



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 3

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 26, 2017

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Town Hall's Attention Shifting to Millers Falls

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard held its October 23 meeting in the community room at the Highland School Apartments in Millers Falls, the first meeting not to take place at town hall in Turners Falls in many years.

"I'd like to thank you on behalf of the people of Millers Falls for bringing your meeting to us," said village resident Peter Golrick during the public participation period. "Hopefully this is the first step in getting around."

Appropriately, the agenda focused heavily on issues related to the village of Millers Falls. Village resident Mike Naughton began the

meeting with a number of "public comments" related to the town's current plan for access to Dry Hill Cemetery, which is located east of the center of Millers Falls.

Town officials have previously expressed concern about the viability and cost of improvements to the portion of the town road that runs from Wendell Road through the property of Millers Falls resident James Senn to the cemetery.

Naughton noted that the plan to use a road owned by the Eversource power company for limited access has been called a "short term solution." "I would like to underline the 'short term' part of that," he said.

see MILLERS page A4

## A VERY BIGFOOT HALLOWEEN



NINA ROSSI PHOTOS

Jonathan Chappell, the creator of this seasonal Skeleton Crew Theater display on Route 2, drew his inspiration this year from the recent local shoot for the feature film, *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*. "I am recreating, in a fun way the excitement of the film that was shot in downtown Turners Falls," he told us, "and reminding people that there is still going to be a movie coming out, directed by a Turners Falls resident and graduate." Chappell, a film teacher at Turners Falls High School "with a passion for making film and making monsters," said that his students helped him set up the display, across the highway from Barton Cove in Gill. Chappell said writer-director Robert Krzykowski, a Montague native and TFHS grad, "did some amazing things, making his own movie with great stars and a great crew."

## THE BIG PICTURE

## Waste District Helps Trash Flow, Cash Flow



A decade in, Amy Donovan is the rookie at the Waste Management District.

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – This week I spoke with Amy Donovan, program director at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), at the District's Greenfield office.

The FCSWMD helps towns cut down on trash, contract with trash and sludge haulers, and send recyclables to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield. It also organizes collection of special waste, like mercury thermometers, lead batteries, and objects too bulky for curbside trash pickup.

Executive director Jan Ameen was working in the next room, and chimed in periodically to answer questions.

This interview has been edited substantially for clarity, mostly by reordering pieces of the conversation, and abridged to fit our pages.

**MR:** I'm just audio recording, is that OK?

**AD:** That's fine. Just don't take a picture of this mess!

We just had Bulky Waste Day on Saturday, and then this is all stuff from the Franklin County Fair. We had fly traps that just came in, a worm bin from the Academy of Learning, the office worm bin...

Here's my museum of ancient cellphones...

**MR:** How long have you been in this office?

**AD:** Ten years, and the District has been in this office 22 years or so. The solid waste district was formed in 1989. At that time, the DEP was going to be closing little, small town landfills that were deemed unsafe – almost every town around here had a small landfill where they would dump trash, and they were often unlined.

In the '80s and '90s, the DEP said, "No more of this, we're going to have larger regional landfills like Chicopee landfill, Northampton landfill, and we're going to take waste from other towns."

At that time it was kind of a foreign concept: "We're going to have to pay to get rid of trash? We'd better form a regional collective!" So they did. It was very grassroots, at the time.

**MR:** What, legally speaking, is the District?

**AD:** It's a municipality.

**JA:** We have enabling legislation that gives us all the rights of a municipal government.

**AD:** We don't get any money or support from the county or the state. We're completely supported by our 22 member towns.... We're the largest solid waste district in the state.

see TRASH page A6

## Welding Program to Expand at Tech

By LESLIE BROWN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Franklin County Technical School has received a state Workforce Skills Cabinet Grant in the unprecedented amount of \$495,000 to refurbish its welding and metal fabrication program. Garnered from a field of 177 applicants, the award was the second sizable one the school has received in the last four years. FCTS was one of 32 schools to be awarded on October 11 of this year.

The mission of the vocational school has a dual challenge: to provide a rigorous academic education while also providing technical training in state-of-the-art vocational skills. All this is provided in half the time, incurring the same staffing costs as a traditional high school, since students alternate a week in their shop program with a week in academics.

Staffing these classes and programs, managing the changing state and federal requirements for litera-



JON BANDER PHOTO

Senior Lynn Arsenault welds in a booth at the Technical School.

cy, and maintaining vocational programs current with industry standards costs money.

Grants and funding from industry partners help to meet this need. But grant writing consumes a lot of time; this latest one occupied many days of superintendent Richard J. Martin's time this past summer.

The grant application alone was many pages of detailed data on need and costs; letters of support from such allies as Greenfield Community College and the Franklin-Hampshire Regional Employment Board; and demonstration of in-kind contributions from the school itself.

see WELDING page A7

## First Responders Learn the Ropes

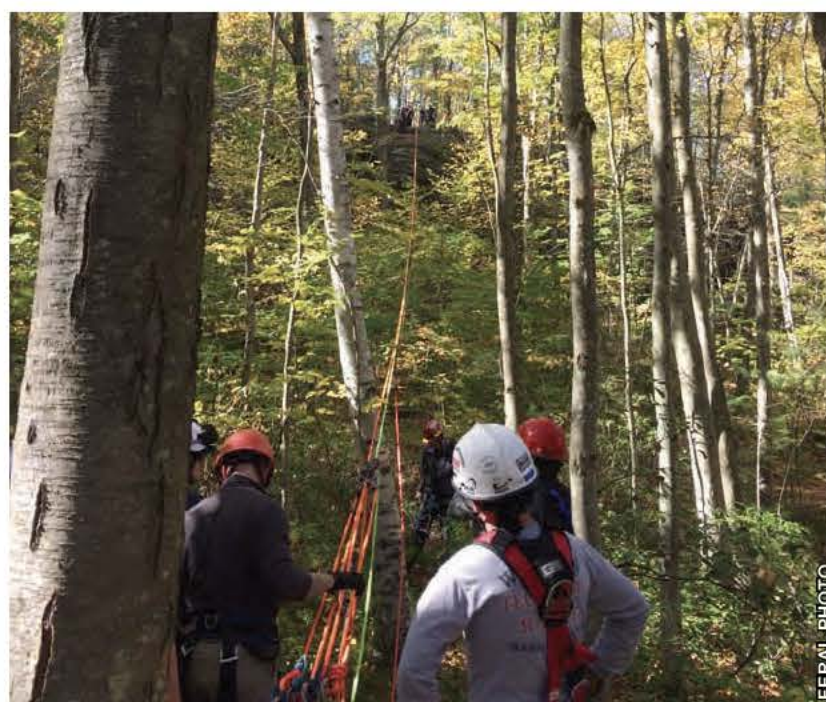
By SHEA FERAL

**MILLERS FALLS** – Firefighters from around the state met on Thursday to complete their final day of tactical rope rescue training. The group of 11 constructed and ran a high-line rescue system from the top of a rocky outcropping to the woods below just off Wendell Road in Millers Falls.

