said that his wife, Joanna Frankel, often referred to The Night Kitchen as "his mistress." When he opened the restaurant he didn't have

a family. He does now and feels that his priorities have accordingly shifted. "I always have lots of pots on the stove. I'm looking forward to reducing the number of pots."

Another reason he decided to close was that his lease was up. "I realized the [landlord-tenant] relationship wasn't going to change, and I didn't want to keep hitting my head against the same wall. I knew from day one that I was a caretaker for the space."

"I had a great sense of ownership, but I knew that it wasn't really mine."

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Access Committee Members Appointed

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard continued its summer string of short meetings through October by finishing the business of the October 23 meeting and adjourning before 8 p.m. The outside was already dark and cool. With daylight growing shorter every day, fall nights are growing long.

Board members first signed appointment slips for three of the four people who put their names forward to join the town's new access committee, created by the September 25 special town meeting. Since the first appointments require varying terms to maintain a continuous committee, and since applicants had not specified how long they were willing to serve for, board members arbitrarily appointed Sharon Wachslar and Gail Mason for three-year terms, and Chris Fontaine for a two-year term. The committee was created for five members, so for a quorum to exist, all three appointed members must be at a meeting.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the mail distribution box in the hall outside the selectboard office has no more room for the new committee's mail.

Dog officer Maggie Houghton reported that the number of unlicensed dogs is down but there are still seven unlicensed dogs in town. One dog is old and had a bad reaction the last time he was vaccinated, and his owner wants to avoid that. With a letter from the vet, he can be licensed. Another few are in the process of getting the vaccine and the license.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said that people he had left messages with after the October 9 meeting had not returned his call. He speculated about whether they were getting around to it or not. The late fee may be waived but the license fee may not. Board members will make another round of telephone calls.

As the board members were signing to approve payment of bills the town has accumulated in the past two weeks, they acknowledged Anne Diemand's resignation from the town succession committee.

Aldrich said that Pat Smith of the FRCOG will help the town in the process of joining the Nation-

al Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP), as approved by the September town meeting. The town's conservation commission will be in charge after the state attorney general approves the warrant articles approved at the town meeting.

Aldrich summarized a letter from town council about the parking easement that was granted at the town meeting for the first house east of the town office building lot. In the letter, David Doneski said there should be a drawing showing the size of the easement, and a specific number of cars it will fit. Assessor Stephen Broll, who is also a member of the land trust that owns the land on which the house sits, said he remembered from discussions that the easement allowed two cars. Aldrich found the files from earlier discussions of the easement, and found the drawing, and specification of parking for two cars.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith suggested a handbook for new town employees and board members, and she offered as an example one from the town of Lenox. Selectboard member Dan Keller said that Lenox's handbook was a little thick, and maybe over the top for Wendell, but it had some good points. Aldrich and Smith will work on creating a handbook more appropriate for Wendell.

Aldrich said that Mass Audubon has not yet returned her calls about continuing the campership program and teaching at Swift River School that Mass Audubon started in order to give Wendell something of value for all the tax-free land they own in the town. She will keep trying.

Former selectboard member Ted Lewis went to represent Wendell at a regular meeting of the towns within the FRCOG. At that meeting someone suggested having 6 meetings a year, up from 4, but Lewis observed that even with 4 meetings, not every town had sent a representative. His observation carried the day, and the FRCOG stayed with four meetings a year.

Lewis has traditionally gone to the Veteran's day observation at Mahar high school, and Keller said he would see if Lewis would represent Wendell this year.

Selectboard Chair Christine Heard signed to approve funding of \$4,250 for the Cultural Council.

lived more than two years in one place. "It's now been more than ten, and finally I can now fully be here."

He also said that he still has "plenty of gas left in the tank," and is interested in seeing what other opportunities come his way.

For the last year and a half Brody has also been working managing food services at Northfield Mount Hermon. He says he'll stay there until he finds something as "meaningful and interesting" as The Night Kitchen has been. He's sure that he will.



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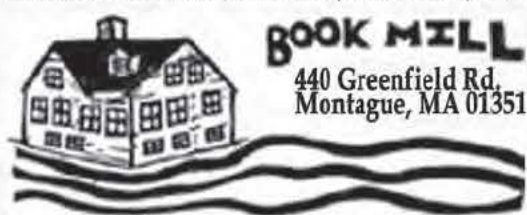
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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

"No Good Deed Goes Unpunished"

By JEFF SINGLETON

The October 28, 2013 Montague selectboard meeting could not be described as "short and sweet." Issues before the board included regional transportation and marijuana dispensaries (see stories, page A1), sewer pumping stations, lighting in downtown Turners Falls, and a "bioengineered" solution to the problems of the Sawmill River. A fine time was had by all local government enthusiasts in attendance.

The selectboard spent a good deal of time listening to a presentation by the Superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Facility, Bob Trombley. Trombley had recently received the annual "inspection letter" from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and was not particularly happy.

Neither was Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who commented that "no good deed goes unpunished."

Montague, it seems, has eight pumping stations in the town sewer system. Massachusetts law

requires that these be inspected daily, but the Montague WPCF only inspects them three times a week. The DEP has been aware of this but has never enforced the state regulations.

The recent inspection letter requires that the town now conform to the law, meaning an increase of four inspections a week. Trombley is already contemplating a staff increase, partly to comply with state requirements, and this might mean yet another person.

Trombley stated that state action was not a product of recent problems at the pumping stations. The DEP simply believed that "now is the time."

Abbondanzio clearly felt that now was not the time, particularly since the town had just completed a very expensive sewer upgrade, the Combined Sewer Overflow Project, that went "above and beyond" the requirements of state and federal law.

Trombley outlined different potential options to solve the problem, including hiring another full-time employee and upgrading the monitoring system. Given the oth-

er recent sewer system problems, particularly the expensive repair project at the industrial park and Millers Falls Road, the potential impact of the inspection letter on the WPCF budget, and thus sewer rates, was a major concern.

Trombley also discussed a number of other issues raised in the letter including other staffing concerns and an evaluation of the composting process being developed at the plant. The WPCF has 30 days to respond to the letter.

Town Planner Walter Ramsey brought several issues before the board. These included the effort to comply with a consent order to stabilize the bank of the Sawmill River at the South Street Bridge.

The town has attempted to restore the bank, but until recently has been prohibited from entering the area by a landowner.

Ramsey reported that this problem has been resolved, and bank restoration will begin this fall. For the long term, Ramsey proposed that the town use the remainder of a recent grant to design a "bioengineered" solution to the problem.

This would presumably use natural materials to influence the course of the river. A similar project has been completed at the southeastern portion of the Sawmill near Route 63.

Next Ramsey proposed that

\$12,156 from program income be used to fund the "streetscape enhancement project" in downtown Turners Falls.

The project includes a lighting upgrade and the creation of a small plaza at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. These projects were also discussed at a recent Community Development Block Grant hearing.

This request led to discussion of potential uses for lights being replaced, including one suggestion that they be used to light the Bridge of Names in Lake Pleasant.

The future of the current youth sculpture park on Canal Street, which was originally intended to be a parking lot, was also discussed, because the streetscape project would reduce parking spaces. Ramsey's request was put on hold pending research on grant criteria.

In other action the Selectboard approved an "off premise all alcohol liquor license" for Carroll's Market in Millers Falls.

Noting a bar and a brewery in the same small area, Millers resident Jeanne Gohrick asked, "How much alcohol do you think Millers can have and still be a viable downtown business district?"

The board, appearing to consider the question a rhetorical one, did not respond.



