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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 1

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 12, 2017

Medicaid Mess: G-M Schools On Hook For Nearly A Million

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The total sum the regional school district owes the state after years of apparent overbilling for reimbursement under the state Medicaid program has been assessed at \$936,254, superintendent Michael Sullivan told the school committee Tuesday night.

The district, which has been in talks with member towns over its strained finances, must now work out a payment plan with the state – and perhaps find a way to recoup some of that money from New England Medical Billing, the firm that managed those reimbursements on commission.

The state Office of Health and Human Services “said they understood, clearly, a school district of our size doesn’t have those kinds of funds available all at once,” Sullivan re-

ported. “We will be requesting a multi-year payback period.”

The school committee voted unanimously to pay specialist law firm Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas for 5-1/2 hours of work performed on the matter, and to continue to retain the firm.

“Frankly, we are interested in seeing if there may be some financial burden that is shared with our Medicaid service provider,” Sullivan said of NEMB, which processed the claims in question between 2010 and 2015.

The state has determined that only 48% of the claims NEMB filed during that period should have been allowed. The rest were for services performed by paraprofessionals on behalf of students with individual education plans, but not prescribed by doctors, and therefore not covered.

see GMRSD page A6

**THE MONTAGUE REPORTER
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR FIRST ISSUE!**

Name Change Addresses Key Pumpkinfest Dilemma:

Too Few Pumpkins!



Pumpkinfest head honcho Mike Nelson has had his hands full, but the fall festival was never able to coax very many attendees to arrive with pumpkins. Rebranding it, though, has drawn criticism.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “Everyone is coming in here and asking why they changed the name,” said Linda Ackerman, manager of the Greenfield Savings Bank on Avenue A. Ackerman was referring to the unexpected decision by Michael Nelson to change the name of the fall event he has organized for eight years, which will be held next Saturday, October 21, from “Pumpkinfest” to the “Great Falls Festival.”

It would seem to be a fair question, given how wildly popular the event has proven to be. The first year, 2010, the festival drew an estimated 8,000 people – nearly the total population of Montague.

“It was phenomenal,” Nelson told the

Reporter that year. “The event exceeded anything I ever expected.” And the crowds kept getting bigger, possibly exceeding 10,000 people crammed onto Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls.

Local business owners say the event has been a boon. Most do a brisk business on the day of the festival, but more importantly, the event introduces people to downtown Turners Falls.

According to Erin MacLean, co-owner of the found objects store Loot, “People come here for the first time. Then they come back.” Her partner, John McNamara, says many customers tell them, “we were here for Pumpkinfest....”

There have, to be sure, been a few bumps
see PUMPKINS page A3

Peace Pagoda Celebration Honors Native Struggles



BETH ADAMS PHOTO

Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson, Anisibinaabe grandmother and Standing Rock water protector, was the keynote speaker at the temple’s anniversary.

By DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT – The long, arched hall is filled with light, and full of people who have crowded in out of the mild October rain to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the Leverett Peace Pagoda. Monks and nuns, gathered around the altar, sing and chant. Cymbals ring and chime; a monk bangs a large wooden gong.

The altar is decked with flowers piled around photographs of the Peace Pagoda’s

spiritual founder, Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji. The monks and nuns in Leverett follow Guruji’s example in walking while praying for peace, beating hand drums as they traverse vast distances chanting: *Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo* (a largely untranslatable prayer for world peace).

This year, on November 17th, they will begin a five-day walk from Provincetown, MA to the statue of Massasoit in Plymouth, a further demonstration of their commitment to the struggle and spiritual journey of the Native people of this continent. They invite everyone to join them (see newengland-peacepagoda.org).

Above the photos of Guruji sits a statue of Nichiren Daishonon, the 13th-century Japanese Buddhist priest who first began the practice of chanting *Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo*. Above him, the golden statues of four Bodhisattvas stand side by side with representations of the Buddha in lotus pose. In one alcove, colorful peace cranes hang beneath a photo of Mahatma Gandhi, a contemporary and devoted friend of Guruji.

Minutes pass into an hour. Two Tibetans come forward to stand before the altar. They begin their own chant, and all the many Tibetans in the hall join in.

Incense is passed around the temple on a small tray with burning charcoal. People offer their personal prayers, prayers for peace and planetary healing.

As the incense passes from hand to hand among the hundreds seated or standing in every alcove of the airy temple, the room swells with the sound of many hand drums

see PAGODA page A6

A Bumper Crop for the Taking

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Urban foragers plan to pick apples throughout the greater downtown area this Saturday morning, and then press them into delicious cider on the grounds of the Discovery Center.

At 10 a.m., you can pick up an “apple map” and hit the sidewalks and the bike path to find these oft-ignored free treats, generally kicked out of the way by pedestrians and run over by skateboarders rather than harvested.

Organizers of the event, called “Share the Avenue A Harvest,” suggest bringing a canvas sack, milk crate or wagon, and a small bottle for taking cider home. Bikes and bike trailers are another possibility, but most trees are within walking distance of the Discovery

see APPLES page A8



TFHS Sports: Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

Going into Week Six of the fall sports season, the fortunes of Turners Falls are starting to come into focus.

The volleyball team, who’ve already qualified for the postseason, went against another playoff foe, the Lee Wildcats. They also played the Sabis Bulldogs, which allowed Turners to showcase their reserves.

The field hockey team, who came into the week with an even record, had the pleasure of playing not one but two undefeated teams.

The golf team kept swinging, with Kyle Kucienski scoring 4 points in two games, and the football team played tough but couldn’t erase 29 seconds and a fake punt.

Also this week, Homecoming was celebrated under the Harvest Moon.

Football

Mahar 20 – TFHS 19

On Friday evening under

a hazy moon, Powertown celebrated Booster Day 2017, and watched their beloved Boys in Blue lose to the Mahar Senators 20-19.

So how does a team lose by a single point?

The game blasted off fast. On the Senate’s first play from scrimmage, they scored 6 off a near side op-

tion. The Blue D, who were hot for redemption, stopped the 2-point attempt, and at 16 seconds, Mahar led 6-0.

Powertown went 3-and-out on their first possession, and Mahar took over on their own 20.

They rammed Power Plays into Turners’ middle,
see SPORTS page A5



Blue snares a Senator: (left to right) John Torres, Jake Wilson, John Driscoll, and Andy Craver take down Mahar’s Jon Gariepy.

The Montague Reporter

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Clarification

Last week we wrote that Seth Klarman, CEO and manager of the Baupost Group, the hedge fund that had concealed its over \$1 billion in holdings of Puerto Rico's debt, "lives on Chestnut Hill."

That was a pure typo: Klarman lives *in* Chestnut Hill, the elite

suburban village straddling Boston, Brookline and Newton.

Residents of Montague's Chestnut Hill neighborhood, as well as other local readers, may have been confused. Sorry for the mistake. (Our point was that he lives nearby, but we didn't mean *that* nearby!)

Withholding

Kudos to our reader Paul Lipke, who brought to our attention news that broke quietly Wednesday about allegations that massive manipulations are underway in New England's natural gas market.

A team of researchers from UC-Santa Barbara, the University of Wyoming, Vanderbilt University, and the Environmental Defense Fund have released a study of the Algonquin pipeline, which ships gas through Connecticut toward Boston, and in particular of the behavior of two firms – Eversource and Avangrid – which both distribute gas and own gas-fired power plants.

The paper is called "Vertical Market Power in Interconnected Natural Gas and Electricity Markets," and while we haven't been able to do much more by press time than scroll down through its 74 pages and ogle the charts, Gavin Bade of industry website *Utility Dive* has already put the work in.

Summarizing the paper's argument, Bade writes that "local gas distribution utilities owned by the two holding companies regularly scheduled more gas than they needed on the [pipeline], only to cancel some of the orders later in the day – too late for the pipeline space to be resold.... This 'capacity withholding,' researchers wrote, 'increased average gas and electricity prices by 38% and 20%, respectively,' resulting in a cumulative hit to New England consumers of \$3.6 billion from 2013 to 2016.

File under "Huge If True."

Eversource has already come out swinging, calling the report "a complete fabrication," "false and misleading," and "concerningly irresponsible," though the Environmental Defense Fund is sticking to claims the report shows that, whatever intentions created the companies' pattern of behavior, it resulted in constrained capacity.

The companies wouldn't make more money selling the gas using this strategy, since that market is so closely regulated, but they

could have profited through other divisions. Furthermore, high electricity prices, in particular winter price spikes, were the rationale behind calls for new pipeline construction, a campaign Eversource in particular is neck-deep in.

During the 2013-14 "polar vortex," the mini-crisis that tipped a good slice of public opinion in favor of pipeline companies, the paper estimates that capacity-withholding behavior sent electricity prices *51% higher* than they would otherwise have been.

We should all brace ourselves for a highly technical debate on the timing of market actions and its net effects, but if this paper is right, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may intervene – and may even fine the firms and give rebates to energy consumers.

It would certainly reframe the debate about gas shortages in the region. All of this is still speculation, but it could even help break up the political logjam around Berkshire Gas' current moratorium on new hookups in Montague and seven other Connecticut River Valley towns.

What's interesting is that the effect may not even have stemmed from malice or intentional gouging. An Avangrid spokesman told *Bloomberg* Wednesday that the company booked extra gas on Algonquin to "protect customers from interruptions." This makes sense, and it's even a legal mandate placed on gas distributors. But it also makes sense that regular same-day cancellations would send markets up.

Two years ago, utilities were trying to sell the public a 400-mile-long construction project many of us didn't think we wanted, and told us we didn't understand enough about energy economics to see the need.

Now we learn that a simple, *possibly legal* inefficiency in the system may have cost us all \$3.6 billion. Can you imagine if that much money had gone instead into the transition to renewable energy?



Gary Konvelski is one of several curators of the past who have set up shop on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Gary specializes in coins, gold, and silver, but also has diverse antiques and curiosities, like this "bird skeleton" in a bell jar.

Letters to the Editors



Remembering Ray Payne ...

Years ago, before Eric and I spent much time in Franklin County, we went to Craig Collorusso's sonic Sun Box installation in Peskeomskut Park. It was a warm, sunny day, and many people were wandering around the park taking in the gentle, ambient sounds emanating from the solar-powered sculptures.

As we were leaving, Rainbow Fox rolled right up to Eric and me, and with a friendly smile asked us about the little wooden boxes emitting subtle tones throughout the park. "Why are they here?" he asked.

We gave him some simple explanation, that they were an art installation or something, and then he repeated his question, with a twinkle in him eye: "No, *why* are they

here?" and in his tone I realized it was a bigger question, hinting at some deeper, more expansive subject, something mysterious, something that we didn't know the answer to and maybe no one knew the answer to. We were silent.

Then, without much explanation, he reached into his hip sack and handed me a palmful of two or three dozen tiny, sparkling Herkimer Diamonds. And with a nod, he took off, leaving us and heading deeper into the park.

I was surprised and humbled by the gift, and to this day they're among my most cherished treasures. I keep them in a little magnified box we got from Loot. That encounter made a huge impression on us, and

since we hadn't seen Rainbow Fox in years we half wondered if it had happened in real life at all.

This past summer, at the Homelands Festival in Unity Park, I spotted Rainbow Fox from across the crowd, was immediately compelled to go up to him and say hi and thank him for the little crystals that he gifted me years ago and which we still treasure today. He got a little teary and seemed very happy to hear the story and be reminded of our first meeting.

We're sorry to hear of his passing, and look forward to hearing more stories about his life!

Haley Morgan
Greenfield

... and the Hatchery



Please find attached an old photograph, circa 1917, of the Bitzer Fish Hatchery which was featured in an article in your paper (September 14, "State Trout Hatchery Quietly Celebrates Hundredth Year").

I thought your readers would like to see what it looked like when it started out. My family lived in one of the four houses nearby. Bitzers lived next door.

Johnny Bitzer and I used to have fun playing down in the Hatchery in the early 1930s. It was always cooler there than anywhere else nearby in the summer.

This photograph is in the Montague Historical Society's archives. Thanks to Mary Melonis for retrieving it, so I could send you a copy.

Sincerely,

Lillian Fiske, President
Montague Historical Society

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in July and August.
No paper last week of November,
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Curious about what goes on at “The Fish Lab” in Turners Falls? Your chance to find out comes during the USGS Leetown Science Center Conte Anadromous Fish **Research Laboratory Open House**, to be held this Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This free event is an opportunity to meet some USGS scientists and learn about the important fish passage research they do, and how it helps natural resource managers protect, conserve and restore fish that are important to sport and commercial fishermen as well as ecosystems.

The open house showcases how USGS scientists conduct research to address the challenges facing fish as they swim up and down rivers and streams, negotiate dams, move between freshwater and salt-

water, face increasing water temperatures, and tackle other barriers in the Connecticut River.

Scientists at the Conte Lab and their students are eager to answer questions, and this open house is a great way to find out more about the incredible migratory fish of the Connecticut River.

Through interactive displays, videos, and demonstrations, many facts about Connecticut River fishes, including sturgeon, salmon, shad, eels and lamprey, will be available. This information will address questions such as what fish eat, what their offspring look like, how fast can they swim, and how the USGS uses this information to build better fishways.

A special exhibit will also feature live salamanders, which will highlight the surprising amount of species that can be found here in Massachusetts.

