



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 45 also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell \$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

## Former Strathmore Owner Accused Of Dumping Sewage In Public Road

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE CITY** – Jerry Jones, best known locally as the owner of the Strathmore complex in Turners Falls from 2002 to 2008, was reportedly caught last Thursday at the Rod Shop, another one of the town's abandoned industrial sites, pumping liquid containing human waste from a pit onto a public roadway.

Though some town officials were hesitant to name Jones, citing an open investigation and potential litigation, the *Reporter* reviewed public documents indicating he was onsite, and this was subsequently confirmed by sources.

"I was there at the initial response," said Turners Falls police lieutenant Christopher Bonnett. "Nobody's supposed to be living there, I can certainly tell you that much. And

nobody's admitted to living there."

According to police chief Chip Dodge, "because it was a hazardous materials situation, the fire department took control of the scene."

"At 12:22, we were notified of a report of a person dumping an unknown liquid, that was black and emitting a strong odor, into the street," Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman reported. "Upon arrival, we observed a large area of Rod Shop Road that was wet, with a strong sewage-and-chemical odor."

Zellman, in turn, called in the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the board of health, and the building inspector.

"When I arrived, it was obvious that something had been spilled onto Rod Shop Road," said Gina McNeely, the town's public health director. [Chief Zellman] showed me where there was a little hole in the wall of the building where the effluent was coming from. And I went over and smelled it, and it absolutely smelled like septage."

McNeely said that she asked the

see **DUMPING** page A6



The chemical-tinged sewage had been stored in a pit inside the long-condemned building.

## ERVING SELECTBOARD Town Faces Decision Over IP Mill's Fate

By KATIE NOLAN

"We need to have a clear vision or developers will not be interested," administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said about the former International Paper Mill property, which the town of Erving owns through tax-taking. "We need to have some consensus."

He spoke at the September 25 joint selectboard and finance committee meeting attended by members of the planning board, conservation commission, and historical commission, Franklin Regional Council of Governments economic development program manager Jessica Atwood, Tighe & Bond senior planner Tracy Adamski, and approximately ten residents.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith told the group that the meeting's purpose was to bring town officials together to talk about "where we are, and where we want to go." He said the town is looking for the "most viable solution that will put the property back on the tax rolls."

"We can't sit on this building forever," said selectboard member Scott Bastarache. "We need to figure out what's marketable."

Selectboard chair Smith agreed. "Inaction isn't a good policy," he said.

Adamski presented two concepts for redevelopment

see **ERVING** page A5

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Preview: Montague Special Town Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Thursday, October 5, the town meeting of Montague will meet in a special session. The meeting will consider 15 articles, as they appear in the posted warrant, which become 15 "motions" when they reach town meeting floor.

The difference between the warrant, which must be posted well in advance of the meeting, and motions is that the latter must contain funding sources for so-called "money articles," as well as the recommendations of the town selectboard and finance committee.

This warrant review includes comments by members of the Montague finance committee at its September 13 meeting. The fin com is the financial oversight arm of town meeting – its members are appointed by the town moderator. It discussed and voted on the first twelve warrant articles, recommending eleven unanimously. The selectboard recommended all fifteen warrant articles on September 18.

**Article 1** allocates \$24,090 for a so-called "flail mower." According to a website called Grounds Maintenance ([grounds-mag.com](http://grounds-mag.com)), a flail mower "uses banks of flails (or "knives") instead of blades. A flail is a short piece of metal that operates by beating the grass

see **SPECIAL TM** page A7

## The Week in Sports: Green Wave Breaks Blue Streak

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls field hockey team was knocked out of the catbird seat by two undefeated teams, the footballers saw their streak broken, the Blue golfers stole two matches, and the volleyball squad spiked into the top 10.

Also this week, storms wreaked havoc, and autumn came calling.

Golf and field hockey start in the afternoon because they're outdoor sports. Mother Nature can be pretty brutal in western New England in the fall. This year, autumn has indeed been pretty brutal with stifling humidity

see **SPORTS** page A4



Turners' Andy Craver sprints past the Green Wave defense last Friday.

## County Diaper Bank Runs Low on Supply

By NATAN COHEN

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Area residents may be familiar with the spring diaper drive coordinated through Community Action in recent years. The grassroots community effort gathers a "bank" of diapers and distributes them to sites across the county. Each site then makes a limited number of diapers available, for free, to families they know are in need.

In addition to the central diaper bank at the Community Action Family Center (CAFC) in Greenfield, these sites have included Montague Catholic Social Ministries, the Center for Self-Reliance in Greenfield, the Orange Food Pantry, Valuing our Children Family Center in Athol, the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) offices in Greenfield and Orange, the Greenfield Com-

munity College Food Pantry, Good Neighbors Food Pantry in Wendell, and It Takes a Village in Heath.

This year the diaper bank has fallen on challenging times, due in part to the disbanding of its original organizing body, the Franklin County Diaper Task Force, after its founder and coordinator moved out of the area.

The responsibility for maintaining the diaper bank has been picked up by the CAFC, but the organization, already stretched thin, struggles to keep up with a growing emergency need for diapers.

"About 75,000 diapers were given out last year," reports CAFC manager Marianne Bullock, but as of this week, "at the central bank, only 2,000 are left, in all sizes. We have almost no diapers left in size 4 or 6, and are totally out of 5's."

see **SUPPLY** page A2



Family support worker Libby O'Flaherty shows one of the understocked drawers at the Community Action Family Center's "diaper station." O'Flaherty told us Tuesday afternoon that she had already given over 60 diapers to families that day.

## Doctors Host Conference On Climate, Nuclear War

By ANNA GYORGY

**HADLEY** – Climate change brings us closer to nuclear war; nuclear war to climate catastrophe.

This was the often frightening story at "Climate Change and the Growing Risk of Nuclear War: An Agenda for Action," the symposium held Saturday at the Hadley Farms Meeting House, organized by the Pioneer Valley Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR).

Author Bill McKibben greeted some 100 participants by video. Recalling his first book on climate in 1989, "back when it was abstract and theoretical," he said it is all happening much faster than expected. The extra carbon heating our atmosphere every day, every year, is equivalent to 400,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs.

The Paris climate accord can't meet the problem: If all countries fulfilled their promised goals, there would be a 3.5°C increase in this century, three times the increase thus far. And this will pass serious tipping points. "Our mantra must be: adapt to what you can't prevent, but prevent that to which you can't adapt," McKibbin said.

Dr. Nitin Damle, an expert on health effects of global climate

change, continued, discussing what he called "the biggest health threat of the 21st century." Increased temperatures can cause exhaustion and possible stroke, even death for those with chronic conditions, with the elderly and very young most affected.

Another problem: more mosquitoes, sand flies, ticks. Already there have been 400,000 cases a year of Lyme disease, where 30 years ago there were almost none.

Worldwide, 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Heavy rains disrupt sewage treatment, increase molds and *E. coli* infections as well as salmonella and shellfish diseases.

Dr. Michael Klare, Five College Professor of Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College, told how climate change has increased conflicts in the world's poorer states, where schisms result from conflicts over water, food and land. "The world will be more violent," he predicted, "with waves of refugees."

Looking back on creation of the UN Charter after World War II, he wished for the same effort today. The Paris Agreement shows some cooperation is possible, but it is not binding. Currently, he said, the "relative

see **NUCLEAR WAR** page A5



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Joe Mazeski, director of buildings and grounds, props open the egg-varnished cover of the Tech School sign to change the letters from “Car Show” to “Open House.”

## After The Storm

Despite whatever euphemisms people may use, Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, a prize of the nation’s war with Spain and a long-standing test case of its national brand of egalitarianism and democracy.

The island’s three and a half million inhabitants are American citizens, as are, of course, the five million diaspora Puerto Ricans living on the mainland. And yet the island has no federal representation – if it were a state it would have five representatives in the House, and seven electoral college votes.

This second-class status has more consequences than that. A poll conducted last week by Morning Consult discovered that 46% of Americans are unaware that Puerto Rico is a part of their country.

More alarmingly, it found that 81% of those who do know that Puerto Ricans are Americans support government aid for the reconstruction of the island, which was utterly devastated by a hurricane last week – while among those who view it as a foreign country, that figure drops to 44%.

It is hard to overstate Maria’s impact. 80 percent of the electrical infrastructure was wiped out, as were 80 percent of its crops, and 95 percent of its cellular network. There is widespread flooding and many roads are out. Countless homes have been destroyed.

As we write, a week after the hurricane, news of food, diesel and freshwater shortages worsens. Thousands of containers’ worth of aid material is apparently trapped at the port of San Juan. Only American ships are allowed to deliver supplies to the island, an arcane law suspended for this season’s relief efforts in Texas and Florida, but as of press time, still in place for Puerto Rico, much harder hit and entirely reliant on maritime transport.

“Texas & Florida are great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble,” President Trump tweeted on Monday. “It’s [sic] old electrical grid, which was in terrible shape, was devastated. Much of the Island was destroyed, with billions of dollars owed to Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with.”

Ah yes, of course. Debt.

The government of Puerto Rico is \$70 billion in debt, not counting another \$50 billion in pension obligations. There is plenty of blame to go around, but for generations, the island attracted business through a combination of federal and local

tax exemptions, and ended up having to fund public works and schools by issuing bonds. Investors from the mainland saw Puerto Rican bonds as an attractive tax haven, so there was always a market.

When tax exemptions were phased out between 1996 and 2006, many corporations – Merck, Hewlett Packard, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson among them – slashed jobs, and the economy contracted dramatically. The government ended up in a double bind, unable to increase its own taxes and thus forced to take out more debt, on worse terms, to meet public needs.

Puerto Rico’s debt crisis is not all that different, in some ways, than many nations of the global South, or even many post-industrial cities in the North. But its red-headed-stepchild political status limits its options: unlike Jamaica, it can’t take out IMF loans and negotiate over them; unlike Detroit, it can’t declare bankruptcy.

In the face of potential dam collapses, mosquito-borne epidemics, starvation and mass displacement, our president has seen fit to turn his attention away momentarily from trolling professional athletes and rookie nuclear states, not to provide words of hope and promises of solidarity to the 3.5 million Americans living through unthinkable catastrophe this week, but to remind everyone that they bear a burden of debt to Wall Street.

He doesn’t appear to understand it yet, but Hurricane Maria is already, by far, the largest crisis of his presidency. The US has no borders that can serve to keep Puerto Ricans trapped in deprivation and misery; they are not Syrians or Salvadorans.

The island’s population has already been in decline. If capital flight and climate change have combined to make it unlivable, we should expect to see an exodus to the mainland.

It is heartbreaking to think of so many people compelled to leave their hometowns, their homeland. But it may just be the world we are living in: the pincer of market and weather events drive migration.

Of all US states, Massachusetts has both the fifth-highest concentration of self-identifying Puerto Ricans, and the fifth-largest total number. It’s probably a good time for those of us who don’t have family on the island to check in with those who do.

The president’s fiercest supporters already view 800,000 Central American DACA recipients as job-

## Letter to the Editors Put Off By Other Paper

PowerTown Proud! While Turners Falls did not come out on top of this past week’s game against Greenfield, since when does a score of 12 to 0 qualify as “crushing”?!

With 15 suited players vs. 30-something suited players, TFHS exemplified the team’s true motto: Dignity, Pride, Honor, and Strength. Go Blue! Go White!

One of your many loyal TF fans,

Linda Ackerman  
Montague

*Editor’s note: This letter refers to a headline in the Greenfield Recorder.*

stealers and clamor for their deportation. How many of them are also among the 46% of Americans who view people from Puerto Rico, fundamentally, as foreigners? How will they react to an influx of climate refugees from the colonies who nevertheless have full legal rights to join us on the mainland?

Donate to relief efforts if you are able. Call for an end to the Jones Act and a cancellation of Puerto Rico’s debt.

But above all, act in the knowledge that this is the new normal, and how we support the people of Puerto Rico in this disaster will help shape the politics of both our growing, changing country and our roiling, warming world.

### SUPPLY from page A1

According to US census estimates, 3,080 children under 5 live in Franklin County. About half may be using diapers; assuming a recommended average of eight diaper changes per day, those children likely require nearly 4.5 million diaper changes a year.

The diapers distributed by the diaper bank cover less than 2% of this demand, but the assistance can be crucial to the families that receive them.

A pamphlet produced by the disbanded Diaper Task Force cites statistics explaining why. Low-income parents can spend about \$936 on disposable diapers and supplies per year – per child. Unlike other essentials such as food and health insurance, there is no federal assistance for purchasing diapers: benefits such as WIC, Medicaid, and SNAP (food stamps) cannot be used to purchase diapers.

The county’s poorest families, which may include parents who are disabled or unemployed, sometimes have to choose between other basic needs – such as keeping the lights on, or having food on the table – and having enough clean diapers.

The National Diaper Bank Network, a Connecticut-based nonprofit, explains the predicament of the 1 in 3 families in America who struggle to afford diapers. When parents try to “stretch” diapers, it can lead to major health problems in babies including diaper rash, staph infections, and urinary tract infections.

A shortage of diapers also can lead to children being pulled from daycare centers, which require parents to supply diapers, leaving the parents unavailable for full-time work, and thus unable to establish a stronger financial foundation for their family.

The struggle low-income families go through is echoed by Mary Conway, basic needs coordinator at Montague Catholic Social Min-

istries (MCSM) in Turners Falls. “I feel like [people who come here for diapers] are filling a gap that they can’t afford,” she said, “especially when you are having more than one bum to cover and they are two different sizes, which means doubling your diaper amount.”

“Diapers are a basic need,” Conway adds. “It can mess with your mental health from stressing – not knowing how you’re going to be getting your next diaper; having your baby sit in the same diaper longer than they should, which becomes a health risk for them. Rashes can lead to social services calls, because somebody thinks you aren’t taking care of your child right, which puts more emotional and mental stress on you that you really don’t need. One thing piles up to another thing.”

Conway says MCSM gives out about 60 diapers a week to several regular recipients, as well as a couple of newcomers each month. They are currently pretty well stocked, with several boxes of diapers from their last pickup, but the shortage at the central diaper bank means they may be unable to restock when the time comes.

Readers interested in donating diapers to the diaper bank can do so directly at the Community Action Family Center, 90 Federal Street in Greenfield. They are open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; until 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; and until noon on Saturdays.

Community Action is also able to buy diapers in bulk, which is far more economical than the retail prices many families pay, so cash donations are also welcome, just as with a food bank.

There is a Donate button online at [www.communityaction.us/franklin-county-diaper-task-force.html](http://www.communityaction.us/franklin-county-diaper-task-force.html), and checks can be sent to Community Action at the above address, with “Diaper Task Force” written in the memo line.

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

This 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. Doors open at 6 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, a **cash prize for the winning team**, 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](http://www.facebook.com/montaguereporter).