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Anthony Peterson

Grade 7

Tyler Noyes
Lindsey Bourbeau

Grade 8

Hannah Bogusz

DISPENSARY from pg A1

police chief and the chair of the Planning Board, Ron Sicard, the selectboard approved a motion to support the location of the business in Montague.

Selectboard member Mike Nelson, who made the motion, was assured that this did not preclude support for another medical marijuana business seeking to locate in Montague.

On October 22, the Montague Planning Board approved new zoning bylaws regulating where a registered marijuana facility could be located. Dispensaries are not permitted in any residential area, and will only be approved once the ZBA issues the business a special permit following a site plan review.

The new bylaws state that "A Registered Marijuana Dispensary refers to the site(s) of dispensing, cultivation, and preparation of

marijuana. RMD's may be allowed by special permit and site plan review from the Board of Appeals.

"The special permit may be limited to the current applicant and to lapse if the permit holder ceases operating the RMD or upon expiration or termination of the applicant's registration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; the Board shall consider the design of buildings, setbacks, visual impacts, lighting, security issues, traffic circulation, and consistency with current and abutting land uses; the Board may require additional conditions and set standards for performance and maintenance upon finding that such action is reasonably necessary to meet the purpose and intent of the Zoning Bylaws."

The bylaws are not yet in effect, as they still have to be approved by town meeting.



TRANSIT from pg A1

for "greater efficiencies," but also noted that under the proposed plan those in Montague will have even more service between their town and Greenfield and between Turners Falls and Orange.

Indeed, the new plan calls for 13 buses a day between Turners Falls and Orange, and 16 buses a day between Turners and Greenfield. "We hope to serve people in a better way," she said.

Ramsey questioned the need for 13 daily trips to Orange, noting that the largest employer in the area is UMass.

Cote said that the proposal will be distributed to the FRTA advisory board with a vote likely coming in early December. If approved, the new service will go into effect after the first of the year.

The selectboard and other town officials couldn't quite see how this new service would actually be of any benefit to those in Montague wanting to get to Amherst.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio noted that people will not want to travel to Greenfield and South Deerfield to get to Amherst. Selectman Michael Nelson noted that there likely will be new riders for the line if and when the former Montague Center School building becomes apartments. He urged the FRTA to postpone its decision to eliminate the route until next year.

Chair Mark Fairbrother asked, should the FRTA follow through with eliminating Route 23, whether they would be willing to reopen discussion of the line if the Montague Center School project went forward. They answered that they would be willing to revisit the question then.

Town Planner Walter Ramsey questioned the need for 13 trips daily to Orange, noting that the largest employer in the area was UMass, just 12 miles from Montague Center.

Cote, in response, reemphasized the need to streamline services and make the system more efficient.

Chair Fairbrother, quite aware that there were many Montague residents at the meeting wanting to speak, began to call on those present. Mary Melonis, of Montague Center, who said she had taken the bus to UMass for years, strongly urged the FRTA to keep the route.

Montague Center resident Jeff Singleton, who had collected more than 150 signatures on a petition to keep the route, said that they had ignored what those in Montague wanted: "You didn't ask Montague. Now you're having 'public input' to justify what you've already done."

David Detmold added that it was in the interest of all that private vehicles be phased out and public transportation phased in.

Selectman Nelson, after listening to many others in the audience express their desire for continuation of the service, made a motion that the FRTA maintain direct service from Montague to Amherst until December 31, 2014. The vote was unanimous.

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The Millers River Watershed Council invites friends, members and the public to its Annual Meeting, Thursday November 7 at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol.

This year's featured presenter will be Sean Ashcraft of Peak Expeditions, the outdoor adventure firm that has operated the Orange Community Boathouse

since 2012.

In addition to serving as Peak's Domestic Operations Director, Ashcraft has led, and co-led, dozens of international adventure trips.

He will share highlights of the past year's adventures, as well as current goings-on and

future plans.

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LEVERETT from page A1 stands now, few of the current members of the force are in town and available when calls come in during daytime, working hours, as they generally have full time jobs outside of town. Though Leverett relies on mutual aid for fire fighting and contracts with Amherst for ambulance service, Amherst's ambulances are often busy when the colleges and university are in session, and other departments – such as Shutesbury's – are facing the same lack of available daytime responders as Leverett's.

With all this in mind, Weinthal's committee recommended the formation of a permanent committee to support the fire department's efforts in community outreach and education, with a focus on recruitment and retention of firefighters. And it also recommended hiring a

full-time firefighter, to be available during the day, and to be trained to respond quickly to emergencies whether they involve structure fires, brush fires, medical calls, or any of the other often alarmingly complex hazards fire departments are routinely called upon to handle, such as toxic spills, train derailments, or even, in Leverett's not so distant past, such events as plane crashes, trapped dogs, and spelunkers gone astray on Rattlesnake Gutter.

Chief John Moruzzi told the hearing he had applied for a FEMA SAFER (staffing for adequate fire and emergency response) grant to pay for the first two years of a full-time firefighter's salary, which he estimated at \$72,000 a year. But Weinthal told the crowd her committee would recommend that town meeting hire a fulltimer regardless of the availability of grant funds.

The selectboard backed her up. "If the call force collapses," following the retirement in the coming years of the five most senior members and officers, "we'll be forced to hire a fulltime department, and the costs for that would be astronomical," said board member Peter d'Errico. He thought the support and training a professional fulltimer could provide to call firefighters would be indispensable for the department's future morale and ability to retain new volunteers.

George Drake, a longtime member of the capital improvements committee, wanted to know whether the town should really be considering hiring two full-time firefighters, since it takes at least two trained staff to operate the fire engines. But Moruzzi and Olson said the presence of at least one trained operator at the station would still cut down

on response time in the first critical minutes of a medical emergency or structure fire, even if that person responded in a smaller vehicle, and helped to coordinate response at the scene.

Don Robinson, of Jackson Hill Road, called for more integration between fire and police and highway personnel, within the limits of the law, and said Leverett would have to "think outside the box," in order to provide emergency services under the restraints of a small town's budget.

Ann Delano, of the finance committee, wondered whether more regionalization or mutual aid agreements with neighboring towns, such as Sunderland, would help. But Olson said the potential of "burning out" Leverett's volunteer firefighters responding to calls at the crowded Sunderland apartment complexes

was a factor that needed to be considered before rushing toward regionalization of fire services.

Former firefighter and finance committee member Nancy Grossman said recruitment might be less the issue to focus on than retention of trained volunteers, and she said "the culture of the department" might need to be examined in this context to ensure new recruits receive the support required.

Moruzzi bridled at this remark, and later another former firefighter, Thom Masterson, backed him up, saying, "They do an excellent job. They are pushed to the max. And if you believe in karma, they are either paying off an unimaginable debt," or paving their way for a much more relaxed reward in the next incarnation of a Leverett firefighter – whether as full time pro or volunteer.



FACES & PLACES



LEE WICKS PHOTO

This crispy critter was playing around on a transformer and caused 2,040 homes in Montague to lose power for about an hour and a half on Saturday morning.

Public Celebrates Outgoing Library Director Sue SanSoucie, Welcomes Her Successor

By PATRICIA PRUITT

TURNERS FALLS – The Carnegie Library was filled to bursting last Wednesday, October 23, as Montague's library patrons came to bid a fond adieu and a warm welcome.

Past and present Trustees of the library, present and former selectmen of the town, and town hall staff from all departments came, and that group known by the moniker "The Public" were there to wish Sue SanSoucie the best and to thank her for her service to the library and the



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Outgoing library director Sue SanSoucie, and new director David Payne.

town. SanSoucie was library director for 29 years, a careful yet innovative Director of the libraries.