High-line rope rescue uses an intricate system of ropes anchored between two points to transfer a rescuer or victim from a high point, such as a cliff or tall building, to the ground below, or over an obstacle, like a river.

The training was offered and overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and its

see ROPES page A3



FERAL PHOTO

Theory into practice: firefighters learn to safely lower a stranded victim.



# The Montague Reporter

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## The Rag-Shag Parade

Trick-or-treating started in the 1930s, but before that, Halloween had emerged as a night of mischief. The **November 1, 1921** *Greenfield Recorder* describes “Bonfires, ringing church bells and at time a perfect bedlam of noise” in Turners Falls, comparing it with the night before the Fourth of July, the traditional local holiday of mob rule.

In 1924 in Greenfield, “householders are hunting for steps missing from their houses, trellises, door mats, piazza chairs and garbage cans,” while on the property of Thomas White, “the coping on the retaining wall was pried off and dumped on the sidewalk.”

Turners Falls appears to have innovated on **October 31, 1925**, “[t]he most unique, and certainly one of the most enjoyable occasions ever held for the children of Turners Falls,” when “thousands of people witnessed a fantastic parade” of “ghosts, witches, goblins, and other grotesque characters,” “headed by a rough rider on a pony.”

This culminated with costume judging, followed by an acrobat show, a projected movie, popcorn and a bonfire at Unity Park. The *Recorder* credited Playground Director Claude Hubbard with the idea.

**The 1928 parade was huge:**

Hallowe'en was celebrated here last evening by practically every child in town, at least it appeared as if no boy or girl old enough to walk was either in the parade or along the side lines. The school children met at their respective rooms at 5.45 and went from there to the corner of Seventh and L streets from where the parade was started promptly at 6 o'clock. The St. Mary's drum corps headed the parade and the line of march was down L street to Fourth street, thence to the Avenue, down the Avenue to Seventh street, from where they counter-marched up the Avenue to the Shea theatre.

There were at least 800 children in line and the costumes were of a great variety, many of them showing much originality and all combining to produce an atmosphere of weirdness. Hallowe'en is unquestionably children's night and the younger ones especially took keen delight in sending the cold chills of fear coursing up and down the spines of their elders as they bobbed up before them in the fantastic costumes and masked faces.

At the Shea theatre, the marchers entered the wide-flung doors and for 10 minutes or more filed to their places in the theatre. When all

had entered it was found that very nearly 1,000 children were in the house.... A cartoon was then thrown on the screen and then came one of the “Our Gang” comedies to the immense delight of the audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the antics of the little actors.

**There was no parade in 1929:**

The idea of a Halloween parade such as has been held here in previous years has this year been abandoned. When the idea was originally formulated, it was for the purpose of keeping the children off the street. In former years the parade was held and then the participants were the guests of Dennis J. Shea at a movie show. In this way the children were kept off the streets until well after nine o'clock.

The moving picture machine has since been moved, however, to the new Shea theatre and while this theatre has been offered, the regular show at 7:30 would make it necessary for the children to be out by that time. Vandalism would in no way be done away with if they were turned out into the street in organized groups at this hour, so the idea of the parade was wholly forsaken.

**And indeed, mischief ensued:**

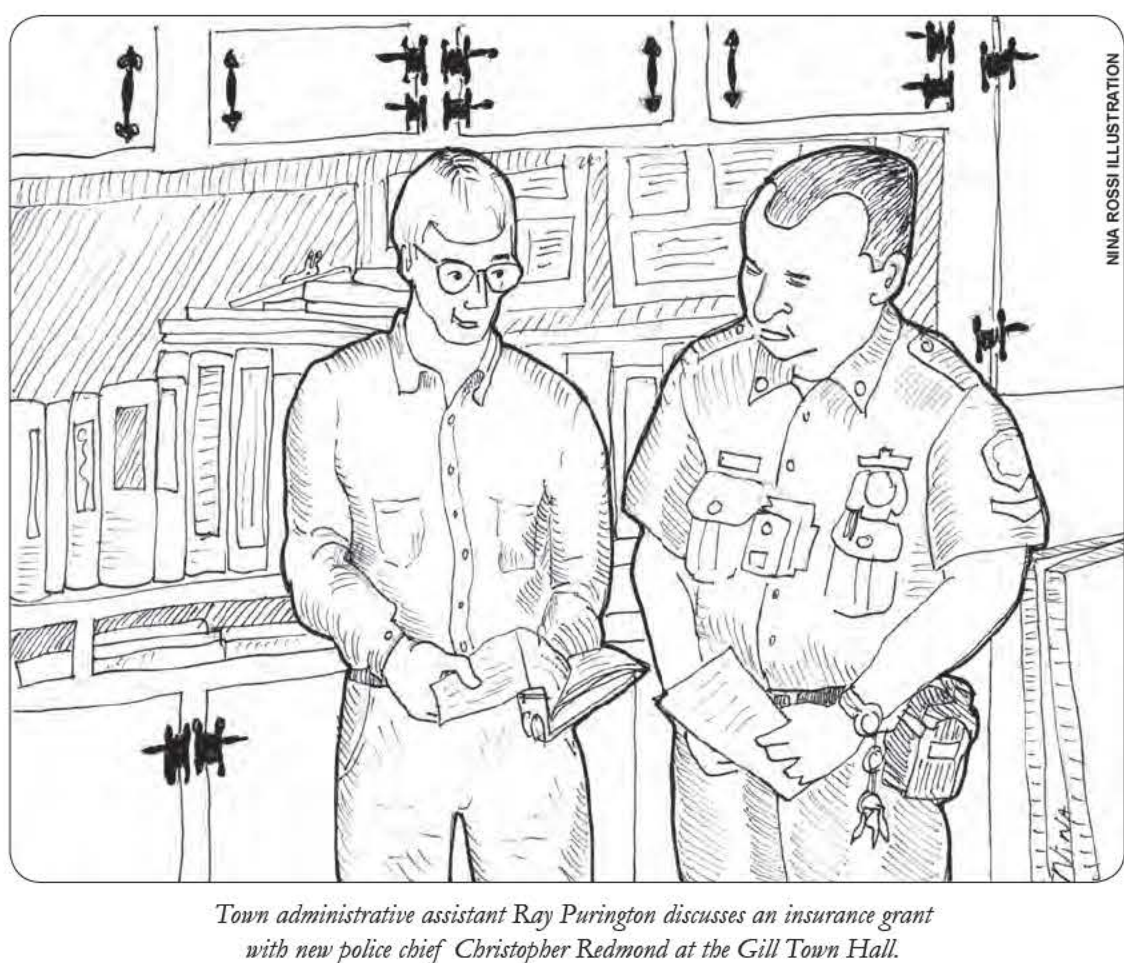
In spite of the drizzling rain the youngsters of this town observed Hallowe'en in the customary fashion. While the lower flat including Avenue A was rather quiet, it seemed that the younger element of the whole town moved up on the hills.