If you have any questions, please email [friendsofmontaguereporter@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmontaguereporter@gmail.com) or call Lyn, 863-4779, or me, 863-5125.

Angyl Fyre will **perform with real fire on the front lawn** of the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, September 30, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Fyre (real name Megan Thompson) is a professional performer who has been featured at many venues in surrounding communities, as well as past Franklin County Pumpkinfests. Feel free to chat with her as she pauses between acts, as she is perfectly willing to share her connection with these unusual skills.

Light refreshments will be provided indoors, courtesy of the bank.

Experts from local agencies will hold a free **"Energy Savings for Seniors"** event at 10 a.m. on Tues-

day, October 3 at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

The event is intended to share information with people 60 and over about benefits for which they qualify that can help them save money on home energy bills. Presenters will explain what funds are available for fuel assistance and weatherization, and how to obtain utility discounts, rebates for energy-efficient appliances, and no-interest home energy loans.

New this year will be some discussion of mini-splits and solar for low-income households. One-on-one consultations will be available after the presentation.

To pre-register, contact Gretchen Smith, benefits counseling program coordinator at LifePath, at (413) 773-5555 x 2258 or [gsmith@LifePathMA.org](mailto:gsmith@LifePathMA.org). You can also register online at [lifepathma.org/events/energy-savings-for-seniors](http://lifepathma.org/events/energy-savings-for-seniors).

The First Wednesday Speaker Series will welcome **the Graveyard Girls** on Wednesday, October 4, at 6 p.m. in the LeVanway Room of the Greenfield Public Library.

The Graveyard Girls will present on New England cemetery art, history, and symbolism by taking a virtual tour from colonial burial grounds to 21<sup>st</sup>-century locations. The tour examines why we have cemeteries and gravestones, why they look the way they do, and how styles and art have evolved over 400 years.

The First Wednesday Speaker Series is sponsored by the Friends of Greenfield Public Library, and is free and open to the public.

The Franklin Community Co-op's **40th Anniversary Harvest Party** will feature live music from Co-op Jazz, food sampling from lots of local favorites, kids' activities, a chance to meet and greet the co-op board, and more.

It will be held Friday, October 6, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the parking lot behind Green Fields Market, off Wells Street in Greenfield.

**Calling all trivia nuts and history buffs!** The League of Women Voters of Franklin County will host a Civics Trivia Night on Friday, October 6, at the Elks Lodge, 3-5 Church Street in Greenfield. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the game starting at 7:30.

Special guests Paul Mark, state representative in the 2nd Berkshire district, and Karen "Rudy" Renaud, Greenfield town councilor at-large, will serve as the event's Quizmasters. Questions will cover federal, state, and local government, current affairs, and American history.

The event will raise money for the League to conduct forums on policy issues and informational events, help subsidize dues for less advantaged members, and eventually create a scholarship fund for local high school students.

There will be cash prizes, complimentary snacks, and the evening will close with a gift basket raffle.

Admission is \$10 per person, with teams of up to 8 people allowed. A cash bar will be available.

Spend an afternoon **hiking and enjoying beautiful scenery**, fall foliage, and views from the summit of Northfield Mountain with Mountain staff on Saturday, October 7, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Seasonal natural history highlights, a look at past land use, fresh air and exercise will round out this fall outing.

Participants in moderate condition, able to walk five miles and comfortable with an elevation gain of 900 feet, will be a good fit for this free hike. They should wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes that can get wet or muddy, dress in layers, and bring a sense of adventure, snack and water. Heavy rain will cancel.

Pre-registration is required at 1(800) 859-2960.

The Seventh Annual **Riverside Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival** will return to the Franklin County Fairgrounds, 89 Wisdom Way in Greenfield, on Sunday, October 8, from noon to 6 p.m.

The event will host professional barbecue competitors from all over New England, who will compete in a Northeast Barbecue Society grilling contest as well as an official state championship Kansas City Barbeque Society contest.

Talented blues musicians will grace the stage, and the BrewFest Sampling Saloon will feature both local and national distributors. Attendees will be able to take part in the stein hoisting, pie eating, keg toss, barrel roll, "Fling-a-Frank," and harmonica competitions.

The Montague Common Hall will host its **Annual Gigantic Tag Sale** on Saturday, October 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All proceeds will be split 50/50 between the Common Hall and disaster relief for Irma and her gang of catastrophic cohorts. To donate your fabulous treasures to these great causes, contact Mary at 367-2184 to arrange a drop-off time.

Please no electronics, underwear, or other weird things you would be too embarrassed to sell at your own tag sale.

**Save the date of Saturday, October 21**, because that's when the 8th Annual Great Falls Festival – formerly known as Pumpkinfest – will return to Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The event runs from 2 to 9 p.m., with free shuttle transportation from Turners Falls High School and Sheffield School. The event takes place on public property, and thus dogs are permitted, though for the safety of guests (and the animals they might step on!), it is suggested not to bring them.

Costumes are also permitted – and encouraged!

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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SPORTS from page A1

and temperatures flirting with 90. And through it all, the student athletes have continued to practice and compete under these brutal conditions.

Volleyball

The Turners Falls Volleyball team cracked Masslive’s Top Ten this week. This puts a big target on their backs, and if Blue wants to stay unbeaten, they will need to execute against some pretty motivated teams.

They did just that against Mohawk on Wednesday, September 20. Mohawk is a decent team, and matched Turners point for point in the first match before Blue pulled it out by 2 points, 25-23. In the second match, Turners won by a lopsided 25-12, but in the third, Mohawk hung tough.

Neither team was willing to lose the third match. Girls from both squads dove after balls, saved bad passes, and tried to tip the ball over the net. On more than one occasion, players were sprinting to the back wall, trying desperately to get the third hit over the net.

But in the end, Turners was able to complete the trifecta, by scoring the 3 extra points needed to win the third match, 28-26.

Then on Friday, September 22, Turners swept Greenfield 25-7, 9, 9. The lopsided score allowed coach Liimatainen to empty her bench.

Turners won all three matches on their serves. In the first match, Chloe Ellis began her service with the score 6-2. When she was finally retired, the score was 17-2. The second match was close until Hailey Bogusz served. She stepped up to the line with the score 10-9 and was never retired. Blue won it 25-9.

Hailey retained service in the third match, and after two aces and some wonderful teamwork the Tribe led 5-0. Green was able to score nine times in the final match, and Blue swept the game 3 matches nil.

Then on Monday, Turners hosted another hungry team, the Athol Red Raiders. The Raiders stole the second match 25-23, but Blue won the others 25-12, 21, 12.

This was another opportunity for Liimatainen to showcase her reserves, and her backups were able to pull off the victory. With the win, Powertown improved to 7-0, three wins shy of last season’s total.

Field Hockey

Mohawk 8 – TFHS 1  
TFHS 1 – Amherst 0  
Holyoke 2 – TFHS 0

There are two elite teams in the Bi-County (BIC) conference: Mohawk and Holyoke. Both are currently undefeated atop the BIC. This week Powertown faced both teams, with a game against Amherst in between.

On Tuesday, September 19, the Turners Field Hockey team traveled

up the trail and were outshot by the Mohawk Warriors 29-2 on their way to an 8-1 loss. Goalkeeper Haleigh Greene managed to knock away 21 of those shots, but the Mohawk gauntlet slapped 8 apples past her. Cassie Wozniak prevented the shut-out with a second-half goal.

Then on Thursday the 21st, the Blue Ladies beat Amherst on their home field.

One day earlier, I went to the ocean. Hurricane Maria had forced Jose into the Massachusetts coastline. The rain was sideways and the waves violently crashed against the sea wall. On Thursday, the Turners Falls Field Hockey squad headed into another Hurricane: the Amherst Pelham Regional Hurricanes. And the Hurricanes crashed against a Blue wall.

From early on to the final horn, Turners Falls showed a wonderful defense, especially inside the circle. The Hurricanes kept pressure on goal and had an incredible 13 corner shot attempts to Blue’s 1.

There’s a lot of whistles in Field Hockey. It’s part of the game. If the ball hits a player’s leg or goes too high, the whistle blows and the other team gets possession with a free pass up field.

If the infraction occurs inside the circle, the other team is awarded a corner shot. Then several girls stand shoulder-to-shoulder inside their goal while the rest of their team wait in enemy territory. The other team

lines up in an arc just outside the circle waiting for the inbound pass.

Thirteen times, Amherst crashed against the Blue D, and each time they were repelled.

There was a scary moment in the second half. Wozniak executed a long fast break, and after she made the shot on goal, an Amherst player attempted to clear the ball. Cassie was hit square in the face at close range. But Woz just took off her goggles and said “I’m OK. Let’s keep playing.”

After that, Amherst was given six consecutive corner shot attempts. After the last Hurricane corner, an infraction was called, and Aly Murphy got a free pass up field. She whacked the ball past everybody and into Amherst territory. Amber Taylor chased it down, stuck with it past two white shirts, and chipped it to Cassidy Wozniak, who slapped it into the net.

Amherst was granted four more corner shots before the horn, but the Blue D held fast, and Turners whipped the Hurricanes 1-0.

Then on Monday, September 25, the other undefeated BIC team came to town. Turners again played a tight defense, holding the Holyoke Purple Knights to just 18 shots on goal. And of those 18 shots, only 2 got past Greene.

The Turners offense managed to get 12 shots on goal themselves, but shooting on the Holyoke goal is like see **SPORTS** next page

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Town Meeting Prompted By Weed Law Need

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On September 20, Wendell selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser reported back to the whole selectboard about a discussion he had attended earlier in the month about the rollout of marijuana legalization in Massachusetts, and the implications for towns in Franklin County.

Pooser said the crux of the meeting, hosted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, was that voters passed legalization, and the legislature made a compromise version of the ballot initiative, and the towns will have to deal with what the state decides.

The law creates a five-member Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), and four of the five opposed legalization. The CCC has the task of creating the regulations by March 15, 2018, though given the legislature’s lack of haste in making a law, that date may be extended.

Two weeks after the regulations are issued, any private enterprise may submit an application to a town for cultivation, processing, or retail sales. A town that has no bylaw in place will forfeit any local say in how this takes place.

The implications for crowds, traffic, and security in a town with a small population, narrow roads, and a small police force may be unfortunate. Pooser said that the *Wall Street Journal* called marijuana the nation’s largest growth industry.

The process of creating and passing a bylaw is slow, and Pooser said that many towns are putting moratoriums in place to allow time to craft well-considered bylaws. Wendell has no information about what is in place now, and the CCC has not posted contact information.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she thought a moratorium was a sensible idea.

With a few other issues for townspeople to vote on, board members decided to hold a special town meeting as soon as possible. The next selectboard meeting is October 4, and the warrant for a special town meeting must be posted two weeks before the meeting.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith said she does not want to have a town meeting on a Wednesday evening, so the earliest likely date for the town meeting is October 19.

Fires and Wires

Fire captain Asa de Roode came to get Heard’s signature on a SAFE grant for teaching students at Swift River School, and seniors, about fire safety. While de Roode was there, he responded to a question by Keller about an invoice from “Mine Safety Performance.” That bill, he explained, was for instruction on the use of the new air packs that the fire department got through a five-town grant.

Wiring inspector Gordon Dickie is retiring and board members appointed alternate inspector Gary Terroy of Athol to be the full time wiring inspector. Terroy was in the room, accepted his appointment, and went across the hall to be sworn in. He could not name any one person to act as his alternate just then, but he said he had some names that he would check.

No Advantage

Heard reported that Mahar high school superintendent Tari Thomas had secured a grant to study K-through-12 regionalization, including towns that belong only to the Mahar 7-through-12 region.

Heard remembered that “we have been down that road before,” and argued that the larger region holds no advantage for Wendell, either financially or academically.

“We need someone to stand for Wendell,” she said, but did not have someone in mind. She said that Thomas calls Jim Slavas, Wendell’s facilities engineer.

Private Property

December 2 is set as the court date for the town’s action against the resident at 141 Lockes Village Road for his disregard for the town’s bylaws about excess unregistered vehicles and clutter over the property, including in areas close to a wetland. Melissa Grader came to the meeting representing the conservation commission, but the board of health and building inspector also have concerns with that property.

The town will send its first letter to inform residents of 114 Lockes Village Road that they have more unregistered vehicles on the property than town bylaw allows.

Town Property

The cost to cut and clear the big unhealthy maple in the library playground is estimated to be \$700 to \$1,000. One plan is to leave the main trunk and have it carved, but the carving would be expensive.

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp said she hopes that town money would pay for the cutting, but the fiscal year is still young, and of \$10,000 in the budget for maintaining town property the selectboard has already authorized spending \$8,400 for excavating and preparation under the town hall so that the floor can be insulated.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich also mentioned that Jim Slavas intends to replace the Johnson Controls that have not ever worked properly. Selectboard member Dan Keller said that Slavas has already replaced the controls in some rooms with manual thermostats.

On that note, Pooser asked about temperature and humidity in the

town vault, and Keller answered that there is a continuous printout of conditions in the vault, and both temperature and humidity have been where they should be.

Aldrich said that a printed copy of the town flag is here and ready to fly under the American flag in the town center. Heard said that this second flag for the center was a selectboard idea, and that the people who raise and lower the American flag every day were not consulted. Pooser also said that there are specific days on which the MIA POW flag must be flown.

Citizen Susan von Ranson asked to rent the town hall kitchen on two Sundays, October 1 and October 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. (after Good Neighbors) for residents to can their home produce. Canning instruction is not the intention of these two sessions, but experienced canners will supervise on both days: Nina Keller on October 1, and Katie Nolan on October 8.

Von Ranson said she hoped that the sessions could be free for Wendell residents. Board members went along with her request to waive the fee. Pooser said, “Thank you for doing that.”

Pooser said he had looked at the picnic table for sale in the center of town, and that it was okay, but not special. He said a foldable plastic table that would not rot costs \$150, and a cedar table costs \$400. He will keep looking.

Two things that were not sold at the surplus auction have drawn interest. There was a third container, in bad shape, at 97 Wendell Depot Road, and the person who bought the two that were in better condition offered \$100 for the third. Orange is interested in the plow truck that got no bids.

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**SPORTS** from previous page

shooting against a chain-link fence, and the Tribe came up empty, 2 goals to nil.

**Golf**  
*St. Mary 13 – TFHS 7*

Last Tuesday, September 19, the Turners Falls golf team scored 7 points in their loss against Saint Mary. Brian Porier and Joe Kochan each won their golf matches 3-1, while Joey Mosca took 1 point in his. Saint Mary earned 9 points, and were giving an additional 4 points by forfeit to take the contest 13-7.

**Football**  
On Friday, September 22, the Greenfield Green Wave shut out the

Turners football team 12-0, ending Powertown’s 6-year, 7-game winning streak.

That’s the bad news. The good news for Blue, is that they played a good game against a great team. Their Defense held the Wave to 12 points, prevented both 2-PAT attempts, executed a great goal line stand, and kept Green out of the end zone for the entire second half.