Astute at managing in tight times, she persevered, and tried twice to persuade the Town to build a new library or at least renovate and expand the current building onto adjacent land. Town priorities did not permit a new or renovated library to be built. Undaunted, she built programs for the public, aided and abetted by children's librarian Linda Hickman.

As she would say, in hard times, people depend most on their local libraries. She had the stats to back up that statement.

This evening she stood in front of the circulation desk (instead of behind it) greeting well wishers young, old, and in between, graciously accepting their good wishes, stopping occasionally for a photo to be taken.

To the side of the circulation desk stood a smiling gentleman who sported a barber-pole red and white

striped tie. I wondered if it was an exact replica of the Cat in the Hat's tie, but it was impossible to get into the children's side of the library, so I could only speculate about that. In due time it became clear that this gentleman was none other than David Payne, the New Director of Montague Libraries.

SanSoucie and Payne will work together for 10 days or so to assist him in the transition to the libraries. Payne comes from Philadelphia where he directed a branch library in a large, citywide system.

Karen Latke, chair of the Library Board of Trustees expressed the trustees' enthusiasm for their choice of David Payne as next director. More photos were taken of the now former director and her successor.

We already know David Payne has a sense of humor and knows how to dress for an occasion.

We wish him years of no overdue books, no computer glitches, and libraries full of patrons. Welcome from *The Montague Reporter*.

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OCTOBER 31, 2013

Brattleboro In Review: New Sounds From Up The River

By MIKE JACKSON

Franklin County has no shortage of musical talent these days, both homegrown and transplanted. Often the attentions of our musicians are turned southward, toward the Five College towns, where venues, radio stations, and paying patrons are thicker on the ground.

But the tendency to see Greenfield, Turners Falls and even Wendell as northern outposts of a regional music scene (home to the Upper Valley Music Festival, for example) might blind us to some rather tremendous things unfolding right behind our backs.

A growing network of creepy kids are recording in bedrooms, apartments and cabins in the Brattleboro area, passing each other cassette tapes or uploading digital files to the internet for free perusal, playing in each other's living rooms and backyard parties, and most importantly, willing to hear and celebrate each other's failures.

These factors conspire to make it a fertile experimental soil, and it's getting harder to ignore the strange wildflowers pushing up.

There's no predominant Brattleboro "sound," but there is some commonality in approach. Most often this means a push toward pleasurable goals of the past – leisurely lounge tunes, for example, or psychedelic pop nuggets – through an ordeal of one sort or another, be it a murk of analog media or a ramshackle and untrained instrumental lineup.

The knowledge that the results are not simply the consequence of amateurism or inebriation but rather (or also) of quite deliberate choice can be secretly enjoyed, in turn, when it is lost on outsiders, who are

maybe talking loudly at the bar.

So I'm crossing the line a little bit by calling attention to all this. But I wanted to share with our readers three recent releases, on cassette, LP and CD respectively, that have stood out for me in recent months.



For a direct swig from Brattleboro's surging do-it-yourself aesthetic aquifer, check out the six-song, **self-titled demo** from **Peter's Window**, released on cassette via Spookytown and also streaming on Bandcamp since March. Peter's Window is the solo project of Peter Nichols, and it's fascinating to hear his sonic sense isolated from his main band, the overly-stimulating "pretend pop" duo Great Valley.

"There's so many things I wonder / I wonder why it rains in summer / I wonder what happened to our love," Nichols warbles on "Wonders," over a bed of fraying and stressed American pop music idioms (shakers, solo electric guitar, a team of ghostly backup singers with Peters singing sadly along) that sound like they were draining out of the bottom of his 8-track recorder even as he tried to capture them.

At a recent house show on Third Street in Turners Falls, Nichols – whose signature brassy guitar leads

see **REVIEWS** page B6

From the Mugwumps to a Brujo: One Leverett Academic's Evolution



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINGMASTERS

By JEFF SINGLETON

Leverett resident Gerry McFarland, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, appeared, when he spoke at the Leverett library about his newest book, to be a rather classic academic historian. He is well-groomed but not flashy, a distinguished man with glasses, middle-of-the road jacket and tie, and a lean, but not excessively athletic frame.

Then there is the understated sense of humor when describing the difficulties of deciphering Grover Cleveland's handwriting at the National Archives in Washington D.C. This is a man who studied at Berkeley and Columbia, no doubt at the latter under the iconic American historian Richard Hofstadter. You would enjoy having him as your American History professor, as in "this is what college is all about. I've arrived."

So why has McFarland just published a novel about a sorcerer who wanders about Spanish imperial Mexico in the late seventeenth century trying to remember who he is? It's a long way from the Mugwumps, the subject of McFarland's first book. The Mugwumps, for

those who might not remember, were Republicans who bolted their party in the 1884 election and supported the Democrat Grover Cleveland. Americans struggle to remember the presidents and politics of the late 19th century but historians, it turns out, have expended an enormous amount of ink on the Mugwumps.

(Personal disclosure: I wrote a graduate school paper on the Mugwumps, and am still very interested in political history, but would be the first to admit that they were not particularly magical.)

Anyway, McFarland's new book is called *The Brujo's Way*. His main goal at the talk was to explain the transition, or journey if you will, from rather standard academic history to a novel about magic. His audience consisted mainly of fellow Leverett residents who were also attending an annual meeting of the "Friends of the Leverett Library". McFarland is a long time library friend.

You might think that the author's sudden interest in magic is a product of having lived in Leverett, a town well known for its idiosyncratic res-

see **MCFARLAND** page B3

Dear
Clío,



I love your column. Here is a q for u: My husband and I bought a house about a year ago. We love the town and the neighborhood and we even like our neighbors. The problem is the retired couple who live next door. They don't have a lot to do and not much social life so they've decided to "adopt us."

We don't need to be adopted. We have three kids and my husband works sometimes 50 hours a week and I work part-time. Our neighbors are always bringing over presents and cookies and all for the kids and us. And they are very nice. But we don't really have the time to hang out with them. Our kids think they are kind of creepy because they're always inviting them in, and they politely refuse, but it bothers them and us.

How do we tell them to bug off without offending them? We want to get along, and we do like them – as neighbors.

New to the Neighborhood

Dear NN,

It sounds like you are very busy with three kids, two jobs, and your husband working fifty hours a week. Running around as much as you do must cause stress in your life. You do not need an additional drain on your time or the worry that you may have offended your neighbors. I agree with you that it is time to change your relationship before you both begin to resent each other.

It seems like your neighbors want more from you than you are able to give right now. On the other hand they want to help you, which could be a wonderful thing, especially for

see **CLIO** page B4



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE – Shielded by the river, we had escaped a killing frost. Then on Friday, a cold, windy, raw day became a windless night and the temperature fell off right after sundown. We awoke on Saturday morning to a white coat on our neighbor's roof, wilted summer flowers: a hard freeze indeed.

The cold had been sneaking up on us: first, chilly nights when we lit an evening fire, then days when the stove fire flamed from morning until night and was rekindled in the morning again. The cat took up permanent residence on the end of the bed until the sun heated up the sunroom and she charged downstairs to bathe in the eighty degree warmth.

It looks like November: gray skies, a pallid sun and temperatures struggling to move past the fifties. Fortunately, most of this season's woodpile is stacked and a good pile fills the cellar

The leaves have left the trees, all but the oak which sometimes keeps its tattered clothes right through snow season. One bright night the screech owl cries.

Now the yard is quiet. We have said goodbye to the summer's nesting birds. The daylight hums only with the quiet chatter of gossiping chickadees and titmouse. Just two strident voices pierce the calm: at night, the scream of the screech owl, at early daylight the triumphant cry of the Carolina wren. This feisty critter has overwintered in the thicket of our old honeysuckle vine for several seasons now. He loudly announces his dominance as the sun comes up.

