

YOU CAN'T GET
THERE FROM HERE

Page A8



FETCHING THE
ABANDONED

Page B1



GNOMES FOR
YOUNG AND OLD

Page B6



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 44

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Research Team Uncovers Hundreds of Musket Balls

By JEFF SINGLETON

GILL—Archeologists and tribal historians working on a federally-funded project to study the 1676 “Battle of Turners Falls” have discovered nearly 200 musket balls on the north side of the Connecticut River.

The battle, or massacre, as it is often called, took place primarily on the Gill and Greenfield side of the river. Phase 2 of the research project, which began last year, has focused primarily on unearthing objects associated with the event with metal detectors.

According to an August 27 interim report presented to the project’s oversight committee, researchers composed of “battlefield archeologists, metal detectorists and tribal cultural specialists” had spent the previous five weeks surveying the area between what is now the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Gill, west across Main Road to the Falls River, and then across the river to Factory Hollow in Greenfield.

Project analysts are using the locations of the musket balls in their effort to trace the retreat of colonial English forces, who came under attack after they carried out an early-morning massacre of Native civilians from a number of regional tribes at an encampment by the Great Falls.

The interim report describes several concentrations of musket balls along a series of sites that the researchers have labeled “the initial native counter attack,” the “gap ambush,” the “terrace fight,” and “actions in the Factory Hollow area.”

One of the researchers’ next goals is to locate the “horse tie-down” site, where the English forces left their horses after an all-night ride from Hatfield. They are believed to have proceeded on foot to the Native camp, where they fired their weapons into wigwams containing sleeping civilians.



IMAGE COURTESY KEVIN MCBRIDE

The study team’s report included images of some of the dug-up balls.

The tie-down is an important location for the project because it is where, according to seventeenth-century written colonial sources, the retreating English panicked and broke into a number of separate groups attempting to make their way back to Hatfield. These various routes through what is now Greenfield to the Green and Deerfield rivers are identified in the project literature as the final part of the “battlefield” under study.

The project’s Phase 1 technical report estimated that roughly 160 men made the march from Hatfield. There has been a wide range of estimates of the number of armed Indians at several encampments along the Connecticut, but the total may have been around 100, according to the report.

As of the August 27 report, the research team had found only a few musket balls in the Factory Hollow area. But several days later, Kevin McBride, the head of the team from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, sent the following email to the grant oversight group, which includes historical commissioners from several area towns as well as Narragansett, Wampanoag and Nipmuc historic

see MUSKET page A5

Gill: Redmond Named Acting Chief After Hastings’ Surprise Retirement

By MIKE JACKSON

Gill’s longstanding police chief David Hastings notified the town last Friday that he was retiring, effective immediately, and on Monday, the selectboard announced that sergeant Chris Redmond would serve as acting police chief until further notice.

Town officials confirmed that a “private legal matter” concerning Hastings had been brought to their attention after business hours on Friday, Sep-

tember 1, and that between September 1 and 15 he had been on “non-disciplinary, paid, administrative leave.”

None would comment on that matter, which the *Greenfield Recorder* has reported concerns a court order stipulating, among other things, that Hastings surrender his firearms for one year, following an abuse prevention order filed by his 19-year-old son.

Monday’s selectboard meeting began with two executive

see GILL page A5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Redmond has served the town as sergeant for 22 years.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Mulls Cannabis Moratorium

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has directed the planning board to consider amending the town zoning bylaws relating to the sale of marijuana. The proposed amendment would declare, until December 31, 2018, “a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Recreational Marijuana Establishment and other uses related to recreational marijuana.”

According to town planner Walter Ramsey, unless the zoning by-

laws are amended, the state must accept applications for marijuana retail establishments no later than April 1. The local criteria for approving such applications would be identical to those for other proposed businesses in retail districts.

According to the amendment approved by the selectboard at its Monday night meeting, the establishment of marijuana dispensaries and their local regulation “raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issues,” and Montague “needs time to study and consider such issues.”

Town officials argued the town needs to consider the recommendations – and regulations – of the state Cannabis Control Commission, which is set to issue a report in March 2018.

The proposed amendment defines a “recreational marijuana establishment” as a “marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana business.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked town planner Walter Ramsey

see CANNABIS page A3

Feeding the Multitudes at the Hatchery

Part I of this two-part series, “State Trout Hatchery Quietly Celebrates Hundredth Year,” appeared in last week’s edition.

By JERI MORAN

MONTAGUE – As we wrote last week, Bitzer Fish Hatchery in Montague is in its 100th year of operation. The very name “Hatchery,” however, is somewhat misleading these days.

Bitzer no longer technically “hatches” the trout from eggs, but receives them as one-inch fry or fingerlings. The hatchery then grows them to one-pound fish that can be stocked in waters all over the state.

While other fish often have a minimum size or weight in order for the angler to keep them, trout are ready to be caught and kept when they are stocked. The only restriction for anglers fishing for these trout is a three-a-day limit.

One of the first things that John Williams and Holly Hubert did,



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The facility grows out several species of trout from an inch to a pound.

when I arrived to interview them about the work done at the hatchery, was to give me several state Fisheries and Wildlife brochures which contained a lot of basic information. Of the five state fish hatcheries,

three of them are in the Connecticut River Valley. One very similar to Bitzer is the Sunderland Fish Hatchery on Route 116 – and then there is the Belchertown McLaughlin Fish

see HATCHERY page A4

The Week In Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week, three Turners Falls teams climbed into the catbird seat. The Volleyball team remained perfect while gaining a little notoriety; the football team reversed their fortunes by beating last year’s Number 2, the field hockey team improved to 4-1 while scoring (only) five goals, and the golf team went down swinging.

Also this week, the Franklin Tech girls soccer team scored all five goals against Greenfield.

Golf

Easthampton 21 – TFHS 3

Ware 22 – TFHS 2

Smith Academy 23 – TFHS 1

Last Tuesday, September 12, Easthampton defeated Turners 21-3 at Thomas Memorial. Kyle Kucenski (47) tied his match 2-2, while Brian Porier (50) took 1 point in his.

Joey Mosca (61), Tyler Noyes (62) and Joe Kochan (77) were swept in their matches, and Power-

town forfeited the sixth match 4-0.

Then last Thursday, Ware bested Turners 22-2 at the Dunroamin Country Club. Both Noyes (56) and Porier (62) sunk points, and although Kucenski shot a team-high 45, he was shut out in his match 4-0.

Kucenski got Turners’ lone point against Smith on Monday at the Greenfield Country Club. He again broke 50 (45), but lost his match by a single stroke. Powertown gave 8 points in forfeits.

Field Hockey

TFHS 1 – Franklin Tech 0

TFHS 5 – Mahar 0

On Wednesday, September 13, the Franklin Tech Field Hockey team forfeited, so Turners was awarded the win 1-0. 2 days later on Friday, September 15, Turners shut out Mahar 5-0. On the sidelines at Friday’s game, some of the fans were lamenting that the Tech-forfeit prevented Turners’ players from chalking up more goals. While on

see SPORTS page A6

Axed Paper Workers Sue For Wages

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – A suit filed on behalf of two former employees at Turners Falls Paper Company, formerly Southworth, alleging violations of fair pay and fair warning laws may be the beginning of a class action.

“Employees have been calling me all day,” Greenfield attorney John Connor told the *Reporter* on Tuesday, after news broke that his firm, Stobierski & Connor, had filed suit in US District Court on behalf of two laid-off workers at the company’s Turners Falls plant, who say they were not paid their final paycheck and were owed for sick and vacation time after

the abrupt August 30 shutdown.

Connor said he had already “had direct contact with over 40 employees from various divisions of the company,” including its Agawam plant and “even the division they had out in Seattle.”

All three facilities were closed abruptly, putting over 120 workers jobless with no warning. The suit alleges that the Southworth Company, as well as various of its directors, violated state and federal minimum-wage laws by failing to compensate the plaintiffs for work they had performed, as well as the federal WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) Act, a 1988 statute that requires anyone

see WORKERS page A5

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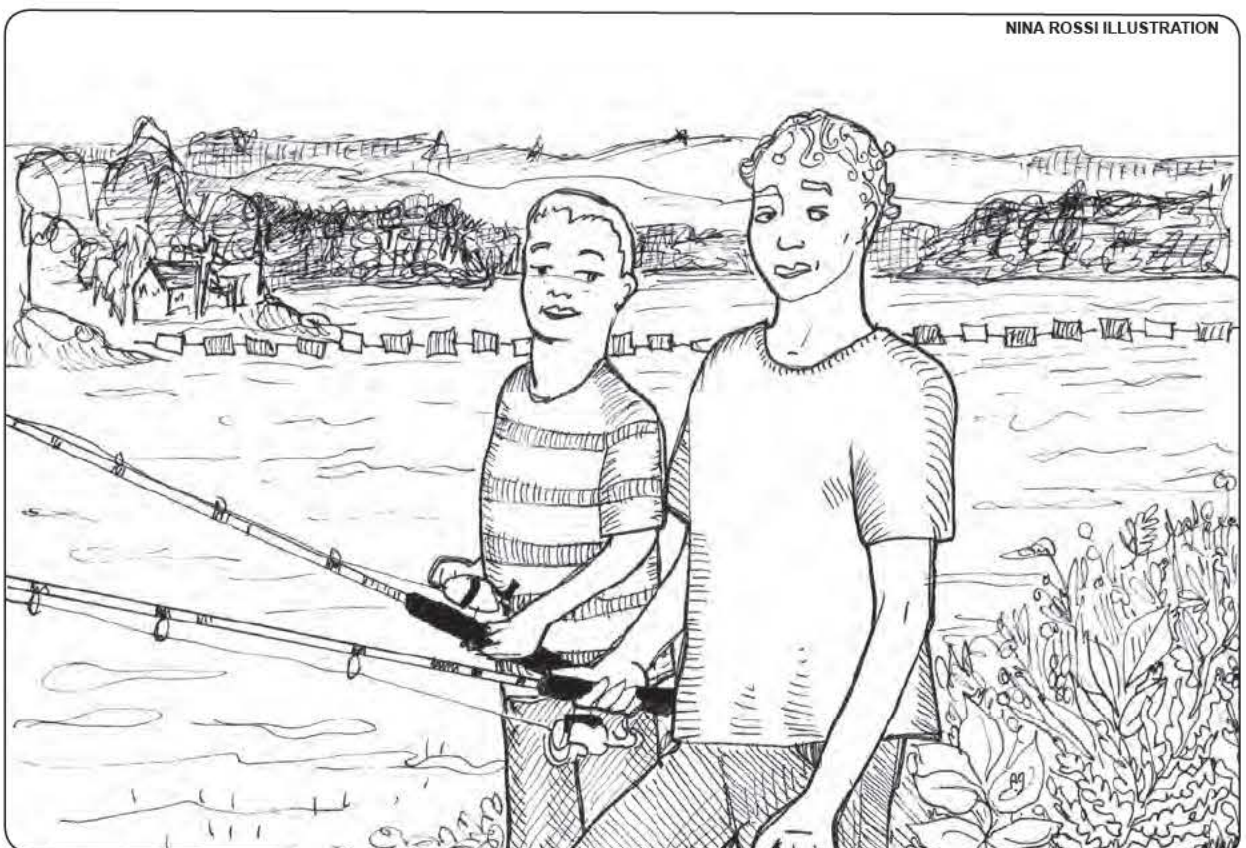
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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Stepbrothers Lucas and Kavan moved from Greenfield to Turners recently. They enjoy fishing on the Connecticut, and think the schools are a lot better.

Why No Letters?

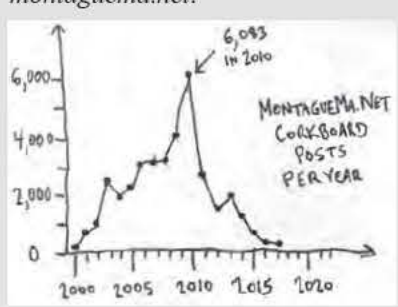
The *Montague Reporter* has received a total of ten Letters to the Editor in the last four months. We print every one we get. We would prefer to get more.

Ten years ago, this newspaper had far fewer readers, but far more letter-writers. It's interesting to consider what changes – changes in the paper, maybe, but we think more likely changes in our towns, and most of all in the world at large – might be behind this shift.

In publishing a small local newspaper we are trying to maintain a small local public sphere, pages which *everyone* might not read but which *anyone* certainly could.

It's an intimidating idea, this anonymous general public. What would you say? How do you feel about strangers seeing your name?

There are plenty of sensible reasons to retreat from the scrutiny and surveillance of public life, but we're not sure that's really what's happening. Check out this chart – it shows the annual posts each year on the general Corkboard forum over at montaguema.net:



Some Old Letters to the Editors

Cave In on Dry Hill Road (2004)

In my opinion the Town of Montague cannot “cave in,” in reference to the Dry Hill Road. If Mr. Senn continues to block the road off he is depriving those of us who are taxpayers of Montague who own the road of our right to use it, whether or not it is passable.

I do believe that laws exist that state if a public road is to be determined private, it has to be approved at a Town Meeting. Refer to page 53, “Discontinuing Public Ways,” *Handbook for Massachusetts Selectmen*, dated 1998, third edition.

What would happen if I built a shed on Avenue A, between Second and Third Street and stored my tractor, lawn tools etc. and blocked off traffic? Would the town respond?

Art Gilmore
Millers Falls

Bridge Party(2005)

Hi, it's Peter Monroe from Central Street who wrote those reviews last year that everybody at the Shady Glen got mad about.

Anyway, we are having a “neighborhood bridge bash” on the bridge that goes over Spring Street, on Saturday, October 1st, 6 to 9 p.m. with a raindate Sunday at the same time. My band (eclectic classic rock) is playing.

It includes a neighborhood potluck dinner that everyone is supposed to bring food to. It's going to be a rocking good time.