Hardly an ash-can on High street is in its usual place; and few and far between are the telephone poles that are not adorned by them. The large roller used for the tennis courts which had been moved half way down the hill several nights ago, was forced to the bottom of the hill and damaged. At least fifty to seventy-five youngsters, and older fellows plundered this section in a very noisy fashion. The front steps on the residences of Porter Farwell and Herbert W. Alvord were exchanged.

Most of the damage on the middle flat was done with old vegetables. At about 10:30 o'clock some daring merry-makers rang the bell on the Oakman school building....


**The November 5, 1941** *Turners Falls Herald* records a parade, “preceded by the high school band,” which “marched south on Avenue A to Seventh street, and counter-marched to the bridge.”

Best costume that year was a tie between Gladys Bowman of Third



Town administrative assistant Ray Purington discusses an insurance grant with new police chief Christopher Redmond at the Gill Town Hall.

Letters to



the Editors

## On “Word”

## The Judicial System

Thank you Paul Richmond for the Great Falls Word Festival and thanks to all the people who helped make this happen.

So happy to have this festival in Turners Falls. We visited all the venues: the Shea, the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant and Storefront, Loot and the Brick House, and were totally smitten by the creativity and generosity of the poets and the presentations. Truly a wonderful weekend filled with poetry and community celebrating community.

We’re looking forward to next year already!

Eileen Dowd & Jack Nelson  
Turners Falls

While I did have both high school and college courses involving our judicial system, I apparently missed something. What I seem to remember is that in the United States, folks are presumed innocent until being proven guilty beyond the shadow of a doubt by a judge or a jury of their peers.

Evidently the District Attorney and the State Police also suffer from the same delusion. The past cannot be changed nor subjectively interpreted beyond the obvious. Chief Chip Dodge was never criminally

charged in the past or in the present. Furthermore, if I am not mistaken yet again, he does have the full support of not only the Selectboard, but also the District Attorney and the State Police investigative team.

If another party has new, incriminating evidence, please enlighten everyone, thus casting the first stone, so to speak.

After all, justice embraces the facts!

Linda Ackerman  
Montague

## What’s In a Name?

Information regarding the Great Falls Festival (*Greenfield Recorder*, October 19) mentions that “Great Falls was the name of the village of Turners Falls in the precolonial [sic] era...”

Historical fact is at hand, and, correction is made to the above-mentioned quote.

The pre-colonial era in the US dates from 1607 to 1764. Any established village in our area did not exist at this time. The area (Turners Falls) during this period was merely a wilderness.

It is noteworthy that “the Town of Montague was never plotted out, but rather sprung up naturally as farmers sought a balance for land for farming and neighbors for safety.” The town (Montague) was incorporated in 1753. (Ref.: Internet: “A Very Brief History of Montague, Massachusetts.”)

Great Falls was merely a moniker for the location of the 30-foot high water fall that roared over the site that now stitches, Gill with Montague.

Turners Falls – the fall – was not

formerly named until 1831 when Professor Edward Hitchcock of Amherst College, Geologist to the State of Massachusetts, etc., visited the area on one of his geological tours. Please keep in mind that Hitchcock named the fall only. No established village existed at this time. (Ref.: “Final Report on the Geology of Massachusetts, Vol. 1”, *Scenographical Geology* pp. 275-277.)

Turners Falls came to be in 1868 when Alvah Crocker – Fitchburg, MA, paper and railroad magnate – formed a group of capitalists who came to the area and established the village of Turners Falls, in the Town of Montague. This in itself is the defining historical account of the village of Turners Falls. (Ref.: numerous accounts of Crocker’s endeavors and accomplishments are available via copious resources.)

Great Falls should *never be cited* in place of the established and only *true name* of the village:

TURNERS FALLS.

Ed Gregory  
Greenfield

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Maybe you can help out a campaign to support the **Franklin County Diaper Bank**. An informal group of friends and neighbors have heard the area diaper bank has been struggling to keep up with the needs of families in crisis, and have decided it will be helpful, and even sort of fun to go around talking with people about diapers and building a big collection drive.

No form of emergency aid from the government helps with diapers. Every diaper a parent struggling to make ends meet 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.

If you are interested in providing a collection site for diapers or volunteer in an upcoming drive please email [endlessdiapers@gmail.com](mailto:endlessdiapers@gmail.com) or call (413) 369-2428. You can follow the group on Facebook at "endlessdiapers" or visit [www.endlessdiapers.org](http://www.endlessdiapers.org).

"Power to the People: An Advocacy Workshop for **LGBTIQA Elders**" aims to educate, inspire, and connect you to a community of folks who want to make a difference together and will take place on Thursday, October 26, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at LifePath, 101 Munson Street, Suite 201, Greenfield.

There is no cost to attend. To register, visit [LifePathMA.org/RainbowElders](http://LifePathMA.org/RainbowElders) or call (413) 773-5555, ext. 2215.

**Suffering with stress?** Join Nancy Paglia in her informational session this Saturday, October 28, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the spacious community room at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls.