Later in the morning, when the cat has come down to the warmth of the sunroom, the wren sits in the nearby lilac bush. They play a game these two. She sits by the door and scolds while he teases from the bush. The joy of the game does not diminish. They play

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Fall, Indeed

cart near the woodstove. Soon the time will shift away from daylight saving, and the dark will begin and end the day earlier.

it daily until one or the other finds something better to attend to.

Our most successful crop this year was the acorn squash; the least, the tomatoes.

The squash was low maintenance. We planted two vines and laid out black plastic to keep the weeds down and the plants warm. That's it! Just an occasional watering when the weather did not provide enough. Virtually on their own these plants grew vigorously and yielded ten large fruits. You do need to allot them a space for the full season, plant when the ground is well warmed and offer water as needed. These were so easy; we'd definitely grow them again. Not only that, but the fruit will keep well into the winter if stored in a cool, dry place.

Due to the gardener's own negligence, the tomatoes did not start off well. Only the cherries were a success. Corrective strategies for next year include: starting seeds as soon as we return from Mexico at the end of February, planting in containers so that the plants may be set in the area of most sunlight for the better part of the day, and better protection from woodchuck and deer.

Tomatoes require a fair

see **GARDENER'S** pg B4

TURNERS BOUNCES BACK, MOVES TO 6-1

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Football Indians bounced back from their first loss of the season and from a 12 nothing deficit, to beat Mahar, 19 – 12 on Friday October 25.

"I think the Easthampton game showed that the kids can't let up," Coach Chris Lapointe said before the Mahar game. "The loss demonstrated what it would take to win again, and compete with some bigger teams. It also allowed for us to understand that the competition is going to become better each and every week."

As the last home game before Turkey Day, the pregame announcements were a little different. Mr. Roberts introduced each senior by name and as their names were called, he also introduced their parents. It got the crowd clapping and cheering early.

But it was cold. It was so cold Friday night that the Turners faithful were dressed in hats and mittens, huddled under blankets and drinking lots of hot chocolate and coffee. The steam from people's breaths filled the sky and in the crisp, cold air, the sounds of boots on metal bleachers echoed across the field.

Turners was in a precarious position going into Friday night's game. After the loss in Easthampton and



MATT ROBINSON PHOTO

Alex Carlisle (32) heads for the end zone, while Melvin Moreno (10) blocks.

without Trent Bourbeau (out with a separated shoulder), Turners could have just given up. But they didn't.

Even when Turners didn't score on their first possession, which is a rarity this season, they didn't give up. Even with Mahar pounding the ball on their first possession, they didn't give up.

They hit hard, made gang tackles and pursued the runners. When their offense gave up the ball on an interception, behind by a touchdown and facing first and goal, the defense held and forced a fourth down from the 1 yard line.

Late in the first half, with Mahar in full control, leading 12 to zero, the Turners defense alertly jumped on a loose ball and the momentum swung back to the blue. Turners began their drive at the Mahar 24 yard line and

immediately moved the ball to the 9.

With 44.4 seconds left in the half, Melvin Moreno caught a Malcolm Smith pass and the Tribe was on the score board. In a replay from so many other games this season, Turners scored in the final minute of the first half. They faked the PAT and tried for two, but when it failed, Turners went into the locker room down by six. But their heads were held high.

The third quarter was a chess match. Both coaches made strategic moves, adjusting their defense to the various offensive formations of the other, deciding if a player in motion was a decoy, and trying to predict where on the line the attack was coming.

On the offensive side of the ball, the coaches had to

see **GAME** page B4

Pet of the Week



“Gemma”

Hey there, my name is Gemma. I am 2.5 years young and full of

spunk.

I love to play and chase feather toys, but I also love to lounge in the sun. I also can sometimes lose myself in playtime, but I can bring myself back pretty easily.

I would prefer to be the only furry companion in your home, but I may possibly enjoy a companion with proper introduction.

I would like to remain an indoor cat too. If you are looking for a new furry friend, come in and meet me here at the adoption center. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

Diabetes Self-Management: Six Easy Workshops

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC) is sponsoring two Diabetes Self-Management Programs at the Shelburne Falls Senior Center and at the YMCA in Greenfield.

In Shelburne Falls, the workshops are on Mondays, November 14 through December 16, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. At the YMCA, the workshops will be held on Thursdays, November 17 through December 19, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

If you have Type II Diabetes and want to take control, remain active and improve your quality of life, this workshop is for you! People with diabetes or pre-diabetes will gain tools, skills and the confidence needed to manage the challenges of living well with their condition.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q: How successful are heart transplants?

The survival rates for heart transplants have improved steadily since the first successful human heart transplants were done in the late 1960s.

Almost 9 out of 10 patients survive the first year following a heart transplant. After five years, the survival rate drops to about 7 in 10. After 10 years, the rate drops again to about 5 in 10. After 20 years, about 1.5 in 10 are still ticking.

Approximately 2,300 heart transplants are now performed each year in more than 150 heart-transplant centers in the United States

There is no widely accepted age cut-off. However, most transplant surgery isn’t performed on people older than 70 because the procedure doesn’t have a high success rate for patients in that age group. The majority (52 percent) of candidates are between the ages of 50 and 64.

Q: What is leukemia? It sounds complicated.

Leukemia means “white blood” in Greek. If you get leukemia, your

We will create weekly, personalized action plans that lead to attaining goals through small, workable steps. Workshops are highly supportive, informative, social and fun. Caregivers and/or family members are also welcome to attend.

Workshops are led by volunteers, one or both of whom are peers with diabetes. FCHCC coordinates recruitment, training and support of coaches/leaders, and schedules of workshops. A workshop series consists of six 2-1/2 hour sessions.

The “Diabetes Self-Management Program” was developed at the Stanford University Patient Education Research Center. It is an evidence-based curriculum that has been researched and proven to have positive results.

Topics include: Preventing Com-

plications; Stress Management; Working with the Health Care System; Preventing Low Blood Sugar; Problem Solving; Skin and Foot Care; Exercise; Healthy Eating; Relaxation Techniques; Communication; Difficult Emotions; and Action Planning.

FCHCC supports local Councils on Aging and other community-based organizations as they offer Healthy Aging programming. Supported by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and the United Way.

If interested in becoming a coach/leader, or to find a Diabetes workshop in your community, contact FCHCC Healthy Aging Coordinator Lesley Kayan at (413) 773-5555 x2297, (978) 544-2259 x2297, or lkayan@fchcc.org. Read more at www.fchcc.org.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Clarifications About Heart Transplants, Leukemia, and Doctors

bone marrow—the soft material inside bones—makes abnormal white blood cells that block production of normal white blood cells, which you need to battle infections. Leukemia cells also interfere with the red blood cells that distribute oxygen throughout your body, and platelets, which help your blood to clot.

Leukemia symptoms include: fevers or chills, night sweats, frequent infections, weakness or fatigue, shortness of breath, headache, bleeding, bruising easily, bone pain, swelling or discomfort in the abdomen (from an enlarged spleen), swollen lymph nodes, especially in the neck or armpit, weight loss, and tiny red marks on the skin.

The two basic types of leukemia are acute and chronic. Acute leukemia develops quickly. Chronic leukemia develops slowly and usually occurs during or after middle age. Leukemia is also categorized by the type of white blood cell that is affected.

There are four common types of leukemia:

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Most people diagnosed with this form of the disease are over age 55. CLL almost never attacks children.

Chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), which primarily affects adults.

Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), which is the most common type of leukemia in young children. It can also affect adults.

Acute myeloid leukemia (AML),

which occurs in both adults and children.

Q: What is the difference between a “DO” and an “MD”?

DO stands for doctor of osteopathic medicine. MD is the abbreviation for doctor of medicine. MDs are also called doctors of allopathic medicine.

Here are a couple of brief dictionary definitions:

os-te-op-a-thy n. A system of medicine based on the theory that disturbances in the musculoskeletal system affect other bodily parts, causing many disorders.

al-lop-a-thy n. A method of treating disease with remedies that produce effects different from those caused by the disease itself.

Osteopathic medicine is a safe, established practice. Like MDs, DOs must pass a state medical board examination to obtain a license to practice. There are about 15 MDs for every DO in the United States.

Both DOs and MDs are fully qualified to prescribe medication and perform surgery. Like a medical doctor, an osteopathic physician completes four years of medical school and can choose to practice in any medical specialty. However, osteopaths receive an additional 300 to 500 hours in the study of manual medicine and the body’s musculoskeletal system.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.com.

Senior Center Activities

November 4 to 8

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. 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 not open.

Monday 11/4

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 11/5

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Council on Aging
1 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday 11/6

10 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends’ Meeting
12 noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 11/7

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. to noon Brown Bag & SNAP Applications
12 noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 11/8
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 11/4

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 p.m. Quilting
Tuesday 11/5
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday 11/6

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 noon Bingo

Thursday 11/7

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones/Muscles
11 a.m. Brown Bag
12 noon Cards
Friday 11/8
9 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Out-to-Lunch

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

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

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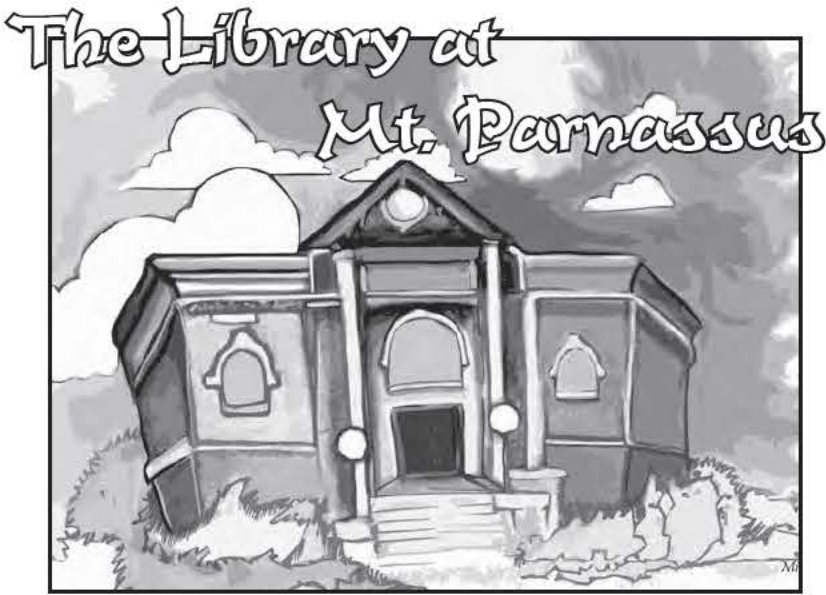
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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Weird doings at the local library. A Greek city state begins to appear in dim outline behind the aging facade of an industrial mill town. The night librarian, an object of certain fascination, appears to have psychic powers beyond the norm for town officials. Hold onto your hats, it's the first installment of...



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

Entering the library, it was necessary to step across a narrow crack between the top step and the marble landing. The crack was about an inch wide at its midpoint. It grew narrower as it worked its irregular way along the entire width of the twelve foot landing. It continued on in slight disturbances to the broad wing walls that supported the huge wrought iron lampposts with their dimly lighted globes on either side of the imposing granite stairs.

To the left, as you approached the double-leafed oak doorway, this small fault line could be seen extending on into the shrubbery, where it appeared to tip a lithe young laurel forward from the roots. In a certain light, I thought this laurel tree resembled a young woman running from the library, her arms outstretched, books all scattered.

Recently, the crack in the library landing had become the source of some debate in town.

Coming through the door, I said hello to Lucius, the tousled cherub who frequented the building. He was hard at work scrubbing down the tile mosaic in the foyer.

It was winter, and trails of sand were continuously being trekked into the library by the pilgrims who made their hopeful way here through the cold and snow.

"Hello, Lucius. Still hard at it?" I stopped a moment to admire his work.

Lucius beamed. His amber curls bobbed in the soft lamplight falling from the cupola, where, on the wall above the curving balustrade, gilded words in Roman capitals were emblazoned – KNOW THYSELF.

Lucius, down on hands and knees, ran a sponge across the tiles. In the swirl of suds, bareback boys were revealed on leaping dolphins, an indolent Poseidon idling in the waves with his shouldered trident, the Nereids cavorting in his wake.

The lad had brought it all to such a polish, the craftwork of the original tile masons was of such quality, I could half imagine a current moved beneath the surface of the tiles, though it was only the film of water roiled by the endless circling of his sponge.

"You keep this floor so beautiful,

Lucius. Are you sure I can walk on it?"

Lucius laughed at this, delighted, and dipped his head and nodded and turned back to his labors with suds bucket and sponge.

I pushed on through the inner doors and brought my books up to the desk.

There, Melantha, the night librarian, was seated on a high-backed stool. She looked bewitching in red cashmere, her dark hair rising about her shoulders in the warm air gusting from the grated floor vents and the furnace room below.

"Hello, Melantha." I suddenly felt all mixed up, bold and shy, as was often the case when I saw her here.

"How is everything?" She replied, "That's rather a big question. Do you want me to answer it for you?"

"No, no," I laughed. "Not now. I... I just stopped by to return some books. Some of them might be overdue."

"Are you having bad dreams again?" she asked.

"N-no. Not really." The question seemed strange. "No more than usual."

I suddenly recalled snatches of a dream I'd had the night before, where I had been swimming through deeply drifted snow, searching for the nest and eggs of a large white bird, like a snow condor, circling above my head. Only the condor had a woman's head and human hands. The memory disturbed me.

I flipped open the jacket of one of the volumes I had plunked down on the desk, a monograph on the Bactrian camel, its morphology and habits.

"Nothing more than a day or two beyond the normal due date," I muttered, no longer sure what we were talking about.

I stacked the books into a neat little ziggurat and pushed them across the desk to her.

"I just came in to read the want ads, mostly," I lied.

Really, I had just come in to see if Melantha was any more approachable than she had been the week before.

Continued next week.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Weekend Thefts Lead To Arrests In Turners Falls

Monday, 10/21

10:33 a.m. Report of hunters shooting on WMECO property behind bike path area.

1:55 p.m. Loose pit bull on Alice Street. Animal control unable to locate.

Tuesday, 10/22

9:55 a.m. Woman bitten by neighbor's leashed dog in her Highland Circle driveway last night. Reports filed with animal control officer and Board of Health. Dog is current on vaccinations.

11:54 a.m. Car crashed into house and pole with an electrical transformer on it on Montague City Road. Driver transported to hospital. TFFD and WMECO advised.

Wednesday, 10/23

6:47 a.m. Female juvenile reported missing from her home for past 12 hours. Missing girl contacted and reunited with family.

3:13 p.m. Report of male asking for money in front of Cumberland Farms. Gone on arrival.

3:42 p.m. Neighbor dispute in Third Street parking lot. Advised.

3:44 p.m. Vandalism to mailbox and stolen mail on Wendell Road.