Peter Monroe
Central Street

Refreshingly Wild (2013)

I was shocked and appalled this week to read in the *Reporter* that the TF Streetscape Committee has updated its rules on planters on the Avenue to enforce some dull suburban notion of quaintness and homogeneity.

While I agree the planters should still be bursting with flowers, I also strongly believe that the space should be open to the broadest range of noncommercial/nonpolitical creative expression.

The only outward sign of life on the Avenue emanates from Rodney's corner and the refreshingly wild aesthetic with which he decorates the space. I should also note that I have yet to meet Mr. Madison, nor ever set foot in his store – I simply thoroughly appreciate that he's here, and that he makes the space visually interesting.

The presence of funny objects and strange sculptures adds a desperately needed sparkle to a village that might otherwise appear to be a dead little pile of beautifully-restored bricks. As a downtown homeowner of seven years, I can attest that I love those bricks! While they should be functional and historic, they should be stacked with pizzazz and painted to express the energy of the people who live with them in this moment.

I would also argue that the fruits of his efforts are shared with neighboring establishments, in the form of enticing the meandering motorist to stop, walk around, and see what's going on.

Please, I implore anyone who claims the power to impose the overall “look” of this village that they make every effort to embrace heterogeneity and polyphony. To use a phrase that I hope will never need to be made into some dumb bumper sticker, “Keep TF weird!”

Thank you,

Rachel Roy
Turners Falls

Neil Young Cloaca
Turners Falls

Pub Quiz

Friday, Sept. 29, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
“St. Kaz,” 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls

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Putting Montague On the Map (2010)

I just want to take a moment to congratulate and thank Mik Muller and all the people who worked so hard on the classy Soap Box Derby Event of this past weekend.

Everything about it was great fun, and delightful to all present. From my hillside perspective, the event was meticulously planned, well-executed and a huge success. I hope the fundraising for the MCTV radio station was productive as well.

These kinds of broad appeal events are making our town establish a presence on the map. With all the other exciting events and projects in the early planning phases, I think we are seeing the emergence of a new Western Mass playground, that has a broad marketing appeal for all the stressed-out city dwellers in the eastern part of the state.

Personally, I love the idea of living in a classy little tourist town, one with great jobs based on bringing fun, cultural sharing and joy to ourselves and our visitors.

Now for the Ste. Anne's Performing Arts Center and the International Canoe Races. Onward!

Rachel Roy
Turners Falls

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Planning a cultural event? A science, performance, writing, music, poetry, history, art, theater, or dance event? Need some money to make it happen?

Then come to the Turners Falls Branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank this Saturday, September 23 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to meet with the Montague Cultural Council.

Learn about the application process, meet past grantees, and mingle with the councilors. All our local towns have upcoming Cultural Council grant deadlines – visit www.mass-culture.org and search for your town name for more information.

Protect yourself from **identity theft** such as the data breach at Equifax. Janice Garrett, director of the consumer protection unit at the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, and John Canon, information security officer at Greenfield Community College, will hold an information session at 12 noon on Tuesday, September 26, at GCC.

The event is free and open to the community, and will be held in the second-floor Room 208 on GCC's main campus at One College Drive, Greenfield.

Folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will perform a **public concert**, sponsored by the Gill-Montague Council on Aging, at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26 at the **Gill/Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls.

Van Egmond's program, "Hats

Off to Seniors," is supported by a grant from the Music Performance Trust Fund, administered by the American Federation of Musicians Local 1000. See page B1 for more on this Montague resident, and for more information on the event, call the senior center at 863-4500.

And don't forget, on Friday, September 29, **the Friends of the Montague Reporter** will be holding a **Pub Quiz Night** at St. Kaz in Turners Falls from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We are planning to have teams of 3 to 6 with an entrance fee of \$10 per person. Folks can sign up as a team in advance. Individuals arriving will be assigned to fill up teams or form their own team.

There will be *Montague Reporter* mugs for sale, along with free snacks, a 50/50 raffle, bake sale, and a cash bar courtesy of St. Kaz.

If you're on Facebook, you can help find teammates by inviting your friends, coworkers and neighbors directly – there's an event page, "Pub Quiz!," linked to our general Facebook page at www.facebook.com/montaguereporter.

If you have any questions, please email friendsofmontaguereporter@gmail.com or call Lyn, 863-4779, or me, 863-5125.

Come on board a Richard Little **Geology Cruise** on Saturday, September 30, when geology will come alive through clear, and often humorous, stories. This relaxing cruise on the Connecticut River will be filled with tales of drifting continents, earthquakes, dinosaurs, glaciers,

Lake Hitchcock, and the strange origin of deep riverbed holes, all part of the creation of our idyllic valley.

Don't miss this overview of the amazing geology of our area by one of the regions's greatest geology educators! Richard Little, professor emeritus of Greenfield Community College, has published three editions of *Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: The Geology of the Connecticut Valley*, and created videos about the rise and fall of glacial Lake Hitchcock and the 500-million year history of the valley. More information about Prof. Little's tours and publications is available at www.earthview.pair.com.

Last year's cruise sold out, so be sure to reserve your seats early; register at www.bookeo.com/northfield or by calling (800) 859-2960. Departure times are at 1:15, 3, and 4:30 p.m. from Northfield Mountain, 99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63), Northfield. Recommended for ages 10 and older.

Kringle Candle in Bernardston invites the public to a **Kringle Fall Festival** on Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1. The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days, and features artists, crafters, hay rides, stilt walkers, pumpkin painting, apple dipping, ice cream, kids' and family activities, contests, a beer garden, and music.

Will Evans and John Waynelovich of *Barefoot Truth* fame take the stage at the Kringle Courtyard on Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. On Sunday, the Falldown String Band will play Americana roots, country standards, jazz and blues from noon to 2 p.m., followed by a set by Dicey Riley, featuring accomplished fiddler Zoë Darrow, from 3 to 6 p.m.

That same weekend, Bernardston's Cushman Library will hold a **book and bake sale** on the first floor of Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street.

The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days, and 100% of the proceeds will be used to purchase new circulating materials for library patrons to enjoy.

Folks who would like to donate books, audiobooks, or DVDs are encouraged to do so. Donations can be dropped off at the town hall on September 28 between 5 and 6 p.m. or September 29 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or earlier by arrangement. For more information, see cushmanlibrary.org, call (413) 648-5402, or just drop by the library.

This fall, the New Salem Agriculture Commission will host a potluck **Harvest Supper** on Sunday October 1, starting at 4:30 pm, and everyone is invited. This is an opportunity to get to know the members of the community, learn about local food, and share the delicious bounty from local farms.

Please bring a dish to share that uses some local ingredients. The potluck will be held behind the New Salem Town Hall, near the community garden. For questions, to RSVP, or to get involved – they would love to have volunteers! – email Molly at mollyalvin@gmail.com.

The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls will continue to be open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., through October 9. More than **8,000 people** visited the center during the summer. Be one of the thousands that DCR staff and volunteers expect to visit this fall!

Don't forget to renew your subscription! And as an early warning, the discounted walking routes in Turners Falls and Montague Center will rise from \$25 a year to a still-incredible \$30 per year next month. Pay your next bill before being invoiced to save \$5.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

CANNABIS from page A1

if there was "any requirement that if we start getting applications, you have to approve or disapprove them?"

Ramsey responded that "the state has to issue a license within ninety days, starting April 1... The state issues the license, so if you don't have any local control in place, the town is giving up its say over where to locate them and how many of them there are."

Town administrator Steve Ellis said a variety of people – including members of the health department, police department, and school administration – have been "in conversation" about the issue.

"We're not trying to thwart the will of the people," he said. "But the guidance we're receiving is right now it's messy, no one knows what's going on... And if we're completely unprepared, then we just don't know what the consequence of that will be."

Kuklewicz said he did not necessarily support the moratorium, but voted in favor of the proposal in order to send it along to the planning board and ultimately to town meeting:

"As long as it goes before town meeting," he said, "then that's a greater body of the community. And by no means would my voting for or against this say that I oppose, or support, a facility in town. I hear the argument against it – that's all I've heard..."

"But a more liberal approach,

which is where I generally stand, says there might be more income for the community, and serving a need for those that desire this for various reasons, or desire medication... I'm going to vote to move it forward to the [planning board], but only for the purpose of getting it on a town meeting warrant."

Kuklewicz's motion passed unanimously, without further discussion save a comment by Chris Boutwell that "it will be more work for the health department and police department."

Cutting Costs

The board held a sewer rate hearing, and approved a proposal by Water Pollution Control Facility director Robert McDonald to raise the townwide sewer rate by an average of 3.5%, a relatively small rate increase compared to recent years.

McDonald distributed a memo which showed that the previous fiscal year (FY'17) saw a rate increase of 17%, while the FY'16 increase was 10%.

To keep the rate increase this low in the face of a considerable anticipated loss of revenue following the closing of the Southworth paper mill, the WPCF is allocating all its balances from the previous year, called "retained earnings," to finance the budget. When asked if this was wise budget policy, McDonald responded, "it's not optimal."

To stay within the 3.5% increase, the revised WPCF budget presented to town meeting on October 1 will

include staffing cuts by attrition, rescinding funds allocated to a stabilization fund for future capital projects, and rescinding funds previously earmarked for a feasibility study.

McDonald's memo also included data on statewide sewer rates. It stated that the average sewer payment statewide is \$756 per household. Using the average flow per residence from Montague, the average household bill is \$521.64 per fiscal year.

New And Exciting

Richard Widmer of the Millers Falls Arts Bridge and Turners Falls Riverculture director Suzanne LoManto requested the town's support for a National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" grant for "community building" in Millers Falls.

The grant would require a town "match" of \$50,000, 80% of which will be accounted for by staff time. LoManto stated that the Millers Falls work would take up approximately 25% of her time.

"RiverCulture is changing," said LoManto. "This is taking RiverCulture to a new and exciting place."

Widmer called Millers Falls a potential "gateway" to other villages in Montague. When asked what would be done with the grant money, LoManto and Widmer talked about the implementation of a "livability study," similar to the one implemented a few years ago in Turners Falls.

The selectboard approved a letter of support for the grant.

Other Business

Ramsey requested that the board execute a state grant to evaluate the feasibility and design of a solar array for the Water Pollution Control Facility. The board approved the \$12,500 grant.

The board approved a request from Pam Tierney of the Black Cow Burger on Avenue A in Turners Falls for outdoor seating and a one-day beer and wine License on October 21, the date of the Great Falls Festival, formerly Pumpkinfest.

The board also "executed" the 2017 Community Development Block Grant of \$490,611. Administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz was approved as the "local auction permit agent," while town clerk Debra Bourbeau was appointed as the alternate.

During the public comment at the beginning of the meeting, Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick suggested that the board issue the weekly meeting agenda sooner than is currently the policy. She said issuing the agenda on Thursday, when town hall is closed on Friday, does not give local residents time to review and respond to posted items.

The board approved, and briefly discussed, all fifteen articles that will appear on the October 5 town meeting warrant. The warrant will be reviewed in next week's *Montague Reporter*.

The Montague selectboard will next meet on September 25 at the town hall.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Centuries-Old Road Poses Policy Puzzle

By KATIE NOLAN

At their meeting Monday night, Erving selectboard members Scott Bastarache, William Bembury and Jacob Smith expressed support for John Doleva, who owns property on the unimproved road layout for Lee Street, which has access from Wheelock Street.

Both Lee and Wheelock streets existed as roads before Erving was incorporated, but neither street was ever formally adopted as a town road. Doleva wants to build a home on his Lee Street property, which according to town records has an address of 30 Wheelock Street.

According to administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, it is difficult to drive to the parcel because a previous adjacent landowner dumped stone in the road layout. At an April selectboard meeting, Doleva had offered to remove the stone, and add a gravel base and fine gravel surface to the 272-foot Lee Street road layout, himself.

On Monday, Bryan Smith reported that town counsel Donna MacNicol had advised that the Lee Street layout is town property, that it provides the necessary frontage for development of the parcel, and that if a non-town employee works on removing the stone and restoring the road layout, the town would be liable for any accidents or injuries.

Bryan Smith suggested that the town should discontinue Lee Street and formally adopt Wheelock

Street, with the Lee Street layout included, as a town road, to be considered Wheelock Street.

Bastarache, Jacob Smith and Bembury agreed with Bryan Smith's suggestion. Bastarache said that if the town adds the Lee Street layout as a town road, "it may help us with Chapter 90" state highway funding.

The board asked Bryan Smith if any other properties in town were located on similar "quasi-roads"; they were willing to approve removal of the stone and upgrading of the road surface, but did not want to set a precedent that would be costly for the town.

Bryan Smith said Crescent Road and Great Swamp Road were also "quasi-roads," but the town owns the abutting properties on Crescent Street, and Great Swamp Road is within Erving State Forest.

The board asked highway foreman Glenn McCrory to develop an estimate for replacing the culvert on the Lee Street layout, removing the stone and upgrading the road surface. A final decision for what to do about Lee Street will be made at either the September 25 or October 2 selectboard meeting.

Traffic Safety

The board continued to work on traffic safety concerns at Church and North streets raised by residents at their August 14 meeting. Selectboard chair Smith said that any signs that could already be installed have

been installed; however, some signs need a concrete footing, which may take more time.

He said he had heard from residents that the road painting and signs "were already making a difference." The board agreed to paint a large "Yield Ahead" sign in the road.

Resident Rebecca Hubbard told the board about a recent incident in which an elementary school bus stop on North Street was changed because of the traffic concerns and subsequently, a driver drove past the stop with children present, despite the bus's flashing red stop lights.

"Safety concerns need to be a priority," she told the board. "The situation is urgent, and getting worse."

Board members assured Hubbard that they would continue to work on the traffic safety issues. Bastarache said that he would notify the school committee, and suggested notifying police chief Christopher Blair.

Progress on Grants

Glen Ohlund, director of community development at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Re-development Authority, reported on the town's community development block grant.