Paglia is a passionate therapist working with folks to reduce stress and achieve greater levels of optimal health and well-being through a variety of techniques. She will

be available for your questions, so feel free to drop in. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

Don't let stress ruin your life. Help is out there.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to participate in **free Halloween fun** on Saturday, October 28 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Carnegie Library in downtown Turners Falls will provide a safe environment for kids to make crafts, play spooky games and eat yummy snacks! Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

Peaceful Passage is holding a workshop "**Caring for Our Own After Death: Reclaiming a Loving Tradition.**" People have been caring for deceased loved ones at home for millennia. The experience, while sad, is ultimately healing and beautiful. Beginning the grieving process in the privacy of our homes allows for sharing and support on a deeper level.

This workshop is offered Sunday, October 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Diemand Farm, 126 Mormon Hollow Road in Millers Falls. Please contact Faith Diemand to register at (413) 522-8515. A donation will be accepted for Peg Lorenz.

The program will introduce you to home wakes and funerals. It will describe the enormous personal benefits that come with this profound moment in a family's life. For more information visit [www.peacefulpassageathome.com](http://www.peacefulpassageathome.com).

**The Sugarloaf String Band** will give a free performance at the Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls, on Tuesday, October 31, at 10 a.m.

Come channel your inner cowboy or cowgirl! Feel free to dress for the performance.

**Calling all Trick or Treaters** to downtown Turners Falls on Tuesday, October 31, between 3 to 5

p.m. Many local businesses and organizations, from town hall to Cumberland Farms, will be giving out sweet rewards.

And then, make your way to the Food City parking lot by 5 p.m. for the start of the **Rag Shag Parade** down Avenue A.

The parade dates back to the 1950s, or maybe even earlier. The Veterans Committee is looking into that, so if you have any info or old pictures please contact Matt at (413) 824-8298.

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans District will present on "**Exposures to Military Hazards**" from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1 at the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank.

As a veteran, you may have been exposed to a range of chemical, physical and environmental hazards during your military service. Stop by the presentation and learn about what programs and services may be available.

Franklin County's ultimate apple celebration, "**CiderDays**," returns the weekend of November 3 to 5, with over two days of orchard tours, cider making workshops and tastings, an apple festival, and much more. CiderDays has grown from humble roots into an internationally recognized event that draws visitors from the US, Canada, and Europe.

It features apple tastings, orchard tours, workshops on making sweet cider, cooking demonstrations, fermenting hard cider and more. Popular features of CiderDays include the world's longest-running hard cider tasting, the Cider Salon, held this year on Saturday afternoon under a tent at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

This is the first time CiderDays has crossed the river over to Turners Falls. Here, visitors come to taste ciders from local fermenters like West County Cider, Bear Swamp Orchard Cidery, and Headwater Cider, as well as from cider makers from all over the US and some ciders and perries from Canada, Spain, and the UK. The Salon features over 90 ciders.

There are many free and ticketed events spanning the county all weekend. Event schedule and tickets for tastings and workshops are available for sale online at [www.ciderday.org](http://www.ciderday.org).

Advance purchase is highly recommended, as venues sell out.

The **Dove of Peace Christmas Bazaar** returns Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church, located at 90 Seventh Street in Turners Falls.

There will be handmade crafts, including knitted scarves in TFHS colors, a multi-raffle, gift baskets, baked goods including homemade French meat pies and apple pies, attic treasures, a children's room, Christmas ornaments, and a visit from one of Santa's elves! Lunch will be available at the Christmas Cookie Café.

The First Congregational Church at 43 Silver Street, Greenfield is also holding their annual **Harvest and Craft Fair** on Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Crafters with specialty items, church raffle tables with gift cards from over 25 local businesses, themed basket raffles, plus Christmas tables. Luncheon is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

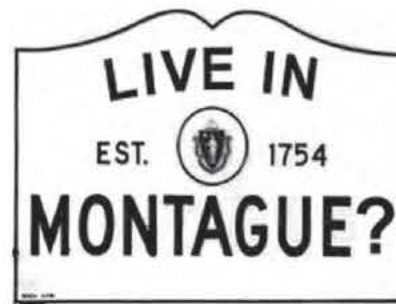
The Franklin County Hockey Association invites boys and girls to the Collins-Moylan Arena, 41 Barr Avenue in Greenfield, on Saturday, November 4 for a **Try Hockey For Free clinic**, as part of Come Play Hockey Month. Starting at 10:30 a.m., local youth ages 4 to 9 are encouraged to experience ice hockey for the first time and learn the basic skills in a fun, safe environment.

USA Hockey's Try Hockey program, with the support of the National Hockey League and NHL member clubs, is designed to provide youth hockey associations with a national platform to introduce new kids to the sport. To register for this event, visit [www.TryHockeyForFree.com](http://www.TryHockeyForFree.com).

The **Montague Democratic Town Committee** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 7 in the first floor meeting room of the town hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, in order to select five delegates to the senate district conference.

Only committee members may vote, and any registered delegate may run to be a delegate. For any questions, please email [jdipucchio@verizon.net](mailto:jdipucchio@verizon.net).

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**Great Falls Middle  
School Students  
of the Week**

week ending 10/20/2017:

**Grade 6**

Syna Katsoulis  
Ricky Pareja

**Grade 7**

Abigail Moore

**Grade 8**

Blake Pollard



Course instructor Mark McCabe,  
from the state Department of Fire Services.

**ROPES** from page A1  
instructor Mark McCabe.

In the eight-day intensive course, the firefighters first learned the equipment, mathematics, and safety concerns that would go into using a high-line to rescue an individual. They then put this knowledge to practical use in the final half of the course by using the rope system to safely transport their fellow trainees one by one.

Of the 11 firefighters attending the course, four were from the Turners Falls Fire Department. Firefighters who have completed these trainings often use the skills they have gained as part of a regional tactical rescue team.

According to their website, the Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team has been operational since 2014, and includes over 70 firefighters from around the region. This team is prepared to rescue victims caught in floods, confined spaces, in buildings or on cliffs, among other scenarios. The high-line is one of several techniques they can use for rescue.



Trainees took turns gearing up and helping each other descend through the canopy on the high line.

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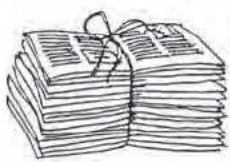
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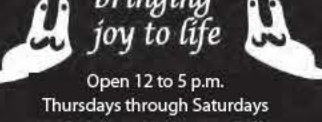
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## MILLERS from page A1

He went on to state that he hoped “no solution is dismissed because of perceived cost... I think that is a decision town meeting ought to be allowed to make.”