9:19 p.m. Larceny at Food City; greeting cards stolen. Subject returned cards and was advised not to return to store.

Thursday, 10/24

9:26 a.m. Two loose dogs on West Chestnut Hill

Road. One dog picked up by animal control officer.

3:31 p.m. Two loose chocolate labs picked up by animal control officer in the area of Hillcrest Elementary School. Dogs released to owner after submission of paperwork and fees.

8:47 p.m. Report of suspicious male coming to door of Worcester Avenue residence and wanting to talk. Unable to locate.

10:53 p.m. Assisted Greenfield Police Department with apprehending two suspects on Second Street.

Friday, 10/25

8:05 a.m. Hit and run accident at Cumberland Farms; black Subaru station wagon struck pickup truck, damaging bumper.

12:58 p.m. Odor of gas reported on K Street. Determined to be sewer gas. DPW advised.

7:27 p.m. Report of an odor near the Shea Theater. TFFD responded; believed it to be paint from bridge.

9:32 p.m. Report of gunshots on Federal Street; caller believed it to be too late for hunting. Caller advised that hunting for rabbit, hare, and coyote is legal until midnight.

Saturday, 10/26

9:10 a.m. Caller seeking help placing kitten found in Food City parking lot; kitten is not getting along with her cat. Contacted

kennel, which does not take cats, but a volunteer offered to take it. Services rendered.

1:40 p.m. Caller found what appeared to be an antique grenade while cleaning out closet. Bomb squad summoned. Determined to be an 18th century blood pressure cuff.

4:56 p.m. Suspicious male reported staring at females on Migratory Way. Unable to locate.

5:23 p.m. Loose collie wearing blanket reported near Carnegie Library. Owner showed up with broken leash.

6:05 p.m. Shoplifter apprehended at Food City; stated that he and his girlfriend have a ritual of stealing something for each other on their anniversary. Paid for item and freed to leave.

10:14 p.m. Cab driver reported five female clients left car at Avenue A and Third Street and ran away without paying fare. Investigated.

10:50 p.m. Walk-in report of people smoking marijuana in a green Mercedes behind the Cinemark Theater in Hadley. Hadley PD advised.

Sunday, 10/27

3:01 a.m. Three apprehended following a break-in spree involving four vehicles in Turners Falls overnight. Arrested

issued for two juveniles.

12:00 p.m. Storage trailers reported entered overnight on Lake Pleasant Road; items thrown around, possibly stolen.

12:34 p.m. Vehicle entered overnight on Norman Circle. Wallet and registration missing.

12:52 p.m. Vehicle entered overnight on Laurel Lane; nothing missing.

1:26 p.m. Two vehicles entered overnight on Hillside Road; iPods stolen. iPods recovered by police earlier today identified as the ones taken.

1:41 p.m. Purse stolen from shopping cart at Food City. Recovered and returned to victim, minus missing cash.

2:44 p.m. Bike stolen from a Marshall Street garage; truck entered as well. Bike identified as having been in possession of a subject currently in custody.

5:28 p.m. Second incident of purse being stolen from shopping cart at Food City. Suspects identified and apprehended. Some stolen items located in dumpster on Fourth Street and returned to owner. Arrested were

(charged with larceny; larceny from a person over 65) and

(charged with larceny; malicious destruction of property under \$250; and larceny from a person over 65).

MCFARLAND from B1

idents. To the library friends, however, he described his journey as an intellectual evolution assisted by being granted tenure at the University of Massachusetts. It turns out that tenure gives you lots of time to relax, think, research and write. You certainly have to churn out publications, but they do not necessarily have to be classic academic stuff. In fact the college community is often delighted when academics go "in another direction" (within limits of course).

McFarland's first post-mugwump book, *A Scattered People* (1985), traced the movement of a family – his own, it turns out – from the eastern United States to the west in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The promotional bookmark describes the study as "an innovative synthesis of genealogy and the saga of American pioneers moving west over a century's time." McFarland tried to get beyond the often repeated family legends (he is related to the famous abolitionist John Brown) to the mundane but meaningful symbols of stability and change (daffodil bulbs carried west and planted in Berkeley, California).

His next book, the *Counterfeit Man* (1990), was the true story of

a murder victim who returns to exonerate his murderer in early nineteenth century Vermont. I will not attempt to explain this, so buy the book. In 2001, McFarland published a book on Greenwich Village, the diverse and "bohemian" New York City neighborhood, in the early twentieth century.

The point being, we are already a long way from dry American political history. Still, a novel about a *brujo* in old Mexico is a rather different writing project. McFarland described the process that produced it as kind of a light hearted family game that ended up getting published, as opposed to any conscious effort to go fictional.

A *brujo*, for those who don't know, is a Spanish magician or sorcerer. McFarland's version is a rather benign persona whose "great powers derive from intensive training in heightened awareness akin to Eastern yogic disciplines rather than from incantations, spells, or aid from demon allies." That went over well with the library crowd. This *brujo*, named Don Carlos Buenaventura and now in his sixth life, chooses to be born to an aristocratic family in Mexico City in 1684.

Constantly seeking to hide his *brujo* powers, which he fears the

conservative Catholics will frown upon, he ends up forgetting his true identity for a time. He is then exiled to the frontier town of Sante Fe, now in New Mexico of course. However the trip north through "wild desert landscapes" rekindles his *brujo* powers.

Many adventures follow, including an encounter with an Apache war party, a confrontation with an evil sorcerer and a "chance meeting in Mexico City with a woman trained in Tantric spirituality... opening him up to other dimensions of consciousness." Wow!

At this point I must note that in the 1884 election campaign Grover Cleveland was accused of fathering an "illegitimate" child, and paying hush money to the mother. As in "Ma, ma, where's pa? He's gone to the White House. Ha, Ha, Ha." Cleveland's opponent, James G. Blaine, was affectionately known as "The Plumed Knight," so let's not get too down on traditional political history.

But still, it's certainly not a good-guy aristocratic Spanish sorcerer influenced by Tantric yoga, all of which was no doubt more appealing to the library folks in Lev-erett than the Mugwumps. Can't say I blame them!



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Fox, Possum, Drugs

Monday, 10/14
9:50 a.m. Complaint of fox on Main Road.
Tuesday, 10/15
8:10 a.m. Firearm issue on Main Road. Officer noted resident compliant with laws.
Wednesday, 10/16
5:35 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with search of resident's home.
Thursday, 10/17
10:10 a.m. Area search for

suspicious motor vehicle, a Crown Victoria with plastic on its windows.
11:20 a.m. Stolen property located in wooded area of Mountain Road.
9:35 p.m. Report of man with leg over French King Bridge railing.
Friday 10/18
7:25 a.m. Complaint of injured possum on North Cross Road.
12:40 p.m. Suspicious motor

vehicle reported on Mountain Road.
6:05 p.m. iPhone reported lost or stolen from Main Road residence.
Saturday, 10/19
5 p.m. Report of abuse of dog on the French King Bridge.
7:30 p.m. Medical assistance to Pine Street resident.
9:20 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with motor vehicle stop, and confiscation of illegal drugs, on French King Bridge.

CLIO from pg B1
a busy person with young kids. I think your goal should be to find a way in which they can actually be helpful.

It would be good to start by letting the neighbors know how busy you are. They need to understand that it's nothing personal.

When I read your letter, I imagined them coming to the door with cookies and you feeling obligated to talk to them, since they were nice enough to bring you cookies. All the while you are thinking about the items on your to-do list and wondering how you can politely send them on their way.

I'm wondering, could you bring them a gift? Maybe some cookies from the bakery, if you don't have time to bake them yourself? Once you have shown your appreciation with a gift or a note, you might feel less obligated, and more comfortable saying, "Thank you so much for the cookies! I'm sorry that I can't talk right now, but I'm in the middle of helping my son with homework."