The event will be held at the USGS Leetown Science Center Conte Anadromous Fish Branch lab, located at 1 Migratory Way, Turners Falls. Go over the Eleventh Street Bridge to the Patch, and take your first left. The last open house was held in 2009.

Take a class in “Chainsaw 101” with Firefighter C. Walker Korby at the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, October 14, at 10:30 a.m.

With fall clean-up time and woodstove cordwood season upon us, come and learn all the tips from Walker, a member of the Turners Falls Fire Department.

Whether your chainsaw needs a tune-up, chain adjustment or sharpening, Walker can give some basic tips. Of course, Safety First is key to working with a chainsaw. Whether it is something simple involving protective eyewear and earplugs, to leather chaps and boots for the more serious chainsaw user, Walker will highlight all precautions, including proper storage and maintenance.

Feel free to bring your chainsaw if you have specific questions.

The Turners Falls Fire Department and the Montague Police

Department are holding an open house on Sunday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the public safety complex, 180 Turnpike Drive, Turners Falls.

There will be many events including complex tours, kids’ activities, a chance to meet K-9 Artie, child ID kits provided by Masonic Lodge, drugs awareness information from the Elks, and free food.

Visit the Montague Police Dept. Facebook page for more details.

Cruises on the **Heritage Riverboat** continue until this Sunday, October 15. Cruise times are Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Please reserve ahead at www.bookeo.com/northfield or by calling (800) 859-2960.

This issue of the *Montague Reporter* starts off our 16th year of covering this little slice of the world!

Please keep feeding us news tips, subscribing, advertising, purchasing us in stores, and supporting our fundraisers, and we will keep the presses rolling!

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local gossip, news & business listings

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 10/6/2017:

Grade 6

Ryan Bowden-Smith
Fiona Hutchinson

Grade 7

David Damkoehler

Grade 8

Kiley Palmquist

PUMPKINS from page A1

in the road. After 2011’s festival, an Avenue A resident sued Nelson for allowing a vendor to set up a barbecue below his third-floor window. Dwayne St. Marie, in his \$1.4 million suit, said smoke and carbon monoxide fumes aggravated chronic heart and respiratory problems. But Nelson announced in 2016 that the complaint had been dismissed in the courts.

According to police chief Chip Dodge, the presence of thousands of people on Avenue A has caused remarkably few public safety problems. “Just the usual stuff,” he told the *Reporter*. “Lost children who are soon united with the parents. Maybe we had to talk to someone about too much drinking. But generally, no problems.”

The event does not seem to be broken – so why fix it? The answer, according to Nelson is simple: not enough pumpkins.

According to a statement on the festival’s Facebook page, “As Pumpkinfest has grown over the past eight years, one major component of the event has always come up a bit short – the quantity of pumpkins. Despite our greatest attempts, it has proven difficult to encourage visitors to bring pumpkins.”

The number of pumpkins never again matched the first year. Festival organizers attempted to solve the problem by collecting pumpkins for festival-goers to decorate on site. (Carving was eliminated last year due to insurers’ concerns over liability, as was the use of lit candles.) But the crowd was more interested in the beer, music, and fried dough. Nelson estimates that event organizers had



The event has attracted throngs of people, if not throngs of pumpkins, to downtown Turners Falls. This 2015 file photo was taken at Avenue A at Sixth Street.

to “throw out” 200 pumpkins last year for composting.

Perennially upbeat, Nelson told us the name change would not impact the popularity of the event: “The name caught up with the event, which has become a fall festival.” He also argues the new name highlights the fact that both the event and the village of Turners Falls are “Great.”

The response of local residents, including many who say they have religiously attended Pumpkinfest over the years, has been mixed.

“I think your decision to change the focus and thus name was a smart move,” Sara Malek wrote on the festival’s Facebook page. Malek stated she no longer lives in the area, but comes back to attend the event.

On the other hand, Stephanie Cole wrote that while Great Falls Festival “is not inherently a bad new name,”

“why lose years of hard won name recognition by changing it?... I still will be coming, just liked the old name better. It was more seasonal.”

Some commenters seemed offended by the choice of Great Falls. “Your hometown is ‘Great Falls’? Funny, I could have sworn it was Turners Falls, where I grew up,” wrote Elisa Martin. “Did I miss an official name change of the town?”

The name change was even linked to the recent decision of the regional school committee to eliminate the high school’s Indian mascot. “My guess would be that the sjw’s got tired of going after the mascot, now it’s time to change the town,” wrote Christopher Lemoine.

(According to Wikipedia, “SJW” is short for “social justice warrior,” a “pejorative term for an individual promoting socially progressive

views, including feminism, civil rights, multiculturalism, and identity politics.”)

To this, Nelson responded that the name change “has nothing to do with political correctness or SJWs.” In a later post, he noted that he was a member of the Montague selectboard, and wrote, “I can pledge to you right now that I will not vote for a name change to the town of Montague or the village of Turners Falls.”

Town clerk Deborah Bourbeau, whose picture graced the front page of the 2010 *Montague Reporter* next to the paper’s coverage of the first festival, says she is skeptical of the change – “but it’s not my call.” She will be attending this year’s festival with her three-year-old grandson.

Town planner Walter Ramsey would not comment on a “non-town event,” but suggested that the name change would probably not impact attendance.

“My problem with the original ‘Pumpkinfest’ is that it could have been anywhere,” said Chris Janke, co-owner of the Rendezvous restaurant and bar in downtown Turners. “It seemed to be vendors from out of town, selling to people from out of town. Hopefully, this will be seen as more of a local event.”

Greenfield Cooperative Bank has organized a contest, challenging the other two banks with branches on Avenue A—Greenfield Savings Bank and the Freedom Credit Union – to see who can sponsor the most pumpkins. The challenge was issued in the form of a poem (see sidebar at right), which notes the irony of a Pumpkinfest without sufficient pumpkins.

Nelson is urging those attending the newly-branded festival to continue to bring pumpkins, but, defend-

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ing his decision, he writes: “[N]ow I no longer need to hear 50 people at the event ask me ‘where are all the pumpkins? What kind of pumpkinfest is this without pumpkins?’”

“We literally hear that all night long at the event. It’s a kick in the balls over and over after all the work we put into it.”



The Banks’ Challenge

Hear ye! Hear ye!
Throughout Pumpkin Fest’s
history,
Lacking, has been the quantity,
Of pumpkins, most ironically.

Therefore, we chose to challenge
thee,
All banks in the vicinity.
Ask customers and friends to
please
Enter some pumpkins willingly.

The winner of this task will be,
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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Preserving Stone Landscapes

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes and deputy tribal historic preservation officer for the Narragansett tribe, came to the Wendell selectboard's October 4 meeting with citizen Lisa Hoag and Leverett resident Eva Gibavic. Their purpose was to alert board members to the presence of stone formations in town – some on town property, some on state land – that they consider significant to indigenous culture.

Gibavic, who said she became aware of ceremonial stones as a child and has maintained an interest since then, showed pictures of some of the formations to the board with her tablet. She said that of the many sites in Wendell, only a few are fragile and threatened. Hoag said that on casual walks she had seen some formations that made her think the placement was deliberate.

Some people have also attributed the formations to aliens, or to Irish monks, or to clearing for farms.

Harris said that tribes from Maine to Texas have decided to work together to preserve the stone artifacts. He said he worked to modify FAA plans to extend the Turners Falls airport runway so the construction would not destroy a significant stone row. When faced with an unsympathetic federal system, he spoke with an elder, and was told to "allow the landscape speak for itself." He did that, showing how a gap in the row lined up with a stone and pointed to where the sun sets August 13, the time of the highest concentrations of the Perseid meteor shower and a significant indigenous celebration.

Harris told board members that he wanted to make them fellow caretakers of the landscape, and gave them a template of a memorandum of understanding. Historical commissions have been largely focused on artifacts made by Europeans who came here, and Harris hoped to extend the understanding to include cultures that existed before contact. The open space committee may also have some interest.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the board is sympathetic to considerations like the ones that Harris brought up.

Harris will give a presentation at the Wendell library next Wednesday, October 18 at 7 p.m. The location of sites of interest will not be made public, as is required by Massachusetts law.

Warrant Weedless

Board members signed a warrant for a special town meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, at 7 p.m. in the town hall. A proposal for a moratorium for marijuana operations in town was not ready in time for the warrant, and will not be addressed at the meeting.

Articles 1, 2, and 3 would authorize paying bills of prior years: \$250 for the open space committee; \$2619.92 for the sick leave stabilization account; and an \$89 payment on USDA building loans.

Articles 4, 5 and 6 would create an historic district for the meetinghouse, which would make it legal to divide the meetinghouse and cemetery lots; transfer the meetinghouse

from the town to the selectboard; and allow the board to write a request for proposals for its use and preservation.

Flag Light

Melissa Grader has been coordinating people to raise and lower the American flag every day through the warm months, to avoid lighting the flag through the night. She came with "Monday Mary" Thomas, and together they evaluated the summer's experience. It has been a big effort, shared by citizens who have for the most part taken a car to the veterans' memorial twice a day to raise the flag after sunrise and lower it before sunset.

Many of the volunteers have enjoyed the ritual, but a lot of gasoline has been burned in the process. Grader did not mention her work coordinating the volunteers, but suggested that after the flag is lowered for the winter on November 11, a small solar light pointing down on the flag at night would be worth trying in 2018, perhaps compensated for by turning off another light in the town center.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard told her, "It was a big job you took on," and added that she liked the idea of trying another way.

Member Jeoffrey Pooser said that participation – "not mine" – has been incredible. The addition of the Wendell town flag to fly below the American flag adds an extra possible tangle to the daily effort. The decision to raise the town flag may be left to the day's volunteer. (Thomas suggested that color-coded clips might help.) It seems there is no way to make everyone happy. The selectboard will visit the issue again in November or December.

Community Solar

The planners of a proposed community solar project sent a map of their proposed farm, as it would fit on the town-owned property at 97 Wendell Depot Road. Grader, as member of the conservation commission, said that the con com had not seen the map yet, but did get a cover letter.

The proposed array is laid out to keep 100' setbacks from a wetland and from the north side property line, but it comes closer than that to the house and the house lot. The land has not been surveyed yet, as it would be if the solar plot is separated from the house lot.

Building inspector Phil Delorey has said the house is in good condition, and could be sold at auction if the lots are separated, but the selectboard has not made a decision about the house.

The con com planned to discuss the map at its October 10 meeting. Heard offered to attend that meeting, and the con com may attend the next selectboard meeting on October 18.

Dogs and Cars

As a result of a dog hearing July 26, the owners of two dogs at 114 Lockes Village Road agreed to move the younger dog out of town. The older dog stayed home before the younger one arrived there.

But recently dog officer Maggie Houghton picked up the younger

October 18: Bar Association Offers Free Legal Advice

SPRINGFIELD – Western Massachusetts residents can receive free legal advice on Wednesday, October 18, through the Massachusetts Bar Association's semiannual Western Mass. Dial-A-Lawyer call-in program.

Volunteer lawyers from the MBA will field phone calls from 4 to 7 p.m., from residents of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties who have legal concerns or problems. The legal advice is provided at no charge as a public service of the MBA.

The Dial-A-Lawyer phone number is (413) 782-1659. If a caller gets a busy signal, they are asked to hang up and try again. Normal

telephone charges will apply.

The MBA's Dial-A-Lawyer program is co-sponsored by Western New England University School of Law, *The Republican*, *El Pueblo Latino*, the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys, and the Hispanic National Bar Association.

"Providing vital legal assistance to residents of the entire commonwealth is a priority for us as the statewide bar association," said MBA President Christopher P. Sullivan. "Our Western Mass. Dial-A-Lawyer program offers help to those who often don't know where to begin when facing challenging life issues, such as becoming unemployed or facing possible eviction."

Vacancy On Erving School Committee

The Town of Erving would like to announce a vacancy on the Erving School Committee.

In accordance with MGL Chapter 41 Section 11, the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee are seeking an interested resident to serve in this position until the Annual Town Election on May 7, 2018.

In order to be considered, an interested resident must be a regis-

tered voter of the Town of Erving.

If you are interested, please send written notice that includes your name, address, and contact information by Monday, October 16, 2017.

Letters can be sent by mail to: Board of Selectmen, Attn: School Committee Vacancy, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344, or by email to: admin@erving-ma.org.

dog, who was running loose, and sent a notice to the owners. Only one of the two owners is now living in that house.

Houghton has a registered letter to send, and if that gets no answer will request another hearing.

The number of unlicensed dogs in town is down to 30. Board members will divide them up themselves and call the owners to remind them to license their dogs.

The owners of the unregistered vehicles at 114 Lockes Village Road did not answer the first letter sent to them as a reminder of the town by-law that limits unregistered vehicles to two per residence. The selectboard will send a second letter, and after 30 days the fine will start to accrue at \$25 per vehicle per day.

The fine for excess vehicles at 141 Lockes Village Road has been increasing for months.

Treasury News

Treasurer Carolyn Manley came in and told board members that the extra \$89 on the annual USDA loan payment came from someone at the USDA reversing two figures on the bill. Correcting that will take more effort than paying the extra money, and that \$89 will go towards the principal.