Ohlund said that his agency is still working with the extended FY'15 low-to-moderate income housing rehabilitation grant. He said 26 housing units had been rehabilitated, exceeding their goal of rehabilitating 19 units, and said that one more project, a home in Erving, would be

completed under the grant.

Under the "social services" component of the grant, FCRHRA has expended about \$78,000 in fuel assistance for people with incomes at 60% to 80% of the median.

Bryan Smith said that regional Green Communities coordinator Jim Barry had met with the town's Green Communities committee, and was very helpful. According to Smith, Barry advocated moving ahead with proposing projects such as installation of LED lighting.

The board decided that any capital projects considered by the Green Communities committee should be submitted to the capital planning committee first, then the finance committee, and finally the selectboard.

Other Business

Richard Newton was appointed to the cable advisory committee. The board noted that two appointees to the committee had not been sworn in and had not attended meetings. The board decided to rescind the appointments and seek more active members.

The board also discussed self-assessments submitted by "direct report" employees Paula Better, Christopher Blair, Glenn McCrory, Deborah Mero, Peter Sanders, Bryan Smith, and Philip Wonkka, and adopted responses, which will be provided to the employees before annual goals are collaboratively set.

HATCHERY from page A1

Hatchery, just south of the Quabbin, which, since the late 1960s, does most of the hatching of the trout, and delivers the one-inch fingerlings to the other hatcheries to raise.

Altogether, the five state fish hatcheries provided 500,000 fish last year for anglers, financially supported by the cost of fishing licenses. These fish also include the tiger trout, raised at the Sandwich Hatchery, which is a sterile cross between a brown and a brook trout and is described in the state brochure as "very popular with anglers." Some of these are stocked in Cranberry Pond on the Sunderland/Montague line.

The state also used to have a salmon stocking program at the Roger Reed Hatchery in Palmer, but that program was discontinued in 2012 when the US Fish and Wildlife withdrew support and resources.

A Growing Period

Williams, a quiet, affable man, explained the process of growing trout, which is different for different species. In December of each year, 80,000 rainbow fingerlings are delivered from the McLaughlin Hatchery and are kept for 18 months in order to grow to a one-pound size; thus, most of the fingerlings they received last December will be released in the spring of 2018. Because of their different growing needs and when they will be released, they are kept in separate tanks throughout their stay.

Each March and April, they receive the brookies and the brown fingerlings and they are kept for two and a half years, as their metabolism and feeding habit is less than the rainbows, and they need a longer time to reach stocking size. Most of those that were brought to the hatchery in the spring of this year will be released in the fall of 2019. Brookies also require colder water than the other two species, so this is one of the factors that determines where they get released.

As each species of trout grows, they outgrow the tanks they are in and are split up into multiple tanks of an optimal size for the number of fish. They are hand-fed, and the size of the food pellets increases in proportion to the fish.

Over time the fish work their way down

through the series of tanks, being lifted by the staff into each one, and there is an aerator at the last step, to help ensure well-oxygenated water for the now bigger fish.

A Clean Operation

Both Williams and Hubert emphasized the water quality aspect of the hatchery. Not only is it important for the health of the fish, but also for the environment, and the water quality is closely monitored. Fish food now floats, rather than sinking to the bottom and disintegrating, which is one way the industry has worked on improving a product which has an effect on water quality.

Samples from the water as it exits the hatchery are sent for testing on a weekly basis, and these are reported to the federal government. The Feds issue a discharge permit to the hatcheries on a five-year basis, so if there was an effluence problem with the water, this permit could be pulled. This has never been an issue at Bitzer.

Daily monitoring keeps disease to a minimum. This is an area where science programs in universities have prepared specialists, something that did not exist when Bitzer was founded. It is likely that in the early years of the hatchery, the staff did not have advanced science degrees and learned on the job.

While there is still a lot to learn when hired at the hatchery now, all the staff now have at least a bachelor's degree in an environmentally-related field, and both Williams and Hubert have graduate degrees in wildlife biology. Today, some universities are now offering graduate degrees in fish ecology, an important and growing field.

Williams has been working at the hatchery for over thirty years, most of that time as its manager. Hubert has been there for many years as well. The other staff are more recent hires, but Hubert commented that the current staff are really great, full of enthusiasm and with a great work ethic, which she said makes the daily work much more enjoyable for everyone.

Their work includes all aspects of the hatchery process, plus maintaining all the equipment — they were waiting for a part for the aerator on the stocking truck the day I was there — as well as pruning and cutting trees in the winter and



As the fish grow, staff move them to new tanks with more room, until they are ready for stocking.

keeping the whole facility running.

There is a house up on Turners Falls Road that the Fish Culturist/Manager used to be required to live in, so that if any storm or problem came up, they were right on hand. Now employees can live in their own homes, and the house is the State Environmental Police office.

Game Checkpoint

Besides the work of the hatchery, because it is part of Fisheries and Wildlife, one can often see a sign at the gate on Hatchery Road which says "Bear Checking Station" or "Deer Checking."

Hunters are required to report certain information on any bear, deer or turkey that they kill during hunting season. Although much of the time now they can do this reporting online, Bitzer still sees a fair amount of game brought to the hatchery, where the age, weight, and general health of each animal is recorded. This helps Massachusetts monitor the state of its game animals.

If you fish and you think that the hatchery should deliver more fish to your favorite pond, don't blame the folks at Bitzer. The decision of where, when, and how many of Bitzer's fish are stocked in the state is determined at the Belchertown district office. They contact Bitzer and determine how many fish of each species are ready, i.e. have reached one pound in size.

It is also the district staff who do the actual

stocking. Bitzer has one stocking truck (pictured last week) and do some small amount of the local stocking, but the majority is done by the district office. Each stocking truck holds 1,000 pounds of fish and has four insulated aluminum compartments with aerators attached, to ensure the least stress on the fish as they are being transported.

If you want to know about the fish stocked in your local waters, there is a very good website, mass.gov/trout, that can give you lots of information. There you will find a listing of the kind of fish, and the date that each pond, stream, and lake was stocked. You can type in the specific body of water or town you want to know about, which will save you a lot of time, as there are 65 pages of stocking reports! This says a lot about how active the state's hatchery and stocking program is.

Visiting Hours

The Bitzer Hatchery is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. While they do not have regular tours, staff stressed that you are welcome to ask them any questions; someone is always around.

If my experience is typical, you will find kind, knowledgeable people willing to help you understand the work that is done there, and you will see large numbers of smaller trout, and some monster fish.

If you go this year, you can also wish the staff a happy 100th birthday!



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MUSKET from page A1
preservation officers:

“In the interim report I reported that after several days of surveying in the Factory Hollow area we had not found anything. That all changed yesterday.

“We picked up the route of retreat identified by the recovery of 45 musket balls in an area we refer to as ‘The Valley’. It is a fairly steep swale oriented north/south with steep slopes to the west and east that act a bit like a funnel. The swale empties out onto a flat terrace where we found four musket balls in June. Assuming the Horse Tie-Down Area is still on the west side of the Falls River the pattern of musket balls may point to it...

“As it looks now we will be in the Factory Hollow area for a few more days and continue to ‘chase’ the musket ball distribution to the north hoping it will lead to the Horse Tie-Down Area.”

Based on the apparent direction of fire, the authors of the interim report believe that most of the musket balls were shot from flintlocks carried by Native American combatants.

Adoption of Flintlocks

Though popular imagery of the era’s Indian warriors typically portrays them attacking colonists with bows and arrows, it is likely that there was widespread and effective use of flintlock muskets by Native troops during King Philip’s War.

In his influential study of Native warfare in the 17th century, *The Skulking Way of War* (1991), historian Patrick Malone argues that tribal traditions and the ecology of New England caused Native warriors to adopt flintlock weapons more quickly than the English.

The 17th century Indian Wars occurred during the transition from matchlock weapons, which required a lit match to ignite, to an ignition system based on sparks from a flint. Many Europeans remained wedded to more traditional matchlock muskets, which, although inaccurate, could effectively be fired by massed

troops in an open battlefield. Flintlocks, which could be shot quickly and were relatively accurate, were more suitable both for warfare in wooded terrain and for hunting.

Malone portrays Native Americans at the time of King Philip’s War as highly skilled in the use of flintlocks, and dependent on them for both warfare and food. He suggests that Native artisans, some of whom may have been at the Great Falls en-

Based on the apparent direction of fire, the authors of the interim report believe that most of the musket balls were shot from flintlocks carried by Native American combatants.

campment, were skilled in repairing muskets and making musket balls.

Indeed, attempts by European authorities to disarm potential Indian insurgents may have been one of the causes of King Philip’s War. In 1671 Metacomet (King Philip) and a large group of warriors were disarmed by troops from the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies in Taunton. According to the historian Nathaniel Philbrick, one of Philip’s warriors was so humiliated that he flung down his musket and called Philip a “white livered cur” and said he would “never again fight under him.”

In his book *The Red King’s Rebellion* (1990), historian Russell Bourne described how English settlers in what was to become Maine, when they heard of Native attacks on Plymouth Colony settlements in 1675, marched north in an attempt to disarm their relatively peaceful Indian neighbors.

“Such a surrender [of muskets] would, of course, prevent native hunters from bringing in enough meat for that fall and winter,”

Bourne writes. “Starvation for families would be the price of loyalty.”

Malone argues that Native warriors tended to load flintlocks with multiple small musket balls, a technique which could be deadly at a short range. This theory seems to be confirmed by the findings of the team surveying the Great Falls battlefield.

The interim technical report states that the majority of musket balls found at the various ambush sites were small in diameter, and were probably fired at close range. The effect may have been similar to that of a buckshot blast from a shotgun, according to McBride.

A “Significant Step”

The most recent findings of the battlefield researchers have come as a pleasant surprise to some of those participating in the project. “At the risk of sounding too naive,” says project coordinator David Brule, “I was thrilled to see new evidence of the counterattack by tribal soldiers.”

Brule contrasted this with “one-sided bias” of seventeenth and eighteenth century accounts by colonists.

According to Ivan Ussach, chair of the Gill Historical Commission and a member of the battlefield study’s oversight group, the recent findings are “a significant step for the project, for sure. This is the kind of information this phase of the project was intended to identify.”

In the coming weeks the research team will continue to look for the horse tie-down site, and attempt to follow the paths of the English soldiers’ retreat through Greenfield. They will also begin the task of locating the encampment where the massacre took place.

Both McBride and Ussach stated that this will be a difficult task, due to extensive development in the Riverside area over the past three centuries, as well as changes in the path of the river.

“We may never find the location of the massacre,” Ussach told this newspaper. “It could well be underwater.”



Connor said that it would be up to the US District Court in Springfield to decide whether the existing suit could expand to include all similarly affected employees.

“Each of the statutes that we’re seeking recourse under allows for the pursuit of these type of cases on a class basis,” he explained.



Hastings was under a three-year contract, set to last from July 2015 through June 2018.

“I don’t think that we have a timeline yet,” Crochier said, when asked when the town planned to hire a permanent chief. “We need to finish up the paperwork to deal with Chief Hastings’ retirement.”

“We can only focus on so many things at once,” echoed town administrative assistant Ray Purington. “We’ve dealt with the day-to-day functioning of the department; the next task is wrapping up the sudden departure of an employee. Then we’ll switch over to rebuild for the future.”

Selectboard member John Ward confirmed that “parts” of the matter “don’t have closure.”



WORKERS from page A1

employing over 100 people to give them 60 days’ warning of a closure, and to notify local municipal authorities as well.

The penalty for WARN violations is equivalent compensation for the time in which the required warning was not received, up to 60 days, while employers found guilty

of wage violations owe workers triple their back pay.

The named plaintiffs on the complaint are Roger Matthews of Swanzey, NH and Timothy Gigniliant of Oxford, who commuted to the Turners Falls specialty paper manufacturer to work as a plant engineer and chief plant engineer, respectively.

GILL from page A1

sessions: one to discuss a town employee, and a second “to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.”

The board emerged to announce that Redmond, who has served in Gill since 1992 and became sergeant in 1995, was the town’s acting chief.

“He’s been with our department for 25 years, and done a great job,” chair Randy Crochier told the Reporter. “We’re sure that he’ll hold it in place until we make a decision.... We’re quite comfortable with Chris being acting chief for as long as we need.”

“We’ve got a staffing shortage,” said a very busy Redmond, when contacted Wednesday. “Working with that is the biggest obstacle

right now.”

Redmond, who Crochier and Ward said has been authorized to schedule all police shifts, including his own, indicated that some of the town’s part-time roster “are stepping up and covering some extra shifts.”

“It isn’t anything new [for me], because we always cover each other,” Redmond said. “Chief Hastings was here for 23 years, and I’ve always been the one who was officer in charge – or ‘acting chief,’ whatever you want to call it – whenever he was at trainings, or on vacation or extended sick leave.”

Still, Redmond said, “a lot of this is fluid, and unexpected.”

Gill hires police directly, on a contractual basis, rather than through the state civil service network. At the time of his retirement,

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SPORTS from page A1

the field, the Blue Ladies chalked up 5 more.

Against Mahar, Powertown scored quickly. Very quickly. Amber Taylor shot the ball past the goalkeeper's stick 9 seconds into the game. Cassie Wozniak followed up with a goal of her own 7 minutes later. In the second half, Woz scored 3 more goals, including a shorthanded goal (That's right, they have power plays in Field Hockey too), to give the Tribe the 5-0 shut-out. Alyson Murphy helped out with an assist and Haleigh Greene made 10 saves.

Volleyball
TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0
TFHS 3 – Agawam 1
TFHS 3 – Mahar 1

Although the season is still pretty young, the Turners Falls volleyball team looks good. Very good.

With a quarter of the season in the books, the Blue Ladies sit atop the Western Conference with a record of 5-0. And some of those victories came against excellent teams.

On Wednesday, September 13, Turners beat the Pioneer Panthers 3 matches to nil, 25-5, 12, 23. In the first two matches, Blue pretty much dominated, sprinting out to leads of 22-3 and 17-3 respectively.