Another advantage to bringing them a gift or card is that it would give you an opportunity to say something like, "We wanted to let you know how much we appreciate all your attention. We're so busy that sometimes we don't have the time to thank you properly."

A relationship with a neighbor is one to handle delicately. After all you may be seeing these people daily for years to come. Having neighbors you feel comfortable asking a favor of can be a real benefit. On the flip side, having an awkward or

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Congrats to Deb Brazeau and Jill Palmer, 1st & 2nd two weeks running!

unpleasant relationship with neighbors can affect the quality of your life. I think you want to communicate appreciation while at the same time letting them know that you are too busy to show it in the way they expect.

Hopefully you will be able to alleviate feelings of guilt and also clear up any confusion about why you do not always seem overjoyed to see your neighbors. Once you have accomplished this, I suggest that you think of ways that these neighbors might actually be helpful to you.

They want to adopt you. Can you turn this into a positive thing? Are there some small favors you can ask them, things you actually need? Maybe they can help you jump start your car. Maybe you can ask to borrow some milk. I think that your neighbors probably recognize that you are busy and would like to feel needed. They just need some guidance from you as to how they can be helpful.

Good luck finding ways to match your needs with your neighbors' desire to be helpful. May this relationship shift from being a source of anxiety to being one that reduces stress!

Yours,
Clio

GAME from pg B1

decide which plays were working and which part of the defense was most vulnerable, and on fourth downs, when to punt, and when to go for it. As a result of this stalemate, the quarter ended like it had begun, 12 to 6, Mahar.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, after a Mahar punt, Turners took over on the 44. It took one play to move the ball to the 31 and one more to get to the 15. It seemed the the immovable object was beginning to budge.

After a one-yard gain, Alex Carlisle scored the go-ahead touchdown. This time, Coach Lapointe decided to go for one point and Melvin Moreno split the uprights. With one minute and five seconds gone in the fourth, the Tribe was finally in the lead, 13 – 12. Turners added to their lead when Jalen Sanders scored a TD with 2:38 left in the game. After a missed PAT, Turners led 19-12.

And the game was on. After a long run back, a quarterback keeper, a couple of completed passes and a long gain, Mahar had a first and 10 on the Tribes 12 yard line with a minute and change left. "Not in our house," someone

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 30, 2003: News from The Montague Reporter's archive.

Concerns About Airport Project

On October 14, the Montague selectboard signed off on the contract for the Airport Improvement Program, authorizing the start of reconstruction on the main and west aprons around the airport's administration building, off Industrial Boulevard.

But area Native American groups and officials are concerned that this part of the construction is taking place in a "tribally sensitive area," near the Hanneman site, a paleo-Indian archeological site documented by researchers from UMass.

Greenfield archeologist Howard Clark, a member of the Friends of Wissatinnewag, said the Hanneman site is one of only two known paleo-Indian encampment sites in the Connecticut River Valley. "Only 1% of the site has been explored, in the early 1980s," Clark said.

Hopes For Quieter Waste Hauls

Noise complaints concerning the passage of waste haulers through the center of Erving to the treatment plant in the early morning, as early as 4 a.m., have been a focus at recent selectboard meetings. The board was informed at last week's meeting that an agreement had been reached to repair the bed of the railroad tracks crossing the plant's entryway.

By all accounts, the loose rail bed at this entry road contributes to the loud noise of the 18-wheelers crossing the tracks. The Erving highway department will assist in the road repairs.

A Bigger Police Car

The Montague selectboard unanimously backed the purchase of a 4-wheel drive Ford Expedition police cruiser to replace the 2001 Crown Victoria demolished in a rear-end collision while parked last August.

Acting police chief Gary

Billings said the new cruiser would be a supervisor's vehicle, and would enable the department to respond to calls from areas that are experiencing new growth – Taylor Hill Road, West Chestnut Hill, Wendell Road, Mormon Hollow Road – where driving conditions can be hazardous in inclement weather.

Shapes And Spirits

If you've been to the Lake Pleasant post office, you may have noticed an unusual room on top of the building. The building was the residence of G. Tabor Thompson, the founder of the National Spiritual Alliance. His wife, Almira Wheeler, inherited a fortune from Orange sewing machine magnate John Wheeler.

The octagonal room on top of the building was supposedly built specifically to focus energy and bring in spirits during the séances that members of the Alliance held there. The room currently houses a library and painting studio, and offers wonderful views of the lake.

yelled from the crowd.

And the familiar, deafening sound of heavy boots stamping on metal bleachers filled the air. And everything came up blue. With one minute, thirty one seconds left in regulation, Malcolm Smith intercepted the pass in the endzone and it didn't seem so cold anymore.

Without Trent Bourbeau in the lineup, Coach Lapointe was forced to use the rest of the weapons in his arsenal. With the fine blocking of the line, Jalen Sanders averaged almost 9 yards per carry, Brody Markol had two long carries for 38 yards and Alex Carlisle broke the century mark, running for 111 yards.

In the air, Malcolm Smith completed passes to Melvin Moreno, Jalen Sanders, Alex Carlisle and Brody Markol. Defensively, Trevor Mankowsky deflected two passes, Malcolm Smith had a pick, and Tyler Charboneau blocked a punt.

GARDENER'S from pg B1

amount of cossetting, but we love growing varieties that aren't often available as plants.

There's just nothing like picking a fresh, ripe, sun warmed tomato and eating it right away with just a bit of salt or oil and vinegar. It's definitely worth trying again and again if need be.

There is one other crop we can let go of. We planted a few round watermelons, small densely fruited creatures with many seeds. They were sweet in flavor and fun to grow once, but we found the space required for the entire season was hardly worth the trade-off as neither of us was an enthusiastic eater. ... Might as well pick up one or two for a hot summer day grown on someone else's time.

Besides tomatoes and acorn squash, our other definites for next year include: peas, green beans, chard, let-

tuce, and squash. Of course, the asparagus and strawberry beds will produce as well.

There are many things to do in the sunny hours of spring and summer, and during the winter, it's easy to buy too many seeds and varieties when the seed catalogues come and the markets are shy of fresh local produce. Next year we'll try to strike a better balance between gardening and the joys of travel, swimming and putting in the kayaks.

If we can concentrate on successfully growing our favorite crops while avoiding planting so much that we begrudge the time for caring for it, it will be a thing well done. We'll see.

At least we can start next year with a better plan, and then be ready for whatever vagaries the New England garden season can bring. In the meantime, enjoy the fall harvest, and happy gardening!

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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultz* from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Changing Coastlines*, oil paintings by Paula Tessier on display in the Great Hall through November 30th. Great Falls Discovery Center is open Fridays and Saturdays, 10 to 4 p.m.



Friday, November 8, *Strawberry Afternoon* performs at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. The band explores classic folk, rock and blues and playfully puts their own spin on the songs they play. Features singer Cynthia Fritz, Mark Kurber on guitar and vocals, Bruce Stewart on harmonica, brother and sister multi-instrumentalists Gail and Doug Hegeman, and Spencer Fraker on bass.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Painting The World Happy*, work by Denyse Dar on display through November 23.

University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass, Du Bois In Our Time, exhibit continues through December 15.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Chris Dixon*, solo acoustic featuring upright bass, 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tawdry's Halloween Hoedown*, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956), \$, 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie: Ken Swiatek, folk, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *SolRac*, \$, 8 p.m.