Manley also said that the new electrical inspector, Gary Terroy, suggested adding the town's fee of \$10 to the permit fee, and allowing him to collect the money and send the town its share. The result is a new permit schedule that Manley showed to the board, and which they approved.

Terroy also objected to waiving the fee for municipal inspections on jobs of less than \$5,000. A licensed electrician usually includes the inspection fee in the bill, so the change will not be obvious to a homeowner.

The treasurer's office has a surplus computer and monitor,

but at the town auction those did not get much interest. The selectboard agreed to pass them on to the town's IT specialist.

Other Business

Police chief Ed Chase came in to discuss and start the process of finding his successor after he retires. When longtime fire chief Everett Ricketts was facing retirement, a succession committee formed with fire captain Asa de Roode, citizen Jerry Barilla, and Michael Idoine, from the finance committee. FR-COG sent Ed Walker, a former fire chief, to help with the process.

Keller suggested contacting them, and forming a new succession committee. Heard suggested including other members of the police department, and Pooser suggested that the fin com be kept informed, at least since Idoine has left the fin com.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the Franklin Solid Waste district awarded Wendell \$4,900 for its recycling and composting programs at the WRATS. The town can spend that money, and the solid waste district will take care of the paperwork.


AirBNB rentals have been increasing all over, and so far have been operating without supervision, or having to follow the regulations that traditional bed and breakfast establishments or motels have had. They can charge less, but do not necessarily comply with health or other standards.

Heard said she knew of some that are operating in town. The selectboard is giving information they have to the board of health, and will continue the discussion at later meetings.

The board waived the fee for the annual holiday craft fair, which will be held December 8 and 9. Proceeds will benefit the library.

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SPORTS from page A1

advancing the ball to Turners' 27-yard line.

It's easy to give up in these situations, but facing fourth-and-1 with their backs against the wall, the Blue D held fast and got the ball back deep in their own territory. The teams traded possessions, but on Blue's second drive, they fumbled it on their own 22-yard line.

Again the Turners' defense held tight, and the Blue offense took over inside their own 20. And that's when Powertown's pass game came alive.

Last week against McCann, Kyle Dodge began hitting his receivers. And on this drive, he picked up where he left off. Two completions to Jaden Whiting, mixed with runs by Marcus Sanders and John Torres, and Turners tied it 6-6. Tyler Lavin kicked the PAT and Powertown took the lead 7-6.

Thirteen seconds later, the Senators took it back. On the kickoff return, Mahar ran an open-field reverse, beating everybody on the outside, and they went up 12-7. This time Blue couldn't stop the 2-point attempt, and Mahar expanded their lead to 14-7 with 7:14 left in the half.

Powertown took over on their own 34-yard line and answered. They constructed a three-play drive, all completions to Whiting, to make it a 1-point game, 13-14. But on the extra point attempt, Blue was called for a penalty. The tee was moved back, Turners missed the PAT, and the boys went into the locker room with the score 14-13 Mahar.

Mahar went up 20-13 at 5:40 of the third period. The Blue D made another goal line stand, preventing the extra point attempt, and kept the margin at 7 instead of 9.

Then, with 5:50 left in the game, Turners began at their own 30-yard line. They drove up the field to Mahar's 45, where the Senate forced a fourth-and-9.

With no other choice, Coach LaPointe went for it. Dodge completed a pass to Whiting for 11 yards and kept the drive alive. Two plays later, he found Whiting again, and at 1:58, it was a 1-point game, 19-20. In what would become the most decisive play in the game, the Senators blocked the kick and took possession, with less than two minutes to play.

Turners got one more chance. With 38 seconds left, the Blue D forced a fourth-and-15. Having no other choice, Mahar lined up to punt the ball back to Turners. However, they faked the punt. The kicker secured the ball and gained 18 yards to put the game in the books.

So how does a team lose by (only) one point? By not giving up when your opponent scores on their first play, or when they score on a kickoff return. By matching them touchdown for touchdown, and forcing

fourth downs while fighting for every extra point.

But in the end it doesn't matter. It was a wonderful, entertaining game, and next week, Turners will do it all again when they host the Frontier Red Hawks on Friday evening.

Field Hockey

Holyoke 1 – TFHS 0

Mohawk 8 – TFHS 3

There are two elite teams in the Bi-County League: the Mohawk Warriors and the Holyoke Purple Knights. Both sit atop the BIC, are ranked in MassLive's Top Ten, and coming into this week, both were undefeated, with one mutual tie.

Powertown played both programs this week.

On Wednesday, October 4, the Blue Ladies traveled down to Holyoke to challenge the Knights on their home turf. Although their offense could only muster eight shots on goal, the Blue D played strong.

Goalkeeper Haleigh Greene saved 23 shots on goal, and the game was a scoreless tie with a minute-plus left to play. But Holyoke managed to sneak their 24th attempt across, and took the heartbreaker 1-0.

Turners had little time to rest before taking on Mohawk on Booster Day Friday. With some confidence from their narrow loss to Holyoke, Powertown came out hot. They drew first blood when Cassie Wozniak, assisted by Snejana Lashtur, scored at 15:25.

Mohawk tied it, and then went ahead, 2-1. Cassie answered toward the end of the half, knotting the score at 2, but with a minute and 33 seconds left, Mohawk scored the go-ahead goal. At the half, the score was 3-2 Mohawk.

In the second half, Mohawk went on a tear, and Turners didn't score again until the score was 7-2. Wozniak scored the hat trick assisted by Jade Tyler with 1:33 left, but Turners fell 8-3. In goal, Greene made 18 saves.

The 5-7-1 Turners Falls field hockey team's post-season aspirations are in their own sticks. Most of their tough games are behind them, and if they succeed against the second-tier teams, they're in a solid position to have a winning record.

And if they can make the playoffs, they might just surprise some of their critics.

Golf

Easthampton 23 – TFHS 1

Smith Academy 21 – TFHS 3

On Tuesday, October 3, Kyle Kucienski shot a 47 at the Pine Grove Golf Course, scoring Turners' sole point against Easthampton.

Then on Wednesday, at Thomas', he swung a 43, and took his match 3-1.

Volleyball

Lee 3 – TFHS 0

TFHS 3 – Sabis 0

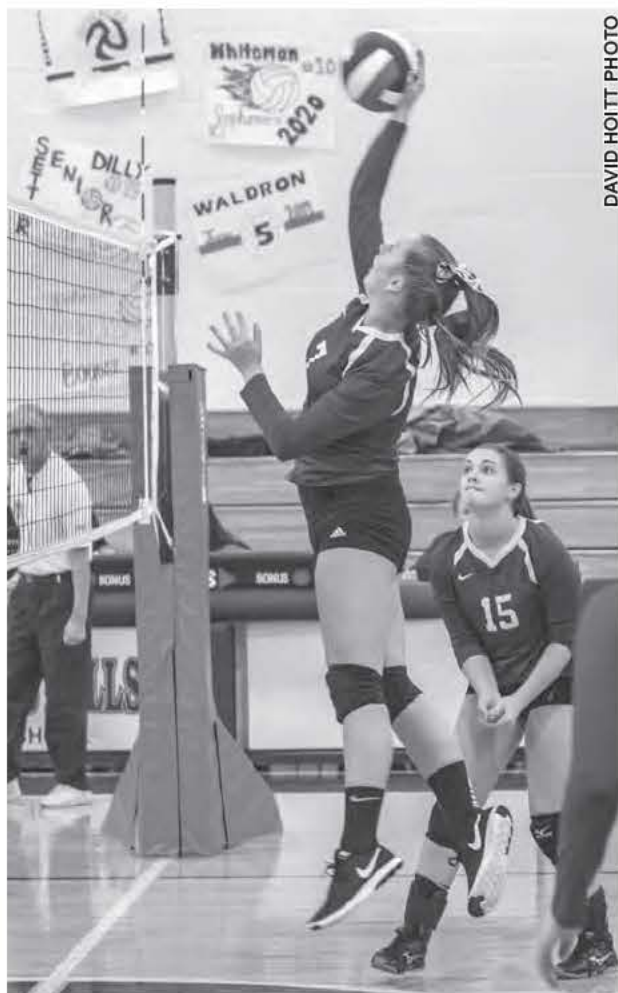
This week, the Turners Falls volleyball team moved up to Number 9 on MassLive's Top Ten ladder. One day later, on Wednesday October 10, they traveled to the Berkshires to face Number 6 Lee. Turners dropped the game, 3 matches nil, giving Blue their first loss this season.

After licking their wounds, the Blue Ladies prepared for a Booster Day showdown with the Sabis Bulldogs. Even though the odds were in her favor, Coach Kelly Liimatainen took no chances in the first match against the Bulls. Five Powertown girls served in the opening match (Sienna Dillensneider, Chloe Ellis, Taylor Murphy, Emma Miner and Sarah Waldron), en route to a 25-13 victory.

With a match in the pocket, Liimatainen began rotating reserves into the lineup while keeping her starters, including Abby Loynd, on the court.

For the next two matches, Lindsay Whiteman replaced Adrianna Dimao at libero, and Hannah Wells, Mercedes Morales, Hailey Bogusz and Dabney Rollins took turns serving. Powertown took both matches 25-16.

Next week: A light week, with the volleyball and golf teams playing two games, and the field hockey and football teams playing one.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners' Dabney Rollins goes up for a spike as Powertown sweeps Sabis International Charter School.

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PAGODA from page A1

beating in time with the huge drum, nearly five feet in diameter, mounted on an upright stand by a far wall. Peace activist Hattie Nestle begins beating this massive drum with two curved wooden mallets.

Ten minutes later a Japanese woman relieves her. She stands facing the drum, beating it twice as hard and twice as loud.

The whole temple fills with incense. The reverberations of the drums combine with the spice of rising smoke. All at once it seems as if the tops of the scalps of everyone in the room are lifted simultaneously several centimeters in the air. The centers of their crown chakras open. It feels as if their individual consciousness has elevated and merged on some unrecognized plane – hovering several meters above the floor, just below the roof, perhaps just above it, out among the brilliant reds and oranges of the maples and the yellows of the birch and the rain speckled conifers on the crest of Cave Hill. The drums beat louder, enough to attract the attention of any spiritual beings hovering above, and the prayers and incense rise together to the gray clouds.

Mothers lead small children to the altar and help them offer their own small pinches of incense to the charcoal burning there, as they add their childlike blessings to the offerings of the elders. Everyone joins the monks and nuns in their sonorous chant: *Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo*. Three times the prayer for world peace fills the temple. Total silence falls.

Brother Gyoway Kato welcomes all “to celebrate the appearance of the Pagoda 32 years ago.” He makes special mention of the indigenous people who have come, and Sister Clare Carter reads excerpts from a dialogue between Guruji and Thomas Banyacya, which took place during the American Indian Movement’s Longest Walk in 1978.

“The mission of the Indigenous People is to save the world,” Brother Kato says. “This is why we must help the Indigenous People of this continent no matter what.”

And soon Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson, the Anishinaabe grandmother and Water Protector who led daily prayers for the water at Standing Rock throughout the bitter winter of last year’s resistance camps in North Dakota, takes the podium.

She holds the crowd spellbound with her tale of the endurance of the Lakota people and their allies in the face of police brutality, water cannons, rubber bullets, tear gas, elders bloodied, minors shot and jailed, and steadfast prayer in the face of the oppression of Native People and the desecration of Mother Earth.

Colrain’s Randy Kehler takes his turn at the podium and tells of the ongoing nuclear war fighting capacity of the United States, as the current inhabitant of the adult day care center in Washington DC threatens once again to “begin bombing in five minutes,” or words to that effect.

And once more the chant is repeated. *Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo. Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo. Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo.*



GMRSD from page A1

A state audit this spring uncovered the apparent error, stretching back to 2009, but the district is only liable for the last seven years.

Sullivan wrote in an earlier memo that the school committee would discuss “a facet of this topic” in executive session before its regular meeting Tuesday, “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.”

Bulkley, Richardson’s most recent invoice indicates the firm has researched the False Claims Act on behalf of the district.

Taskforce Raised

The school committee appointed a taskforce to facilitate the selection of a new high school logo and team name, following the elimination of the traditional “Turners Falls Indians” logo and name in February.

Community members on the committee will include Christine Bates, Chad Cadran, Betsy Laczynski, Michael Mackin, Alana Martineau, Nancy Perry and Elyssa Serrilli of Montague; Tupper Brown of Gill; and Richard Sawicki of Erving.

Cadran, Laczynski, Mackin, and Martineau are alumni of the high school. Originally, the committee had reserved two seats for alumni, but they decided Tuesday to appoint all four, as quotas for at-large community members and high school staff had not been reached.

Though the committee had hoped to recruit three staff members, only Thomasina Hall has stepped forward. And though it has called for two students from each of grades 9 to 12 to participate, so far, only sophomore Korey Martineau has volunteered.

Aly Murphy, the student representative to the school committee, said that students were only told of the opportunity once, two weeks ago. She said she would be glad to serve, but that her athletics schedule would likely prohibit her participation.

Sullivan said he planned to ask the student council on Monday to help encourage student volunteers.

After a discussion with Alana Martineau, who was present Tuesday as an observer, the school committee decided to invite the taskforce to meet with them before their next regular meeting on Tuesday, October 24 to begin to get organized.