Town planner Walter Ramsey reviewed a number of projects his office has recently initiated that centered on Millers Falls. The first was an application submitted this past August to the National Park Service to declare the center of the village a Historic District. He stated that even though the application was still pending, the process had allowed the developers of the Powers Block in the village center to receive \$200,000 in historic tax credits.

Town administrator Steve Ellis asked if the state might place a sign on Route 2 noting that Millers is a historic district, to which Ramsey replied that a sign for the Element Brewery would be more likely.

Ramsey described a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts for a sculpture project. This would help fund sculptures, but also a planning process for the village similar to that which created the Turners Falls Master Plan.

Next, he discussed the Mormon Hollow Working Farm Preservation Project, a recently completed collaborative effort between Montague's conservation commission, Wendell, and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. The effort has preserved two farms in the eastern part of Millers Falls. The state grant funding the project has also provided \$30,000 to update the town's zoning bylaws.

Another project in Millers Falls involves land formerly owned by the International Paper Company along the Millers River. The town will apply for state funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to improve access to the Millers River for fishing and kayaking.

Ramsey updated the board on the

5-megawatt solar project on Millers Falls Road across from the airport on land owned by the Eversource power company. He said the project, slated to be completed in December, is on schedule.

Finally, there was a report by David Detmold and Michael Marcotrigiano of the town's tree committee. The committee is working on a state “Challenge Grant” to plant 32 trees in downtown Millers Falls.

Detmold said members of the tree committee had spent the past year “walking the streets of Millers Falls” with local residents. Many of the species planted in a recent project there were “not the best species,” and are dying.

Marcotrigiano of Montague Center, former director of the Smith College Botanical Garden, agreed. He said sugar maples planted in Millers were dying after 20 years of winter salt, and these trees “don't fit in their pots.”

The importation and sale of Norway maples, which have also been planted in the village, have recently been banned by the state. Marcotrigiano said he had a “big list” from Chicago of trees that would be more viable, the planting of which might also encourage people living in the neighborhood to be “more engaged.”

## Trash Changes

Jason O'Grady of Republic Services, which is responsible for trash and recycling collection in town, reported on his company's plan to continue with the four-day weekly schedule but move some streets on the schedule from Thursday to Friday.

The company had originally planned to move trash pickup in Montague to a five-day week, but found it difficult to find drivers willing to work that schedule. O'Grady told the board that the main prob-

lem, a spike in trash and recycling on Thursday, could be addressed by moving 17 streets, or portions of streets, from Thursday to Friday.

The company would send out a mail alert to affected residents, targeting the week of December 4 for the change. During the first two weeks, the company will still pick up trash and recycling at affected houses on Thursday, but leave a “sorry sticker” informing them of the revised schedule.

In response to a question from Ellis, O'Grady said Republic had assigned a new driver to the route who is a “very hard worker [and] very customer service driven.” The firm was also training a backup driver for the route.

Selectboard member Mike Nelson read a preliminary list of the streets and locations that would be changed. Chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested that Republic officials contact the local community access station, MCTV, to broadcast a public service announcement about the changes.

## Bureaucracy

The board approved a request of Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) to award the design for Phase 3 of the Turners Falls Avenue A Streetscape project to Berkshire Design Group. The project involves improvements from First to Third Street; further lighting improvements on Avenue A; and improvements to Spinner Park.

The project was bid at a “fixed price” of \$70,000, which will be financed by funds remaining from the FY'15 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The board executed a \$119,271 agreement between the town and FCRHRA for the “implementation and administration” of the FY'17 CDBG program. Ellis said that if the FCRHRA did not do this work,

it would consume virtually all of Ramsey's time.

The board also signed a letter to Mark Southard of the state Department of Housing and Community Development regarding his audit of the FY'15 CDBG program. Ellis reviewed some of the findings of the report, which he said “seemed like minor items.”

## Other Business

Ellis reported on changes in employee health insurance plans being implemented by Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The trust has been losing money for the past few years, primarily due to the increasing cost of prescription drugs, and has voted to increase copayments and deductibles starting next July.

Ellis focused on the process by which these changes would be discussed with public employees and their unions. According to administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz, the town will activate its local insurance advisory committee to discuss the changes. The issue will be on the October 30 selectboard agenda.

The board executed a \$13,550 agreement with the engineering firm Tighe & Bond for landfill monitoring services, and approved a request by highway superintendent Tom Bergeron to appoint Casey Dyer to the position of truck driver/laborer.

The board then returned to town hall in Turners Falls for a lengthy non-public executive session to discuss the “reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence of an individual, or the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual...”

The next scheduled board meeting will be on October 30, at 7 p.m. at the town hall.



## GUEST EDITORIAL

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

For many years politicians and sociologists have tried to find a solution to poverty, especially for those who seem trapped intergenerationally on welfare and in public housing. The theory was that these people had become dependent on the state and accustomed to being taken care of, and so did not have any motivation to get out of poverty through work and enterprise.

I would suggest another reason. Threats and intimidation on the part of welfare workers and housing managers, fear of destitution, starvation, homelessness that keeps people afraid of the consequences of increasing their income. In my opinion, the biggest obstacle for poor people who are living in stable public housing environments is the financial arrangement that requires them to face large increases in rent if their finances improve through work.

Consider the initial arrangement for anyone moving into housing subsidized by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is a federal program managed by the states and ultimately local management of individual housing projects. The standard for establishing rent is 30% of the family's gross income, which may be reduced slightly by certain kinds of expenses, such as medical costs.

This is fine for the family on welfare, or elders on Social Security –

but what if that family doesn't want to live forever in those housing units with that kind of limited income? What if they want to do better?

Sometimes people are down and out and are grateful initially just to have a decent, affordable place to live. Only, as time goes by, maybe they are not so happy with their lives the way they are. Maybe one of them decides to get an education. College can go on for several years, but it does eventually end.

Perhaps one or both have some little part-time jobs, and their rent was adjusted slightly to reflect this, but what happens when they get out into the real world and make real money? Is it a good idea to have that family's rent triple or quadruple within a month of that first paycheck?

And what kind of fear do you think people have, facing financial uncertainty, and how does that affect their decisions, and their ability to make decisions: keep that job, continue to educate their children, deal with the additional expenses that are inevitable when a person starts a new job?

No doubt many people have looked at this problem and felt frustrated, but think 'it's the way it is, you can't change it.' I think that we need to face this problem and solve it.