But in the third match, miscommunication and poor placement by Blue allowed the Pioneers to stay in the game. In that match, both coaches were in a chess game as they hand-signaled and talked to their players.

Midgame, with Turners down 9-

11, Coach Kelly Liimatainen called time. When her team took back the floor, Powertown scored seven unanswered points.

Then Pioneer's coach, Jake Schillinger, stopped the game himself. After the timeout, the Panthers roared back to tie it at 17 all.

Pioneer hung tough, and with the score 24-23 and Lindsay Whiteman serving, Turners scored the match point and took the game 3-0.

On Friday, the Powertown volleyball team traveled to Agawam and defeated the Brownies 3 matches to 1.

No one was more surprised than MassLive. They don't know Turners, and when Powertown beat the vaunted Brownies, it raised some figurative eyebrows on their website.

They may not know Turners, but they know Agawam. MassLive had ranked Brown the third-best volleyball program in Western Mass, but on Friday, Turners was better. The win gave Blue a perfect 4-0 record, and set up a battle with Mahar for the Northern League lead.

On Monday, the Mahar Senators came to town and showed that they're a pretty good team in their own right.

The opening match was a servers' match. Each team scored big when on offense and executed an occasional defensive point to switch possession. Neither coach called time until deep into the match.

Mahar Coach Sarah Woodward called the first timeout after Chloe Ellis served an ace to put Turners ahead 21-16. But the recess didn't help the Senate. The ball remained in Blue's court, and Chloe put the

cherry on the sundae, aching the match point 25-16.

The second match featured long volleys and a lot of kill shots. Turners stormed out to an 11-3 lead, but Mahar, as they do, caught up and tied it at 13. But Blue finished strong and took the match 25-15, the match point coming off a Mahar carry.

In the third match it was Mahar who finished strong, capping the victory with an 8-1 run to take the match 25-15.

With Mahar carrying the momentum into the fourth match, Turners had to regroup to prevent a tiebreaker. The Senate took an early 11-5 lead but Powertown did regroup. Turners scored 12 straight before giving up the serve, to take a 17-11 lead.

Throughout this critical fourth match, the coaches played dueling timeouts, the last coming with Turners leading 23-19 and serving. Turners' offense scored the last 2 points, and they took the match 25-19, and the game 3-1.

Turners has done very well in the first quarter of the 2017 season, but they can't rest on their laurels. The Blue Volleyers still have to face South Hadley (number 9), Lee (8), and Belchertown (7) before playing (number-10) Lee twice.

Girls Soccer
Franklin Tech 4 – Greenfield 1

Because of the forfeiture on Wednesday the 13th, photographer David Hoitt and I were able to truck to the Tech School to watch the Franklin Tech/Greenfield girls' soccer game.

It's interesting watching the Tech girls because I recognize so many of the ladies on the field. In the first half, Tech scored one goal and in the second, they scored 4 more. The third goal, however, was kicked into their own net, and Green was given the point.

Brooke Adams and Abby Corey each scored twice for the Franks.

Football
Turners Falls 34 – Athol 6

"Anything can happen," Coach Chris Lapointe said to his team after they beat Athol, who were last year's Intercounty North runner up. "Anything – if you try."

His team, who were dismissed by many after last week's lopsided loss, were exhausted but happy. They had proven that they could play good football against a hungry team. They tried really hard and they won. They proved anything can happen if you try.

The question before Friday's game was: would Turners be able to win any games this year? The question afterward was: has Turners ever had three different players eclipse 100 yards rushing in the same game?

The first question was answered when Turners soundly defeated the Athol Red Raiders 34-6. To answer the second question, I think you'd have to go back to 1976. Kevin



Franklin Tech's Gabriella Castagna (left) and Greenfield's Tannin Costa (right) compete during the Eagles' 4-1 victory over the Green Wave.

May and David Choleva probably hit double C's regularly that season, and it's possible that one of the other backs hit 100 yards in the same game.

But I think you'd have to ask Rick Kostanski. Back in our time, we didn't have computers to keep track of the stats. Instead, we had our mothers. Mrs. Kostanski cut out every article that season and put them in a scrapbook which Ricky brings to every reunion.

The mood in the stands Friday went from hesitant to hopeful as Turners had a good opening drive. Only an illegal-substitution penalty stalled the team. The Blue D then stymied the Raiders, and Turners began their second drive on their own 28. Powertown chewed up the rest of the quarter with a nice long sustained drive. Marcus Sanders scored 50 seconds into the second period, and Tyler Lavin kicked the 1-pointer to put Blue up 7-0.

Liam Driscoll made an interception on Athol's next drive. And on their second play from scrimmage, Turners scored again, on a 48-yard romp by John Driscoll.

Athol gained ground on Powertown late in the second quarter. With 2:07 left in the half, Athol made it a 1-score game, 14-6.

Coach Lapointe has a pretty good 2-minute offense. Over his career, his teams have been able to score with very little time left on the clock. This is one reason why he has been so successful.

But who knew if the 2017 Tribe could keep up the practice. After all, there's only 17 of them on a good day. But in the next 38 seconds, Powertown marched from their own 20 all the way into the Red end zone, and went into the locker room leading by a more comfortable 15 points, 21-6.

Athol drove all the way to the Blue 19 on their first possession of the second half, but penalties and a J. Driscoll sack moved them back to the 37. Turners took over and 10 plays later, Marcus scored another TD to put Turners up 27-6

with 53.5 left in the third. On Red's next drive, a Hadyn Patenaude sack forced a fourth-and-20 and Athol had to punt the ball away.

There was a scare on Turners' next drive. Blue was in Athol territory when they lost the ball. The fumble was returned more than 50 yards before Kyle Dodge chased down the runner, tackling him on the 11.

Powertown instituted their Red Zone defense, and three plays later, L. Driscoll made his second pick of the night, giving Turners the ball on their own 20.

It would be unwise for Turners to sit on the lead with 6:46 left in the game. So they slowed the game down, methodically banging ahead 80 yards while punching 5 minutes off the clock.

John Torres scored the team's fifth and final touchdown of the evening, and Turners went up 34-6 with a minute 50 left to play. On that drive, Torres (115) passed the 100-yard mark. But two other Turners players gained more: Sanders (139) and J. Driscoll (118) also hit the century mark.

Hitting 3 C's on the ground is a testament to the linemen, downfield blocking, and smart running. Whether it's been done before is not that important. What is important is to try to do it again. After all, if you try as hard as you can, anything can happen!

Andy Craver rounded out the running game with 5 yards on one carry. In the air, Dodge made one completion for 14 yards to Jaden Whiting. Marcus scored three touchdowns, and J. Driscoll and Torres scored the other two, with Tyler Lavin adding 4 points on PATs.

Next Friday, Turners crosses the river to challenge undefeated Greenfield for the ICN lead, and of course, for bragging rights.

Next week: Trying to stay perched in the catbird seat.



GMRSD PRESS RELEASE

Turners Falls High School Logo/Nickname Task Force

The Gill-Montague Regional School district seeks high school students and adult community members to participate in a task force charged with leading a process for the selection of a new high school logo and nickname.

The GMRSD school committee has decided that a task force consisting of up to 19 members should develop and conduct a process which will result in the selection of the new Turners Falls High School logo and nickname.

Task force members may include up to eight TFHS school students, three staff members, two alumni, three adult citizens of Montague, two from Gill, and one from Erving. The high school administration will determine a process for the selection of student representatives. A lottery system will be used to select adult task force members should there be greater interest than spots available.

The work of the task force will consist of the following stages:

1. The task force promotes, invites, and receives logo/nickname proposals.
2. The task force screens submissions, qualifying those that meet the school committee's pre-existing selection criteria. The school committee checks in with the task force on its screening decisions.
3. The task force reviews all qualified submissions and selects the best proposals for further consideration by the TFHS community. Two or three finalists are selected.
4. The task force coordinates the final decision-making process by the community at large. The school committee will formalize the final community decision.

Those interested in participating on the task force may express their interest by calling the superintendent's office at 863-9324 or by emailing the superintendent at michael.sullivan@gmrtd.org.

Emails may also be sent to the school committee from the "send us a message box" on the district's webpage: www.gmrtd.org. Names will be accepted up until October 3.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Old Friends Offer Land; Board Locks In Rate

By MIKE JACKSON

On Tuesday night, Leverett’s selectboard met with Roger Conant, representing the land use committee of the Mount Toby Friends Meeting-house, who came to ask if the town would be interested in acquiring about 60 back acres of the Friends’ land off Long Plain Road.

The triangular tract on the southern face of Roaring Mountain has no frontage along Route 63, but a driveway leads to a small parking area, and the Friends have developed hiking trails on the hillside. It is divided by a power line right-of-way, and a section has been selectively logged over the years.

“It’s the part beyond the pond,” Conant explained.

The land was used in the 1960s by the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, which provided nature programs there for low-income children from Springfield and Holyoke before moving to Amherst in the ‘70s.

Conant said his committee had spoken with the Kestrel Land Trust, and was also considering the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which “had expressed interest before.”

“I like the idea of it staying in the domain of Leverett’s administration,” he said.

Selectboard member Julie Shively asked him if he had spoken with the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, expressing worry that the acquisition could mean “another responsibility for, basically, a town that’s made up mostly of volunteers at this point.” Shively is a trustee of that organization.

“We have a collaborative relationship with the Trust on other properties,” board chair Peter d’Errico explained. “It would really fit more cleanly into the overall pattern of conserved land in town if Rattlesnake were kind of the front for this.”

Member Tom Hankinson added that, if the Trust weren’t interested, he would be “keenly interested” in continuing the conversation about making the land public.

Conant thanked the selectboard and indicated he would pursue the lead.

“We all know that all kind of sleazy deals took place in which the land became ‘owned,’ so-called, by Europeans,” he said, “and we are interested in just making it public again, which is as close as we can come to returning it to the original status.”

Power Session

“So, the energy committee is not here,” noted d’Errico, at 7:30 p.m. on the nose. “They were invited.”

Town administrator Margie McGinnis presented quotes she had received from Constellation Energy and Hampshire Power for electricity.

Leverett has been buying “green” electricity from Constellation at a rate of 9.74 cents per kilowatt-hour, but that two-year contract will expire in November, sooner than the town expects to be able to buy electricity at an aggregated rate from Colonial Power.

Constellation is now offering the same deal for 9.49 cents. Traditional electricity from Constellation would cost 9.43 cents, and Hampshire offered the equivalent

“green” deal for 9.677 cents.

The selectboard opted for a new two-year “green” contract with Constellation, provided the quoted rate did not rise significantly. “The sooner we sign it, the more fixed these numbers are,” McGinnis pointed out.

“I think it’s a crapshoot,” Hankinson grumbled. “Get it over with.”

“That’s my inclination, too,” Shively replied. “And then maybe we’ll get screwed for .0023 or something.”

Colonial Power’s last quote has come in at 10.80 cents per kilowatt-hour. Residents will still be able to purchase power at an aggregated rate later this year.

The board’s unanimous vote came at 7:38, and at 7:41, energy committee member George Lockwood entered the room. “I was told to be here between 7:30 and 8,” he said.

The board gave a recap of their conversation, and Lockwood questioned why the town had only considered two companies’ quotes. “It’s closed, and the decision is made?” he asked.

“Yeah, for the two-year contract, at 100% ‘green,’ at a better price than we’re getting now,” d’Errico summarized.

“Oh, then, that’s fine,” Lockwood agreed.

Other Business

The selectboard signed documents to allow Leverett to accept its share of a five-town community development block grant totalling \$1,294,928.

The grant, earmarked for housing rehab, is administered by the regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, with Leverett acting as lead town.

Facilities manager John Kuczek has “inactive” wastewater and drinking water operator licenses, which will lapse entirely soon. The town now contracts out for these services. Kuczek asked the town if it wanted to pay for renewing the licenses, but the selectboard decided that they could lapse.

Shively reiterated her position that she would like police chief Scott Minckler to meet with the board before they approve an updated “use of force” policy for his department.

“I have general, overall concerns,” she said.

“I also do think, since the selectboard specifically voted in 2005 not to allow Tasers, that it’s probably wise to have a second vote of the whole board.”

McGinnis shared some updates from highway boss David Finn. The department will be striping roads during the night of Sunday, October 1.

Finn has estimated that repairs to the Dudleyville Road bridge will cost around \$80,000. The project is being prepared to be put out for bid, and is hoped to be completed in a month to six weeks.

The department also has Chapter 90 money from the state to fix the Coke Kiln Road bridge.

Julie Shively said she had agreed to be on a “little history committee” discussing Leverett’s past with a delegation from Letcher County, Kentucky in late October.

The visit is part of a cultural ex-

change dubbed “Hands Across the Hills,” hosted locally by the Leverett Alliance. Next spring a group of Leverett residents will be hosted by the Appalshop education center in Whitesburg, Kentucky.

Public events for Hands Across the Hills will be held on Saturday, October 28, including a community forum in the morning at Leverett Elementary School, a community chorus performance and potluck lunch, and a potluck dinner and contra dance at the Montague Common Hall.

By GEORGE BRACE

On Monday, the Gill selectboard unanimously approved the appointment of Sergeant Chris Redmond as acting police chief, to fill the vacancy left by former chief David Hastings’ sudden retirement on September 15.

The board held two executive sessions, then commenced the regular meeting with an announcement of Redmond’s appointment as the first order of business. *(See story, page A1.)*

Improvements

Administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that he had gotten some preliminary feedback from the state Department of Environmental Protection on the proposed drinking water treatment system for Gill Elementary School, and that he would be following up with potential vendors to make sure their equipment satisfies the DEP’s questions.


Purington also reported that a new vendor showed up last week with a system that seemed interesting. Purington and chair Randy Crochier remarked that it would have been nice if the sales rep for that company had showed up a month, or a year, earlier. Purington said that despite it being late in the game, “we have to give it due diligence.”