Committee members expressed that they did not wish to micromanage the taskforce, but wanted to help it understand its charge, as well as avoid potential violations of the state open meeting law, which is believed to apply to the task force.

“I think there are probably more questions than answers at this point,” Martineau said. “The sooner we can get things rolling, the better.”

The taskforce is expected to solicit new ideas for the team name, vet them under a set of criteria devised by the school committee this

spring, and determine a few finalists for the general public to cast an indicative vote on.

The school committee has agreed to approve the result of this process.

Improvement Plans

The committee heard presentations from Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein and Gill Elementary principal Conor Driscoll about their official school improvement plans.

Hillcrest is focusing on behavioral norms among adults, as well as “rigor” in learning.

Gill has encouraged older students to “act as role models” within the school, and has trained some sixth-graders to serve as official peer mediators. Teachers at the school are also planning to start reviewing each other’s classroom skills using a system of video monitoring.

Driscoll also said that the “summer slip” in reading skill “is a very real phenomenon” for many students, and stated an intention to develop a summer reading program.

“I would absolutely, 100% support this as a district-wide program,” Montague member Leslie Cogswell said. “As a parent, it’s a hard thing every summer.”

The improvement plans are developed in consultation with school councils, including parents and other community members. Burstein said she is having trouble recruiting candidates for this year’s council.

“For a lot of people,” Mike Langknecht of Montague said, “they think we’re going to determine the direction of education. But really, it’s your school council where that work happens.”

Driscoll also announced that Gill Elementary would be hosting a bonfire this Friday from 5 to 7 p m., extended a general invitation to school committee members and the public to attend, and apologized to the committee for “the email subject line that just said, ‘Gill school fire.’”

“We all read it,” Gill member Shawn Hubert said, amid laughter.

Other Business

The school committee announced that, during executive session, they had approved a 1.5% raise this year for superintendent Sullivan, roughly in line with teacher cost-of-living adjustments.

Business manager Joanne Blier reported that the books have been closed for FY’17. Last year the district took in \$18,602,381 and spent \$18,439,767 in general funds, but also spent \$147,657 more than expected on school choice and circuit breaker payouts, resulting in a final surplus of \$14,956.

The committee voted unanimously to “affirm” the “district vision, mission, and core beliefs” as they currently stand. Its next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 24 at the high school.



“The Way of Life of Trusting Others”: Talking Across Traditions

LEVERETT – *A dialogue between Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji, founder of the Nipponzan-Myohoji order of Buddhism, of which the monks and nuns of the Peace Pagoda are followers, and Hopi spiritual leader Thomas Banyacya, which took place during the time of the American Indian Movement’s Longest Walk in 1978, formed the central message of the 32nd Anniversary Celebration at the Pagoda in Leverett.*

Excerpts of their dialogue were read aloud by Sister Clare Carter to the hundreds of guests gathered in the Peace Pagoda’s temple on Sunday, October 8.

We include them here, in lightly edited form:

Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji: The culture of violence was concentrated and finally perfected in the United States.... It has become more clear that if [we] continue this path, the only path left is the path toward extinction....

The “Hopi Declaration of Peace”... is a radiant, superb teaching of the modern age. We are at a point where the long history of the Hopi, their tradition of complete non-violence, is to be verified and become a model for building world peace in the future.

Thomas Banyacya: Listening to you, I remember the great leader of Hopi, Yukiama, who lived to a hundred years. His life was similar to that of Gandhi’s. For his acts of complete non-violence, he was incarcerated at Alcatraz, iron balls chained to his legs, oppressed to the point of dying of starvation. However, he never renounced his beliefs. He led a frugal life, living according to the spiritual guidance of the Great Spirit.

We adhered to Yukiama’s way of life as our tradition.... This was possible because we kept the prophecies and revelations of the Great Spirit and our traditional religious ceremonies. As Guruji has mentioned, this prophecy speaks that this

civilization of violence is going to hit a wall.... By spreading the words of this prophecy and our teachings and religion to peoples around the world, I believe we can understand the peaceful way of life in balance and harmony with all life, all nature, clouds, rain, animals and plants.

By understanding one another, we will be able to face the “day of cleansing” that is mentioned in the prophecy. For that date, we were given our religion and peaceful way of life from the Great Spirit.

Guruji: Of the many schools of Buddhism, Japan’s Nichiren Daishonin first recited the *Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo* prayer. He believed in studying Buddha’s *sutras* and prophecies to avoid the threat of a great calamity to the country. He advised the country’s rulers of the calamities warned in the prophecy.

As a prophecy cannot be proven until it actually comes true, he was considered to be a dangerous person that confused the masses. He was sent away to a prison on an island. This did not change his lifelong devotion to his faith.

He studied the *sutras*’ reference to natural disasters, famine, epidemics, heavy rain, earthquakes, solar and lunar disruptions, predicting what may be to come in Japan. There is great similarity to the Hopi prophecy and their way of life.

Of all the various Buddhist sects in Japan, almost none believe in prophecies. In general, Buddhism is focused on the teachings of enlightenment, and the path of leading an orderly life. There is nothing wrong with that, but the greater issue lies in the earth and heavens, and in mankind.

The Hopi people look at the world in relation to the religious significance of the prophecy passed down from the ancestors, and now the prophecy is being realized.

Banyacya: We as people followed the guidance of the Great Spirit, protecting the tradition, welcoming anyone that came to us, sharing what we have even at the expense of our sacrifice, so that others can enjoy their lives. That way of life has not changed, but unfortunately this truth is not being recognized, because people are desperate as ever in trying to gain material benefits.

This hunger for material gain extends to power, nuclear arms, excessive use of energy, causing great pressure on our people and spiritual leaders around the world.

Guruji: Arms control and bringing an end to violence has become the theme of modern world. Nations build arms because they are wary of others, because they are fearful of one another. On the other hand, how can we guarantee safety for the next generation where all arms are abandoned?

We must believe that religious civilization, the way of life of trusting others and the great laws of the heavens and earth and Great Spirit will lead us. This is the great mission of the Hopi and Native Americans, and the only way left for mankind to survive.

Banyacya: What you just said is exactly what our ancestors knew about long ago. They realized that an era such as ours today was going to come, that we must protect and maintain the traditional way of life and prophecy of the Hopi, and we have patiently waited for the world’s people to open their eyes to spirituality.

We must now come together as one. We are at a time when we must merge our powers to survive. There is no time left for us. As we examine the global trends, the world’s leaders are competing to destroy lives. Unless we unify the power of those who lead a spiritual life, this enormous power cannot be stopped.

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Esta es la página en español del periódico *The Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



La complicada historia colonial de Puerto Rico



Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

Cristóbal Colon llegó a Puerto Rico en 1493. Es una fecha importante y al mismo tiempo una fecha problemática. Una fecha que marca el inicio de la violencia y explica mucho del Puerto Rico moderno, de su historia social y cultural. Desde entonces Puerto Rico ha estado y sigue estando subordinado a otros y son ya más de cinco siglos de subordinación.

Puerto Rico fue territorio español hasta 1898, año en que España perdió sus últimos territorios tras la derrota de la Guerra de Cuba, conocida en Estados Unidos como la guerra Hispano-Americana. Estados Unidos ayudó a las colonias españolas debido a sus intereses en desarrollar el mercado del azúcar. Puerto Rico se independizó de España, con una

Constitución y derecho de voto. En pocos años, Estados Unidos decidió volverse atrás en sus promesas y se creó el modelo de no votación que existe hoy en Puerto Rico. Los estadounidenses, con el general Nelson al mando, prometieron proteger la vida, la libertad y la felicidad de los puertorriqueños y sus propiedades. Muchos de los habitantes de Borinquén vieron esto como una clara invitación a luchar contra España.

Al perder la guerra, España entregó Puerto Rico a los Estados Unidos como estipulaba el Tratado de París. Aquí es cuando los estadounidenses se olvidaron de lo prometido y se decantaron por el sistema colonial, esta vez con Puerto Rico bajo su yugo.

En el siglo XIX, Estados Unidos inició su expansión territorial hacia el oeste y se fueron añadiendo estados que eran antes territorios incorporados. En ese momento voces puristas radicales opinaron que los habitantes de Puerto Rico no podrían entender los principios anglosajones y por ello Puerto Rico no pudo conseguir la deseada estado, y al mismo tiempo se cerraba el camino para lograrla.

En 1917 los Estados Unidos decidieron conceder la nacionalidad estadounidense a los habitantes de Puerto Rico al promulgarse la ley Jones-Shafroth. Debemos tener en cuenta que en ese momento se encontraba en pleno apogeo la Primera Guerra Mundial y así los puertorriqueños podían ser enviados a luchar como ciudadanos de Estados Unidos. Los boricuas fueron enviados masivamente a defender el Canal de Panamá ya que el gobierno consideró que tendrían una mayor resistencia a las enfermedades tropicales que los blancos estadounidenses.

Durante el siglo pasado no fueron pocos los intentos de obtener la independencia que fueron reprimidos por el gobierno federal de los Estados Unidos con censura o incluso enviando a prisión a algunos de sus líderes más conocidos como es el caso de Pedro Albizu, líder sindicalista obrero.

Pese a ser ciudadanos estadounidenses, lo que muchos no saben es que no tienen representación en el congreso y no pueden votar en las elecciones para elegir presidente a no ser que estén censados en el con-

tinente. Es decir, ni siquiera pueden votar en decisiones relacionadas con Puerto Rico. Hace algunos meses se celebró un referéndum en la isla en el que los puertorriqueños votaron a favor de convertirse en el estado 51. El único problema es que los boricuas no pueden decidir sobre ello, por muchos referéndums que se celebren, los únicos que pueden tomar esa decisión son los miembros del congreso, donde ellos no tienen una representación con voto.

Las principales inversiones en la isla son estadounidenses y que pagan unos impuestos mínimos. En los últimos años añadido a esto se encuentra la terrible corrupción del gobierno de la isla que se ha trasladado en una importantísima crisis económica.

Hace unas semanas el huracán María causó una gran devastación, todavía no cuantificada en estos momentos. La destrucción creada va a necesitar gran ayuda del gobierno federal que no está dispuesto a echar una mano, alegando razones de presupuesto. Diversos organismos privados y gobiernos extranjeros han ofrecido ayuda a la isla en estos difíciles momentos.

OPINIÓN

¿Día de Colón o Día de los pueblos indígenas?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

Ya hace años que se discute esta cuestión. Está claro que Colón no descubrió nada, sino que es el símbolo de una colonización cruel y despiadada y que además nunca llegó al norte de América.

Algunos estados y ciudades en Estados Unidos han decidido cambiar el nombre del día festivo por Día de los pueblos indígenas entre ellos Dakota del Norte, Los Ángeles o nuestro vecino Northampton.

¿Y ustedes qué piensan? Me gustaría conocer su opinión al respecto, pero lean antes dos artículos que aparecen en esta página y que tienen mucho que ver con la decisión que se deba adoptar.

Artistas por una causa: La lucha de las mujeres indígenas



Las artistas autoras del libro junto a la prensa manual que han creado.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

En un precioso lugar en lo alto de una de las colinas de Greenfield se encuentra, casi escondido, un edificio lleno de magia, color y movimiento. El edificio en estado ruinoso fue comprado por el colectivo Lupinewood con el fin de restaurarlo.

Los miembros del colectivo creen que pequeños grupos de personas que construyen la confianza y la comprensión entre sí son los elementos básicos de una poderosa resistencia y un cambio radical. La idea es generar micro-culturas que sean resistentes a los desafíos del conflicto político y que puedan reunirse con otros colectivos en momentos de acción de masas. Así mismo, piensan que la forma colectiva puede ser especialmente im-

portante para las personas *queer* y transgéneros, ya que crea un sentido de convivencia vivida y una familia escogida para personas cuyas identidades son regularmente atacadas y sistemáticamente aisladas.

Beyon Wren Moor es una de las artistas que forma parte de este colectivo. En estos momentos se encuentra trabajando junto con su colega Wolfgang Zapf, proveniente de los territorios Lkwungen y Wsanec al sur de Vancouver, en un proyecto muy interesante. Me acerqué hasta Lupinewood para hacer una entrevista a estas dos artistas atraída por el título del proyecto: *Voces: Hablan mujeres indígenas que luchan en primera línea* (Título original: *Voices: Indigenous Women on the Front Lines Speak*).

Wolfgang y Beyon se conocieron

en el territorio Unist'ot'en, reclamado por el pueblo wet'suwet'en, donde no existen tratados con el gobierno canadiense que ha ocupado los territorios sin permiso de sus verdaderos dueños.

Este lugar es conocido por la resistencia al oleoducto similar al de Dakota del Norte en Estados Unidos. Las artistas se unieron en 2015 al campamento que protegía los derechos del pueblo indígena y decidieron crear el libro como una obra de arte que honrase a las mujeres que formaban parte de la resistencia y la defensa del territorio, y que no aparecían en los medios de comunicación donde los hombres eran siempre los líderes. La idea es dar a conocer historias reales de defensoras de la tierra y sus problemas en la lucha por su territorio.

He de señalar que el gobierno canadiense no reconoce los derechos de los pueblos indígenas aunque Trudeau intenta dar la mejor imagen con la llamada idea de la reconciliación. Aun así estas comunidades tienen sus derechos totalmente limitados, como por ejemplo el acceso al agua potable, el medio ambiente o al uso de los recursos naturales.