My suggestion is that there be a transition period that allows for a gradual increase in rent over a period of several years, that maintains the 30% income ceiling without re-

quiring that it be raised so abruptly to that level.

Tenants should be entitled to information regarding rent increases so they know what to expect going forward. This would alleviate the fear of uncertainty that comes with what should be a good thing, a new job with a good salary. That is success. That is a blessing. We should honor that with kindness and support.

There was a time when we talked about supporting families. This is one way to do that.

My recommendation would be for rent to increase by no more 3% to 7% per year for five years, followed by an evaluation of the family's situation, one that includes a social worker who would help the family look at their options and decide whether to stay in the housing project or move out to market-based rental units.

In the real world, when you rent an apartment, the rent does not go up abruptly by 200% without warning; you have a lease for a fixed period of time that guarantees the rent will stay the same and then negotiate any increases with the landlord after the lease is up. This allows for changes and mobility that people in public housing don't have.

If rent remains predictable and stable over time, while tenants work and gradually earn more, then they can save and maybe move to a better neighborhood, or even afford a home of their own one day. This is something no poor person can ever

hope for, especially if they live in subsidized housing.

Alternatively, perhaps rent could be adjusted to a more reasonable level if taxes and other deductions from a paycheck could be considered, and work expenses could be included as well – and if reviews of income were done annually, with no retroactive charges applied if the tenant earned additional money during the year. (At present, housing management can require immediate reporting of additional income and penalize tenants with retroactive charges should they fail to do this.)

Our current system undermines everything people try to do to improve their lives, and traps people in poverty forever. Allowing for a more humane system would help everyone, including taxpayers.

If people living in public housing could gradually earn their way out into the marketplace, then those apartments could become available to others in need. This is so much better than towns and communities having to constantly build more subsidized housing, and it serves the families that live in our towns because they get to have a better way of life and be contributing members of our communities.

*Ellen Blanchette lives in Greenfield, and is a frequent contributor to the Montague Reporter. The views expressed here are her own.*

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Vets: Town Flag Placement Disrespectful, Unlawful

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

The first order of business on the agenda of the October 18 Wendell selectboard meeting was dog licensing. As of October 5, 22 or 23 unlicensed dogs have been found in town.

The selectboard members urge these dog owners to mail proof of vaccination and to come in to pick up a license. The owners will be charged a \$7 fee, and must take action to license their dogs before the town takes them to court.

Ted Lewis and Harry Williston appeared before the selectboard to complain about the flag situation in town. Their main complaint was that the town had begun to fly the new Wendell town flag underneath the American flag on the veterans' flagpole in town.

Lewis and Williston, both veterans, said they found this to be a very disrespectful act, and proved that, though it was unknown by the selectboard, it is against the law to fly any flag on a veterans' flagpole which is not the American flag, or the POW and MIA flags.

That being said, the selectboard was forced to surrender and must find a new place for their new flag.

Williston and Lewis were also interested in discussing the flags that hang from the telephone poles in town, one of which belonged to Williston who said he was distressed by its recent disappearance.

Christine Heard, selectboard chair, pointed out a properly folded flag sitting atop a bookshelf, declaring it had fallen down. She continued to point out that the flags that hang in town had originated as a volunteer effort, but have since become a tiresome town duty that they do not have the budget to maintain. She suggested that a volunteer committee should form to raise money to keep the flags up and maintained.

Both Lewis and Williston agreed to advise the committee, but neither wanted to be responsible for it, and voiced the opinion that "it's time for the young people to step up." The veterans and the selectboard agreed to revisit this concern in January, and to try to create a flag advisory committee in the meantime.

## Information Security

Lisa Hoag from the Wendell Historical Society appeared at the meeting to attempt to answer questions that the selectboard had formulated about the proposed Tribal Ceremonial Stone Landscapes preservation project, which will locate and preserve important tribal ceremonial spaces and rock formations.

Before Hoag arrived, selectboard member Dan Keller pointed out a clause in the proposal that declared that the location of the historic ceremonial sites not become a matter of public record. However, since the board would need to discuss

the locations of these sites, and all meeting minutes become public record, he advised that the clause be removed or altered so the proposal could be signed allowing the project to move forward.

Hoag agreed to discuss these changes with the Historical Society and return with an edited version to have signed.

## Other Business

Greg Garrison and others from Northeast Solar came before the selectboard to show maps of areas they had surveyed for use as a solar field. This small field would power 20 homes, and would be publicly owned, and good for at least 30 years.

The selectboard said they agree that this solar field is a good idea, but that they were wary of accumulating more public land. Much discussion was had about the division of boundaries in the lot which was surveyed, and the selectboard said they would like to sell the remaining land back as a building lot for some extra revenue streams.

The board discussed and agreed upon the town hall as the location for an upcoming veterans' presentation.

They agreed to purchase a new \$100 picnic table for the town common, and they celebrated the recent sale of their plow and tow truck to the town of Orange.

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Well Still An Unknown Factor

By MARK HUDYMA

Among the documents distributed to selectmen at the beginning of their meeting Monday night, one raised chuckles from all three: a list of the 79 properties owned by the town.

"We should go through them, rate their importance," said chair Jacob Smith. "It's the ones where we don't understand why we have them." The largest is 118 acres, conserved with Mt. Grace Land Trust.

The selectboard also received news about a West Main Street property. The lot in question has a well in place, but the realtor is unsure of the location, or condition, of the well.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith communicated that the realtor would convey any questions they have to the seller, but the town would be responsible for any testing or improvements to the well.

Selectboard member William Bembury asked: "Could it be used commercially? I don't think so, but could it? And how?"

"Even if it's fully functional,"

Jacob Smith asked, "can we convert it to a public water supply? What would the cost be to evaluate that?"

"Are we willing to purchase the property to slow down the clock?" asked selectboard member Scott Bastarache. "If we buy it and the well is not viable, we [could] put it back on the market."

"If we don't have a reason... I don't feel like that's the right place to be, to propose that to the public," Jacob Smith countered.

Bryan Smith said he will forward the selectboard's questions to the property owner.

## Energy Savings

Zach Holt from Hampshire Power, a subsidiary of the Hampshire Regional Council of Governments, came to the selectboard to offer different schemes for Erving to save on municipal electricity costs through bulk purchasing and green energy subsidies.

Under the first option, the town would purchase power directly from the Hampshire Power consortium,

at a rate, Holt said, that has beat the standard market rate for the last six years.