Purington reported that work on the Riverside Municipal Building ramp is almost complete, and should be finished within the next week or two. He also reported that new pavement on a section of River Road has been completed. The town’s roadside mower is being repaired.

Crochier asked for an update on the highway department dump truck, which was bought used and has required a number of repairs. Board member Greg Snedeker said that he had called highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire a few weeks ago and spoken to him about it, but would like another update himself.

Snedeker reported that he had been told the truck’s floor was fixed, and the truck should be drivable now, though the department has been busy with projects and hasn’t required it.

Board member John Ward also asked for some particulars about the repairs that had been completed, and there was a consensus they’d all like to hear a little more about the situation.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Non-Police Business, Too

Grant Funding

Purington reported on the timelines, requirements and elements of several grant programs. He began with a discussion of a FEMA planning grant available to update Gill’s “local multi-hazard mitigation plan,” and presented a letter from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) on the subject.

“In order to be eligible for Federal hazard mitigation grants,” the letter read, “which become available to all towns across the Commonwealth when the President declares a disaster anywhere in the Commonwealth, your town must have a current, FEMA-approved local plan.”

FEMA is offering a grant which would cover 75% of the cost to the town of updating its plan, estimated by FRCOG at between \$10,000 and \$12,500. The remaining 25% cannot be federally funded, but can include “in-kind matches,” such as the value of time spent by local staff to participate in the planning. The FRCOG letter offered assistance in identifying reasonable in-kind matching activity, as well as help in applying for 2018 District Local Technical Assistance funding, which could also be used for the local match.

The board decided by consensus to authorize Purington to pursue the grant.

Next up was a letter from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), offering the town grants to “identify areas with adverse loss experience... and target those losses.” These grant or grants can total up to \$10,000, and cover a range of municipal risk management needs involving services, programs or equipment.

Purington noted that the town has taken part in the program for seven years, and that sometimes the grants come through, but sometimes they don’t. He said he would give a “head’s up” about the deadline to various town department heads so they can get back to him with ideas on what their departments’ needs may be.

Giving Tree Giving Beer

The board reviewed an application for a one-day beer and wine license by the Giving Tree School, to be used for their 40th anniversary celebration and Family Fun Fest on October 14.

Jeff Coulson, one of the school’s

founders, appeared before the board to provide information about the event and answer questions about the application. After a brief presentation and some questions and answers the license was unanimously approved. “It sounds like a good event, and you have everything under control,” Crochier told him.

Coulson extended a general invitation to the event, saying, “All are welcome.” He noted that the school has been part of the town for a long time, pointing out that “some of the kids who came at the beginning will be coming with kids of their own.”

Other Business

The town’s conservation commission sent a letter to the state DEP complaining of “significant water quality issues connected to both current and long-term use of the Connecticut River by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company.”

Ward brought the letter to his colleagues’ attention, and the selectboard will discuss at its Oct. 2 meeting whether to send a similar letter.

Wednesday, October 4 is the date of the next meeting of local towns, FirstLight, and state and federal agencies, which are attempting to reach a negotiating settlement in advance of the power company’s upcoming dam relicensing. Ward reported that the talks are still focusing on fish passage and water flow rate.

Crochier announced the first planning session for celebrations of Gill’s 225th anniversary next year would take place on Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. at the town hall. He described it as a “brainstorming session,” and said all were welcome to attend.

He also noted that it seemed likely the town could hold multiple events over the course of the year, and that the Franklin County Boat Club was on board for incorporating some anniversary festivities into their activities.

Flu vaccination clinics will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, October 13 at Stoughton Place, and from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18 at Gill Elementary.

The Gill Cultural Council has set an October 16 deadline for proposals for grants that support community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs.

For more information, call Sue Kramer at (413) 863-4621 or check out www.mass-culture.org.

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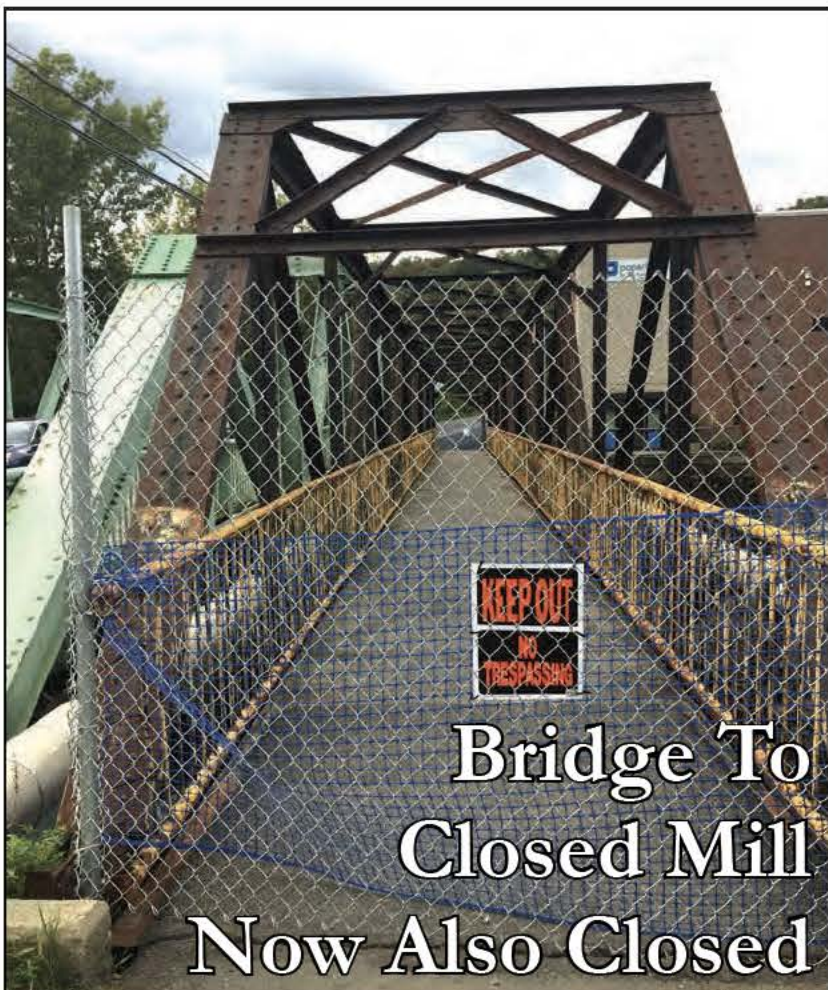


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Bridge To Closed Mill Now Also Closed

JACKSON PHOTO

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The town sealed off the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge across the Power Canal on Tuesday, after a state inspection “revealed major structural deficiencies,” according to Montague town administrator Steve Ellis, who elaborated that “the underlying foundation of the bridge is solid, but the deck is heaving.”

The MassDOT inspection coincided with the canal’s annual draw-down, which allowed access under the bridge’s deck.

According to Ellis, pedestrians heading for the recently closed Turners Falls Paper Company or to Greenfield via the White Bridge are now advised to first cross the canal at the nearby Bailey Bridge to Power Street, then cut through the parking area of the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Werner built the radio transmitter while participating in a radio art residency in Vienna, Austria in the winter of 2016. While in Europe, Werner was a part of a larger movement of

Tiny Transmission Will Mark Bookmill Birthday

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

MONTAGUE CENTER – To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Montague Bookmill, radio artist Karen Werner will be hosting a live pop-up radio show from the building’s cupola this Saturday, September 23.

“The cupola reminds me of a pirate ship,” said Werner, while noting that this “narrowcast” is not a pirate transmission, but a legal signal that will only reach a radius of 200 feet or about 70 steps – hence the term “narrowcast.”

Werner built the radio transmitter while participating in a radio art residency in Vienna, Austria in the winter of 2016. While in Europe, Werner was a part of a larger movement of

artists who have taken an interest in the more antiquated wave signals of radio transmissions.

The poetics of the way the wave form functions as it bounces and travels from transmitters to receivers has captivated these artists, who find that this medium can be used in art “to get at core issues of communication.” Werner herself has used the radio to communicate memories of the Holocaust, personal stories of love, Plato and seaweed, butterfly migrations and wristwatches.

For her transmission at the Bookmill, Werner has selected a lineup of radio artists to spread “a book consciousness,” discussing, reading and sharing memories about books and the Bookmill itself. She views radio as a community project, and



finds the narrowcast to be particularly poetic and beautiful.

“We all have a secret radio transmission in our heart,” says Karen Werner, and she invites all to come join the narrowcast in celebration of the Montague Bookmill, the community, and stories of all kinds.

Head to 440 Old Greenfield Road and tune in to 92.3 FM – “92.3 on 9/23” – this Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. for your listening pleasure.

Wendell Surplus Auction a Success

By JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL – Last Saturday, close to 30 interested customers attended Wendell’s annual auction of surplus property. Former selectboard member Ted Lewis was auctioneer and his style was low key, low pressure.

The town earned over \$2,000, and got to clear out some clutter. Of three vehicles that were available, only the retiring plow truck was not sold. Bidding for the small pickup truck started at \$200 and went up to \$700. After a long quiet time with no bids, a large roll-off container of furniture sold for \$100.

Purchasers have 60 days to remove what they bought.



Auctioneer Ted Lewis, left, with selectboard member Dan Keller.

By the day’s end, many things had already been moved.

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After the Storm: Rescued from the Shelters



Our correspondent Pam Morawski, at right, with Nilla.

After Hurricane Harvey, Montague Center's Pam Morawski headed down to Texas with a team of volunteers to help rescue dogs. She shared her story with our readers.

By PAM MORAWSKI

HOUSTON – Angelica and Canela, a couple of eight-month-old hound/Lab-mix sisters, were literally being dragged into a high-kill shelter as we all stood in awe at the actions of the only family they knew. Their protesting paws slid across the linoleum at the entrance of BARC, Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care.

Canela received a kick in the ass for not moving fast enough to what, without our efforts, could have been her death. Their family filled out the appropriate paperwork, handed the dogs over to a shelter employee, and walked out the door with all three of their kids smiling.

As all of this was happening, we were frantically taking pictures and sending texts to make sure some rescue shelter in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York had room for the two. They did, and it was a go!

These lucky girls were only in this shelter for a couple of hours

while we tagged nine others to come with us. Loaded up, we had a four-hour drive to Fort Worth, our base of operations.

The eleven dogs were either surrendered by their owners or had already been in the shelter long enough to be up for adoption. Thanks to many rescue organizations stepping up to remove these animals, space was made for the continuing influx of animals being displaced by Hurricane Harvey.

Animal Aid USA and MOMS Rescue are the two groups that I am associated with. They both reside in southern New Jersey.

Animal Aid USA is where this trip really began. Being involved in an organization that goes to Georgia and rescues between 200 and 300 dogs and cats every month creates bonds between people that can't be broken. While chatting with Robike Noll-Faries, a rescue friend, about

the hurricane, she almost jokingly said "Let's go to Texas!" Without hesitation the answer was "YES!"

A request to take a van from the regular Georgia caravan was asked of Karen Talbot, Animal Aid founder. Her answer was also an emphatic "Yes." In two days, four of us were on our way, with a van full of donations to a lifesaving and life-changing event.

When we witnessed some of the flooding as we took a side trip to Katy, Texas, the reason we came was made very clear. Austin Pets Alive, a shelter from Austin, had created a staging area in Katy where displaced animals could be brought.

Animals were photographed, examined, and vaccinated, and the location where they had been found put into a database. People who were missing pets could peruse the photos and locate their pet. We see **RESCUE** page B4



The rescue team at Houston, left to right: Gerri Papillon, Robike Noll-Faries, Suzanne Gutin, Father Paul Gulja, Dawn LaMura, and Reporter correspondent Pam Morawski.

Traprock Gift a Boon to Orange Libraries



Jason Sullivan-Flynn, children's librarian at the Orange Public Library.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

ORANGE – This Saturday is an important day at the Wheeler Memorial Library. Thanks to a generous gift of \$1,000 from the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in Greenfield, the library will begin to display a brand new addition of children's books at the main branch and at the Moore-Leland Library in North Orange.

In addition, the Wheeler Library will play host Saturday to a kite making workshop from noon to 1:30 p.m. Children's Librarian Jason Sullivan-Flynn will kick off the special event by reading *Henry and the Kite Dragon* by Bruce Edward Hall. Hall's imaginative, delightful book is one of the volumes purchased with Traprock's award monies to the Orange Public Libraries.

The workshop is designed for

children from the age of five years old and up along with their families, according to Sullivan-Flynn. The practical seminar will be packed with ideas on how to creatively construct your long frame in conjunction with paper or cloth – and don't forget that all-important string!

The Traprock endowment enabled the Friends of the Orange Public Libraries to buy close to 100 books, spanning target audiences from early childhood to young teens. The collection focuses on subjects and themes such as diversity, family, community, world peace, empathy and tolerance, plus human beings' position in the natural environment.

"The books," said Sullivan-Flynn, "make up an eclectic group. There are poetry works, children's picture books, short and simple one-chapter books for emerging readers, and novels for the middle grades along with elementary grade readers. In addition, we have non-fiction works and biographies.

"Altogether, it's a very nice mix." Traprock Director Pat Hynes points out the vital effect of books on the young. "Good books can influence children in so many ways – providing good role models, deepening their sense of wonder in nature, stimulating their imagination,

see **LIBRARY** page B2

Tim Van Egmond Offers his Reflections on Performance, Life



Tim Van Egmond at home, playing the hammered dulcimer.

By ALICE THOMAS

MONTAGUE – If you've ever read about or attended a performance by Montague Center resident Tim Van Egmond, you know you are in for a treat! His accolades are heard from nearly every nook and cranny of Massachusetts... and beyond. Now, he's on our local schedule and is preparing for his next performance that will take place at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Tuesday, September 26 at 1 p.m.

Tim is in his sixties, and his songs come from his early memories of folk music. It is from this era that he took his singing style. He describes his style as "folk-singing" and plans to play and sing such songs as "Get Up and Go," "We Ain't Got a Barrel of Money" and "The Bluebird Song" during

his performance. He'll accompany himself with the mountain dulcimer, the hammered dulcimer, guitar, limberjack, and maybe the spoons.