El proyecto es un libro con entrevistas y retratos ilustrados de mujeres indígenas que dedican su vida a defender su tierra en la región de la Columbia Británica en Canadá.

El libro está realizado con una inmensa paciencia, materiales artesanales, y grabados en cobre que son impresos en papel de seda en una prensa manual artesana. Este proyecto de dos años es un trabajo realizado con mucho amor; y representa un honor a las heroínas defensoras de la tierra con las que

las autoras estrecharon relaciones durante los años de lucha.

Las autoras convivieron con las entrevistadas y sus comunidades en su campamento, se enfrentaron a las compañías que amenazaban sus territorios, cocinaron con ellas, cuidaron de sus hijos, realizaron talleres de arte y durante este tiempo hicieron una serie de entrevistas basadas en la confianza mutua.

La inspiración surgió en Beyon, cuyo origen es el territorio Pikwetóné en Canadá y es miembro del pueblo indígena *cree*, cuando su familia fue obligada a trasladar los restos de su abuela al ser compradas esas tierras por la empresa Inco Ltd, para construir una mina. Las tierras ancestrales fueron anegadas por motivos industriales.

Es interesante destacar que las compañías que invaden las tierras en Sudamérica son canadienses, las minas que se abren en Bolivia y contaminan el agua son europeas,

y al final todo está conectado en un mundo globalizado como el nuestro que no da valor a los dueños verdaderos de la tierra. Las autoras se enfocan en una pequeña región pero resaltan que la realidad es que todo era territorio indígena y que lo que pasa en Guatemala o Panamá es lo mismo que ocurre en Canadá.

El objetivo es recoger fondos para ayudar a estas comunidades con la venta del libro hecho a mano con una edición limitada, solamente 50 ejemplares. Así mismo en su página web se pueden descargar las entrevistas en pdf por un módico precio y también los grabados e imprimirlos en casa. La otra parte del proyecto es el componente educativo y su intención es poder llegar al máximo número posible de gente. Si quieren saber más sobre cómo conseguir uno de los libros-obra de arte o saber más sobre el proyecto pueden consultar su página web: voicesbook.storemy.com



Muestra de algunos de los grabados que ilustrarán el libro.

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Celebrating 15 years as a resident of Montague, MA!

Paintings, Songs, Poetry Raise Funds for Puerto Rico

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY—Two separate events on Saturday, October 21 seek to raise money for hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

In Montague Center, the Barn Gallery at 70 Main Street hosts the fifth annual exhibit of paintings by **Mishael Coggeshall-Burr** from 5 to 8 p.m. This will be a three hour long, jam-packed event with refreshments and art in a friendly and rustic setting. This event, billed with tongue-in-cheek as the “most exclusive art exhibit in Franklin County” will donate 10% of sales to support relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

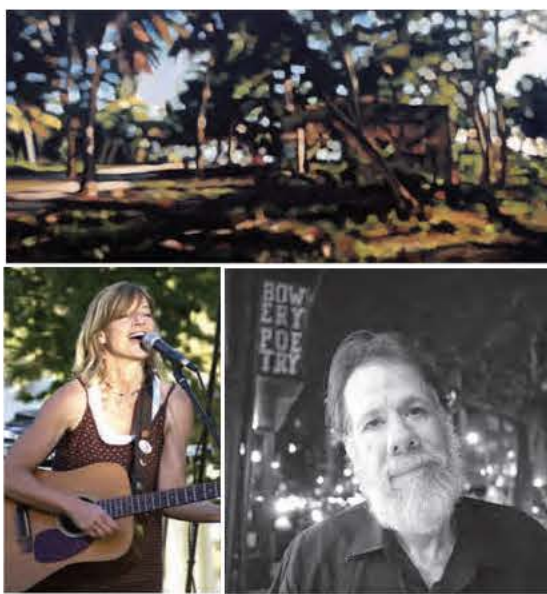
The title of this year’s exhibit is “Beyond.” The artist’s press release explains that the show “explores in beautifully rendered landscapes and city scenes an alluring sense of what might lie beyond the viewer’s immediate impression, or beyond the artwork’s main focal point.”

The artist writes that many of the paintings are scenes of the Caribbean island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, as well as the Old Town of San Juan.

The work details “nature co-mingling with the manmade, edges blurred between leaf and building, tree and stone, water and metal” in “sometimes surreal scenes in which trees, vines and grasses encroach on and almost merge together with buildings. The dramatic imagery celebrates and inspires a sense of awe about nature’s constant presence, and, after the recent hurricanes, takes on a whole new meaning.”

Says Mishael, “never could I imagine that some of the beautiful places from these islands that originally inspired my artwork, would be changed forever by this year’s unforgiving hurricanes, with so many livelihoods destroyed and some of the world’s cherished places of natural beauty never to look the same.”

The artist adds, “I feel so fortunate to have cap-



Top: A painting from Mishael Coggeshall-Burr’s exhibit “Beyond.” Lower left: singer-songwriter Colleen Kattau. Lower right: poet Martin Espada.

tured some of these scenes with their pre-hurricane tranquility, and I hope that some of the funds raised from the art sales will help the people who were affected by the disaster imagine a life beyond the current state of devastation.”

Mishael Coggeshall-Burr’s process integrates the art of photography and oil painting. He takes blurred shots with a camera, then later translates selected images into abstract-realist paintings. The liquid, cinematic scenes become poetic visions that he likens to “the magic moment when Alice steps through the looking glass.” Check out his work at the Barn and online at coggeshallburr.com.

The same evening, you also have the chance to enjoy poetry and music at the Mount Toby Meeting House in Leverett, also in support of hurricane

relief in Puerto Rico.

Colleen Kattau and **Martin Espada** present their work starting at 7:30 p.m. The entertainers will donate all profits from CD and book sales to the relief of those struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. In addition, collection of extra donations will be made throughout the evening, and Colleen will donate a portion of her earnings from the door.

Colleen’s poetic original songs “inspire hope and spark imagination and audience participation! After a show audience members frequently tell her ‘You touched my soul.’” She has shared the stage with Pete Seeger, Holly Near and Tom Paxton.

Pete Seeger said of Colleen, “Joe Hill would be proud. Great singer and organizer at the same time.” Her band, Dos XX, won the 2013 Band Contest at Grassroots Festival in Utica, NY, and she has performed on Amy Goodman’s *Democracy Now*. Colleen is joined by Dos XX band members Jane Zell, lead guitar and Mike Brandt on bass.

Martin Espada has been called by Sandra Cisneros “the Pablo Neruda of North American authors.” The Brooklyn-born poet’s latest collection of poems is called *Vivas to Those Who Have Failed* (Norton, 2016).

Other books of poems include *The Trouble Ball* (2011), *The Republic of Poetry* (2006), *Alabanza* (2003), *Imagine the Angels of Bread* (1996), and *Rebellion is the Circle of a Lover’s Hands* (1990).

His book of essays, *Zapata’s Disciple* (1998), was banned in Tucson as part of the Mexican-American Studies Program outlawed by the state of Arizona, and has been issued in a new edition by Curstone/Northwestern University Press.

A former tenant lawyer in Greater Boston’s Latino community, Espada is a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

For reservations, call (413) 336-2589. Suggested donation: \$10 to \$30.

APPLES from page A1

Center, and so this is optional.

Organizer Elyssa Serrilli explains that she and her friends harvest from some trees each year, and that she “sat down with Janel [Nockleby] of the Discovery Center, and she shared a few that I didn’t know about. And I live in the Patch — there’s a few over here, too.” Kathrin Bateman of Chester loaned her new press and grinder to the effort.

“I’ve been really wanting to do something that would bring people together to have fun,” Serrilli says. “There have been some bad vibes going around town.”



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MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part XXII (January 14, 1942)



Miss Stemple's Final Column

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

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

— Montague Reporter eds.

As is the case in nearly every boom town the liquor question loomed large in early Turners Falls.

The laws for the regulation and sale of liquor were lax in those easy going days and the public attitude one of complacency regarding anything having to do with intoxicants, which were then more largely indulged in than later. So all the laws which then existed were more honored in the breach than in the observance.

Turners Falls was a wide-open town and there were more liquor places than in any other one line of business. They thrived, too – to say nothing of those who sold or peddled the stuff illegally.

Second and Third streets had dozens of saloons and South End

likewise had more than an ample supply. Every little while some worthy citizen would get miffed at some dealer who seemed to be prospering unduly or against whom he had a grievance of one sort or another, whereupon there would be a spectacular raid on the premises, a fine would be imposed and business continued as usual.

Some of the more hard-boiled liquor dealers continued blithely their infractions of the law year in and year out but were so clever and had their political and other fences so well taken care of that only by accident or sheer carelessness did they land in court.

The whole procedure was in the nature of a farce. The public knew see **STEMPLE** page B3

THEATER REVIEW

Greater Tuna a Riotous Romp

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – The Silverthorne Theater Company presents *Greater Tuna*, a light comedy set in a small Texas town whose residents are a bit unusual. Written by Texans Ed Howard, Joe Setars, 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.

Each character has her or his own story to tell, including some surprising secrets they are keeping which are revealed in brief monologues throughout the play. With some twenty characters, this could require

a large cast but in fact all of them are played by two very gifted actors, John Reese and Julian Findlay.

Directed masterfully by Steve Henderson, the actors move easily with smooth transitions from one character to another, changing clothes and gender within a scene by stepping out and back so quickly the audience accepts as real that another person has come onto the stage.

The story follows events involving members of this small Texas town, including the death of a judge and a suspicious poisoning of dogs. There are also some very charming scenes, such as when Charlene, a young girl suffering rejection in school, has a moment of success.

see **TUNA** page B2



The Reverend Spikes (Julian Findlay) speaks on subjects too broad to mean anything while Vera Carp (John Reese) listens and tries to stay awake.

Preserving the Craft of Fancy Papers At Chena River Marblers

By NINA ROSSI

AMHERST – The centuries-old technique of marbling is enjoying a second “golden age” at Regina and Dan St. John’s Amherst homestead. Their business, Chena River Marblers, thrives in a large addition to their house, where thirty-four years of research by the couple have led to the reformulation of paints and pigments and lost techniques.

When I visited the couple, we started off from scratch in a room where Dan creates the paints used on the very fine book papers the couple makes for customers all over the world. His studio was filled with jars and bottles, books and beautiful papers, and his worktable held a very large, thick sheet of glass with a large glass muller sitting on top of it.

This is where he works to grind pigment into the right consistency before mixing with other ingredients. A wizard figurine with wild orange eyes over looked the operation from one corner: this is definitely an alchemical process going on here!

Expert at techniques and materials for this craft, Dan was once a chemistry and physics teacher. His encyclopedic knowledge of materials was gleaned from old European texts printed before the 1850s. He took such a text off the shelf to show me that it was recently reprinted but was published in France in 1852. The book contained trade secrets for recipes and formulas useful in making many kinds of “fancy papers,” including marbled papers.

“What I like to call the ‘golden age’ of marbling started in the beginning of the 1800s, when they started getting long rolls of paper made on the Fourdrinier machine. Instead of using combs to manipulate paint on single sheets, they were making tons of papers using substances to get effects,” explained Dan. “There were whole towns making papers. You could order a thousand sheets from a catalog by the 1840s.” These papers went to decorate volumes of books produced by the burgeoning book trade.

Originally, marbling was introduced to Europe over the Silk Road from the Middle East. The general idea is to float paints on the surface of a viscous water bath and then pick up this film onto the surface of paper or fabric. In Turkey, where many pigments and tools of the trade still come from, they specialize in creating complex images in the film of paint.

Thanks to his research and networking Dan learned how to add beeswax to the paint in order to be able to polish the paper after it was painted, thus making it stronger by calendaring the surface, and giving it a lustrous sheen. This finish particularly highlights metallic paints that “can look like a sheet of metal.”