With the loss, Powertown sits at 1 and 1 in the ICN, and with four conference games left, Turners’ fate is in their own hands. Greenfield, on the other hand, “will not go undefeated,” according to Turners coach Chris Lapointe. And no matter what, Blue will have one more crack at Green on Turkey Day, to be played

on Powertown’s home turf.

In Friday’s game, along with the many tackles and stops the Blue D made was a forced fumble recovered by Jaden Whiting and an interception picked off by Marcus Sanders. But despite these defensive play makers, the Powertown offense never got on track.

Sanders was held to 55 yards, with John Driscoll and John Torres getting 5 apiece. Under center, Kyle Dodge made one reception for 16 yards, with Andy Craver making the catch.

Turners hosts McCann Tech on Saturday afternoon.

*Next week: The competition increases.*



**ERVING** from page A1

of the former IP Mill, based on previous site and marketing studies. Tighe & Bond developed the concepts to give the town an idea of possible uses of the site, and potential costs.

Any future development would be planned by a developer, in response to a request for proposals issued by the town.

Concept 1 would include the demolition of most of the buildings, except Building 2, a brick building built in 1902, and Building 8, the pumphouse, and redeveloping the site for mixed residential, commercial, and light industrial uses. This would cost an estimated \$13.5 million, and provide 75,400 square feet of usable building space.

Concept 2, the “clean slate,” would involve demolishing all the buildings on the site and redeveloping it for light industrial use. This would cost around \$6.4 million and provide 38,000 square feet of space.

Under both concepts, redevelopment work would be done on about five acres of the property, the former IP “operations” area. The remaining 45 acres would become conservation or recreational land.

Selectboard member William Bembury observed that the town had

a third option, to “mothball the property”: secure it, remove the hazardous waste, and deal with the mold in the buildings, which would cost an estimated \$2 million.

Jeanie Schermesser asked whether the board had pursued historic preservation grants, or worked to find developers, or other grant money. She said that the “clean slate” concept would result in “another historic structure being completely demolished.”

David Brule said that he and other historical commission members had no information about Building 2, and would need to visit it to determine whether it was significant. “Not every old building needs to be preserved,” he said.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock said, “I encourage the historical commission to see the place.”

Brule said the commission was meeting this week and would “come up with a plan” to make a site visit.

Planning board member Debra Smith asked whether the town would pay the entire cost of redevelopment. Selectboard members replied that to make the property appealing to developers, the town would need to pay for both initial cleanup and in-

frastructure work – roadway, sewer and water, and retaining walls – with help from grants or loans from state agencies such as MassWorks.

Once the property was in marketable shape, Bryan Smith said, the town could send a request for proposals to prospective developers.

“The developer will take the majority of the burden,” said Jacob Smith.

Atwood said there would be a transition from the use of public money, whether from the town or from state or federal grants, to private investment to develop the property. She said that developers would want to know that “there is community support around the development” before investing.

Bryan Smith expained that, to apply for the grants, the town needed to identify the direction it wanted for development.

“It doesn’t feel like we can move [to a direction] at this meeting,” Bastarache said, but added that he felt Monday’s meeting was an initial step in developing a town vision for the property, and “we do appreciate the dialogue.”

**Other Business**  
The board and finance committee



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**NUCLEAR WAR** from page A1

consensus of great powers is breaking down.”

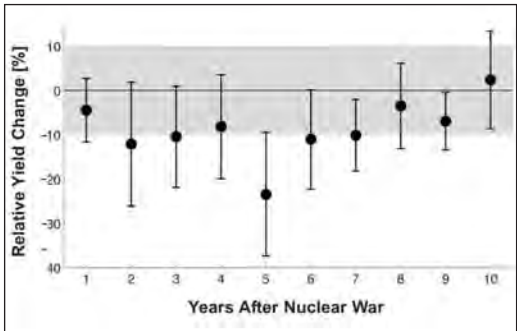
Still there are tremendous chances for co-operation to reach a post-carbon economy. And as change is “much faster than we ever thought,” Klare said, “hopefully, this will bring countries together.” And if not, as in the US at present, other forces rise to the challenge: Jerry Brown’s California and Massachusetts, “part of the effort to implement the Paris climate accords, and we should be proud of that.”

Dr. Jennifer Leaning of Harvard’s School of Public Health and Medical School analyzed how climate change increases chances for conflict. Her case study involved Syria, where competition for resources during severe drought led to increased conflict among groups who identified those in need as “the other.”

With half the Earth’s population living in cities, stresses around resources increase. In 1945, there were 50 million refugees and internally displaced persons. Now there are more than 65 million, with increases of tens of millions anticipated.

Michael Klare blamed the fossil fuel industries for creating “denial and confusion” around climate change, using tactics like those of tobacco companies. Major donors to the Republican Party, “they have bought the Congress of the US,” Klare said. “They own them.”

**A Regional War**  
The threat of nuclear confrontation in South Asia was presented by Dr. Zia Mian, physicist and co-director of Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security. He described the volatile border between Pakistan and India, with divided Kashmir a flashpoint between the two countries. Each has nuclear



From Ozdogan, Mutlu, Alan Robock, and Christopher Kucharik, 2012: “Impacts of Nuclear Conflict in South Asia on Crop Production in the Midwestern United States.” This chart reflects a model of the reduction in US corn yields after a regional nuclear war in Asia.

weapons, whose “use has already been rehearsed, on both sides.”

Climate change makes this worse, given the possibility of war over control of water from the Indus River. As glaciers feeding the river melt, and monsoons become more unpredictable, a peaceful settlement is hard to imagine.

The “real and imminent danger” of nuclear war there, and the disasters that would ensue, was expanded on by Springfield-based physician Dr. Ira Helfand, co-president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

Hiroshima and Nagasaki cannot be a model for a potential regional nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan, he explained, as current weapons are more powerful than those dropped in 1945, and with the equivalent of 50 Hiroshima bombs on each side, there could be 20 million deaths within the first week of nuclear war.

Such an exchange would cause global

radioactive contamination and climate disruption. Six and a half million tons of earth and debris blown into the atmosphere would cause a 1.3° C (2.5° F) reduction in temperature planetwide. This huge disruption would mean less rainfall for 10 to 25 years, and crop loss from shorter seasons and daylight. Grain losses could amount to 17% to 20% for more than 10 years, leading to enormous increases in food prices. The fact that 795 million people are malnourished now, means over 2 billion people could be in danger of starvation after a regional nuclear war.

**A Big One**  
Then, the scenario of a large-scale nuclear war. Using maps of eastern Massachusetts, Dr. Helfand described the effects of 15 to 18 warheads, each larger than used on Hiroshima, exploding over Boston. It would cause the destruction of the city center, up to 10 miles in every direction, with intense heat and fire up to 16 miles out, and 4 million immediate victims.

A large war would cause a major drop in temperature, perhaps 13°F, across the planet, paralleling the last Ice Age.

“We have the attention of the world focused on nuclear weapons,” he told the group. “We have to create a national consensus on nuclear weapons.” He mentioned the \$1 trillion pledged in the Obama era for modernization of the entire nuclear weapons program.

Dr. Helfand closed on both positive and negative notes. He remembered the great success of the 1982 nuclear freeze movement, pointing out that in 1980 there was almost no attention paid to nuclear dangers. The bad news, he said, would be a reaction of “let’s

party ‘til the end of the world.”

“An Agenda for Action” was addressed by Marty Nathan, physician and Northampton activist, and John Loretz, program director for the IPPNW since 2000.

Dr. Nathan called for a World War II-type effort for renewable energy and conservation, mentioned the role of the military as polluter, and called for support for Puerto Rico. “We need what we called solidarity,” she said. “Now we call it intersectionality.”

She urged not to give up on the federal government with its link to controlling corporations, but to “support our excellent senators, and representative McGovern... We must use every government forum available, and get ready for civil disobedience. Join an organization, take leadership, in what is now probably the most important moment in human history.”

Interest – and action – around connections between war and climate disruption appear to be growing. On the same weekend, a “No to War 2017: War and the Environment” conference was held in Washington DC. (See video coverage at [worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2017/](http://worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2017/)).

There are currently 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world, with material to make 22,000 more. John Loretz discussed the recent international treaty banning nuclear weapons, calling it a “good example of facing up to nuclear war.” On July 7, 2017, the treaty signed by 122 (non-nuclear) countries banned “everything from procession to threats to use.”

The day closed with workshops for group discussion. PSR announced that they hope to make a documentary from the presentations for wide use, and called a follow-up meeting at 7 p.m. on October 3, in the First Churches, Northampton.



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DUMPING from page A1

fire department to apply lime, “a pretty effective biocide when it comes to sewage,” to the ground, after confirming with representatives of the DEP’s Western Division that they were taking soil samples. She also said that a separate, chemical, odor was coming from the substance.

Zellman later reported that the DEP’s analysis found the liquid was a mixture that included “oil and rust, hydrogen peroxide, mineral oil, and sewage.”

“I’m estimating that about 50 gallons’ worth of sewage was pumped into the street,” he said.

Reelin’ In The Years

From the 1880s until the 1950s, the small complex of buildings on what is now called Rod Shop Road was the site of the Montague City Rod Company, later Montague Rod & Reel, the nation’s premier manufacturer of mass-market split bamboo fishing rods.

The rod company employed several hundred at its peak, but finally shut down in 1955, and sold the property to a realtor in 1956. Brattleboro furniture-maker Alpine Wood Products bought it in 1960, but that company was foreclosed on by the federal Small Business Administration in 1965.

In 1970, the government sold the property to Andrew Saint Hilaire for \$70,000, and in 1985, he sold it to Michael Morawski and Bruce Scott for \$100,000.

The town of Montague took the property for \$15,231.63 in taxes owed in 1994, but became enmeshed in legal wrangling that wasn’t cleared up until 2001. In 2008, the town auctioned it off, and James Bent, doing business as “Nice N Easy Properties,” had the highest bid of \$14,000.

In 2011, Bent sold it to Sasha



BOB HATCH PHOTO

Rod Shop Road saw a clamor of official investigation last Thursday.

Statman-Weil, principal member of the Vermont-registered “Horse Drawn LLC,” for \$75,000. Reached by phone, Statman-Weil declined to comment publicly on Thursday’s incident.

A Cement Pit

Montague building inspector David Jensen described the Rod Shop premises as “sort of a linked-together factory complex: there’s a big warehouse-style section that the roof has collapsed in well over half of... It’s sort of like a drive-in shelter, in a way; it’s open to the elements. And it forms like a courtyard with the old walls remaining around it, which enters into two to three linked buildings.”

Jensen, reading from a weathered binder at the town hall, ran through his department’s history at the site. “It was posted unsafe in ‘94, again in ‘97, and again in

2006,” he said, “and then I reposted it on Thursday night.”

The two most recent permits for construction at the Rod Shop were taken out in 2008 in Bent’s name. Jensen said there had never been a re-inspection, and those permits had expired.

“Somewhere around 2008 was the last time I was in there,” he recalled, “and Mr. Jones gave me a brief tour on Thursday. There was a collapsed roof in a big section of it, which is now open. Part of the roof was repaired; there had been a collapsing floor in the southwest corner of the complex, which has been removed.... The storage in there was of concern, but nothing crazy. The open section – that’s another story.”

Jensen said that the compound included “campers, jet skis, a boat, and probably a couple cars...”

“There was always a rumor that Mr. Jones was – let’s see, it was var-

iously termed ‘camping out,’ ‘hanging out,’ ‘squatting’ – there, a little bit too many hours than one would expect from somebody just showing up daily.” He added that he had heard Jones “was having bonfires in the backyard. Semi-party kind of get-togethers.”

Fire chief Zellman confirmed that his department had been called in for “illegal burning” last year.

“There’s no sprinkler system, no alarm system, and the building’s falling down in parts,” Zellman said. “There’s no heating system. And the camper has an illegal propane hook-up. We’re requesting to do a full inspection of the place.”

He added that during last Thursday’s initial investigation, “we found a camper that was draining its holding tank into a cement pit inside the building. The person who is down there used a sump pump to pump it out through a hole in the building.”

A String Of Pearls

“If there’s human waste there, then either someone’s living there, or someone’s working there,” said Gina McNeely. “My goal, as a health director, is to get everybody out of that property, since it has been condemned.... It’s a public safety hazard, it’s a risk to our first responders, and it’s a risk to the neighbors, if vagrants are coming in and out of that building at will.”

Jerry Jones’ company, Western Properties Inc., owned the former Strathmore paper mill in Turners Falls from 2002 to 2008. Jones used the buildings primarily as a warehouse and staging area for his paper recycling logistics business.

In 2007, a fire completely destroyed Building #10 of the complex. A former employee of Jones was convicted of setting that fire, allegedly in revenge for an injury sus-

tained on the job.

Jones, who had bought the Strathmore for \$40,000 from International Paper, sold it for a dollar on April Fools Day 2008 to an outfit named Fabulous Investment Opportunities LLC, a company whose sole member was James Bent.

Within a month, Bent had passed it on, in a complicated series of transactions, to Swift River Island Development LLC, a company owned and managed by John Ancitil. Four months later, Bent would go on to purchase the Rod Shop; the Strathmore was taken in 2013 by the town for unpaid taxes. This year, under orders by the state fire marshal and funded by a town meeting appropriation, Montague has been removing the last of the thousands of large rolls of paper left behind in that complex by Jerry Jones.

As for the Rod Shop, McNeely said that last Friday she had filed an emergency order at housing court in Greenfield to summons both “the perpetrator” and the owner to appear this Friday, September 29.

“Hopefully we’ll have a lot more answers at that time,” she said.

“The person responsible could have saved a lot of aggravation and a lot of resources if he had just been upfront in the beginning,” McNeely added. “We didn’t know what we were dealing with, so the fire chief had to take some actions that may not have been necessary, had the perpetrator been upfront.”

“As far as my stuff goes,” Jensen summarized, “had those permits been completed, it is possible that the building could be taken off the ‘dangerous’ list and merely listed as ‘non-complying.’ They have a sprinkler system, but it’s not active...”

“The irony here is, I think they had a sewer connection.”



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Walking Bridge’s Closure Feeds Anxiety Over Local Bridges

By JEFF SINGLETON

“We have Tom Bergeron here to tell us about the Fifth Street Bridge,” said Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, introducing the highway superintendent at the board’s September 25 meeting.

“Hopefully it’s good news,” said member Chris Boutwell, to widespread laughter.

“We’ve got a comedian on the payroll,” chimed in member Michael Nelson.

The “good news” was that officials from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had recently been in town inspecting bridges over the Turners Falls power canal, which had been emptied for its annual September inspection and repair:

“In the middle of a meeting I actually got a call from [office administrator] Matt [Cadran], saying that they wanted to see me ASAP. So I went down to the Fifth Street Bridge,” Bergeron reported. “They put me in a bucket, brought me underneath to show me the pedestrian sidewalk that goes from Canal Street over to the paper mill. There’s virtually nothing holding it up.”