If you're looking for some of his recorded songs, you could look for his Swallowtail recordings that include "Flights of Fancy" and "After the Dance."

A storyteller, he also plans to tell *The Old Woman and the Rice-cake*, a story from Japan about a woman who outsmarts a group of men who planned to outsmart her! He'll also entertain everyone with an old Latvian story, *Grandfather's Advice*, a story about an older man's wisdom that saved his community. He may even offer a bit of woven poetry and what Tim calls "homespun humor."

see **VAN EGMOND** page B5



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Sojourn in Gloucester

Ken's book is *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery, the story of a woman (sixty-seven years old, mother of eleven, victim of spousal abuse) who, with little preparation except for the muscle building exercise of walking ten miles a day, took on one of our longest national treks. She traveled solo, no tent, no sleeping bag, and no map. With a word of her plan to no one except one cousin, she told her family she was "going for a walk."

Interviewed at some point on her "walk," she described herself as waking up one day with the sense of mission and a drive to make this hike. This sense of mission and an incredible resolve served her well as a wife and mother. Now it kept her walking the full length of the Appalachian Trail in 1955.

My book is *Any Bitter Thing* by Monica Wood. It is the story of a young priest who adopts his orphaned niece at the age of two. This novel is the story of how parenting changes this man and his congregation's view of him. The book is quite different, yet one which shares the themes of mission and resolve. Both Emma Gatewood and the two main characters in my novel also have resilience and powerful missions.

These qualities of mission, resolve and resilience are hallmarks of the people we revere as heroes, people we admire and wish to emulate. So many in the annals of history; such qualities as are hard to find in our current-day leaders.

The words of these men and see **GARDENERS** page B4

By LESLIE BROWN

Gloucester, MA – Although it feels as if we have just had vacation, we had planned another for this fall. It is fine to walk away from the garden, which has almost finished its production. There are yet more butternut squash to ripen, but mostly it will be time to clean up the garden beds when we return.

We arrive on a bright, hot day in mid-September. The tide is in and it is spectacular.

Gloucester is our oldest seaport. It was settled in 1623 and was known for fishing, shipbuilding and granite quarrying. It is still a busy fishing port, and now also a tourist destination on Cape Ann, busy with sightseeing tours, yachts and whale watching.

Our spot is two rooms at Rocky Neck, an artist's colony in the eastern part of town. We are surrounded with art galleries, a couple of gourmet restaurants, and a busy harbor of pleasure craft. We are away from the hustle of downtown and near the endless spread of Good Harbor beach.

Our small apartment boasts a bedroom, a living and kitchen area, as well as an upstairs deck overlooking the harbor.

We love the unscheduled time, the ambience and the steady come and go of the tides. Far from chores, we indulge in walking and reading.

Pet of the Week

Howdy, I'm Jasper Johns. If you think cats are boring blobs who nap all day, well, you just haven't met me! I'm an active girl who likes to zoom around the house and loves to play. Will you buy me some wand toys and catnip-filled mice, maybe a laser pointer? If you have kids at

home to help tire me out, all the better. If you're looking for a big, beautiful kitten to share your home with, speak with an adoption counselor about taking me home!
Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“JASPER JOHNS”

Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 25 TO 29

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.

Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 A.M. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 9/25
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 9/26
9:30 a.m. Tech Help Appts.
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Tim Von Egmond Show
Wednesday 9/27
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 9/28
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 9/29
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at

noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 9/25
9:30 Healthy Bones & Balance
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
12:30 p.m. Basic Computer Class
Tuesday 9/26
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
Wednesday 9/27
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday 9/28
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:15 p.m. Wii Summer Sports
Friday 9/29
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:15 a.m. Music/Magic/Mvmnt.
12:30 Healthy Lunch

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.

LIBRARY from page B1

and showing a world of tolerance and respect.”

Sullivan-Flynn points out that the Live Local Legend Speaker Series, which will bring author Cammie McGovern to the Moore-Leland Library in North Orange, will take place Thursday, October 5 at 7 p.m.

“Cammie McGovern’s novel *Chester and Gus* is one of the books we purchased through the Traprock award, for older children,” said Sullivan-Flynn. “It’s a wonderful story about a child with autism and his service dog. What makes the book so special is that it’s told from the dog’s point of view.”

Another exceptional example from the new collection is *Ghost* from the pen of renowned African-American author Jason Reynolds. The story, chosen as a novel for fifth and sixth graders, centers on a boy who comes from a disadvantaged background, chronicling his struggle to be accepted by his peers on the school’s track team. On his journey, the protagonist discovers he has more in common with his fellow young athletes than he had

originally thought.

“Traprock’s gift is a wonderful opportunity,” said Sullivan-Flynn, “to obtain books that help advance, for example, human and civil rights. As we learn about the experiences of a fellow human being, we’re more able to better relate to that person. Through that better understanding, civil discourse can be uplifted in general.

“Encouraging civil discourse is a mission of public libraries everywhere. We place no barriers on access to information regardless of age, ethnicity, or creed. All people are welcome to the library to enrich their lives, to aid their careers, and to read recreationally. In addition, we have special events for children and families, such as the upcoming kite making workshop. Through these events, the Orange public libraries contribute to solidifying community.”

Helping the Wheeler and Moore-Leland reach their goals are the Friends of the Orange Public Libraries. Promoting the well-being of the local atheneums, the advocates conduct fundraising functions along with receiving the

endowments such as the Traprock gift. In effect, the Friends actually buy the books, according to Jason.

However, the selection of the volumes is left to the library professionals. “We selected the new collection not only for subject matter,” said Sullivan-Flynn, “but also considered how the books have been reviewed by critics. So the selections are examined very carefully and intentionally to ensure a high quality of additions to our catalog.”

Sullivan-Flynn, whose background is in both library science and education, has served as children’s librarian for just under two years. Jason fulfilled those duties in Gardner prior to his arrival in Orange.

For more information on Saturday’s kite making workshop or on joining the Friends, please call (978) 544-2495. The Wheeler Memorial opens its doors Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 8 p.m. The library is closed Fridays and Sundays, but is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Friends Buy Picnic Table

By LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Ann Nakis of Turners Falls was the first library patron to use the new picnic table by the Carnegie Library. It was purchased by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries.

They raised the funds through their monthly book sales. The next sale is on Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

A few young people at Open View Farm’s Journey Camp came up with a great idea that’s getting bigger. Learn more about their peace rope project by viewing our latest videos at montaguevtv.org.

Looking for something to do in your community? Check out River of Words, a public-participation art exhibit on display this month at Great

Falls Discovery Center. The exhibit is open through September 28.

Interested in becoming a board member for Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI)? Visit montaguevtv.org to learn more, and call (413) 863-9200 to set up an appointment with a current board member!

At MCTV we connect community members to local happenings through local access programming.

This Friday: Five Dollar Felines!

LEVERETT – On Friday, September 22, Dakin Humane Society will reduce adoption fees for select adult cats to \$5 for that day at both their Springfield and Leverett Adoption Centers.

According to Dakin’s executive director Carmine DiCenso, the event is part of the organization’s efforts to offer help to shelters located in areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

“We’ve been asked by so many people how they can help an animal affected by the hurricanes,” he said, “and the answer is ‘adopt a pet.’”

“When you bring home a pet from our Springfield or Leverett adoption center, it creates a ripple effect because you free up a cage for another animal we can take from our partners in southern shelters. They are busy relocating pets who were already homeless at

the time the hurricanes hit so they can make the space they’ll need to tend to storm-displaced pets, most of whom have been separated from their families.

“Dakin has taken in several transports of those southern pets,” DiCenso continued, “and more are coming. These new faces, combined with the pets we receive locally, have significantly added to the pet population here at Dakin, especially of felines. That’s why we’re holding this adoption event this Friday.”

Hours in Springfield are 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., and hours in Leverett are 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The cats selected are those who have been waiting for adoption for several weeks. Each cat will also be spayed or neutered, have received age-appropriate vaccinations, and will have been microchipped.

Other animals available at Da-

kin include dogs, kittens, guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, ferrets, rats and mice. A full listing of adoptable animals is available at www.dakinhumane.org.

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them from its two locations in Leverett and Springfield. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year and has performed more than 75,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England’s largest spay/neuter provider.

Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.

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ELEVEN CDS FOR ELEVEN BUCKS

9. Morrissey, *Kill Uncle* (1991)

By IVAN USSACH

Kill Uncle is the second solo effort by Morrissey, former vocalist and lyricist for The Smiths, and it’s okay.

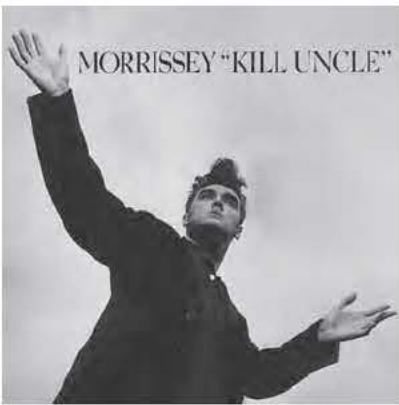
I wanted it to be more than okay, having recently delved into his solo career by way of a 2001 Greatest Hits collection. None of *Kill Uncle* made it onto that one.

While I missed the Smiths during their mid-Eighties assault on the independent British music scene and subsequent marginal popularity stateside, I fell in love with them pretty quickly a few years back, when a band I was in put together a short set of their material and I had to pound those songs into my brain. It was great fun! But wait –

Back to *Kill Uncle*: Well, there’s Morrissey’s trademark voice and unusual phrasing, which are acquired tastes, and most effective when supported by strong musical arrangements. But something is lacking on this effort, the ingredients don’t quite gel. About halfway through I realized I could take it or leave it.

The music is arguably just fine, with lean, nimble bass and drums reminiscent of his former band. I just couldn’t get traction – there was nothing truly memorable, nothing I loved. Mark Kevin played guitar and wrote the music, and it’s tempting to say he just isn’t Johnny Marr from the Smiths.

But with Morrissey’s eleventh solo album set to be released in November, it’s likely this one was just a weaker outing than most. One reviewer, writing retrospectively,



called it “a series of pleasant but tired alternative jangles.”

The only lyrics that stuck in my head initially were these odd opening lines from “King Leer” (note the telling spelling): “Your boyfriend, he / went down on one knee / well, could it be / he’s only got one knee?” There’s more: This is Morrissey, after all, a poetic and unpredictable thinker.

“So how did I end up / so deeply involved in / the very existence / I planned on avoiding?” he croons in “Driving Your Girlfriend Home”; and, from “Sing Your Life”: “Just walk right up to the microphone / and name / all the things that you love / all the things that you loathe.”

At bottom, I’d say Morrissey’s gift is his at times unsettling ability to navigate, and occasionally illuminate, the paradox that unites beauty and loathing, the banal and the sublime. He ends “Our Frank,” *Kill Uncle*’s opener, sounding exasperated at the prospect: “Won’t somebody stop me / from thinking all the time / about everything / so deeply / so bleakly.”

EVENT PREVIEW

The “Cool Ride” Car Show

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – A car show called “Cool Ride” will be held this Saturday, September 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Franklin County Technical School. Its sponsors include Brown Motors, and “Traditional Foods, Fare, and Culinary Delights” by the school’s cooking staff and culinary students are advertised on the flyer. Guided tours of the school will go on from 10 a.m. to noon.

I talked to a person named Barbara Wilson, who has been at the school for 14 years and has been responsible for accounts payable for the last 11 years, about the car show. “We have a wide range of trucks, cars and tractors and motorcycles,” she said. “We have had this range since we began the show.”

Barbara added, “We have vehicles back into the ‘30s up to the ‘70s.” One more thing she mentioned is that “over 200 vehicles” have been at the show.

I know from the school’s official website that last year a man named Doug Smith brought his 1954 Hudson Hornet coupe to the show. Various other examples of cars that were there last year are a 1951 Kaiser Deluxe, owned and brought there by Tom Bassett, and a 1972 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 and 1962 Chevrolet Bel Air, belonging to Jenn Bartak and her parents.

I have seen pictures of motor-

cycles that were at the show one year on the school’s Facebook page. If these vehicles are anything near what the bikes looked like then, people will enjoy looking at them very much this year as well.

According to a flyer for the show, there will be a People’s Choice Trophy and “Top 25 awards” given out for vehicles in the show. The event looks like it’s a car version of what you would expect a dog show to be like.

From what I have learned, it seems like my father, a pretty big car enthusiast, would like to go to this show. (I say he is a car enthusiast because he read quite a few car magazines and is knowledgeable about cars as well. If that doesn’t sound like a car enthusiast, then I don’t know what does.)

Besides the cooking staff and the students helping out with food, “we also have a lot of student volunteers to set up and take down” things, Barbara told me. Student groups will set up as vendors there to raise money for their individual programs. The show is free; people are just looking for donations.

And in addition to checking out these groups while you are at the school looking at all of the vehicles, there is also face painting, and a bounce house for the kids.

When it comes to her opinion of the show, Barbara said she thinks “it’s phenomenal.”

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Cat Assaults Bar Patron; Noise Terror on Grove Street; Recliner, Dirt Bike, Dead Deer, Locked Gate In Roads

Thursday, 9/7

6:18 a.m. Caller from DPW reporting a male party sleeping in the lobby of the Greenfield Savings Bank. Party moved along. 8:38 a.m. Walk-in reporting that his wallet was stolen while camping in Old Orchard Beach. Officer will attempt to locate person who has wallet. Involved female has returned wallet to Athol PD. Caller notified.

9:50 a.m. Caller states that a white-haired male is screaming and carrying on for no reason near Aubuchon Hardware. Male was upset at a dog that was barking in a nearby vehicle. Party moved along.

10:16 a.m. Officer out with people lighting off firecrackers at Railroad Salvage. No more fireworks in vehicle. Parties moved along.