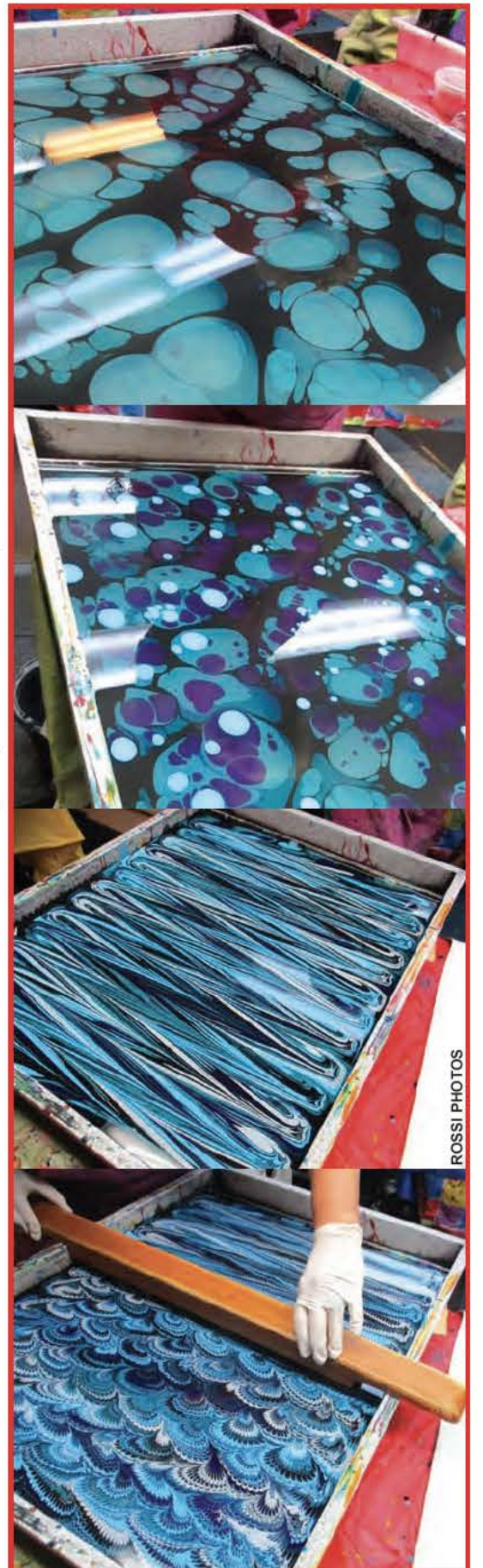
He demonstrated this method of polishing using an agate burnishing tool on a sheet of marbled paper. He leaned over the paper, using his weight to press the stone firmly and evenly across the surface several times. The paper became smoother and took on a luster which added greatly to the sheen of the copper veins running through the design.

Dan displayed a jar of bleached beeswax that he boils with potash to make a soapy paste. This is mixed with finely ground pigments and a rabbit skin glue binder to make the paints.

These pigments are made from the same natural substances as early marblers would have used, including indigo from the woad plant used to make brilliant blue, and cochineal insects which yield a deep red.

He obtains these which are imported by the Kremer company. (He let me sniff a jar of indigo blue, which smelled strongly due to the animal urine used in the compound.)

Another effect that was “lost” to the modern age and now see **MARBLERS** page B6



The marbling process, top to bottom: Carrageenan-thickened water holds a succession of different colors on its surface, starting as drops. The drops are then “woven” with a comb drawn through them. Regina St. John draws another comb through the paint with a side-to-side motion, creating this “bouquet” effect.

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE SIMPLE PLEASURES OF THE FALL



By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – Morning front-porch sitting. A passing shower, the first in weeks, has chased us from the south-facing open deck out back, to the front piazza.

There’s a vaguely familiar sound of light rain misting the leaves of trees on the edge of the woods just across the way. It’s the first rain in weeks. It is strange indeed that there are any leaves at all, given that unusual wet weather during the early summer months was followed by very dry conditions in September, which has caused the maples’ foliage to fall too soon, dropping with large black spots on each leaf.

Our cherry tree is already stark bare. The apple tree is festooned with its Baldwin crop hanging on bare branches, no leaves to hide within. Even more apples have fallen to the ground. The sweet cider smell from that dropped fruit fills

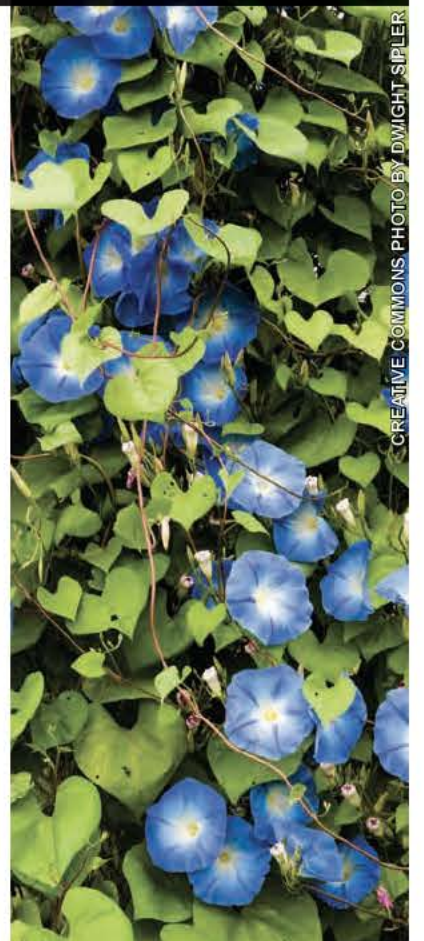
the rooms of the house, drifting in through open windows and doors.

Drunken wasps and yellow jackets stagger unbalanced from fermenting apple to apple, too tipsy to think about stinging, and no longer caring about being territorial, in the warm sunshine of a summery October.

Up to now, a walk into the yellow wood has had its pleasures: faded ferns give off a spicy aroma of drying tobacco. Other leaves, birch and crispy maple, gather in and then reflect an old gold light. Down along the river, through the increasingly bare trees I can now make out once again the contours of my great grandfather’s ancient pasture.

I’ve been seeing things in threes these days, have you ever had that experience? Look carefully: three crows, three rosebuds, one cyclist and two cars, three squirrels (maybe four actually, otherwise it would seem too contrived!).

Early this morning, three morning glories flowered, where there were none yesterday, and where see **WEST ALONG** page B4



Morning glories in bloom.

Pet of the Week

Flan has flown all the way from hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico to find a new home in New England. Like her namesake, Flan is sweet and a little spicy, energetic and curious and a natural leader. Perhaps her boldness helped Flan weather the storm and earn the golden ticket to safety in the U.S. If you're looking for a perky,

playful kitty who came face to face with Hurricane Maria and lived to tell the tale, *hurry* in to meet Flan (patient she is not...). Flan is being featured for adoption at the Valley Veterinary Hospital in Hadley, MA. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“FLAN”

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 16 TO 21

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.
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10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Monday 10/16
8:15 AM: Foot Clinic Apts.
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo
Tuesday: 10/17
1 p.m. A Matter of Balance
Wednesday 10/18
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 10/19
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday: 10/20
1 p.m. Writing Group
Saturday: 10/21
Visit us at the Great Falls Festival
LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 10/16
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones Balance
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday: 10/17
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
Wednesday 10/18
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday: 10/19
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn
Friday: 10/20
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 a.m. Music/Magic/Mvmt.
12:30 p.m. Healthy Lunch
WENDELL
Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

TUNA from page B1
The humor often rests in the not-so-politically-correct commentary by certain individuals and the obvious antipathy between some who pretend to like each other. No deep thinking required here, just some good fun watching two amazing actors make all this look easy as they demonstrate the actor’s craft of the quick change artist.
Each actor plays ten separate roles, using costume change but also physical changes. John Reese’s face displays every changing expression. When he is playing Petey Fisk, the desperate head of the local SPCA, he is kind, smiles a lot, expresses great empathy and passion for the little fishes and homeless dogs. As Stanley Bumiller, a 20-something who is up to no good, his whole being shows teen attitude, nasty ideas festering in his mind and a deadly secret of which he is very proud.
It is always a pleasure to watch this fine actor work. In *Greater Tuna*, his comedic talent is given an opportunity to shine.
Julian Findlay has great physicality, changes his entire appearance with how he moves and stands. His facial expressions go with changes in accent and attitude, as each character seems to occupy his entire body.
Each is presented differently but the one that stood out as the most shocking and funny was Pearl Burras, who seems a sweet old lady but is quite evil in her intent. As Pearl he stands in a bent position and runs with little steps across the stage which is very funny to watch. Giving emphasis to the character’s nature, she smiles at the times she should look sad, demonstrating her nefarious nature.
In contrast, he is large and boastful when playing the Reverend Spikes, pastor of the church, who pontificates with broad sweeps of his arms and loud declarations while showing hardly any sincere facial expression.
Findlay is a local actor who has appeared in several Silverthorne Theater productions, including *Aidan’s Gift* (Brother Mark), *Pilgrims Musa* and *Sheri in the New World* (Musa), and last year’s riotous comedy production, *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* (abridged), which also featured Steve Henderson.

Findlay directed Silverthorne’s production of *The Miser* with actors John Reese and Steve Henderson. He is the founder and artistic director of Shakespeare Stage, and theater director at Stoneleigh-Burnham School.
Reese appeared as Harpagon in *The Miser* in 2016. He has had a long and successful career as an actor and director. Reese has been a resident actor at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Folger Theater, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and had a recurring role on *All My Children*.
His most recent role locally was as Chelmsford Cunningham in *Betty Baker’s Buttermilk Biscuit Barn or B-5* for Conway’s 250th Celebration. He retired from Deerfield Academy in 2011, after twenty-seven years as the director of their theater program.
Greater Tuna continues on October 12, 13 and 14 with performances at 7:30 p.m., and a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, October 14 on the fourth floor of The Hawks & Reed (formerly Arts Block) in downtown Greenfield.
There will be a post-show conversation with the director and cast after the October 12 performance. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for students and seniors (65+), and may be purchased online at eventbrite.com. For more information, see silverthornetheater.org.



John Reese as Petey Fisk, Humane Society Director of Greater Tuna.

Saturday 10/14: Mama’s Marmalade

WENDELL – Mama’s Marmalade kicks off the music season for the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse with foot stompin’ beautiful “modern bluegrass.”
Mamma’s Marmalade brings a fresh vibrancy to old traditions, from the blues to Old Time, from gypsy jazz to bluegrass. Hear their music at www.mammasmarmalade.com.
The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, held at Wendell Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offers a lively night out for music, fun and dance; always in support of a good cause.
Open Mic begins at 7:30 p.m. For Open Mic sign-up, directions and further information please visit our www.wendellfullmoon.org or call (978) 544-8784.
\$6 to \$15 at the door. A portion of proceeds will benefit the 1794 Meetinghouse, an historic building and project which supports the performing arts in New Salem.

Sunday 10/15: Endless Diapers for Franklin County

TURNERS FALLS – An informal group of friends and neighbors who have heard the area diaper bank has been struggling to keep up with the needs of families in crisis has decided it will be helpful, and even sort of fun, to go around talking with people about diapers and building a big collection drive.
Their first meetup will be held Sunday, October 15 at the Brick House, 24 Third Street in Turners Falls, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
No form of emergency aid from the government helps with diapers. Every diaper a broke parent doesn’t need to feel stressed out about affording is another little bit of cash, time, and attention they can put toward the next thing on the list.
At this first meetup, attendees will hear a brief presentation about the diaper problem and how this group aims to address it, and three opportunities to help this month as the campaign gets geared up. Things will be kept to the point so attendees can get on with their Sunday evenings, though everyone will be free to linger afterward to chat or brainstorm.
Let’s build community well-being... from the bottom up!


REFUGEE Arrives at the Shea Theater



TURNERS FALLS – A group of current and former University of Massachusetts Theater students are producing a new play called *REFUGEE*, debuting at the Shea Theater on October 19 through 22.
Written and directed by Milan Dragicevich, a professor and playwright at UMass, the play features music written and performed by Grammy-nominated Tim Eriksen. The play sold out at its premier at the UMass Fine Arts Center in December of last year.
REFUGEE is a story about two Serbian sisters displaced by invading forces during World War II to the

El Shatt refugee camp on the Sinai desert in Egypt, leaving behind their mother and younger brother. The play is loosely based on the historical sojourn of Dragina Kalanj, the playwright’s mother, who arrived at El Shatt as a teenage girl and spent seven years before coming to America.
The traumatic effects of being displaced from one’s homeland are explored through the stories of the generations that follow: five decades later, grandchildren dispersed across two continents battle their own causes from 1999 Belgrade to rural Appalachia, searching for a place to belong and accepting their destiny.
Questions that are raised in this multigenerational story of displacement, capricious destiny, and the search for identity include *When we cross borders, what do we become?* and *What binds people together?* The play promises to be a “compelling piece paralleling current events happening with refugees all over the world. This story is an important one as we seek to welcome and understand the plight of those who are seeking refuge.”
Tickets are available at refugeeplay.brownpaper-tickets.com and at the door. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on October 19, 20, and 21, with a 2 p.m. matinee on October 22.

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STEMPLE from page B1

it and laughed about it good naturedly. Whatever happened the sale of liquor was considered a prime necessity and must not be too much interfered with.

Some places had their bar rooms fitted up with all sorts of gadgets and devices to conceal evidence or throw officers off the scent, when they went through the motions of raiding. Some of these contrivances were exceedingly ingenious.

The editor of the Reporter, who always knew everything that was going on in town, told me of many of these schemes, also of some well-nigh incredible and ludicrous accounts of what went on behind the scenes.

Behind Slatted Doors

When I was a child I used to speculate upon what occurred behind those slatted doors which were so numerous and from which emanated so many strange and unpleasant noises, silly babblings and so much warbling of a kind never heard elsewhere.

I was also mystified by the, to me, very repugnant smells issuing from the premises and by occasionally seeing a wobbly-kneed man stumbling or being thrown out.

True, some children and women passed freely through those bar doors but they were all Samaritans to anyone I knew. It was all very puzzling to me at first but I found out the nature of the business in due time and so did every other child. It was very sordid and a pity that children should get such early impressions.

The saloons patronized by the better class citizens tried to make their premises more attractive by installing gaily and vari-colored intricately fluted, scalloped and filled tissue paper confections to adorn the ceilings. These decorations were in fanciful shapes, like a huge star or a double circle on some other design.