The entrances to the pedestrian bridge were immediately closed. Bergeron went on to state that his “biggest concern” was a water line attached to the bridge, which supplies both the building housing the Franklin Regional Housing Authority and recently closed Southworth

paper mill.

Bergeron said he still needs to put up signs for the alternate pedestrian route: that is west on Canal Street to the so-called Bailey Bridge, across the canal toward Power Street, and back through the Housing Authority parking lot. As of the meeting, there were white crosswalk lines painted on the town side of the adjacent auto bridge, but none on the Housing Authority side.

Steve Ellis explained that there are actually two bridges next to one another – the pedestrian bridge in question, and a vehicle bridge “that everyone is concerned about, because there’s a hump in it.”

The discussion quickly escalated into a conversation about which bridges were owned by the state and which by the town. The pedestrian bridge is owned by the town but, according to Bergeron, the state owns the vehicle bridge.

Other bridges owned by the town include those on Center and North streets in Montague Center, as well as a “small one on Chestnut Hill Loop.” The town also owns the Bailey Bridge and the Eleventh Street Bridge over the canal into the Patch.

The state owns all three bridges that cross the Connecticut River, including the General Pierce Bridge from Montague City to Greenfield, which has suffered from a crumbling deck and needs frequent repair.

Two key bridges over the Turn-

ers Falls Canal – another pedestrian bridge accessing the Strathmore complex and the other behind the Discovery Center – are owned by FirstLight Power Resources.

Kuklewicz asked about funding sources for fixing the pedestrian bridge. Bergeron said the state would probably point to Chapter 90 highway aid as a source, which he has used for modest bridge repairs, but he would have to save up “for four or five years” for the project.

Bergeron also explained the mechanics of the bump in the adjacent auto bridge. “My understanding they have no idea [how to fix it] because of the type of deck it is,” he said. “They don’t quite know what to do with it, so they’re just keeping an eye on it.”

The discussion ended with Steve Ellis stating the Montague officials would be meeting with state officials to develop a more “holistic solution” to the various bridge problems confronting Montague. Tom Bergeron noted a “fun fact” related to him by a state engineer: there are ten bridges across the Connecticut River between Vermont and Connecticut, and three of them are in Montague.

Cable Access TV

Montague Community Television, represented by director Dean Garvin and board member Michael Langknecht, came before the selectboard requesting that \$12,500 in capital funds from Comcast be re-

leased to the local access station.

Garvin was asked what plans MCTV had for the capital funds. He said the station would be looking to purchase “a couple of computers” to “upgrade the admin systems at the station’s office,” as well as a new laptop for graphics.

Another possibility was a “Comrex unit” that would allow the station to broadcast from any location where it could access the internet. He noted that the “cameras are holding up well,” but “you always try to keep money in reserve for cameras.”

Ellis asked what the recent selectboard meeting room upgrade, which eliminated microphones and many cables, had cost. Garvin responded that it cost \$16,000.

The board unanimously approved the release of the capital grant.

The discussion then turned to the question of the selectboard occasionally holding meetings in other villages of Montague. One of the main obstacles has been the difficulty of broadcasting from other locations.

Garvin said it would be possible to broadcast from another location with a Comrex unit. Kuklewicz said he had been told the station could get a “demo” of the unit, so that it might be possible to hold a “trial meeting” in another village. “We can flip a coin as to what village we want to go to,” he said. The other board members were agreeable to this, and there followed a discus-

sion of potential locations within villages.

Town Administrator’s Report

The board approved a request from town administrator Steve Ellis to issue a town credit card to Jon Dobosz, head of the parks and recreation department. Ellis stated that the cards, which can be issued to any department head, are closely monitored by the town accountant and town treasurer. The request was approved.

Ellis reported on a variety of procurement-related Requests For Qualifications in progress. These include the Phase 3 streetscape design in Turners Falls, the Rutters Park upgrade in Lake Pleasant, ductwork associated with the HVAC system at the Shea Theater, roof work at the Shea to be voted on by the October 5 town meeting, and boarding up the Strathmore mill complex.

Finally, Ellis reported on progress on the 6-MW solar array being built by Kearsarge Energy on the old landfill off of Sandy Lane. Ellis said a contractor has been hired for the construction, and that the array is expected to be “done and in place” by late January or early February.

He said the next “hurdle” on that project will be the interconnection with the electric company, Eversource, which will require upgrades at Cabot Station on the Connecticut River. Ellis said town officials had met with Eversource to make clear

see MONTAGUE page A8

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**SPECIAL TM** from page A1  
(flailing it) and breaking it off.”

The annual town meeting in May decided to defer this appropriation until this fall, in the hopes that there would be sufficient “free cash” – account balances left over from the previous year certified by the state – to purchase the mower outright, avoiding interest costs. This did not appear to be the case, so Article 1 covers the first year’s lease payment.

Greg Garrison, who sits on both the finance and capital improvements committees, says the appropriation would pay for both the actual mower and a tractor. The current mower, which is primarily used for “line of sight” brush clearance by roadsides, was purchased in the 1990s.

The appropriation is the first of five annual payments. If these are equal payments, the mower and tractor should cost just over \$120,000 when the dust settles. The article was recommended unanimously by both the fin com and selectboard.

**Article 2** allocates \$20,000 to fund the RiverCulture program, which has organized arts-related events in Turners Falls. The organization is now expanding its mission to promote the arts in other villages.

The appropriation is designed as a temporary, stopgap measure to replace a state grant which has been discontinued. Supporters of the program believe they can replace the lost state funds with private funding, and other grants, after this year.

“We’ve gotten a stack of eight letters” supporting the appropriation, noted fin com chair John Hanold. Letters came from the Shea Theater board, the Greenfield Savings Bank, and the Montague Business Association. Fin com member Chris Menegoni stated that “I would like to see this come up as an annual thing, and become a permanent position in town.... For the amount of funds that we use for a lot of things, this is a home run for this town.”

His fellow member Mike Naughton, on the other hand, noted that “years ago” the town appropriated funds for the community band, which was widely supported, but at some point decided “it couldn’t afford it.” “If we’re going to start funding this sort of thing,” Naughton said, “maybe RiverCulture is not the only thing we’ll need to find money for.”

Steve Ellis stated that “the biggest thing is that this should not be a surprise.... We don’t want to have to fund this thing in the fall through a special article when we’re in dire straits.”

The article was recommended, with one abstention due to a perceived conflict of interest.

**Article 3** would appropriate \$1,935 to increase the Parks and Recreation budget so the department can purchase an accessible portable toilet for use when the fieldhouse building at Unity Park is not open.

The article was recommended by the fin com unanimously, although Naughton said he would like to see more discussion of alternatives, like use of the existing building. “Unity Park is a nice place,” he said. “Portable toilets usually aren’t.”

**Article 4** would increase the library department budget by \$5,900 due to, in the words of the information sheet, “an unexpected retirement... [requiring payment of] unused vacation and sick leave.” This article was recommended by the fin com with no discussion.

**Article 5** would appropriate \$16,250 to pay for services to value the properties of utility companies – gas and electric – in Montague. According to the background

information sheet, the past practice of the board of assessors, which relied primarily on data from utilities, has been called into question by recent court cases. “The goal of our proposal is to build a valuation model specifically for Montague,” based on utility data and the appellate tax board cases, it read.

Hanold said he had asked whether this was a one-time expense, and was told that “this is the initial set-up, plus three years beyond that.” This would not be an increase in the assessor’s budget, but a special article appropriation outside the budget. With no further discussion, the article was approved unanimously.

**Article 6** would appropriate \$7,500 to supplement a 2015 appropriation to repair the Shea Theater roof. The original appropriation was based on the assumption that the “lower” of the building’s two roofs would require replacement, but since then it has been recognized that the “upper,” and larger, roof has significant leakage.

Also since then, there has evolved what Steve Ellis called a “rubberized product” that could solve the problem with a reasonable cost increase. The roof will be repaired in conjunction with the installation of duct work for a new HVAC system.

The fin com recommended the article unanimously, after being assured by town accountant Carolyn Olsen that the rubberized product would not change the “scope” of the original 2015 town meeting article.

**Article 7** would reduce the sewer budget approved at last spring’s town meeting by approximately \$180,000. This would be accomplished by not filling a vacant position, and reducing expenses in a variety of line items.

This is the first of three articles designed to keep the FY’18 sewer rate within an originally planned 3.5% increase, in the face of a significant revenue shortfall caused by the sudden closing of the Southworth paper plant and that company’s failure to pay \$150,000 in past sewer bills. The funding shortfall is also a product of loss of income from processing sludge from other towns, and lower than projected general revenues.

Naughton questioned the very small rate increase, given the loss of revenue from Southworth and the need to put aside money for capital projects. “Does it make sense to have, say, a 5% increase?” he asked.

Olsen explained that an extra 1.5% increase would only raise approximately \$15,000, so “we did not internally think it would be worthwhile to raise it that much.”

“We’re looking at huge capital needs that will eventually be paid for by the sewer users,” said Naughton. “Are we assuming we’re all dead by the time that happens?”

“Yes,” responded Greg Garrison, adding that this should be a decision town meeting makes. The board passed Article 7 unanimously.

**Article 8** would rescind a previous appropriation allocating \$200,000 to a stabilization fund for future sewer system capital needs. “I’m tempted to vote no,” said Naughton. “I don’t want to be causing a big problem, but I think it would be nice if we didn’t have another unanimous vote saying we all think this is great.”

The article was recommended by the committee, with Mr. Naughton voting “no.”

**Article 9** would rescind an \$85,000 appropriation for a feasibility study of upgrading the sewer system’s capacity to handle major rain events. Wastewater superintendent Bob McDonald stated that he might ask for the funds next year, after the

study of the “Montague Process” is complete: “We’ll know much more in the next few months.”

The fin com voted unanimously to recommend Article 9. It then approved the next three articles, which all involve rescinding borrowing capacity, in one vote, which Hanold termed a “consent agenda.”

**Article 10** rescinds \$303,000 in borrowing capacity to fund the recently completed skate park. According to the information sheet, “The project is complete and was primarily funded through grants, with the town paying \$97,000. Now the remaining borrowing authority of \$303,000 needs to be rescinded.”

**Article 11** rescinds \$310,957.03 in borrowing to upgrade two pump stations in the sewer system. The project is complete, and the funds are not needed. **Article 12** rescinds \$349,486.25 previously borrowed for the “storm drain project.” Again, the project to replace and repair the system to handle overflow during “rain events” is complete and these funds are not required.

The fin com did not consider Articles 13 through 15, which are not finance issues.

**Article 13** would rezone a small parcel of land which used to belong to St. James Church from “public-semipublic” status to “neighborhood business.” This would allow a small business to be developed on the site.

**Article 14** rezones two parcels of land on Millers Falls Road and East Mineral Road from “agriculture-forestry” to “general business.” This will allow the owner of the property, the Montague Elks Lodge, to place a solar array on the land.

**Article 15** would rescind a 2014 motion which called for the town meeting moderator to appoint a three-member “Regional School District Planning Committee.” The original article was a response to the possible dissolution of the Union 28 school district, of which Erving is a member, and the possibility that the town might join the Gill-Montague Regional School District. Erving has indicated it no longer wishes to discuss that possibility.



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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was September 27, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### G-M School Tax Override Scrapped

The Montague selectboard voted on Monday to abandon their plan to place a \$150,000 override request in front of the voters for November, for the Gill-Montague Schools’ current year operating budget, fearing the measure would go down to defeat and require yet another town meeting before the ‘08 tax rate could be set and tax bills mailed.

To meet this year’s school assessment, the town of Montague is on the hook for an additional \$297,586 over and above the appropriation voted at Montague’s annual town meeting of June 2.

The total operating budget for the school district was passed by a special district meeting, and passed by a two-vote margin, 132–130. By law, the two towns of the school district are now bound to meet the higher assessment figures passed by the district, whether or not the voters of Gill and Montague approve tax overrides to meet them.

“There is no good pollster in town,” said selectboard member Allen Ross. “But, especially since there’s going to be a major debt exclusion for the police station, my guess is the override is going to fail, and we’re going to wind up meeting our obligation to the schools anyway [from reserves].”

### School Committee Lowers Threshold on School Closing

The Gill-Montague school committee voted on Tuesday to propose an amendment to the regional school agreement to make the process of closing an elementary school easier, by reducing the number of votes needed from eight out of nine committee members to six out of nine. It will also need approval of a majority of town meeting members in Gill and Montague to be enacted.

The vote was opposed by three members seeking a compromise requiring seven out of nine votes to close a school.

Sandra Brown, one of the opposing parties, said, “We need to show leadership. We can get to ‘Yes.’ If we reached a consensus [on closing

a school], it would be much better received in the community.

“I think we’re doing this to close Montague Center School. If we start to change the regional agreement just because we want to accomplish a certain goal, I think it would be a mistake.”

### Eighth Wonder of the World Comes to Town

The demonstration of the Montague police department’s new Segway on Tuesday afternoon was eventful. The Montague police did themselves proud. After a few brief instructions, they were silently gliding around the parking lot on the Segways like swans on a black lake. No one fell off.

“The Segway will allow us to cover downtown Turners much faster than a foot patrolman could,” police chief Ray Zukowski said. “Four times faster. We’ve got two less men than we had in 1990. The patrolling officer can check the alleys and even the bike path, which is not wide enough for a vehicle.”

Zukowski pointed out that Holyoke police chief Anthony Scott has four Segways, and found they are a great asset to the force.

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**MONTAGUE** from page A6

that a speedy connection with the solar array is a priority for the town.

#### Other Business

Police chief Chip Dodge requested that the board appoint Cody Wells as a reserve police officer. "Cody's a resident of town, grew up in Montague," said Dodge. "[He] went to the high school here, went on to college, he's been a police officer in a couple of other communities so he's got some training..." The board approved the request unanimously.

The board also approved a request from library director Linda Hickman to appoint Evan Delano as a library assistant. Hickman emphasized

Delano's experience not only in the library field but experience as a cashier in a local supermarket. "Cashier experience is great customer service training," said Hickman. "I did it early on in my career."

The board approved a request by Jamie Pottern of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust for a one-day beer and wine license for their annual meeting on October 14. The meeting will be held at Red Fire Farm on Meadow Road, and is open to the public. The license is contingent on the organization finding a server who is "TIPS trained." TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is an education program for alcohol servers that is required by the state.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson requested the use of public property at Avenue A and Seventh Street for a "toll booth fundraiser" for the Great Falls Festival, formerly known as Pumpkinfest. Nelson noted that the October 21 event costs over \$20,000 "as crazy as some people think, 'could never be that much'..."