Jacob Smith interjected that Erving was previously part of Hampshire Power, and "every year we were losing, versus standard rate."

Another option allowed the town to buy Net Metering Energy Credits through a state subsidy program at a 15% discount from market rate. "It's able to cover all your usage," Holt said. "It's supporting a dairy farm in Granville." The farm in question is Rockwood Farms. "If you're going to add solar in the future that's okay, we do ask that you let us know ahead of time," Holt concluded.

Selectboard members unanimously agreed to move on without taking any action. "That was a little lot, all at once," Jacob Smith observed.

Bryan Smith briefed the board on the Green Communities grant, and stated that the "project that seems to have the most support moving forward is the police station – all the lights and fixtures, inside and out." Energy Conservation Inc. is the con-



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- ✓ Practice indoor fire safety and check your smoke detectors.
- ✓ Keep pets in a separate room, away from the front door.
- ✓ Remind trick-or-treaters to walk, not run, between houses and to stay on lighted sidewalks and pathways.

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## LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING

Leverett Conservation Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on November 6, 2017 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by the Friends of Leverett Pond for installation of an access road to facilitate dam repair. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org).

## NOTICE OF INTENT to apply for EPA Cleanup Grant

The Town of Montague, through its Planning and Conservation Department, intends to submit a proposal for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to conduct cleanup activities at the vacant mill at 20 Canal Road in Turners Falls (Former Strathmore Mill).

A public information session will be held as part of the Montague Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, November 6 at 7:01 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall Second Floor Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to receive public comment and to discuss the draft proposal and draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA). Public comments may also be submitted via email to [planner@montague-ma.gov](mailto:planner@montague-ma.gov) no later than Wednesday, November 8 at 4 p.m.

Copies of the draft proposal ABCA will be available on or before October 27 at [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov), and at the Montague Planning Office at Town Hall during regular business hours, Mondays through Thursdays.

tractor chosen by National Grid for the project. Other improvements will be added to the grant as they are ready.

Bryan Smith explained that the process takes "four to five months." "If you're doing several similar projects, you bundle them together," he explained. "Light sensors, motion sensors, envelope, HVAC."

The board moved to allow Jacob Smith to sign, in place of CEO, on the contract to initiate the grant.

## Other Business

A request came from fire chief Philip Wonkka to allow him to dispose of outdated gear and exercise equipment. "Some of it is still in good shape and can be used for training and non-fire use. There's been some cleaning going on. This is the old gear that's been floating

around," Jacob Smith explained. He added that the department has "around 20 to 25 sets of functional gear."

"I think this is also a request, procedurally, to dispose of the gear as it becomes non-compliant in the future," said Bastarache.

Wonkka also requested cell-phones for full-time fire employees, who will use them to contact the chief, as well as use smartphones for gear checks and inventory. Both requests were approved.

Jenn Eichorn was appointed to fill a vacant spot on the school committee until May 8. Erik Semb, school committee chairman, quipped that this was "the best way to do it, because you sit on it for a few months, and then decide 'do I really want to do this?'"

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TRASH from page A1

**MR:** So initially, it was a pool for hauling costs?

**AD:** Yes. Jan is wonderful with those hauling contracts. She goes out to bid, and she gets the lowest price because we have all the power of these 22 towns, rather than just, say, the town of Bernardston going out to bid for itself.

**MR:** There are four towns in the county that aren't part of the District, and three are on the edges of the county: Monroe, Ashfield and Shutesbury. Are they connected with other systems?

**AD:** Ashfield is part of the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, which makes sense for them because they're closer to their activities. They're a 10-town solid waste district. Monroe is part of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District.

And Shutesbury just has their own program – they're the only town in the region that has a recycling coordinator, paid for just a few hours a week....

**MR:** And then there's Greenfield.

**AD:** Greenfield was a member until about 2000, and they just opted out. They said, "we have our own DPW, and we can manage all these things."

But we have worked well with Greenfield in the past few years on initiatives like the pellet bag recycling program, the agricultural plastics recycling program – like hay bales.

[Amy shows me photos of the recycling stations the District provides to the Franklin County Fair.]

**MR:** I've seen these bins, I think, at Pumpkinfest, and other events. Is the fair the only thing you guys do the bigger service for?

**AD:** We loan the bins out to 35 events a year: Pumpkinfest, Scarecrow in the Park.... [The fair] is the only one where I'm there the whole time. The other events usually have a dedicated volunteer coordinator who picks up the bins, manages the event, and brings the bins back... Mostly with events I'm just reaching out, telling them how to do it....

**MR:** Where do you tend to pull volunteers from?

**AD:** Mostly high schools. My superstar school is Mahar High School in Orange... they're hard working, polite, and responsible. I also have been getting great volunteers from Greenfield High School in the last couple of years...

We're doing really well in this region, on waste. And I have this really cool map...

[Amy shows me a map of Massachusetts that is almost entirely green on the upper left side, and mostly red on the right.]

**MR:** "How Much Trash Did We Throw Out In 2015?"

**AD:** This map measures pounds of trash per household per year. Who wins the map? We do...

The towns that are [cross-hatched] are towns that have to pay for trash stickers, or trash bags. Residents of Montague have to pay \$3 per bag. Part of the reason the DEP made this map is to show that these systems work.

All of our towns that have pay-as-you-throw [PAYT] are in the green.... In our towns, we have mostly PAYT, they have less pounds per household per year because we're having residents use a town trash bag.

These [other] towns might have unlimited, free trash, so there's no incentive for anybody to make less trash....

If you look at Conway, Heath, and Rowe, they stand out as not crossed out, and not green. Those are the three towns in our network that didn't have PAYT [in 2015].

What's the big difference between Colrain and its neighbor Heath, or Charlemont and its neighbor Rowe? These guys have unlimited trash, and these guys have PAYT.

**MR:** When did the trash sticker programs initially go into place?

**JA:** Many of them did it back in the '90s, during the landfill crisis, when the price of trash went up.

**MR:** Are we pretty sure that in towns where there's a fee, there's not just more trash accumulating in people's basements and attics?

**AD:** We're pretty certain that's not happening, because the transfer stations in these towns have a lot of different options for things. Many of them have a place to put scrap metal, or a put 'n' take swap shed. They have programs for recycling batteries, a place to put tires and propane tanks, and all these different waste streams.

We now have seven composting programs in the county: Northfield, Wendell, New Salem, Leverett, Whately, Colrain, and Orange.