2:08 p.m. DPW requesting officer speak to a male party who is on a water department access road digging into a culvert. Officer advises that no one is there, but he can see where the digging took place; advises that premise checks should take place on a more routine basis.

11:48 p.m. Officer received call re: disturbance at Hubie’s Tavern. Investigated.

Monday, 9/11

7:50 a.m. Shoplifting incident reported at Food City. Subject located at Fifth and K streets. Subject transported by MedCare; party trespassed from store; summons issued.

8:12 a.m. Report of vandalism at the Sheffield Administrative Building. Report taken.

9:54 a.m. Caller reporting theft of jewelry and money from her residence on Fourth Street. Report taken.

2:46 p.m. Walk-in report of a recliner in the middle of one of the travel lanes at Turners Falls and Hatchery roads. Cars are reportedly swerving into oncoming traffic to avoid it. Officers advised.

5:38 p.m. Caller states that there is a “kid” riding around Hillside and Goddard avenues on a dirt bike at a high rate of speed. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 9/12

1:22 p.m. Walk-in reporting that somebody stole his mountain bike from the top of his truck while it was parked at his home on Montague City Road. Report taken.

3:21 p.m. Two-car accident on Dell Street. Fire department, MedCare, and tow requested. One party cited for failure to use care.

3:36 p.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms states that someone took his

phone from his vehicle while he was in the store. Officer viewed video footage; appears that a white female entered the vehicle and took the phone. Officer searching downtown area for subject. Report taken.

6:19 p.m. Caller from Dell Street states that there is a stray cat in the area of her house. She was advised that the cat may be an outdoor cat. Advised of options. Owner of cat located.

7:25 p.m. Report of suspicious person in building in Fifth Street apartment complex. Officers will be on lookout.

8 p.m. Officer off at this time on L Street with a male who appears to be half naked. Involved party went back into residence on K Street and was advised that action would be taken if there were any further issues.

8:37 p.m. Caller from Between the Uprights reporting that a cat keeps entering the bar and that this has been going on for days. He also stated that yesterday the cat bit a customer on the cheek. Officer off at location. Door to bar was open. Advised bar to close doors. Message left for animal control officer.

9:04 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop; vehicle was burning rubber coming out of the gas station. Operator advised that since she is now a Massachusetts resident, she needs to obtain a Massachusetts license. Citation issued.

Wednesday, 9/13

5:41 p.m. 911 caller from Prospect Street reports a male subject with no shirt and brown pants in the area on foot looking in various car windows. Unable to locate.

5:59 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that her children were out front riding their bikes when a black male wearing a black shirt came outside and began yelling at them. Involved subject moved along; nothing physical.

9:27 p.m. Two calls reporting neighbor disturbance

on K Street. Involved party reported that an altercation took place. Neither male located by officers. Units will be following up at residence.

10:13 p.m. Caller from K Street calling back to advise that the involved party is in his apartment “flipping out.” Officers on scene. Involved party was not in apartment. Caller has been allowing party to stay with him but would like him to remain out. Services rendered.

11:35 p.m. Male caller reporting safety issue on Industrial Boulevard; 10 out of 12 street lights are out and have been for about a year. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 9/14

10:01 a.m. Units off on K Street attempting warrant arrest.

_____ was arrested on a default warrant.

Friday, 9/15

3:42 a.m. Caller reports that she struck a deer on Millers Falls Road near Scotty’s. No injury; no smoke/flame/fluid. Deer (deceased) moved off to side of road. Message left for DPW.

2:20 p.m. Walk-in reporting sewer backup at house on Coolidge Avenue. DPW notified and will respond. 3:23 p.m. Walk-in reporting that the exhaust was torn off his vehicle while he was driving over the Canal Street bridge. Investigated.

Saturday, 9/16

8:56 a.m. Multiple calls reporting a fight in progress between two females on Griswold Street. One of the callers stated that a male party might also be involved. Officer requesting EMS for one female with lacerations/abrasions and a bump on her head. Under investigation.

11:42 a.m. Received two calls reporting loud music and screaming (described as sounding like a teenager having a tantrum) on Grove Street. Screaming has subsided, but music is still loud. One caller advised she asked the neigh-

bors to turn the music down. The parent is said to have yelled to the kids outside to turn the music down, using many expletives, but music is still really loud. Officer spoke with resident. Music was turned down and residents will be turning radio to face the other way.

5:31 p.m. Report of loud music coming from Grove Street location. Ongoing issue; second response today. Units clear; music has been turned off. Resident was advised of the consequences if officers had to return.

Sunday, 9/17

12:15 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that there is drug activity going on at this location because a lot of cars are driving by.

12:43 p.m. Report of loud music coming from a Grove Street residence. Female resident is loudly singing along with music and was also heard singing or yelling “I’m not gonna say I’m sorry.” Officers monitoring volume from Hillside Avenue and other end of Grove Street both report that they can hear the music from their locations. Caller prefers to wait and see if issue resolves itself.

1:32 p.m. Caller requesting assistance getting out of the Plains; was trying to find a location in Lake Pleasant and followed her GPS, but is now stuck behind a locked gate. Caller advises that in process of getting where she is now, she sustained damage to her vehicle. Officer located vehicle; advises that dispatch key did not open lock. Environmental police and TFFD contacted for another key; while contacting same, advised by officer to disregard; access gained.

3:16 p.m. Multiple calls reporting very loud music and screaming on Grove Street. Ongoing issue. Quiet upon officers’ arrival; will swing through neighborhood throughout the night.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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GARDENERS from page B1
women are still read and spoken. Words have such power.

Travel connects us in new ways. Separated from the comfort of our home base, we can listen and hear others better. A Florida couple staying nearby is feeling an extreme sense of helplessness. They are not allowed to go home. They have no idea of how their property has fared.

But, a couple of days later they have heard from friends and have pictures of their home. She says now they can send photos to their insurance company, which can then get on with their job of estimating the cost of rebuilding. Although they are still far away, they are now feeling some measure of control and a sense of moving forward.

Two galleries down from us, the artist has died suddenly. We watch as friends come together to offer comfort and support to his family. He was a man of vibrant personality and great vision whose life touched many.

At dinner we ask the manager about what he will do after the season is over. This man, who spends his life of work seeing that the needs of others are met, grasps at the chance to talk about himself.

We learn so much sharing in the lives of total strangers. This is the value of true conversation: listening, hearing and sharing.

Tweeting is the ultimate tool of self-indulgence; the knee-jerk response to a moment in time. Its trademark is the lack of self-restraint to pause and think, to choose the right phrase to convey an idea or feeling. It is a kind of verbal vomiting.

Human communication would be infinitely improved without it.

Our elderly neighbor is a true Yankee. If we comment about the beauty of the day, he says, “Yeah, but it’s supposed to rain later.”

Perhaps he means: “Yes, it is; I am so disappointed it can’t last.” Or maybe he is a glass-empty thinker, mired in the view of the downside of all good things.

Of course, the phrase “it’s all good” is patently untrue at the face of things. But perhaps what is meant is that all things have something good in them.

We take one last walk on Good Harbor beach. Our last day has begun occluded by fog which gradually burned off in midday heat.

Then in the late afternoon the temperature drops. By the time we get to the beach the fog is back in greater intensity. We walk towards the sound of the waves but cannot see them. Then at last we are at the edge of the water where surfers appear out of the mist like seals or sprites in an other-worldly form. We feel cut off, yet connected.

The damp air and water are cold and we soon turn our faces back into the fog to head toward our home-away-from-home. We can’t see our destination through the white thickness, yet suddenly the fog lifts a bit and there is the boardwalk to the parking area.

Taking a break from the mundane busyness of day to day life refreshes and reopens our awareness. It brings a powerful reminder to be mindful in our communications with others, to attend to their meaning and be sensitive in our responses. We are reminded also to walk with direction and resolve and with a mission in view.

Then, time for the drive home, to begin the job of putting the garden to bed and finishing the harvest.

Happy gardening!



T-RUMP



RESCUE from page B1

witnessed two such reunions, and it made all of our efforts worthwhile.

After our third night with less than six hours of sleep, we were off to the Humane Society of Central Texas in Waco. It was Monday, September 4, Labor Day. The shelter manager, Don Bland, along with the shelter’s veterinarian, came in on their day off and opened up the building.

Don gave us a personal tour so we could choose the rest of the dogs to fill our van for our return trip back to the northeast.

If we could rescue all of them, we would have, but that’s not possible. This is a sad reality in the rescue world, and we are always left wondering what became of those left behind.

In this particular shelter, however, their “live exits” come to 94%, so the feeling of helplessness was greatly reduced. We had to leave the dogs we had chosen at the shelter for another day. Time was needed to make sure each dog had the veterinary health certificates required for interstate travel. The certificates state that each animal is vaccinated with age-appropriate vaccines, including rabies, and that each animal is healthy for travel.

Each dog was microchipped prior to leaving with us. The registration for the microchip will be done by the dog’s adopter.

When we got “home” to Fort Worth, we still had to feed and walk the eleven dogs from Houston. We were fortunate to have the help, and home, of my friend’s father-in-law Bob Faries.

He had food cooked for us morning, noon and night, with “travel sandwiches” for when we were on the road. He also enlisted the help of neighbors who helped care for the dogs when we had gone to Waco to choose more.

We had brought Animal Aid tee shirts to share, so they quickly became part of our team. The night before we were to leave, they all created a fantastic “going home” gathering for their new family of rescuers. New bonds had been created.

Since we now personally knew all the dogs and puppies that would be going with us, we were able to arrange all the crates into our van. We had to stack them floor to ceiling, some facing the inside and some facing the back door, so we could access each. We bungee-corded them together, and then to the van walls, so none would move in transit.

Evidently, we had gotten a bit over-excited in choosing dogs, so things were going to be tight. We couldn’t change our minds and leave a dog behind, so the space for humans became smaller.

Normally, there is a crib-sized mattress on the floor of the van that we take turns sleeping on when our driving shift is over. It quickly became a half of a crib mattress, but we were happy to sacrifice comfort



Flooding in Katy, Texas.



The team at Waco. Left to right: shelter manager Don Bland, Paul Gulya, Robike Noll-Faries, Suzanne Gutin, Montague Reporter correspondent Pam Morawski, Dawn LaMura, Gerri Papillon, and Keith Parnell.

for lives saved.

Many times during the trip there would be a young pup that needed some reassurance on the already far-too-little mattress with whoever was lucky enough to try and sleep.

Google Maps will tell you it’s a 23-hour trip to our first stop, in Delaware, where we were to hand over most of the dogs to receiving rescues. With the necessity of stopping for fuel added in, it became 27 hours. Our team made one stop to walk, water, and stretch the legs of every dog in our care. It took a little more than an hour, and we were back on the road.

We arrived in Delaware around 7 p.m. and sent most of the dogs, and half of our crew, on their way. My friend Robike and I were to deliver the remaining five dogs to a shelter in Westchester County, NY. We found a dog-friendly hotel, and spent our last night happily surrounded by some of the luckiest dogs on the planet.

If you’d like to support these rescue efforts, you can make donations at animalaidusa.org.



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Tim Van Egmond

VAN EGMOND from page B1

When searching Tim out for a meeting and conversation in the winding roads of western Massachusetts, I found him walking down a fairly steep hill, waving me on. I finally arrived and was immediately calmed by the quiet peace of Tim's home: like a photo from a story set in a great forest, all wildlife teeming at the top of a gently sloping hill, it was still cool and green from nightfall under a canopy of great oaks and maples, with the business of wildlife scampering and flying about, calling out their territories to me.

I was already aware of Tim's success by the time I arrived, his accolades having preceded him from place to place like a trumpet call. Our time together was an occasion for listening and reporting, yet I wondered what I could possibly add to his already-known biography, written by others.

We sat in a cozy area of his home in a comfortable part of the kitchen. His cat, Calli, fat and curled up beside me, wearing a stunning paisley of inky midnight and golden dusk woven across her entire body, found her spot and didn't budge for over an hour. All was quiet; a place to just sink in and recall the important aspects of life. At that point, I knew an interview that focused on his performance history, the lists of venues, etc. would not be enough to let our readers know about him.

I thought, this is the course of Tim's life when he's not performing, not reaching out to his audience, instrument in hand, lyric on his mind, crux of a story waiting as he times it perfectly. And so, we both sunk in and dug deeply into his experience and thoughts, took the long road and found what was the most important to Tim during our visit, parsing together.

"It was sheer beauty – step by step," Tim responded, when I asked about how he recognized his skill and ease of performance in public and his interaction with others as he performed.

When asked about what happens: how he gets to that space that's so special, where everything works and his audience is with him, he was pensive and reflective, letting

me know not just the variety of his thoughts, but the sheer depth of it.

Tim has shown his ability to both engage and enjoy his audience; to reach that place that he identifies, after searching the great vault of a kitchen sky-light, as "grace."

"It gives me the shivers," Tim said, when he knows he is connecting with a person. Then he thinks about the lyric, "Make me a hollow reed..." by Seals and Crofts and says, "We are the harp that's singing. Be a clear channel." He says he's expanded as an artist because others inspire him. I encourage everyone to attend his performance... to inspire him.

When he talked about his storytelling, his eyes lit up. He learned from listening to others, from those performers who moved right in front of the listener, engaging with their eyes and whole body. Consistently, Tim is animated in his thought and gestures. He also mentioned his consistent suggestion to seniors that they repeat the story right away to someone else before they go to sleep that night. It's important! They can do it!

Tim mentioned that he once had a shop in Amherst he named Riversong Woodcraft, where he fabricated and sold instruments. He said he worked slowly-carefully in wood, as that was his niche. Other talents have obviously taken its place. With all his talents, he still wants to learn new musical skills, too.

He went on to say that it's not just a reciprocal event when he knows someone is "with him." Rather, it's a joined joy that carries that moment. When I asked him about his sense of it all on a more deeply felt or known plane; how it all "feeds him" he looked up and read from an invisible book that loomed from his youth, somewhere between the ceiling and a shelf of local pottery.