The movement of the cascades of paper in the breeze was supposed to discourage the armies of flies in the premise, who were in this wise invited to take their ease and make themselves comfortable by roosting on the yellow, red, blue, white and pink paper lacework and thus not annoy customers so much.

But there were always swarms both below and above. The ceiling decoration was usually so densely populated by the pestiferous insects and had to be renewed so often that sometimes spirals of nasty, sticky fly paper was added at strategic points to reduce the numbers of the flies by a lingering and messy death.

In those primitive times screened windows and doors were practically unknown although some of the more enterprising and meticulous housewives used to try to keep flies out of the home by tacking cotton mosquito netting over the windows. However, the pests just laughed at these futile make-shifts.

Places Wide Open

So wide open were the liquor places and so little secrecy or anything which went on in them, that every passerby, even the youngest and most unsophisticated children, could not help but absorb knowledge which did them no good.

Glamour was non-existent, of course, and a saloon was a saloon. The term “parlor” in connection with

them was undreamed of.

However, in the pioneer days, there was much money made by the proprietors and that is one reason so many saloons were opened.

It was at the time of the annual town meeting that the liquor interests assumed greatest importance. Who would get a license, and who wouldn’t, was a burning question. It involved much politics of the baldest type.

The board of selectmen were the powers who issued the licenses so the election of the “right” men to the board was a paramount issue in the minds of a large part of the citizenry.

In my time, at least, the applicant for a license had to advertise the fact in the local newspaper. Consequently in the early part of the spring of each year the Reporter would blossom out with the advertisements of some 30 aspirants who desired to quench the thirst of the residents of the town.

What excitement and speculation this publication caused! There were invariably a certain number of the same applicants year after year but there were likewise a sizeable percentage of new candidates to the elect or new combines of old ones.

As the license fees were gradually raised the number of applicants also dwindled and after a time who would sell, and who would be denied the right to sell, had less and less interest for the public.

When the license advertisements appeared the Reporter would sell more papers than at any other time and we always printed “extras” to satisfy the increased demand!

I don’t quite know how I got onto this subject except for the fact that to anyone looking backward to the growing stage of Turners Falls, the matter can not possibly be ignored, as it was such an integral part of the local picture and scene.

Moreover, whether we like the social conditions we have today or not, it cannot be denied that in some respects time has brought decided improvement.

This was the last of Miss Antonia J. Stemple’s writing we have found. The January 1942 issue of the Turners Falls Herald it ran in would be the final one – the young editor was called off to war.

Miss Stemple lived from 1875 to 1958, and though at the time of her correspondence with the Herald she lived in Florida, we know she did come back North, at least in the end. She was buried in a family plot in Montague, in the Aaron Clark cemetery on Turners Falls Road.

If you enjoyed this series, lay a flower by her headstone for us.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Seven Noise Complaints; Injured Mother Bear; Backups At Elks and Scalpers; Rock Thrower

Monday, 10/2
10:02 p.m. Caller reporting that someone is throwing rocks from the Fourth Street side into the Third Street parking lot near the Rendezvous; states that rocks have hit his vehicle as well as some others. Investigated.

Tuesday, 10/3
6:21 a.m. 911 caller from New Street reporting that his garage was broken into and several vintage dirt bikes stolen. One bike located in woods across street; five remain unaccounted for. Investigated; area agencies advised to be on lookout.

11:30 a.m. Caller from G Street reports that over the past few months, several items have been stolen off of her porch. Advised of options.

11:40 a.m. Party into station on behalf of a family member to report a stolen vehicle. Vehicle has possibly been missing for past week; owner did not notice that it was missing until today. Greenfield PD located vehicle in Green River Cemetery; Montague officer will attempt to make contact with family.

2:06 p.m. Caller from Rendezvous reports that an intoxicated male just walked in and is yelling and swearing at customers; last seen leaving out rear entrance walking toward L Street in the alley. Officer off with male on L Street; party spoken with and advised.

4:54 p.m. Caller reports that male just slashed someone’s tires behind the Shea Theater. Caller speculated that the male would probably be naked by the time officers arrived but advised that he is fully clothed at this time; caller was only speculating due to past behavior. Caller refused to provide any additional information and hung up. Not as reported. No tires were slashed.

Wednesday, 10/4
12:46 p.m. Report of five kids on scooters and skateboards using the stairs from businesses on Avenue A as ramps to do jumps off of. Officer spoke with kids, who stated that they had permission from one of the businesses. Kids advised to make sure the activity doesn’t interfere with pedestrian traffic.

4:19 p.m. Bernardston resident reports that he is receiving harassing phone calls. Referred to Bernardston PD.

5:29 p.m. Caller from Winthrop Street reports that someone has been tampering with her mail;

ongoing issue. Advised of options.

5:58 p.m. Caller reporting loud music with vulgar language playing on Eleventh Street. Officer advises that music is clearly audible from down the street. Music turned down.

7:23 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue requesting to find out his options in regards to his neighbors having a garage band. Investigated. Officer advises that band practice is over for the night.

9:47 p.m. Caller reporting that brown house with a bunch of stuff in the yard on the corner of Dell and Davis streets is playing really loud music. Officer spoke with homeowner, who will keep it down.

10:08 p.m. Officer checking on vehicle with out of country plates at First Street pier. Language barrier; subject from Austria is staying the night. Clear.

Thursday, 10/5
1:34 a.m. Caller from Griswold Street reports hearing noises like things being hit or thrown in basement apartment. Officers checked apartment; parties advised of complaint.

1:40 a.m. Initial report of single vehicle accident with two male parties running from scene at Fifth and T streets. One caller reports seeing someone removing beer bottles from the vehicle and placing them out of view. TFFD and MedCare en route for airbag deployment; officer advises blood visible in vehicle. K9 unit requested for search. Officer advising second vehicle was struck by first vehicle; minor damage to mirror.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A drug and operating to endanger.

3:39 a.m. Caller from Central Street reports that someone may be in the third floor apartment, which is supposed to be empty. Party escorted out of apartment until landlord can be contacted and spoken to.

6:56 a.m. Report of mother bear and two cubs in yard on Millers Falls Road heading toward Scotty’s. Mother appears to have an injured foot. Animal control officer and Environmental Police notified. Subsequent sightings in area of Unity Street and Hillside Avenue. Officer was able to guide bear to the wooded area on the south side of Hillside Road. Bear will likely head down to river. Mother bear did have something wrong with her right paw. Officer advising bears are now at

Worcester Avenue; cubs are in a tree, and mother is occupied with a bird feeder. Additional sightings on Carlisle Avenue, Millers Falls Road, Chatham Circle, Vladish Avenue, and Turnpike Road. Environmental police officer, who had been an hour away, now in area.

7:11 a.m. Caller from Second Street advises that the first floor tenant has been outside disturbing the peace since 4 a.m. Female has been blowing a whistle, banging on the side of the building, etc. Caller advises that this is an ongoing issue. Unable to locate.

8:26 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports that female is playing loud, vulgar music from her apartment. Same female reported to have been yelling incoherently outside around 6:30 a.m., but is no longer doing that now. Officer spoke with offending party. Music turned down; peace restored.

10:28 a.m. Caller from Davis Street reports that a few days ago, her leashed dog was bitten by an unleashed dog; has copies of vet bills and reports that other owner wrote her a check for partial compensation but is now denying responsibility and refusing to pay remaining vet bills. ACO out sick today. Officer spoke with caller.

7:19 p.m. Caller reporting that a male with bushy hair wearing black clothes and a black hat displayed a gun and a knife while caller was walking in the Third/Fourth Street alleyway. Advised subject was heading toward F.L. Roberts. Officer spoke with caller, who is intoxicated. Story changed several times; no gun displayed.

7:35 p.m. Caller from Elks Lodge reports that all toilets in the building are backing up. DPW will be en route to check it out.

Friday, 10/6
7:56 a.m. Dog struck by vehicle on Montague City Road. Owner’s roommate came out and took dog, who is still alive; unknown injuries.

8:37 a.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue requesting to speak with an officer re: a drone that flew over her yard last night.

8:50 a.m. Walk-in reporting sewage coming up out of a manhole on Lake Pleasant Road near Scalpers Lodge and the pump station. DPW and WPCF on scene; problem located; crew cleaning up.

8:33 p.m. Detail officer advised of a subject who had been trespassed from Turners Falls High School on school premises in the

parking lot near the tennis courts. Officer advises subject is gone; was there having an altercation with another TFHS student.

10:26 p.m. TFFD toning out for smoke in building on J Street. Units clear; burnt hot potato.

Saturday, 10/7
12:49 a.m. Caller states that someone from one of the apartment buildings surrounding the Third Street parking lot is throwing rocks into the lot. Officer on scene. No property damage as of this time; general idea of where rocks were coming from; will monitor area.

12:45 p.m. Caller from East Main Street would like it on record that her vehicle was egged overnight.

2:01 p.m. Caller would like it on record that his vehicle was struck by one of the rocks thrown into the parking lot on Third Street; states that there are a lot of rocks near his vehicle, which has a ding in the top of the trunk.

6:22 p.m. Caller advising that a kid just taped the door to a port-a-potty closed while another kid was inside. While on the line, caller reported that the kid cut the tape and let the other kid out. Suspect wearing red hat, white t-shirt, and gray shorts. Officer on scene advising he can see the kid taping his friend up right now. Officer took duct tape and advised kid to knock it off.

7:20 p.m. Caller requesting officer to Avenue A for a male party running down the street with a baseball bat, apparently chasing two vehicles. Party with bat detained; advises that a minivan and a sedan almost hit his children, which is why he was chasing the vehicles. Bat secured; subject sent home and advised to call back if vehicles reappear.

10:07 p.m. Large amount of money reported stolen from L Street apartment. Investigated.

Sunday, 10/8
10:44 p.m. Rendezvous bartender states that someone is throwing rocks into parking lot again. Responding officer could hear several rocks hitting cars and the ground but could not locate where they were coming from.

11:27 p.m. Second of two complaints regarding loud music coming from a fundraiser for Puerto Rico at the shoe repair shop on Avenue A. Subjects earlier advised to shut door and keep noise down; officer responding to second call states that door was closed and music was not excessively loud, but he did ask them to turn it down.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
there will be none tomorrow. Noticing them suddenly was almost startling. In this household we call them by their Latin and French name, *volubilis*. Granted that the “glory of the morning” is descriptive, but the Latin adjective describes that which is winding, twisting, and changing. That’s also an apt description. I prefer the Latin.

For me it also evokes mysterious and timeless Roman ruins isolated out on the plains of Morocco, between Fez and Meknes. I lived in a village nearby many years ago when I taught English there, and have always wondered about the connection between that ancient ruined city of Volubilis, and the morning flower.

We had not planted these lovely blue flowers for years, even though the intention was always there. We just didn’t get around to it. Yet somehow, secretly climbing the stringed trail of old forgotten paths, and from seeds planted and neglected years ago, three of them opened just before the rain, coming from nowhere, delicate and blue, ephemeral on the trellis post.

Content on the porch with dog, we watch the rainshower increase to a steady tropical downpour, and the earth drinks. This is likely the outermost edge of yet another hurricane. The one last month brought an unusual cloud stream spinning down from the northeast and changing our skies. Day after day, our weather comes up from the southwest, but the counterclockwise spinning pinwheel of the hurricane off Cape Cod had sent clouds scurrying down from the north and cre-



ated an opposite pattern, different, and even unsettling.

So this wet morning of Indigenious Day, we watch patiently as the rain continues for another few hours. The dog sighs. Those endless golden afternoons and crisp autumn leaves are now likely just a memory. Our front porch paper wasp lingers asleep on her cubicle nest, its papery cell nursery now empty. Her summer work is done. Sparrows huddle among the crimson berries of the holly bush, while Bella Dona, the deadly nightshade, twirls among the green and red of the branches.

Yesterday yellow-rumped warblers flitted and flashed through the yard, their voices now like small bells prevented from sounding, just a single note, a vague clink.

And a few days ago, just before the rain, there were the butterflies, three of them of course. We let a stand of milkweed grow wild on

the south side of the house, and sure enough, three striped caterpillars appeared munching contentedly on the leaves. They disappeared for several weeks, then emerged as true monarchs, a few hours apart from one another. They dried in the warming sun awhile, and then lifted slowly tilting upwards, getting their bearings and heading south to Mexico on kite-paper wings.

My postscript here is that, as you have already noticed, the sun has come back after those three days of rain. Crickets chime again and a new wave of arrivals flows through the yard: the first winter white throats pipe from the lilac, a kinglet pirouettes through the rhododendron, crossing paths with the lingering dragonfly. Do we dare call this the beginning of our Indian summer?



Saturday the 23rd of September – a day I hope that I’ll remember!

By FERD WULKAN

MONTAGUE CENTER – *Ferd Wulkan penned these lyrics a couple weeks back, after a particularly enjoyable day in his neighborhood. Ferd says that Leslie Lomasson encouraged him to share his work with the Reporter, and we’re glad he did! – Eds.*

It was such a Montague day
It just makes me want to stay
And never leave this town.