39 K Street, Turners Falls: Im-

perfect Pearl presents *All Souls Day* with music by *Red Favorite*, *Tether*, *Mausoleum*, and *DJ Psychadellarythmia*, plus paintings, fortunes, and more. 8 p.m., all welcome.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Darrelle London*, indie pianopop, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae, 9:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Farren Care Center, *Farren Festival*, vendors, raffles, bake sale, breakfast and lunch available, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vermont Yankee is Closing celebration at the West Village

Falls: *All Fired Up*, classic rock, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Passerine*, *Mail the Horse*, and *Bunny's a Swine*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Peachy's*, Americana-blues, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Bruce's Browser, Athol: discussion of *The Art Forger* with Marilyn Richards, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Greenfield Community College, main campus, dining hall: Tunes at Noon, *Kristin Errett*, 12 p.m.

Mid-Week Music, All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Bob Cummings*, piano, 12:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* featuring *Amanda Auchter*, *Lori Desrosiers* and *Gail Martin*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Artist Reception for *Allen Fowler* with works on display at Provisions, Northampton, 5 to 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Celtic-crossings*, *Scotland's Alan Reid* and *Rob Van Sante* with the *Leverett Community Chorus*, \$, 6:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *Strawberry Afternoon*, classic folk, rock & blues, \$, 7 p.m.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Wistaria Music Society Presents 9th Annual Schubertiad*, *Known and Little Known Works*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: Celtic Crossings presents *Alan Reed* and *Rob Van Sante*, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Tokyo Rosenthal*, americana country rock, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Our Lady of Peace, Turners Falls: *Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar*, 8 to 2 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Institute: *Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale* in the dining commons, Greenfield Community College, 9:30 to 4 p.m.



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REVIEWS from page B1
are his most noticeable presence in Great Valley, in Tall Boys, and in Dave Lineal's latest Bird Names lineup – let the *Window* tapes run, closed his eyes, and performed the vocal parts only.

His commitment to the specificities of the recorded material, and the precarious place of heartfelt singing among sickly disjointed and over-saturated instrumental lines, stood out in this performance.

"Take me down to Cape Canav'ral/Dress me up just like an astr'ooo..." he rhymes elsewhere, over a patchwork of ominous vamping so arbitrary and halting that the lyrics really come off as yearning for a more perfect technological alienation. A smoother groover might have made such expressions sound tongue-in-cheek, but here it's clear that the desired space odyssey is one of loneliness, not adventure.

The requests this stuff makes of the listener are significant; it's music partly about music, and since its composer/producer is already doing a fair amount of criticism by way of his art, the task of following along and trying to write about it is nearly impossible.

Fellow-traveler Zach Phillips of OSR Tapes recently circulated a compilation of critics using the adjective "lo-fi" to mean just about anything, and more to the point, to shirk any real critical engagement with the sounds produced using self-limited techniques and retrograde technologies.

"Shimmering" and "lo-fi" can just mean cheesy and abrasive, and maybe it's OK that they do: it can be quease-inducing to hear certain qualities of popular music pushed to their extremes and jostled out of sync with each other. But listeners willing to follow Nichols into his forms will be rewarded with the strength of the underlying song-kernels, or at least, I have been.



There's always been a parallel story with the **Happy Jawbone Family Band** – beautiful, catchy and driving songs heard through a haze of grinning missteps, extra tin-

kles and thumps – but it seems like their songs and their fated mass audience are gradually reaching out to each other and making contact.

A real record deal with mid-level indie label Mexican Summer, which started them out, hilariously, with an early-years greatest-hits compilation, has culminated in a professionally-recorded and engineered self-titled LP released this month.

Whether, on the balance, contact with wider audiences sees HJFB slough their thick coat of hometown particularities, familiarities, in-jokes and excesses, or lure those audiences to meet them on their own ground, has yet to be seen.

So far they seem to be splitting the difference, better highlighting a populist appeal of many of their songs which has always been more clear in the context of their live shows – which have recently included a house show on K Street in Turners, as well as several appearances at the Rendezvous.

"This recording is really nice!" my wife said the first time I played their new album at home. "It doesn't really sound like them." But it still doesn't sound like any other bands, either, but maybe like they're using their tongues in a few places they had been using their teeth.

"Can't You Hear Me Ticking," in particular, benefits from the treatment, coming out like the Thinking Fellers mashed straight into mid-period Mekons. Built on stronger support, its momentum lasts through a tricky bridge I've heard sink the otherwise great song live.

The rounder edges eventually bleed into the content, as the band plays with a new potential direction on the album's second-to-last track, "I'll Never Go Skin-Deep Again." A heavy, but rich plod blooms gradually with ornaments of flute, and eventually opens into that kind of British-ish psychedelia mined by Elephant 6 bands in the turn of the century, with woodwinds and horns. And the final track lives firmly in this territory, making the listener wonder what it would have sounded like outside the studio, or if it was born there at all.

On paper, this is the sort of thing they've been doing all along – a roving communal ensemble with toy piano and tambourine, winding eccentric, many-cornered compositions up into crashing chaos. But in the new formulation

all the parts point carefully back to the central structure of the songs, whereas before there was sometimes a real hit-or-miss multiplicity of ideas going on, making the exercise of focusing on singer/songwriter Luke Csehak's words and tune somehow more rewarding.

That's all neurotic sour grapes, though, coming from a convinced fan, and really, many of these are among Happy Jawbone's strongest songs. But I do hope the band knows its tendency to cluster so many of its voices into a maniacally dense, tinny treble range was one of its charms, and that it is not tempted to chase after a more even equalization lest it lose this acid edge.



None of this is to say that a move toward sounding good, or nice, compromises an artist. Working from a cleaner palette can also lead to breakthroughs. Nowhere is this clearer than **No Kingdom**, Sam Moss's new self-released solo CD, also streaming in full on Bandcamp. Moss practices a guitar style heavily influenced by what's been called the American primitive tradition: dense clusters of fingerpicked notes, hanging between open, ringing drones.

I've always thought of his band the Howling Kettles as applying the Brattleboro method to Americana, but maybe I was overly generalizing its reach. Opener "Ocean" plunges the listener into a sparse, dark and blue space, reminiscent of Tiny Vipers, or later Talk Talk, and all the more impressive given that Moss is working only with an acoustic guitar and his own breathy voice.

This is sophisticated stuff, miles away from last year's equally brilliant "The Tempest May Howl," a gruff and shaggy primitive guitar workout Moss released on Plus Tapes.

Arpeggiated chords lightly trace the edges of the path, but the song treads slowly, with a heavy step and heart. "I see a lion," he concludes at its end, "– I am aligned." A silence hangs, before a final crescendo, like a long night dive into a cold Vermont quarry.

The statement made, the rest of the album acquits itself nicely, with not very many standout moments, but no sour ones either.

After an opening set Moss played

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD

Montague Reporter subscriber Nancy Reinke, by a trullo in Alberbello, Puglia, Italy this past September.

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this summer at the 1794 Meeting-house in New Salem, a friend of mine griped that while he liked Moss' playing, he found his vocal style "derivative." I didn't ask of what. It's certainly a bit middle-of-the-road singer-songwritery, but the songs are solid ones, and if their palatability mean that more people hear his strange and beautiful guitar work, it can only be a good thing.

Brattleboro's DIY scene teeters on the brink of wider recognition, and though there are no benefits (and quite a few downsides) to gain-

ing that status, it means that more ears are turning to the strange things its bands and solo artists have been doing under the cover of a supportive, secluded scene.

It will be interesting to watch to see who slinks further into the woods – evading the internet's endless capability to archive, search and hype – and who seek to adapt, and what each of these choices will mean for their music.

For now, I've turned northward, and I'm enjoying my front row seats.



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