He quoted Frederico Garcia Lorca:

The poem, the song, the picture, is only water drawn from the well of the people, and it should be given back to them in a cup of beauty, so that they may drink – and in drinking, understand themselves.

Tim reported that his memory of when and where his skills and talents came to be significant to him

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part XX (December 3, 1941)

In browsing the archives of the Turners Falls Herald (1940-1942) we were delighted to find the paper had tracked down Antonia J. Stemple, who had worked in various escalating capacities at the Turners Falls Reporter (1872-1922), and encouraged her to submit a regular column of her recollections.

We are reprinting that column, which ran irregularly in the Herald over an eight-month period under the title "Looking Backward," in our own pages.

– Montague Reporter eds.

Naturally a boom town attracted many contractors, builders and engineers of the old school. A number of these were of Irish extraction.

Of course everyone knows of the vast contribution to Turners Falls' building and growth and of the successful engineering and construction projects of the late B.N. Farren, who, as is so often the case, was not half appreciated by his contemporaries nor his great skill and worth recognized.

But his works live after him and so I will not dwell on the life nor achievements of this modest and outstanding man.

But there was one contractor and stone mason not so well known, who deserves particular mention. He came to Turners Falls early and was responsible for much of the most important construction work not only in the town of Montague but in the county.

I remember him in his later years and Mr. Bagnall, who always had the highest respect and admiration for any master in his line, no matter what it was, told me much about him.

This contractor was a very modest man and had very little to say. In fact he was so inarticulate and retiring that he was mostly seen and seldom heard.

He had practically no formal education, having been obliged to leave school at a tender age. When called to figure on an excavating or foundation job or anything of the sort, no matter how large nor how

was at the age of seven years. This period was also during a time when he was regularly exposed to singing, and this paralleled with his family's concept of giving something very special to others.

His parents were both musical and he remembers that he regularly heard stories in his formative years from those he considered real story-tellers. He recalled that people commented to him that they were "somehow moved" when he sang.

From this, he became more ear-



PHOTOGRAPH BY E.W. COOK - COURTESY PETER S. MILLER

One of at least three buildings occupied by the Turners Falls Reporter office, above the "N.B. Hall Dining Room," now the Between the Uprights sports bar.

difficult, he never set down a figure or made any calculations on paper.

A Genius At Estimating

He simply would go off by himself, look the prospective ground over, walk over or around the site, and ruminate over the matter for a few hours or a day or two.

The site might be a stone ledge or a sandbank whose unseen possibilities for evil might be enormous, but he always followed the same simple procedure.

He thought out and figured out everything about any job in his head relying on nothing but his own knowledge, experience and intuition. Then when he was through he quoted the figure at which he would take the contract.

Almost invariably it was lower than any other bidder would name, yet he never was known to lose money on any job he undertook and he never did anything but sound, first-class work.

His calculations never played him false; in some mysterious manner he always allowed the proper margin for safety in case of the unpredictable. How he did all

this nobody knew. He couldn't tell himself. He just knew when he felt a job would take six weeks to do or cost \$10,000, that's the way it would come out.

An efficiency expert or trained and highly schooled engineer might decry this seeming hit or miss figuring or laugh at what seemed rule of thumb methods or sheer guesswork, but the fact remains that the efficiency expert with his elaborate graphs, measurements, sounds and testings frequently missed and lost to the silent contractor hands down.

Beside being a master contractor and the finest man in his line in this part of the country and a paragon of modesty withal, he was also the soul of honor and honesty. His word was his bond and his memory as phenomenal as his other skills.

Everyone trusted him to the limit and that trust was never betrayed. Yet he was no white collar man, had no polish, and kept in close touch with the men he employed. Nobody ever accused him of "airs."

It was men like he who built soundly, wisely, and honestly, who gave the early Turners Falls such a grand start. We could use more like him today.

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

A Fairy Garden

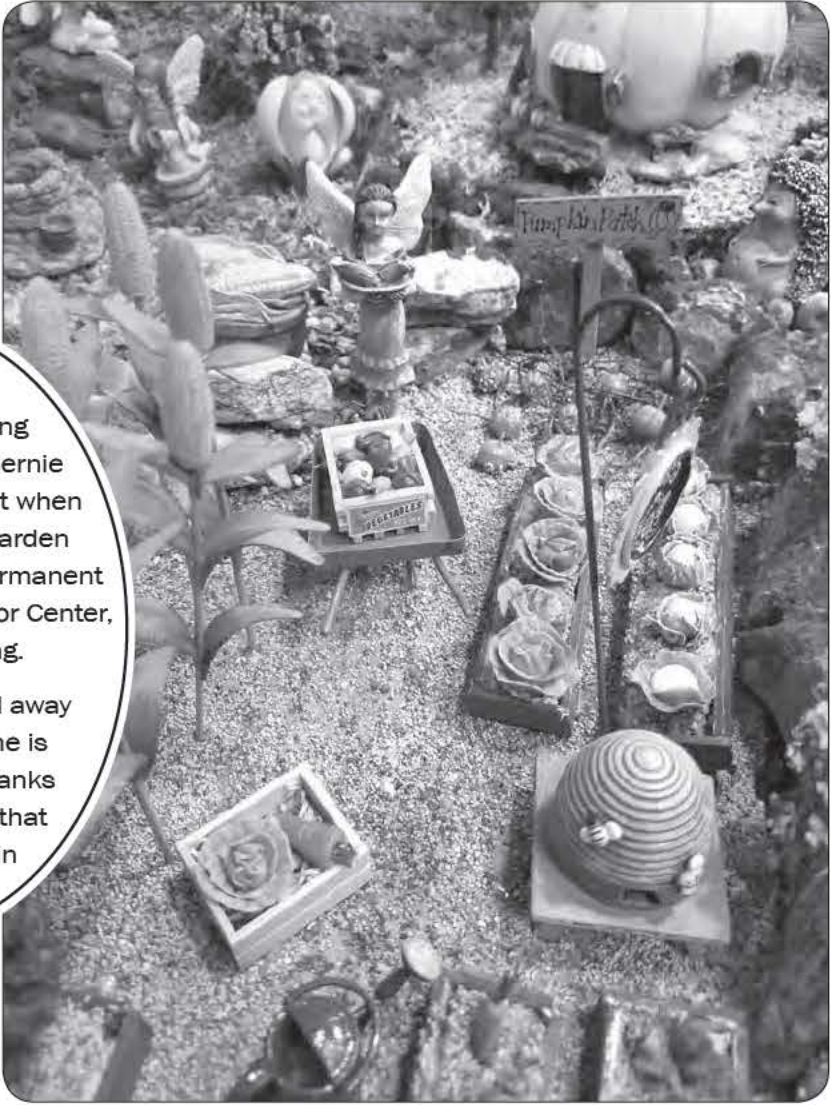
Words and pictures by Beverly Ketch



There's an elf who thinks up recipes to bring cruel giants to their knees, and a mouse who knows a thousand tales, of pirate gold and pearl-shelled snails, in a garden with a wise old tree who's lived for all eternity.

What fun it is to get lost in creating an imaginary world! Bernie Niedzwiedz did just that when he created the Fairy Garden pictured here, and on permanent display at the Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving.

Though Bernie passed away in April of this year, he is remembered daily thanks to this magical land that delights the child in everyone!



There's a vegetable patch in orderly rows, where corn and lettuce and cabbage grow, and fairies tend it joyfully, with love for every plant they see, and they tend bees in a basket skep, who wake them if they've overslept.




Because they dance all night, you see, and swing on the branches of the tree, they love to sing each happy song, and hear Nightingale's tunes, and play along, on flutes and drums and mandolins, 'til sunrise when the next day begins.



So take Fairy Lane to Pixie Place, and just forget the human race, where gnomes ride turtles and mermaids dream, in a mushroom patch lit with sweet sunbeams.

A magical fellow created this land, with a tender heart and a loving hand, and you can see it yourself in Erving-town, and a very kind lady will show you around!

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels, traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Branch Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 11 a.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

FIRST THURSDAYS

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic*. 7 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5-10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

Deerfield Valley Art Association and Museum of New England Art, Craft, and Design, Northfield: *Summer Show*. Through September 24.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River of Words*, a public-participation art exhibit. This unique combination of art and public policy urges federal officials to improve the health and recreational use of the Connecticut River.

Leverett Crafts and Arts. *Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Exhibit*. Works by founding and past LCA artists and craft-speople, and a commemoration of the history of the Center from industrial box factory to craft and art center. Through September 30. Fridays through Sundays, 1 to 6 p.m. At the Barnes Gallery, 13 Montague Road, Leverett.

Baystate Medical Cafe, Greenfield. *Healing Journey*, paintings by *Fran Corriveau*. Through September.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Triple I SSS: Sensual, Sexual, Smut Erotic Art* show, 25 local artists. Through October 21.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"The Green Show"*, group show. Through September 26 followed by *"We Just Felt Like It."* Lynn Perry's landscapes, animal masks and figures, Flo Rosenstock's mushroom and fungus inspired sculptures, Sue McFarland's wall pieces with embedded natural materials, and Paul Cohen's kinetic levitating characters represent four distinctive ways of working with the medium of felt, utilizing both needle felting and wet felting techniques. Artist reception Saturday, October 14, 2 - 5 pm.

The Pushkin, Greenfield: *Sketchbook Library* artist book and sketchbook exhibit with bookmaking workshop. Friday, 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 12 to 5.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Local Focus* by *Dave Rothstein*. This light-hearted series honors our local heroes - the Valley's talented farmers, chefs, bakers, brewers, vintners and frozen treat makers. Miniatures are paired with local specialties, distorting our perspectives of space and place, and engaging

our childlike sense of wonder. Through October.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield Northampton-based jazz ensemble *Now's the Time*. 7p.m. \$

Ashfield Lakehouse, Ashfield: *Gold Dime, Brompton Treb, and Lakeside Park Improvement Territory Research*. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Later Life*, live theater comedy about middle-aged romance. 7 p.m.



Dave Rothstein presents a light-hearted display of photographs using miniatures called Local Focus. At the Rendezvous through October 31.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls. *Fundraiser for Sierra Leone* with *John Sheldon* and *Old Flame*. A guitar prodigy who was working professionally at age 14, including a stint as Van Morrison's lead guitarist at 17, John has gone on to write hundreds of songs, including "September Grass" which appeared on a platinum album by James Taylor. *Old Flame* is an indie-rock band that spins grit, unapologetic politics, and honey-rasp vocals into a psychedelic punk-rock nostalgia, whose edge is a howling afterglow of raw blues. 7:30 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Katherine First and the Kitchen Party*. Traditional Celtic, Cape Breton and Appalachian music. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield *What Cheer? Brigade*, 20-piece brass band. Also, *DJ Lucas, Sly C., LuieGo, Jarv, Wiki Good*: hip-hop's finest on the main stage. 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, Orange. Something for everyone at 19th annual Garlic and Arts. Word, music, crafts, games, food, fun. 10 a.m. \$

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Later Life*, live theater comedy about middle-aged romance. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Butterfly Swing Band*, danceable joyous music with a swing

groove. 7 p.m.\$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Frank Rozelle*. Unique style, cover tunes. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: Live broadcast of *popup radio station 92.3 FM*. 1 p.m. Singer-songwriters showcase: *Eric Lee, Louise Mosrie, Davey O*. 8 p.m.\$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Stone Line*. Please join Josh Hill, Jen Spingla, Jason Duda & Doug McCloud for a Hootenanny with folk music and dancing. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Chris Forsyth & The Solar Motel Band, The Dire Wolves, and Anthony Pasquarosa*. 8 p.m. \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Turn It Loose*, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, Orange. Something for everyone at 19th annual Garlic and Arts. Word, music, crafts, games, food, fun. 10 a.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Selector Dub Narcotic, Landowner, OroborO, Climax Landers*, and more tba. All ages, substance free space. Bring diapers for the Franklin County Diaper Bank. 6 p.m. \$

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls. *Tim Van Egmond*, singer-songwriter and storyteller, 1 p.m. See profile this issue.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Fine Arts Center, UMass: *5 Takes on African Art/ 42 Flags* by *Fred Wilson*. An exhibition of African art drawn from the collection of Charles Derby, a UMass alumnus who has been collecting since the 1970s — alongside an exhibition of painted flags of Africa by the renowned African American artist Fred Wilson. Opening reception, 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *100 Who Care*. Join our friendly group that gathers 3 times a year to meet neighbors, learn about local charities, and give a collective donation. Registration/socializing 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Guaranteed good time!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Sweetback Sisters* and *The Mammals* Album release party. Hints of jazz and ragtime flesh out the Sisters' unique brand of classic country and rockabilly rave-ups. 7 p.m.\$

Hawks & Reed Greenfield. *The Dead Collective*, Grateful Dead tribute band. 8:30 p.m. \$

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This Sunday: Patricia Pruitt Reads At Voo

TURNERS FALLS – "...line and shadow all / An architecture of light within, without, / Within again, a place to live, endure / the shaking doubt, attendant tremors of the world."

Local poet Patricia Pruitt will be reading from her new book *Full Moon at Sunset: Selected Poems* at 3:30 p.m. this Sunday, September 24 at the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street.

Born in Haverhill, Pruitt studied Greek at the University of Massachusetts Boston and received her MFA in Writing and Poetics from Naropa Institute. Her work has appeared in numerous national and international publications.

Full Moon at Sunset, published by Talisman House, collects poems from many of her previous publications as well as new work.

Patricia is a former Montague selectboard member, as well as a *Montague Reporter* assistant editor and poetry page editor, and we encourage our readers and friends to make it out for this event!

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Gill's Tom and Deb Bergeron check out the same edition at the Jericho State Park Turbines in New Hampshire.



Charlie Rucci reads his August 10 edition of the Reporter at Fundy National Park in New Brunswick, Canada.

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