The church bells struck ten times, issuing the call,
It’s cider pressing day at our lovely Common Hall!
People came from all directions, making new connections;
Apples by the bushel, apples by the pound –
Cider started flowing as we turned the crank around.
Put your cup under the spigot, and taste that sweet trickle,
Fill up your quarts and gallons, doesn’t even cost a nickel.

It was such a Montague day
It just makes me want to stay
And never leave this town.

Later down the street, on over to the Book Mill
Broadcasting from the cupola sitting very still
Surrounded by the wasps, making art out of sound
There was lovely Karen with smiles to all around
Signal goes just 200 yards but nobody minds –
It’s radio you can barely hear at a station you can’t find!

It was such a Montague day
It just makes me want to stay
And never leave this town.

Then in the evening, after such a fine day
Looking at facebook to see what our neighbors say:
Down the street – stuck in a pipe – looks like a skunk...
How to get it out – the whole town’s in a funk –
Don’t want to get sprayed, don’t want to hurt the critter;
Lots of good ideas, some even come on twitter
It all feels so right – it’s such a Montague night.

It was such a Montague day
It just makes me want to stay
And never leave this town.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was October 11, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Montague Police Station Receives \$200,000 Grant

Patricia Pruitt, selectboard liaison to the police station building committee, reported at Tuesday’s board meeting that Montague has received one of the largest state grants for police station building construction.

The \$200,000 figure, equaling grants given to Springfield, North Brookfield, Lowell, and Boston, was 10% of the \$2 million in grant funds available at this time. Since 97 applications totaling \$37 million were submitted, this was gratifying outcome. Board chair Pat Allen commented, “Obviously, they were quite struck with us.”

The funds will be available if the town supports the \$5.6 million project at tonight’s special town meeting, and at the subsequent November 6 debt exclusion vote for project funding.

Protecting Sacred Sites

Winona LaDuke, a Native American activist from the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) tribe of Northern Minnesota, came to Greenfield Community College on Monday to talk to a crowd of more than 100 people about the struggle to reclaim Native sacred sites.

Her talk touched efforts across the country, but had relevance to two local reclamation struggles: the effort to preserve the White Ash Swamp from development on Route 2 in Greenfield, and the work being done to keep a stone formation at the Turners Falls airport – claimed as an active ceremonial site by the Narragansett Indian

Tribe and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah – from being bulldozed for a runway expansion.

LaDuke founded the White Earth Land Recovery Project in Minnesota, the Indigenous Women’s Network, and Honor the Earth, a worldwide native environmental advocacy group, and was Ralph Nader’s running mate on the Green Party ticket in 1996 and 2000.

Wendell Invests in 3.4 Acre Community Garden

Wendell, known for rocky soil and wooded lots, has never been very attractive for gardeners. Until now.

With the construction of the new town office building on Morse Village Road, the selectboard decided to set aside the majority of the 3.4-acre lot for a community garden. In fact, one selectboard member, Dan Keller, got the first spade in the ground when he transplanted a number of raspberry bushes to the rear of the lot, to save them from being destroyed during the building’s construction.

Two members of the community garden committee, Kate Nolan and John Craddock, came before the selectboard to ask for town funds to purchase tools and supplies for the new community garden. The town has set aside \$40,000 from excess funds from the new library and town office building project to fix floors, install acoustic tiles, aid in the interior design of the town offices, and complete landscaping around both new buildings.

The garden committee is hoping to tap into some of those funds for garden tools, a tool shed, soil amendments, and an underground pipe with a number of spigots that could make it possible to reach the far ends of the lot with a single length of hose.

**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY
TELEVISION NEWS**

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Keep watching MCTV, Channel 17, to discover local programming! The Montague selectboard meeting airs weekly, live on Mondays at 7 p.m., and you can see it again on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. or Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

The Gill-Montague School District school committee meeting airs live at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and reruns Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m. You can find our TV schedule at montaguetelevision.org.

Interested in becoming a board member for Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI)? Visit montaguetelevision.org to learn more and call (413) 863-9200 to set up an appointment with a current board member! The next MCCI meeting will be held in November.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Secobd Street in Turners Falls 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 mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5 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. Great Hall Art Display: *Migration Connecting through Art and Culture of the Americas* Guatemalan art display curated by local artists. October 11 through October 28.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Lev-

In Response to Paper. New art exhibit by Wendell artist Julia Rabin through November.

Deerfield Valley Art Association Center for the Arts, Northfield. *Art as Expression of Cultural Heritage*. Art Inspired by cultures all over the world. Through November 12.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Shea Theater, Turners Falls. *Great Falls Word Fest* Open Mic, bookstore, coffee. 1 p.m. *The Mole* storytelling 6:30 p.m. *Do It Now* performance with Tony Vacca, Jon Sheldon, Jo



Do It Now: John Sheldon (guitar), Tony Vacca (drums), and Paul Richmond (words) perform with legendary bassist Jo Sallins (not pictured) at the Shea Theater, Thursday night at 8 p.m., to kick off the Great Falls Word Fest. See gawfest.org for a complete schedule of venues and performances.

erett. *New Oil Paintings* by Lori Lynn Hoffer. Resident artist Hoffer exhibits her recent work. Reception October 15, 4 p.m. Through October.

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

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, Flo Rosenstock, Sue McFarland and Paul Cohen: four distinctive ways of working with the medium of felt, utilizing both needle felting and wet felting techniques. Through October.

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.

Sallins, Paul Richmond. 8 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne. Jim K. Lead guitarist from Valley legends FAT, Jim Kaminski plays acoustic guitar and sings his original songs 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Greater Tuna*. Live theater (see review, page B1). 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Revelator Hill*. Master guitarist and vocalist Bobby Thompson with D.C. musicians doing deep blues with a rock edge. Wheelhouse event, 7:30 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls *Great Falls Word Fest* Historical Oracles readings, 1 p.m. *Straw Dog Writers Guild Sidewalk Typewriters*, 5 p.m. Readings at several venues at 6:30 and 7:45 p.m. Program available online at gawfest.org, or at the Shea.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. *Bill Shontz – Sweet as Sugar Trio*. Jazz to Folk, Rock n' Roll to good old-fashioned sing-alongs. Each month the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center host an evening coffeehouse with local talent. Refreshments available. Suggested donations to support educational programming at the Center. Museum and store open during intermission. 7 p.m.

LOOT the Shop, Turners Falls:

Nik Perry art reception for *Living Room Museum*. Art and products to illuminate and rediscover everyday life. 5 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne *Django Djazz*. In the style of Django Reinhardt: fiddle, stand-up bass and two guitars. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Greater Tuna*. Live theater, see review this issue. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne. *Ray Mason*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Sophistafunk*, 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Kuzmeskus and friends* 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Great Falls Discovery Center: Straw Dog Writers Guild presents workshop: *Easy Way to Write 30 Poems in 30 Days with Tommy Twilite*. Part of the Word Fest. 12 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls. *Great Falls Word Fest*. Readings, Open Mic 1 p.m. Readings at Great Falls Harvest, 6:30 and 7:45 along with Exploded View performance at 6:30 in Harvest Avenue A storefront. Multiple venues, many artists presenting and opportunities to read your own work. See gawfest.org for schedule or pick up a program at the Shea.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"We Just Felt Like It."* Art reception, 2 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Charlie Shaw* art reception, 5 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Kindling, Perennial, Mineva, and Walmart Romeo*. Shoe-gaze, post-hardcore, indie, etc. All ages, substance-free space. 7 p.m. \$

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse at the Old Town Hall, Wendell: Season opener *Mamma's Marmalade* brings a fresh vibrancy to old traditions; from the blues-to Old Time, from gypsy jazz to bluegrass. A lively night out for music, fun and dance; always in support of a good cause. Open Mic begins at 7:30, sign up in advance online. Donation.

Montague Common Hall *Open Mic Night #17. Featuring Paul Mariani!* Big town performance art in a tiny village. Open mic in a beautiful space and friendly environment. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls. *Drew Patton's Hit Parade*, 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. *Greater Tuna*. Live theater, see review this issue. Last day. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Great Falls Word Fest* con-

cludes, 1 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett. *New Oil Paintings* by Lori Lynn Hoffer. Art reception for resident artist Hoffer 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: May Cheung, Nir Felder, Drew Yowell, The Greys. 7:30 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dynamo* (r&b) and *The Big Take-over* (ska). 8 p.m. \$



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**FRI 10/13 9:30
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& Friends**

**SAT 10/14 7pm
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**SUN. 10/15 9pm
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Dan St. John of Chena River Marblers holds a paper cover with a Tiger's Eye pattern.

MARBLERS from page B1

resurrected by Dan is the Tiger Eye effect. Dan was taught an interpretation of this technique, described in the 1852 fancy papers book, by Garret Dixon of Franklin, PA. The pattern does indeed look like many eyeballs complete with iris and pupil within a clear circle, and it involves the use of potassium hydroxide, a caustic substance that needs to be carefully handled.

I could have stayed in his studio for quite a while leafing through sheet after sheet of marbled papers, examples of various stunning techniques that managed to look antique and psychedelic at the same time, but Regina was ready to do a demonstration in the large marbling workshop at the rear of the addition, so I moved on.

We passed through a hallway lined with yards of marbled silk, and marbled hats, shirts, ties and scarves provided even more “eye candy.” Regina showed how the marbling stayed only on the surface of the cloth by turning over pieces to show the reverse side which was indeed different. Sometimes she will marble both sides of the fabric.

Other times she uses a patterned silk to make the other side more interesting, or a painted silk, and sometimes she uses snow dying to make a mottled effect on top of a printed pattern. To do this, dye-activated silk is scrunched and bunched into a basin and packed with snow topped by sprinkles of dye. The basin is wrapped in plastic and left to melt for a day, so that the dyes dribble and blend into the fabric in a pleasing natural way.

A display of decorated journals, pads, barrettes, and books beckoned as well. I couldn’t wait to see how this was actually done!

Regina has been marbling for 34 years. She saw a scrap of marbled paper while up in Alaska where she and Dan were village teachers for 16 years and vowed to find out how to do this craft. (Chena River is a river in Alaska.) Once back in the Valley, which she says is “a hotbed of bookmakers, writers, and printers,” she took a marbling workshop, and has not stopped her

exploration of this craft since, gradually drawing Dan into it as she went.

Nowadays, the couple dedicate themselves to passing down their knowledge of this lost art by giving classes and workshops to people, both at their studio and at museums and schools in other parts of the country.

Regina showed me a thick water bath filling a deep tray. The substance used to thicken the water, carrageenan, is widely used in the food industry to thicken, strengthen and stabilize liquids. It is made from seaweed. Next, she cleaned the surface by drawing strips of paper across it which soaked up old paint remnants from a previous batch and broke up the surface tension of the liquid.

The paints she uses are mostly heavy body acrylics made by Utrecht. Anything she can’t find, her husband Dan will make for her, but in the interest of efficiency, she finds that these particular ready-made acrylics are perfect for the job.

Next, she made three rows of drops from a paint bottle, which gradually spread out to a very thin film. At the very edges of the basin, she swiped with strips of paper to remove the surface tension of the uncovered liquid and get the paint film to spread completely across. She used black in this case, but it could be any color.

If the surface tension is not removed, there will be veins running through the pattern where the paint cannot cover the water entirely. (She calls these “worms.” When she makes her signature “party papers” which are marbled twice, she will leave the worms, since they get painted over: generally, any other time, she wants that effect of the unpainted paper showing through.)

Then, Regina went at it with various dots of purples, blues, and white. Drops spread and grew, magically, on the carrageenan’s surface. She took a long wooden board with wires sticking out of it and “wove” the drops into lines that zigzagged over the surface. Another board with fewer, staggered pins in it was drawn across and moved side to side at the same time, creating what is called a “bouquet” pattern, one of the more traditional and well known marbled effects.

Paper, like fabric, needs to be specially prepared for taking up this film of paint. Alum is used to prep the paper, otherwise the paint will rinse off. She took a sheet of this prepared paper and laid it on the surface briefly, then peeled it away and rinsed it in the sink. It was incredible to see all the paint lift off onto the surface perfectly, without dripping or shifting, and then remain intact under a stream of flowing water!

Chena River Marblers teach their craft at Snow Farm in Williamsburg, and at their home studios in Amherst. Contact Regina and Dan St. John at (413) 253-2835 or visit their website, chenarivermarblers.com, to learn more about their classes. Their products have been at the Shelburne Arts Coop in Shelburne Falls for many years now, as well as other stores regionally.



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My Second Idea: Powertown Rattlers

By DENIS BORDEAUX

GILL-MONTAGUE – Hold on. Hear me out.

The good qualities of the timber rattlesnake are many. Though their population is being threatened, the rattler has been here forever. They are totally indigenous to Massachusetts.

I would ask anyone who is squeamish about snakes to look past their prejudices and see their beautiful markings, and natural beauty.

They are not slithering marauders out looking for someone to bite, but are essential to our ecosystem. They kill rodents and mice that carry Lyme disease. If you’re an outdoor person, you’ve probably walked within yards – or even feet – of one, and never knew.

We have Rattlesnake Gutter Road in Leverett (notice it’s not named Rodent Road!), and the more educated people become, there will probably be a rattlesnake island on the Quabbin.

To help save this valuable species would be a worthy cause for any student body to undertake. It would

bring attention to their plight, and be a chance for students to make a *real* impact for decades to come.

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