The board approved the request, with Nelson abstaining.

At the end of the meeting the board adjourned to a non-public executive session to discuss collective bargaining.

The next selectboard meeting will be on Monday, October 2 at the town hall.



## Plants of Pompeii

**NORTHAMPTON** – On Tuesday, October 3 renowned artist Victoria I will give a gallery talk at noon and again at 7 p.m. in the Church Exhibition Gallery of the Lyman Plant House. She will discuss her experiences working with groundbreaking garden archaeologist Wilhelmina Jashemski, and her experiences creating the illustrations featured in the current exhibition *Plants of Pompeii: Ancient and Modern Medicinal Plants*.

These illustrations are on display as part of the exhibition, which focusses on the gardens and flower culture of ancient Pompeii. The eruption

of Mount Vesuvius in the year 79 AD preserved evidence of daily life in Pompeii and surrounding towns. Early excavations revealed frescos depicting plants, many accurately enough that we can recognize genera and some species.

The illustrations portray medicinal plants identified in the excavations. Many can be found in the Botanic Garden's beds and greenhouses.

Gallery talks are open to the public, free of charge, and wheelchair accessible. For more information, please contact the Botanic Garden of Smith College at (413) 585-2742.

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## Remembering John Ashbery



*The poet John Ashbery, on his 85th birthday.*

By **CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO**

**NEW YORK** – It was an unseasonably mild winter day in early 1990 when I arrived at John Ashbery’s apartment in Chelsea. We had arranged the day before to have lunch together. To my surprise, when John opened the door he was still in pajamas and maroon bathrobe. He registered my expression.

“Come in, come in. I haven’t forgotten our date,” he said wryly.

Unlike his main residence in Hudson, NY, that was opulently furnished in high Victorian décor, his blue and white New York City apartment was considerably more Spartan. A large living room gave onto the kitchen/dining area. A long modernist couch was piled with books at either end as was a long coffee table situated in front of the sofa. The wall-length bookcase on the other side of the room was crammed with books.

“I’m sorry I’m not ready yet,” he said. “I’ve been working, and lost my sense of time. I think I just finished a poem.”

He motioned to the dining table where a thick manuscript, edges crisp, sat next to an empty coffee cup and a black Underwood typewriter.

“Give me a few minutes to get ready and then we’ll go eat.”

He disappeared into the bathroom. I sat on the couch restraining myself with enormous difficulty from spying on the manuscript. A few minutes later John emerged, as dapper as ever. I didn’t ask him about the “poem” he’d just finished.

At the time of this visit I was writing my book *The Continual Pilgrimage: American Writers in Paris 1944-1960*. Ashbery, along with his friend, novelist Harry Mathews, was the subject of one of the chapters. John had been enormously open about his life and work while I poked

see **ASHBERY** page B4



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

## Transitions: New Beginnings

By **ELLEN BLANCHETTE**

**GREENFIELD** – Packing up to move is never easy. Deciding what to keep and what to throw out or give away is really a reflection of the view one has of the future. With my decision to move from Brooklyn, New York, to western Massachusetts, those choices were based more on optimism for my future than any real information.

I packed a lot of things, precious and not, into file boxes and suitcases, along with furniture I thought would be of use once I actually had a place to live. Possessions collected over forty years of a life in New York City that I had fought hard to keep and was now finally giving up with the hope of a better, simpler and more sustainable life in the country.

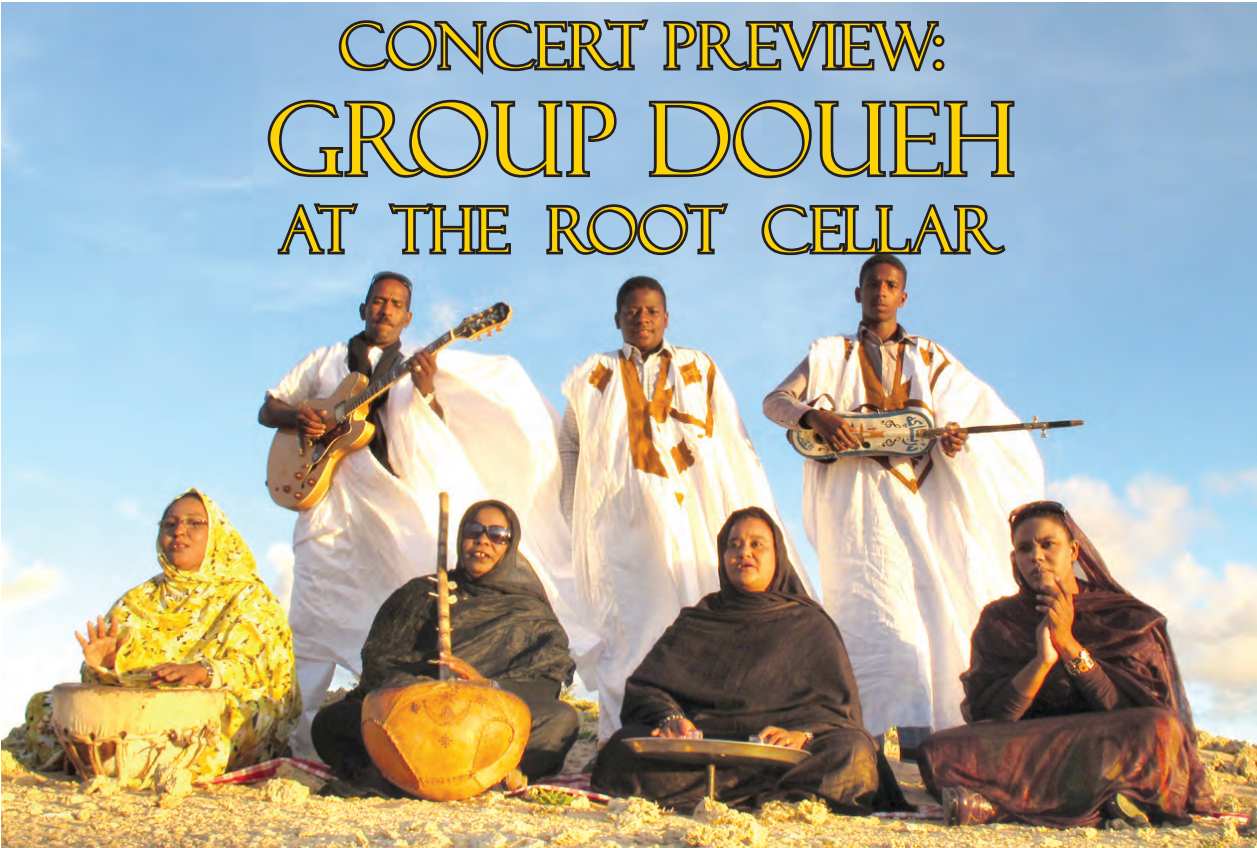
### Plans and Dreams

The plan for my move out of Brooklyn started in June 2002 with

a rental car, a local address, a post office box, and a visit to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to register the 1993 Ford Taurus sitting in my son Paul’s driveway in Brooklyn, awaiting plates so it could be driven to Massachusetts. I brought all the paperwork to the Registry, then took the plates they gave me to a local FedEx and shipped them back to Paul in Brooklyn.

New Yorkers frequently don’t own cars. I got a Plymouth Duster when we moved away from the subway line and I needed it to drive to Brooklyn College. Those years, in the 1980s, while I was in a masters program in creative writing, Paul and I had started going to workshops and family camp at Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Rowe, Massachusetts.

It started with a workshop with John Holt, a leader and author in the education reform movement. Run by Unitarian minister Douglas see **TRANSITIONS** page B4



*Group Doueh will stop in Greenfield as part of a nine-city US tour next week. Photo courtesy Hisham Mayet.*

By **MIKE JACKSON**

**GREENFIELD** – Franklin County will be visited next week by Group Doueh, who are touring the US from Dakhla in the Western Sahara, desert territory long disputed between Morocco and Mauritania.

The band is known for their fusion of traditional Sahrawi music with global rock idioms, driven by Salmou “Doueh” Bamaar’s crackling, rippling psychedelic guitar.

Doueh has connected with American and European audiences with four albums on Sublime Frequencies, an oddball record label associated with the Arizona-based noise rock band Sun City Girls. These releases have been described as “an aggregation of hypnotic patterns” (*Dusted Magazine*), “beyond raw and into bloody” (*New York Times*), “spindly, often mesmerizing” (*Allmusic*), “intensely rough” (*Pitchfork*), and “sun-dazed head music” (Robert Christgau).

Sublime Frequencies co-founder Hisham Mayet traveled the overland route through the Western Sahara trying to track down Doueh after hearing one uncredited song on the radio in Morocco. He has been back frequently since to record the band and hang out, and has organized their current US tour.

The Greenfield show will kick

off with a screening of *Oulaya’s Wedding*, a documentary film Mayet shot last year at the wedding celebration of Doueh’s daughter.

We spoke with Mayet this week about how everything has come together. (The interview has been abridged and edited for clarity.)

**MR:** *How did the Sublime Frequencies label get started, and how did its connections begin with African musicians? When the first CDs were coming out, it seemed like there was a lot of focus on Southeast Asia.*

**HM:** Well, we were also doing DVDs, and those, at least the ones I was doing, were all based in North and West Africa from the very beginning. So there were connections with Morocco and Libya and Niger from the outset. That was generally me going out there and doing field recordings or filming, or a combination of that....

When we started, it was a collection of all of our archives.... I brought the idea to Alan [Bishop] to start an offshoot label from [Sun City Girls house label] Abduction, dealing specifically with field recordings, with sort of an ethnographic bent. We decided just to do a stand-alone thing....

**MR:** *Ethnographic, but obvious-*



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By **DAVID BRULE**

**ERVINGSIDE** – So here I am, sitting in my favorite Adirondack chair on the lawn with a mountain of rhododendron at my back, trying to maintain my bubble of early morning calm in this early autumn. I do that by means of a cup of coffee and a new anthology of poems I found just this week at the Bookmill.

Looking up from my page and over the rim of my favorite coffee cup, I watch ten thousand ethereal insects floating in the slanting morning sunlight, like motes drifting in a shaft of sunlight in my great grandfather’s barn that isn’t there anymore.

Into this peaceful reverie pounces the dog. Nick is trying to entice me into his favorite lawn game that he calls ChaseMcCharlie. He races around the yard at top speed in wide circles leaping over patches of goldenrod, plunging behind the rhododendron, bursting out like a rocket from shrubs that line the garden fence.

He’s a Siberian born to speed and racing. He knows he can fly, but he wants me to try to catch him so he can race away in pretend fear, scaring himself, knowing all along that I’m way to slow to even touch him as he streaks by, barely missing my knees and shins. It’s great fun. For *him*!

But I’m hoping to get in at least one or two more poems before our daily obligatory walk.

He tries a different tactic: he sidles up to me staring with his hypocritically innocent blue eyes, and recites one of our favorite dog poems, by Stephen Dobyns, out of the corner of his mouth:

*Let’s go downtown and get crazy  
Let’s tip over all the trash cans we can find...  
Let’s dig holes everywhere  
Let’s go over to the diner and  
Sniff people’s legs.  
Let’s stuff ourselves on burgers...*

*ly taking a very different approach than a lot of the “world music” labels or divisions.*

**HM:** For sure! We were all coming from a sort of ‘80s DIY, for lack of a better term, punk, or more of an underground bent.... And that hasn’t wavered. That’s been something that, once we figured out how to do it, was the only logical way to proceed.

**MR:** *You guys heard Doueh on the radio, initially?*

**HM:** Yeah. Alan and I were doing some field recording and filming in Morocco and Algeria in 2005. And we were hanging out in a hotel room and listening to radio, which is something we always do, and we were recording.

This song came on that just literally floored us – we were just like, “what is this!” – and we happened to be recording it. And we took the tape out with us, because we really wanted to know who it was. There was hardly any information on the broadcast.

And nobody could really help! They just kept saying “music from the South,” which we figured would be Sahrawi music. We’d heard, previously, Sahrawi music, but nothing this unhinged. This definitely wasn’t part of the traditional Mauritanian

see **DOUEH** page B6

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: DOG ABOUT TOWN

I attempt to pay no attention, but the mental telepathy is penetrating and pushing all other poetry aside. He’s talking me into it. The dog wants his walk, no human hesitations or other imperatives matter. If you deal with dogs, you know what I mean.

Dogs don’t know the future tense beyond the pleasure of the next five minutes. Talk about being in the moment, everything is *now*. There doesn’t exist any concept of *later*.

There’s a lesson for humans there. Dogs do however have a sense of routine, so if even once you’ve done a fun thing with a dog, then that’s something you have to continue to do over and over, exactly like the last time. Try throwing a stick just once.

Nick sits on my feet and blows out a sigh while I’m struggling to write this. He wins.

Out we go to the preferred morning route along the bike path starting see **WEST ALONG** page B4



# Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Larry. I was found on the streets, so not too much information is known about me.

I love hanging around with people, and relaxing on a nice warm bed. I can be skittish at first, but soon wag with joy when receiving pets. I came in with some skin irritation, but that should clear up soon.

Will you come visit and get to know me better? I'm patiently waiting to find my loving home. So is my friend, Tyson, who's in my picture with me.

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



## “LARRY”

### Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 2 TO 6

**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 10/2**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday: 10/3**  
12:45 p.m. COA meeting  
**Wednesday 10/4**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday: 10/5**  
NO Tai Chi or Chair Yoga  
10:30 to NOON: Brown Bag  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday: 10/6**  
Noon Pizza Party  
1 p.m. Writing Group

**LEVERETT**

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto: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 10/2**  
9:30 Healthy Bones & Balance  
10:30 Tai Chi  
**Tuesday: 10/3**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 Homemade Lunch  
**Wednesday 10/4**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:15 a.m. Bingo & snacks  
**Thursday: 10/5**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
Scary Movie & Snack  
**Friday: 10/6**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
10 a.m. Walmart Shopping  
11:15 a.m. Music/Magic/Mvmnt.

**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.



## THEATER PREVIEW Texas is Toast with *Greater Tuna*

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – Silverthorne Theater Company presents as its next production the perennially popular comedy, *Greater Tuna*, starring two of the company's favorite actors, John Reese and Julian Findlay. This promises to be an exceptionally humorous and entertaining theater production. Reese and Findlay play twenty different residents of a tiny Texas town named Tuna. It features lightning-fast costume changes, voice and persona changes under the direction of Valley theater artist Steve Henderson.

Written by Texans Ed Howard, Joe Sears, and Jaston Williams, *Greater Tuna* brings us a day in the life of the third smallest town in Texas as seen through the eyes of OKKK Radio Station announcers Arles Struvie and Thurston Wheelis.



Steve Henderson,  
*Greater Tuna's director.*

In the course of the play, the two morph into such characters as Vera Carp, self-appointed guardian of the town's morals; **Petey Fisk**, the desperate head of the local SPCA; Bertha Bumiller, a housewife who has

lost control of her children, husband and pets, and many others.

The trials and tribulations of this wild assortment of personalities reflect beliefs and practices that may mystify New Englanders. By many standards, the play is anything but politically correct, but behind the accents and opinions are small-town folks with problems and aspirations with which many of us can identify.

*Greater Tuna* opens on Thursday, October 5, on the fourth floor of the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center (formerly the Arts Block) in downtown Greenfield. Performances are October 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14 at 7:30 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, October 14. There will be a post-show conversation with the director and cast after the October 12 performance. For information and ticket availability, go to [www.silverthornetheater.org](http://www.silverthornetheater.org).

## EARLY OCTOBER LIBRARY LISTING

*Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.*

### Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: *Carnegie* (413) 863-3214  
Montague Center (413) 367-2852  
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348  
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591  
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220  
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559  
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

### EXHIBITS

Several local libraries have monthly or bimonthly art shows. In order to apply for a show at these venues, find application forms on library websites.

Dickinson Library: *Two Perspectives: Oil. Marie and Steve Welch.* Through mid-October.

Leverett Library: *Leverett Crafts and Arts 50th Anniversary Exhibit.* Through October.

### EVENTS

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga.* Variety of instructors; see website for schedule. 9 a.m. By donation.

Leverett Library: *Mindful Eating Workshop #2.* 2 to 4 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting.* 6 to 7 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Carnegie Library: *Craft Time w/ Angela.* Children, all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Spanish Conversation Group.* 4 to 5 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein.* 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Dickinson Library: *Reader's*

*Choice.* This month is *Commonwealth* by Ann Pachett. 10 to 11 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group.* A sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time w/Karen.* Story, project, snacks. Young children w/caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux.* Developed for children newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. Sponsored by the Community Network for Children. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Carnegie Library: *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)* with Angela or special guest. All age homeschoolers. Beginning October 18. 1:15 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Millers Falls Branch Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson,* for children. 10 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Adult Coloring.* 10 to 11 a.m.

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us.* All skill levels welcome; facilitated by Kathy O'Shea, gradu-

ate of WEBS expert knitting program. 6 to 8 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering.* 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environmental Awareness Group,* facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Welcome Night.* New to town? Come and meet the librarians and trustees, have a tour, get a card, and eat some pizza! 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Library Book Group* will discuss *Austerlitz* by W. G. Sebald. Library has copies you can borrow. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee.* Preschoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper.* Mixed levels. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.


#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Carnegie Library: *Book Sale.* Books, DVDs, audio books, and CDs for \$1 or less. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Tai Chi.* 10 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting.* 6 to 7 p.m.

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# 10. Original Broadway Cast, *Candide* (1956)

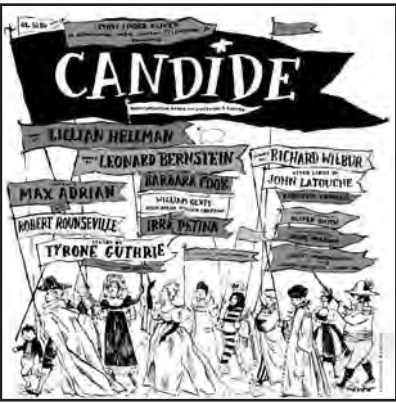
By IVAN USSACH

This “comic operetta based on Voltaire’s satire,” with music by Leonard Bernstein, opens with a rousing Overture. There’s a hint of Can-Can or something vaguely French, then the music travels widely – wildly, even. Something I heard briefly reminded me of *West Side Story*, maybe the rumble between the Jets and the Sharks.

That may not be coincidence, as *Candide* debuted on Broadway in late 1956, followed in 1957 by *West Side Story*, the composer’s most acclaimed work. The knockout 1961 film version, which I’ve watched many times, was my only real previous exposure to this 20th century American musical superstar.

Voltaire, one of the Enlightenment’s most brilliant, and courageous, writers and philosophers, published *Candide* in 1759 with the subtitle, “The Optimist.” The novella follows the bizarre adventures of Candide, a student of Professor Pangloss, as he attempts to find happiness with Cunegonde amid “the best of all possible worlds.”

The “Best Of All Possible Worlds” scene takes place on the eve of Candide and Cunegonde’s wedding in Westphalia, with the learned professor inviting questions from the assembled – “there’s none too deep for me.” Asked “Why do married people fight?,” Pangloss replies: “The private strife of man and wife is useful to the nation / It is a harmless outlet for emotions that could lead to war or social agitation.” He then expertly fields a question about why there’s so much divorce.



Track three is a duet by the happy couple, but the next track sees war erupting just before the wedding ceremony. Apparently, there was insufficient marital discord in the nation!

Much dramatic music and insanity ensues. The story line is fantastical beyond description: no wonder early audiences were confused. Its sarcastic tone and erratic plot proved fatal to the musical theater crowd of 1956, despite the efforts of a heavyweight writing team, and the show’s initial run lasted only 73 performances. But it is in English!

Thus, I especially enjoyed Cunegonde’s aria, “Glitter And Be Gay,” sung by Barbara Cook in a strong, beautiful voice – the high piercing notes, the fa-la-las, all clear as a bell.

Come the First Act’s Finale, the action has shifted to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Candide, still pursuing Cunegonde, laments: “Why should I wed / Marriage is awful you know / Passion is dead / once it is lawful you know.”

As for the rest, some of you know how the story ends. No spoiler here, simply: “We’ll make our garden grow.” Any questions?

## Exhibit Explores the Art of Felting



Kinetic felt sculpture by Paul Cohen.

**SHELBURNE** – The Shelburne Arts Cooperative featured exhibition this month, “We Just Felt Like It,” will showcase the work of four felt makers who explore the medium from different perspectives. The non-fiber lives and backgrounds of these artists are also diverse and interesting.

Lynn Perry, whose fiber work began with the designing and marketing of her Woolpet toys which utilize recycled felted sweaters, is a retired child and family therapist. A number of years ago she began needle felting and has used that technique to create the charming and lifelike miniature animals, the dramatic animal masks, and the engaging landscapes that she presents in this show.

Flo Rosenstock, a retired clinical social worker, was a potter in her first artistic life, before making the transition into fiber. She dyes silk and wool fiber and uses wet felting and needle felting techniques to create wearable scarves which combine merino wool and cashmere in painterly shades and textures, and sculptural wall pieces inspired by the colors and shapes of seedpods, mushrooms and fungi.

Sue McFarland works full-time in the Asian Arts and Culture Program at UMass, and still manages to find time to create stunning, wearable, and unusual sculptural felted pieces, which she exhibits in craft shows throughout New England. Her work often includes natural objects such as stone, wood, and shell incorporated into wall hangings.

Paul Cohen is a retired area educator whose expressive needle felted pieces have the added dimension of being kinetic sculptures. Their moving parts are animated by wooden gears in most ingenious ways, and also inspire sound effects.

An artist reception for the show will take place on Saturday, October 14 from 2 to 5 p.m., which is Second Saturday, always a festive day in Shelburne Falls. The Shelburne Arts Cooperative is on Bridge Street next to the Hearty Eats cafe. For more information, see [shelburneartscoop.com](http://shelburneartscoop.com).

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Skunks Get Trapped On Both Center And Central Streets; A Pigeon Dies On Both Public And Private Property

Monday, 9/18

4:38 p.m. Caller reporting that there is a male in a beat-up white pick-up truck collecting cans and bottles; however, the items appear to be falling out of his truck. Officer spoke to vehicle owner, who stated that the straps on his truck broke. He is making his way home.

Tuesday, 9/19

9:35 a.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts states that a white van with Texas plates has been sitting in the parking lot for over an hour. Caller finds this suspicious. Investigated. Vehicle driver is resting after a long night of driving.

10:01 a.m. Caller states that there are several large trucks carrying timber that keep crossing over a small bridge on North Leverett Road that is not rated for vehicles that heavy. Officer spoke to one of the truck operators and advised him of the issue. Driver will contact his dispatch and advise them that trucks that are fully loaded need to go a different way.

10:05 a.m. Officer flagged down on Third Street by a concerned citizen who is reporting a dead opossum on the sidewalk. DPW notified.

5:42 p.m. Caller states that there are baggies and needles in the area where they are fishing near the Discovery Center. Officer en route.

7:43 p.m. Walk-in states that a pedal bike was stolen from his property this afternoon. Neighbors in area state that they witnessed a male party take the bike. Report taken.

8:34 p.m. Anonymous caller would like to report that there has been a skunk trapped at a location on Central Street all day; caller is concerned about skunk’s well being. Officer notified. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

Wednesday, 9/20

1:48 p.m. Caller from Meadow Road states that he just arrived home and found that his front door was smashed and items of his had been thrown on the floor. Officer requesting K9 unit; also requesting Sunderland officer to patrol around the Falls Road area. Interior of home checked and cleared. Report taken.

Thursday, 9/21

8:44 a.m. 911 caller reporting a disgruntled customer at Rite Aid who became out of control and left the store. Advised employee(s) of trespass options.

12:18 p.m. ACO following

up on an animal complaint on Greenfield Cross Road. Spoke with resident’s daughter, who advised that she will be more diligent about making sure there is enough water out for the chickens.

8:46 p.m. Complaint regarding loud noise coming from Hubie’s Tavern and Restaurant. Officer advised bartender of complaint. Doors to business were closed, and they were compliant.

9:37 p.m. Caller states that a male party with long dark hair, wearing jeans and a dark hoodie, has been standing on the Gill-Montague Bridge for a long period of time. Officer en route. Party OK; all seems well; was just walking in the area.

10:14 p.m. Male found sleeping at corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street. Male does not appear to be under the influence; is just tired. Units clear.

Friday, 9/22

2:43 a.m. Officer being flagged down by vehicle at corner of Fifth and L streets. Officer advises that male party was yelling out the window of the vehicle but, when approached, refused to provide any information. Clear.

6:08 a.m. Motor vehicle collision on Canal Road. Minor damage to one vehicle; other vehicle was an FRTA bus.

4:06 p.m. 911 caller reporting that an ex-boyfriend tried to run her off the road near Scotty’s. At the same time, ex-boyfriend called to say that the male party in the car with the female operator got out of the car and tried to attack him. Report taken.

10:24 p.m. Store clerk at F.L. Roberts requesting police to remove an unwanted, intoxicated customer. Officer providing courtesy transport to K Street.

Saturday, 9/23

2:43 a.m. Caller states that he was assaulted by a known party outside Between the Uprights. No

weapons involved. Med-Care requested for injuries to face/mouth area. Report taken.

3:29 a.m. Caller from Thirteenth Street reports that a tow truck doing a repossession is attempting to drag a vehicle, which is causing a lot of noise. Officers advised tow truck operator of noise complaint.

7:39 a.m. Caller reports that while driving up the hill by Scotty’s, a black Jeep was tailgating her, and the operator threw an unknown object out of the window. Object struck caller’s car, but she is unsure if there is any damage. Officer checked area; unable to locate. No damage to caller’s vehicle.

9:29 a.m. Two calls from Grove Street complaining of neighbor doing yard work, mowing lawn, etc. just before 8 a.m.; inquiring about noise ordinance. Officer advised callers that type of noise and hour described were not unreasonable.

2:14 p.m. Third party report of two intoxicated males in the river below the dam. Officer advising male party is now in protective custody. Male given option to leave due to the 12 hours being up, or to sleep through the night. Involved chose to stay the night and sleep.

6:17 p.m. Officer spoke with male who was skateboarding in the middle of Turners Falls Road. Male was with another subject, who was walking on the sidewalk. Male complied and began walking on the sidewalk as well.

6:19 p.m. Caller from Center Street requesting ACO assistance freeing a skunk that is trapped in a drain pipe that used to be attached to a downspout. ACO advising that skunk will likely get out on its own; residents should leave it alone tonight, and if it is still stuck tomorrow, ACO will respond and try to assist. Second party from

same addressed called requesting assistance for skunk. Delayed callback due to call volume.

6:21 p.m. Report of dead pigeon that is half on private property and half on the sidewalk. Caller requesting that DPW dispose of same. Provided caller with number for DPW.

Sunday, 9/24

4:17 p.m. 911 caller states that his downstairs neighbors are taking pictures of his son on their cell phone while he is playing. Officers en route. Neighbors were not taking pictures of children; however, they were taking pictures of the walkway that the children were spilling water on. Both parties advised to contact landlord with their complaints.

4:27 p.m. Caller states that he was just involved in an accident at the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street; however, other vehicle fled the scene. Greenfield PD and Shelburne Control advised to be on lookout. Report taken.

5:01 p.m. Caller from Gunn Road states that her neighbor is walking their dog on her property and that there is an open case with the ACO about this. Copy of call left for ACO. Officer advised involved party of complaint.

7:31 p.m. Caller reports that suspicious activity is occurring in the area of the concession stand at Sheffield Elementary School. Unfounded.

8:16 p.m. 911 caller reporting accident between two pedal bikes on the bike path. Officer requesting off-road rescue vehicle. Fire and PD off with patient; MedCare requesting Life Flight. Party removed to hospital.

Monday, 9/25

2:50 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that she was woken by someone breaking and entering into her apartment. Nothing disturbed. Unable to locate. Apartment secured; officers will watch area.

## MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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WEST ALONG from page B1

at the old bridge abutment in Unity Park, and then heading downtown.

The day is fresh, the mind of both dog and man is clear. Walking along, the dog does my thinking for me. He checks his doggie messages, scent found in every cluster of grass, milkweed or downed branch. He answers the messages by texting scent of his own over the last dog sign. That takes a lot of squirting. We cover the waterfront, or in this case, the riverfront, with messages.

The dew-coated grass between river and path is alive with my own human images. Just this past August, under warm rain showers and occasional downpour, Abenaki musicians beat a steady rhythm on their spirit drum and told stories in this place. The ethereal flute of the Nipmuc lingers on the air.

All those sounds I can still hear and they echo across the landscape and in my head, interrupted by the clamor of a gaggle of geese, trumpeting over the enjoyment of finding themselves together, having made it through another night.

A distant mist rises from water pouring over the dam drifting towards the hills of Wiscatinnewag, as faint as the spirits of the tribal people who lost their lives in the thundering waterfall that horrific morning so long ago. The power company officials, manipulating our river as they see fit, have drawn down the water level for some reason this Sunday morning. Mud flats are exposed, mottled with river pockmarks in the mud. These holes and ripples are exactly the same as the 200-million-year-old fossilized marks preserved in the bedrock at the bottom of the power canal, empty this week. This river laid down the same marks in the mud back when this town was situated on the equator and when dinosaurs roamed Barton Cove.

Three swans, a couple with their offspring, feed daily among the lily pads and aquatic grasses exposed by the low water. A great blue heron stalks, used to the impertinent stare of Nick, the would-be predator. The heron has learned that the dog is leashed, so he can go on fishing, and



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

Nicky, with the author.

ignore the wolf-dog watching him.

Anyway, the dog has other duties to attend to. There are squirrels to be treed, geese to be shacked off the grass, crows that need scattering.

Then there's the other dogs passing by: Suzie, Sadie, Benny, Luigi, Ralph, Oliver, dogs of all shapes and sizes trot by with their respective humans. He leaps and dances, wanting to go sniff and play, but we have to follow certain rules of decorum, even though dog dignity has been briefly but totally ignored. Owners smile, dogs pull, then turn their attention to other matters. Just keep walking, but who is walking whom?

Looking at the empty canal, bottom bedrock thirty feet down exposed, I try to sort out in my mind the different anecdotes shared by Ed Gregory just last week, during a canal history walk. All the factories, mostly now gone or in disrepair, the echoes of thousands of workers over the past hundred years, are now fading away.

This bike path was once a railroad bed owned by the B+M, and it brought workers here daily from points south, and returned with merchan-

dise to take to other parts of the world. The railroad bed is now a smooth ribbon of asphalt, perfect for strolling, biking, and thinking, sniffing and squirting.

Sometimes our return route brings us up past the Keith apartments towards Second Street. Oftentimes occasional tenants stand outdoors in tee shirt and shorts drawing deep on the first cigarette of the morning which will eventually kill them. Another way of living in the moment.

Other times, we swing by Fourth Street to converse with Rainbow Fox on his porch. Across the street is the apartment of my grandparents long ago departed. Many a happy and noisy Christmas Eve did we spend in that apartment among our gregarious, noisy, and joyful French Canadian relatives. Nick allows me just a brief wistful glance at that building before tugging me along towards Avenue A.

If this were an afternoon walk, we'd be stopping at the Rendezvous for a few moments to sit on the front deck, and while Nick would slurp down a bowl of water offered by the waitperson, I'd down a lovely pint of Guinness. Then we'd wait for Janel to pass with Suzie and Frito, so that Nick could rub noses and sniff, by now more calm and polite, having burned off most of his two-year-old's energy.

But this is Sunday morning, so it's back down the street, cutting over at the corner of L and Third streets on the way back to the river.

Nick has more suggestions:

*Let's go make a sandwich.  
Let's make the tallest sandwich anyone's ever seen.  
Then let's go to sleep.  
Let's lie down...and put our tails over our noses...*

Which is exactly what we do. And to show who's really in charge, I write this story.

*With help from poets Stephen Dobyns and Howard Nemerov.*



TRANSITIONS from page B1

Wilson and his wife, Prudence Berry, I found the Rowe center to be a place where I felt welcome and completely at home.

I drove that Duster to Rowe just a few months after I got it, and I remember my best friend warning me I didn't have enough experience to drive on highways. I thought nothing could be harder than driving the streets of Brooklyn.

That trip had brought us to this region and introduced my son and me to a way of life that was most alluring. I was young and hopeful then. Paul was just eleven years old when we first went to that Rowe workshop. I was in my late thirties. We spent most of our summers at Rowe through the 1980s.

We made friends with people who lived in the region, including educator Nat Needle, who encouraged Paul to apply to New Salem Academy for what seemed a wonderful educational opportunity. We did apply, but the school closed soon after we got the letter saying he'd been accepted.

We had begun to look for a way to move here back then, but once the school closed, we gave up and made our peace with living in Brooklyn.

Heading to Massachusetts

And yet that possibility, that dream, still existed in our minds, and when the buildings came down in lower Manhattan and the horror of what had occurred descended upon us, right there next to the thought "We've got to get out of here," was the recalled dream of moving to western Massachusetts.

My son Paul, now at age thirty, a grown man with a good job untouched by terrorism, was very supportive of my desire to move out of New York City. As we began to

work together to develop a plan for my move, we found our ideas differed on the logistics.

I thought I should look for a place to live somewhere in Franklin County and then find a job. Paul thought I should look for a job first so I could live close to the job. In the end we found a compromise, with the help of my friends at Rowe: I would move out of my apartment in Brooklyn, put all my furniture and personal belongings in storage locally, and volunteer at Rowe Camp for the summer. This would put me in Franklin County, giving me time to look for both a job and a place to live.

I gave my landlord notice, found a storage company in Northampton where the woman on the phone, named Ellen, sounded really nice. With the help of some movers in Brooklyn, we packed up a truck and drove it to Massachusetts early one morning in July, arriving at Spaces-for-Rent in Northampton so early we had to wait for them to open.

Paul and his friend Dave, who took the ride with us, packed all my belongings into a nice, clean, large storage unit. After the job was done we celebrated with a hearty breakfast at Friendly's.

As we arrived at Rowe in the early afternoon, I felt excited and overwhelmed with the beauty of the place. After all the years I'd spent there as a camper and conference attendee, Rowe felt like home to me.

It was a strange feeling saying goodbye to Paul. Glad to be there, sad to see him leave. There's a natural assumption, which I made then, that all would stay the same, that my son would be fine in Brooklyn without me, a grown man with lots of friends and a good job. I assumed our lives would continue to be intertwined, that all that was would still be there for me whenever I wanted

to go back to visit, or even to stay.

Life goes on without you, and things always change. This I had not considered on that particular day.

Looking for Work

I had also never considered the complexities of living in community, and the somewhat deliberate limitations on communications that help create all that peace and quiet we all appreciated. It turned out there was no cell phone service at Rowe. Landline phone service wasn't much better. Answering ads in the newspaper was seriously problematic.

Sitting in the rec hall in the mornings, sipping coffee, I would read the local papers and look for work. The job listings were disappointing. Mostly jobs I'd never heard of; factory work, skilled labor. No office work.

One listing that kept showing up was as a reporter for the *Athol Daily News*. When I first saw this ad, I was sure I wasn't qualified. I could write but had no experience writing news, and no idea what it took to be a reporter. Only that ad kept showing up and it was the only job that seemed like something I could do. Or would like to do.

After a few weeks I decided to call them up. It seemed promising, but I didn't live anywhere near Athol.

I didn't really live anywhere at all.

At some point I recognized staying at Rowe wasn't working, so I moved down to the Country Aire Campground off Route 2 in Charlemont. They were kind, helpful, had good cell service, and a pool where I could swim, which was wonderful. I was able to relax for a few days and think.

Sitting in the dark in my tent at the campground with a flashlight going for comfort – there really wasn't

anything to see – I sat talking on my cell phone to my friend Sherry as she encouraged me to drive down to her house in Long Island, NY, to sleep in a real bed and take a shower in a real bathroom. Which I did, concluding that I needed a new perspective.

Once at Sherry's house I perused ads online from the *Greenfield Recorder* and *Hampshire Gazette*, answering ads for rooms and apartments, and found a room in a house on Grout Circle in Millers Falls. We set up a time to meet in mid-August. The owner, David Stowell, was a nice man, a carpenter who had built the house himself. Along with the room I shared the kitchen and living room.

I had to wait until September when the room was ready so I stayed at the French King Motel while I waited. That turned out to be a lot of fun. The people were so friendly and considerate and the food was great.

I moved into the house in Millers Falls the first week in September. The room was small, just big enough for my bed and a small desk for my computer. The owner considered me a roommate, not a tenant. I shared costs of electric and cable, but heat was mostly the cook stove which I only half learned to get going, but in September, that didn't strike me as important.

With a place to live I was free to get a job. Paul came up to help me move in. We left most of my belongings in storage.

I got that job at the *Athol Daily News* covering selectboard meetings in New Salem, and I was officially a reporter. I felt pretty lucky. Eventually they hired me as a staff reporter.

Ahead lay challenges. This was a time for healing and hope. For a brief moment I remember thinking, I have everything I need. Pure happiness and peace.

My new life had begun.



ASHBERY from page B1

and prodded him for details about his time in Paris from 1955 to 1966.

Unfailingly generous, he was continually offering anecdote and background, and a fair number of stories about others. By the time we were meeting up for lunch in New York, the interviews were long over. We had by this point become friends.

During the academic year 1989-90 that John spent at Harvard, where he delivered the Norton Lectures, Patricia Pruitt and I spent a fair amount of time in his company, hosting him, visiting him at his home in Hudson, wandering through galleries and museums, and just sitting and talking, often with a drink in hand.

John liked his alcohol. He was witty and earnest, tender and gracious. Few minds were as quick as his. His depth and breadth on a score of subjects ranging from music and literature to comic books and cartoons, from art to early cinema was prodigious.

John was as easy in person as he was difficult in poetry. Ashbery's poetry, of course, is known as being complex, opaque, eccentric, even bewildering. No one ever wrote poems like Ashbery before his unique voice burst on the scene in 1956 with *Some Trees*. And while there are now scores of imitators, John remains an authentic poetic genius.

To read an Ashbery poem is to encounter what he termed "the experience of experience." Diction gets consistently rearranged in a typical Ashbery poem, juxtaposed images yield new realities, references multiply, creating yet more references, signifiers are freed from the signified.

But meaning is everywhere, and in myriad forms and beneath it all (or perhaps above it all) is intense lyrical beauty. As John once explained to me, "It's all about what we can do with language, since language does so much for us."

His death on September 3 was a personal loss. But it was also a loss to the world of poetry. In no small way John's passing marks the end of an era in American poetry. He was among the last survivors of that generation that has been dubbed the New American Poets. Included in that diverse group were poets such as Kenneth Koch, Jack Spicer, Robert Duncan, Amiri Baraka, Frank O'Hara, James Merrill, James Schuyler, Adrienne Rich, Robert Creeley, Allen Ginsberg, Barbara Guest, Gregory Corso, and the list goes on and on.

After lunch on that winter day we returned to John's apartment. "Want to hear the end of my poem?" he asked. "It's a rather long one, so I'll just read you the last section."

The "poem" was *Flow Chart*, which at over 200 pages lived up to his apt characterization. When he read these last lines I felt a chill inside my bones:

*...We are  
merely agents, so  
that if something wants to improve  
on us, that's fine, but we are always the last  
to find out about it, and live up to  
that image of ourselves as it gets  
projected on trees and vine-coated  
walls and vapors in the night sky:  
a distant  
noise of celebration, forever off-limits.  
By evening the traffic has begun  
again in earnest, color coded. It's  
open: the bridge, that way.*

That chill is even deeper now.



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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

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### To John Ashbery

I can't believe there's not  
another world where we will sit  
and read new poems to each other  
high on a mountain in the wind.  
You can be Tu Fu, I'll be Po Chu-i  
and the Monkey Lady'll be in the moon,  
smiling at our ill-fitting heads  
as we watch snow settle on a twig.  
Or shall we be really gone? this  
is not the grass I saw in my youth!  
and if the moon, when it rises  
tonight, is empty —a bad sign,  
meaning 'You go, like the blossoms.'

– Frank O'Hara

### If Sappho were a UFO

for John Ashbery  
September 3, 2017

And I were a genie  
We'd dance on the surface of Pluto  
And dine at Ipanema beach in Rio.  
Nothing much else  
Glues me to this shredded fabric  
Of the marvelous, on sale all these years  
With no buyers and just three  
Authorized sellers. I'd made it almost to  
Mars then went home, too much  
Mud in those parts, and I missed

The smell of home ground  
Even if it turned out to be imported.

– Charles Bernstein

### Elegy

Adieu near those fields that smoke disembowels  
And that your arm pushes away  
For a long time until the inevitable stratum of the  
Adieus until the next  
Adieu

The door in a cliff has closed. I wanted  
Daylight to enter here only through the arc-lamp of your eyes  
That the limits of this place be defined only  
By the carnal walls our bodies erected

Opened wider on the recaptured past than the smallest  
Pocket-watch and its visible trail ever were  
Your mouth swallowed the hour and my teeth broke on it  
When I entered you with kisses

Under the full-blown palm of multiple hands  
The rose you know, on the ground now,  
Perfumed the silence and killed our secrets  
Marking our garden with fear that was no longer fear

Adieu the songs are ended the years disemboweled  
And may your body distance itself  
For a long time until the ineluctable regret of  
Adieus until forever

– Pierre Martory  
Translated by John Ashbery

### Visitation

For John Ashbery

The three of you are in some light-filled room –  
the sort Porter painted – probably in the Hamptons.  
Jimmy has summoned the police because you two  
have returned unexpectedly from some excursion  
to find Ronald there munching macaroons.  
You are trying to calm Jimmy. Ronald only looks bemused.  
You are explaining that Ronald has come with gifts,  
that the door was unlocked, that he can hardly be accused  
of breaking and entering, of attempted theft.  
Jimmy isn't so sure. "What about the macaroons?"  
It isn't that he and Ronald aren't on friendly terms;  
it's not even that he wants to make a fuss,  
but Ronald's presence disturbs him so –  
his cockiness, his elegance, the way he sits there  
sprawled so nonchalantly on the couch, fanning himself  
with a tattered book. Is it *Vainglory* or *A Nest of Ninnies*?  
You shrug your shoulders, give up the scene,  
start to walk into the other room.  
You know the cops will come.  
You know that for a while Jimmy will sulk, withdraw.  
You know that in the end Ronald will stay for dinner.  
Then you turn to me and say:  
"It's so difficult living with specters."

– Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

### Spring Duck

For John Ashbery

Blame it on a metal-roller micro pen,  
on your tournesol sestina en double—  
indubitablement  
you suffer fools with grace and lights going out  
often and too soon

The ice cream is too frozen to serve, we must wait  
for Spring again despite all we know  
who've been around the block a time or two.  
"Be back in apple blossom time," you say.

Olarra Ohara Ojalá

All's unknown and in a yellow  
restaurant you exclaim,  
"Where the fuck's my duck!"  
and later a hedge of sunflowers  
grows up in the old rose garden

– Patricia Pruitt

### Editor's Notes:

To commemorate the life and work of John Ashbery (1927-2017), one of the world's great poets, we dedicate this month's poetry page to him.

Patricia Pruitt's poem "Spring Duck" was written on the occasion of a dinner Patricia, Ed Barrett and I had with John at a restaurant in Cambridge. John was at that time giving the Norton Lectures at Harvard, and still needed to revise his lecture for the next day.  
After an hour, and four bottles of Spanish Olarra wine, the duck he ordered had not yet arrived, and he was becoming increasingly nervous about having enough time to polish his talk. Hence, his exclamation in the poem. "Spring Duck" was first published in her collection *Construction Work* (1991, Longwood Press).

Charles Bernstein, poet, essayist, theorist, and scholar, is a founding member and leading practitioner

of Language poetry. Since the 1970s Bernstein has published dozens of books, including poetry and essay collections, pamphlets, translations, collaborations, and libretti. "If Sappho were a UFO" was written on the day he received the news of John's death.

Edward Barrett, senior lecturer in comparative media studies at MIT, studied with John at Brooklyn College in the early 1980s. He has published over a dozen books of poems. The poem on this page is reprinted from *Common Preludes* (1994).

Frank O'Hara (1926-1966), one of Ashbery's closest friends, was an American writer, poet and art critic. Along with Ashbery, Kenneth Koch, James Schuyler and Barbara Guest, O'Hara is regarded as a leading figure in the New York School – an informal group of artists, writers and musicians who drew inspiration from a variety of contemporary avant-garde art movements.

The poem included here was written for John in 1954. I hope that he and O'Hara are now reading "new poems to each other high on a mountain in the wind."

Ashbery first met French writer Pierre Martory (1920-1998) in Paris in 1956, and they remained close friends until Pierre's death. John translated all of Martory's poetry. This moving elegy (for another poet) seemed fitting to include on this page. It was included in Martory's collection *The Landscapist: Selected Poems* (2008), translated by John Ashbery.

My own poem, "Visitation," records a dream I had in the mid-'90s about John, the recently deceased poet James Schuyler and Ronald Firbank (1886-1926), one of John's favorite writers. The poem was originally printed in *Compound Eye* in 1995. John's reaction was: "You stole my dream!"

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

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**DOUEH** from page B1  
stuff that we’d heard before.  
And so we asked a lot. We were in Essaouira, we went to Marrakesh, and we were in Casablanca, and nobody had any clue. They just kept saying, “it’s from the South.”

**MR:** *Do people not go down there because of the political situation?*

**HM:** Yes and no – they don’t go down there because it’s remote. It’s really far away, the West Sahara, where Dakhla is.

People in Morocco, like a lot of places, people are localized: they kind of stay in their region, it’s where they hang out. And we were in the North, that was the South. It’s a three-hour flight, so you can imagine what it takes to be on a bus: it’s a three-day bus ride....

Dakhla sits on a bay that is only separated from the Atlantic by a very small, long, thin stretch of rocky sand. There’s really nothing north of there, or south, and on one side is the Sahara Desert, and on the other is the Atlantic Ocean. You might as well be on an island when you’re out there.

**MR:** *And this is where Doueh grew up, and lives?*

**HM:** Yup, his whole entire life. And when I got there in 2005, it was a pretty isolated area.

It’s changed quite a bit; the Moroccan government’s investing a lot of money down there, and there’s a lot more development now, hotels. There’s a thriving tourist industry; it’s an area where a lot of windsurfing takes place...

**MR:** *When did the musicians in this region start taking in these heavy rock’n’roll, psych, elements?*

**HM:** In regards to Doueh, specifically?

**MR:** *Yeah, I guess!*

**HM:** Doueh, in his own words, was able to hear a lot in his youth, which would be the late ‘70s into

the early ‘80s, by radio, of course. And cassettes, which were coming in via various import methods – by the Spanish, or by the Moroccans themselves.

It would be things like Jimi Hendrix, or James Brown, or Mark Knopfler, Dire Straits. Or any sort of the bigger elements that were coming out at that point that were reaching a global audience, what was offered up by the airwaves. I’m sure Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder: things like that, that had exploded on a global level, were what he was being exposed to.

But his music comes from a folk tradition. And he’s sort of an anomaly in this case, in that he’s introduced a kind of pop element to a strict modal system, which is what Hassaniya music is. There’s certain modes that you play, and an order that they’re supposed to be played, and the music is very devotional; it’s all ancient Islamic poetry that’s recited over a strict modal system.

And Doueh, of course, comes from that tradition, but was an example that was influenced by so much popular culture of the West, or East, whatever. He managed to sort of fuse these things together.

**MR:** *Who are the local audiences for that?*

**HM:** His main day job is being a wedding musician. All he’s ever done is be a musician. They have a very busy workload when they’re home, being the wedding band in the region.

And they’re quite famous, even in the region – even more so now, with the affiliation of us, and touring all over the world.... But, generally speaking, they’re day-to-day musicians, they’re wedding musicians.

**MR:** *Do they tour with the same band that we hear on the recordings?*

**HM:** The recordings have been mixed in regards to who’s been in-

volved; it’s been, in a sense, a revolving door. The first few albums are an entirely different group.

The two constant members, Doueh and his wife Halima, have been together the whole time. Halima’s the one who does the singing. But over the years, lineups have changed almost every tour.

The last time they were in the States was 2011. His son El Waar, who plays the keyboards, will be on this tour, and another son of his, Hamdan, is going to be on drum kits, and then Omar, a younger musician who also sings, will be there. For two of the boys, this will be their first trip to the United States.

We’ve also done several European tours over the years, so this is maybe the fifth tour we’ve done together. And I’m basically part of the family at this point. I was just in Dakhla last summer to attend his daughter’s wedding, and ended up making a documentary film about it, which we’re actually going to be screening as well.

**MR:** *Are they generally singing Islamic text?*

**HM:** No, they’re not actually. They’re in a sense, love songs – there’s a couple traditional numbers that they do that are more wedding-devotional, rather than I would say “Islamic.”

I mean, it’s all Islamic, of course; it’s all coming from Arabic text. But I wouldn’t say it’s religious. It’s not like gospel, or dogmatic in that kind of way.

And certainly the stuff they record on the album is much more pop, and even the lyrics are coming from a more popular repertoire than it is Islamic, or religious.

**MR:** *Besides the guitar, what’s the smaller instrument that I’ve seen him playing in videos?*

**HM:** That’s called the *tidinit*, which is a variation on the *ngoni*, or *xalam*, which is also predominantly found in the Wolof culture down in Senegal. Different variations of it exist, in regards to size and the strings that are involved.

But the shape of that instrument is found all over West Africa, and that’s generally the bedrock of the traditional musical canon from Mauritania and the Sahrawi culture.

**MR:** *To my ear, I always kind of lumped this band in with bands that I’m now learning are from way further to the east, and Tuareg – bands from Niger and Mali. Are they pulling from similar traditions, ultimately?*

**HM:** They’re not. And that’s a point that gets confused a lot by writers, who kind of lump the Tuareg and the Sahrawi together. They both have origins in the desert; the Tuareg are a lot more nomadic than the Sahrawi.

Their musical systems are in an entirely different vein. The Sahrawi modal system is something really specific to their region, it’s coming from Mauritania...

I would say if anything, in the last five years, six years, that the Tuareg



Poster by Shannon Ketch.

have started to incorporate, in some sense, some of the Sahrawi musical language – a lot more so than the Sahrawi are adopting the Tuaregs’. But ethnically – language, et cetera – they’re entirely different cultures.

**MR:** *How long is the film you’ll be screening? It’s a straight-up wedding party?*

**HM:** The film is about an hour long. It’s a straight-up wedding party, but it’s a really wonderful, intimate portrait: there’s a lot of interviews with Doueh, Halima, a lot of their close family members, and some of the girls, and the dancers.

It gives you a really wonderful, intimate snapshot of some of the characters that inhabit their world. They hold court in Dakhla, 24/7, and their compound is sort of a meeting place, really, for the wedding scene, behind the scenes: musicians and dancers and oddballs.

**MR:** *This is a nine-city tour, and Greenfield jumps out as being the smallest town. By an order of magnitude – Providence is the next-smallest. How’d this show end up out here?*

**HM:** Clark [Griffin, bassist for Pigeons] and I have been friends for almost 30 years, and I was looking to fill in a hole or two on the tour, and I know that he’s been pretty active in the area of late. I know a lot of people from that area: the Sunburned [Hand of the Man] people, Byron Coley, all these people who I’ve had relationships with over the years.

And I always enjoy, myself, hav-

ing these anomalous gigs in places like that, where it’s not so formal, in regards to being in a big city, or a big hall. And I love putting them in situations that are something like the Greenfield show.... We’ve got MV & Dredd Foole, and Weeping Bong Band, which is one of Clark’s bands, and we’ll show the film....

I think it’s a really wonderful thing that it can get framed like that. Especially because the marketing of these things can get kind of tedious to me.

Because the very thing that we fought against in the very beginning was the kind of generalization of what quote-unquote “world music” can be. And I feel like in some regard – because it’s been worn down enough for us, over the last 15 years – that we’re getting to a point where it’s becoming something that we were fighting against to begin with: this sort of “world music” bullshit that we were fighting against in the ‘80s and early ‘90s.

And I love it that this can get put in a place that it makes it street level, and not some precious thing. And the gig in Greenfield manifests that in every way.


*Group Doueh will perform Tuesday, October 3 at the Root Cellar, 10 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield.*

*Hisham Mayet’s film “Oulaya’s Wedding” will screen at 8 p.m., followed by opening sets by the Weeping Bong Band and MV & Dredd Foole, and then by Group Doueh at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$20.*



**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

# This Week on MCTV



**By ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

We at Montague TV hope you’ve had a splendid September! Our newest video this week is Episode 3 of “Family Fun Times: Either Under the Sun and/or Under the Moon!” Travel back to solar eclipse season by watching August’s astronomical event as recorded in an eclipse viewer. Want to be a board member for Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI)? Visit [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) to learn more. 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. If there’s something going on you think others would like to see, get in touch and we’ll set you up with a camera to capture the moment.

Coontact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 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 [mcbrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbrass@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 to 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:

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 craftspeople, 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 SSS: Sensual, Sexual, Smut Erotic Art* show, 25 local artists. Through October 21.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague. *Whimsical, Fanciful, Mystical and Magical*, group show. Through November 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"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 to 5 p.m.

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.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell. *In Response to Paper*. New art exhibit by Wendell artist Julia

Rabin through November. Reception September 30, 3 p.m.

Deerfield Valley Art Association Center for the Arts, Northfield. *Art as Expression of Cultural Heritage* Art Inspired by cultures of Africa, Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, England, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Rhodesia (Zambia), South Africa, Ukraine and Venezuela. Through November 12.



"Mystical Art Gourd" by Joan Levy. Part of a new exhibit called "Whimsical, Fanciful, Mystical and Magical" opening Sunday, October 1, from 1 to 4 at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery at the Bookmill in Montague Center. Gallery members created new and surprising work for this engaging exhibit.

## EVENTS:

### 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. *Deep C Divers* is an alternative rock/Jam band from Boston with unique grooves and melodies. The band members are multi-instrumentalists who can play all styles of music! 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls. *Franklin County Sweethearts*. Rosie Porter, Lexi Weege and Tom LeBeau. Classic country and originals. 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Wendell Free Library, Wendell. *In Response to Paper*. New art exhibit by Wendell artist Julia Rabin. Art reception 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls. *The Psychic and the Skeptic*. Medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero does impromptu readings from members of the live audience while 93.9 The River's

Monte Belmonte offers his skeptical commentary. 7:30 \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne. *Pat & Tex LaMountain*. American standards, swing tunes, folk, rock, jazz, bluegrass, gospel and country. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne. *Lines West*, pop-rock 8 p.m.

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *The Joe Belmont Experience*. 6 p.m.\$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne. *Jim Eagan and Dennis Avery*. Vocals and finger-picking guitar from Jim and dobro from Dennis. 6 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion #5*, open improv session featuring sets by *Brode Luczak Duo* and *Belltone Suicide*. Bring an instrument; ensembles will be created by random drawing for six-minute jams. All ages. 8 p.m. \$

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *The Night Market* is an extravaganza of local artists and vendors, music and drinks. Support your homegrown local heroes in this fun event. Shop local vendors for art and crafts and vintage clothing and records and more! All while enjoying great music by local DJs, craft cocktails, and local beers on tap.This is a new series, and our goal is to bring life to weeknights in Greenfield. We plan to expand to include more entertainment, more local artists, and FOOD. During nice weather, the event may spill out onto the sidewalk. Come out and help us grow!

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne. *The Collected Poets Series* presents Lillian-Yvonne Bertram and Jennifer Militello. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Mad Habits / Old Flame / The Greys / Flame 'n Peach & The Liberated Waffles*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Greater Tuna*. Twenty different residents of tiny Tuna, Texas, come to life onstage in Silverthorne Theater's production of this popular comedy written by Texans Ed Howard, Joe Sears, and Jaston Williams. See short article on page B2 for more information. 7:30 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Greater Tuna*. See Thursday's description, 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Moonlight Davis sings the music of Stevie Wonder*. 7:30 p.m.\$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne. *The Blackburn Effect*. Pan Morigan on vocals and multi-instruments. John Caban on guitar, vocals, beats and sounds. Blues, jazz and originals. 7:30 p.m.



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Kim Noyes, education coordinator at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, joined DCR interpreter Janel Knockleby, historian Ed Gregory, and a gallery of 21 interested folks for their annual “Canal History” walk. The walk coincided with the annual drawdown of the Turners Falls Power Canal. Numerous industrial and canal construction aspects were studied regarding the historical nature of the various sites along the route.



Nate Hubbard (left) and his son Kaden Cash (right), of Millers Falls, proudly show their 1931 Chevy Independence Sedan at last Saturday's Cool Rides Car Show at the Franklin County Technical School. Nate is a graduate of the school, and Kaden is a freshman.

# Exhibit Highlights the Qualities of Paper

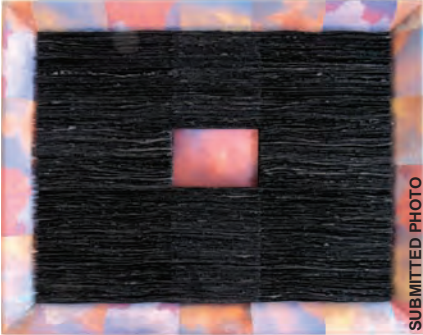
By HEATHER WILLEY

WENDELL – “In Response to Paper” is a collection of ten recent works by Wendell artist Julia Rabin that will hang in the Herrick Gallery of the Wendell Free Library during the months of September and October.

Rabin is a bookbinder by profession, but as an independent artist working with many media, she gathers materials happened upon by chance; often too they are sought out in nature.

With this collection, Rabin plays with line in a reverent and playful exploration of scale, presentation, and perspective while paying homage to paper as an aesthetic in and of itself.

In “Black Deckle, Evening over



“Black Deckle, Evening Skies over Roundhouse,” mixed media piece by Julia Rabin.

Roundhouse” Rabin altered a found frame with digital photographs of clouds and sky printed on Nyodo Japanese tissue. The then newly lacquered and varnished frame surrounds another three-dimensional rectangular frame of black deckles,

the cut off edges from Twin Rocker paper. A single photo of sky anchors the center of the structure while also creating an outward trajectory that draws focus to the ephemeral character of the natural world.

Rabin’s “In Response to Paper” is a collection that dissects the inherent qualities of paper to bring the focus back to its place within the natural world.

As an added bonus, Julia has other three-dimensional works on display in the library’s main entrance glass case. There is variety in this show, displaying a curiosity inspired by a common intention.

An opening reception will be held Saturday, September 30 at the Wendell Free Library. For information, call (978) 544-3559.

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