**MR:** And composting's free? Where does all the compost end up?

**AD:** Composting's free, and recycling's free.

Out of the seven programs, three go to Martin's Farm, three go to Clearview Composting in Orange – a very small-scale but excellent facility – and Whately's goes to Bear Path Farm....

I organize pickups for all of these different materials: fluorescent light bulbs, electronics, tires. I arrange what we call "milk run pickups," so a company that comes from eastern Mass to pick up a waste stream such as tires, I don't just have them go to one station and leave with an empty truck – they leave with a brimming truck back to eastern Mass, and then they send us the bill.

And our excellent bookkeeper Susan [Conger] is divvying up the bill accordingly. We tack on a \$5 administrative fee.

[Amy shows me an invoice.]

**MR:** Leverett's got 135 one-pound propane tanks, and six 20-pound propane tanks...

**AD:** There's a lot of camping going on!

**MR:** So, looking at the economics of recycling, I see that some of the larger tanks are free, one-pound tanks are a buck each – but those big batteries with lead in them, they'll pay the consumer to bring them in. How many things are on one or the other side of that equation?

**AD:** The Call to Recycle program, which is excellent, is where we send most of our rechargeable batteries and cellphones. It's sponsored by the companies that manufacture the batteries, and it's a perfect example of extended producer responsibility – "EPR."

**MR:** For the battery manufacturers, is it legislative, or totally voluntary?

**AD:** I think this one is voluntary. But each state can enact legislation to get an electronics program – you can look at [massrecycle.org](http://massrecycle.org), they have a cool little chart of the good and bad news about EPR programs in the state.

Within the past few years there've been attempts to start EPR programs for electronics and for paint, which have both not worked for whatever reason.

**MR:** What goes to China, or overseas, these days?

**AD:** At the Springfield MRF.... The only thing that we were sending to China, for many years, was bulky rigid plastic. We were collecting toys, hangers, plant pots.

But now, China has closed its borders to imports of waste. It's called the National Sword – last time they did this they called it the Green Fence.

They're saying, okay, enough: the things the US is sending us are often contaminated; there's often hazardous waste in there.

Not from us – we were sending perfectly baled stuff; our programs are very good.

**MR:** But you do hear horror stories of what ends up in rural China.

**AD:** So now they've said no, which is probably a good thing, because we need to be processing this material domestically. Because so much stuff was going to China, and because of the prevalence of single-stream recycling, a lot of domestic facilities closed; and the jobs went overseas.

This place in Fitchburg, it's called Newark Mills: the crowning achievement of the Springfield MRF program was that all our paper and cardboard went from Springfield to Fitchburg.



*Readers are encouraged to imagine that this map is red, grey, and green, and that the overall greenest area, corresponding with the least household trash, is where we live. The reddest patches are around Aganam, Andover, and Brockton – all areas where unlimited trash pickup is more prevalent, Donovan said, but also, perhaps not by coincidence, areas where trash-incinerating energy plants are located.*

**MR:** They were re-pulping it?

**AD:** And making it into board games for Milton-Bradley.

I've been at conferences where the owner of Newark Mills was up there in tears, saying his facility has been ruined by single-stream recycling: glass gets rolled into the paper, and damages their equipment, and they also get plastic bags... Newark Mills said, "we're not accepting any more municipal recycling. It's over."

My whole theory is that domestic markets have been really harmed by single-stream recycling – which we don't do in western Mass, really – and by factories closing and going overseas, and so now we don't have a lot of domestic outlets for this material.

**MR:** When you see trucks delivering manufactured goods coming into our county, do you just see more material coming in for you to deal with?

**AD:** I go into a place like a dollar store, and look around and think, "all these things are going to end up in a landfill."

The prevalence of shopping, the higher incomes, the free trash [pickup], the proximity to waste incinerators – there's a lot that goes into this [indicates the red parts of eastern Massachusetts on the map].

**MR:** To some degree, the public work around materials diversion is education. And to some degree it's helping organize, pool, and facilitate, where an economy of scale would help accomplish the sufficient material incentive to do something.

**AD:** Right. Five towns couldn't support this organization, but 22 towns can support it just enough to make these programs possible.

**MR:** But there's a third thing – which I see reflected in this map, which shows how much PAYT serves to reduce the amount of trash – which is that taking things from a townwide expense, a "taxpayer" pooled expense, and making it an individual consumer expense, has a net effect of reduction.

But, when we're pushing those costs onto individuals, living in a society like ours, where the money we start out with is very uneven...

I live in downtown Turners Falls, and I see a lot of mattresses in the alleys. And that's the kind of thing that makes me really wonder about some of the dynamics of making people pay to get rid of their trash.

Is that, in some circumstances, increasing the number of tires that might be turning up in weird places?

**AD:** It might be.

But if you look at it like a utility – if you use a lot of water or electricity in your house, you're paying more; or if you're conservation-minded.... We're treating bag trash like that: you make more, you pay more....

It's hard for a town like Montague. They have multi-family apartments, and it's the general policy of many municipalities that dwellings with three or more units need a dumpster. You live in an apartment, you have

a dumpster, you have an old mattress you've got to get out for whatever reason – now it's sitting out there.

They could bring it to the transfer station and pay. But it's tough.

**MR:** Not everyone's got a car, let alone a truck.

**AD:** The DEP knows about this issue. And it's a long story, but part of the Recycling Dividends Program is that they give money back to towns for offering certain programs. Our towns do pretty well in this because our transfer stations have a receptacle, or program to handle all these different waste streams, so they get back money.

One of the check boxes on this form is putting a message on your [town] website about how residents can get rid of bulky waste, so that they don't end up littered on the side of the road or dumped in natural areas....

Bulky Waste Day, which we just had, is open to everybody in our district. We call it "Clean Sweep" for a reason...

**MR:** Hauling stuff out very quickly.

**AD:** In an hour, and with a borrowed truck, a homeowner can get all their stuff cleaned out.

We try to make the fees as low as possible, but we do have to cover our costs, because the other part of the problem is that this stuff is really expensive to manage. At one point we were being charged \$25 a mattress; Jan is a great negotiator, and was able to get rid of that fee, and now we charge \$15 per mattress.

**MR:** Essentially a hauling services fee.

**AD:** Yeah. We have to pay for it, per pound. For Bulky Waste Day, we have three dumpsters delivered to our site: one is for scrap metal, and the other two are for bulky trash – it goes to a landfill. The scrap metal offsets some of the cost of holding this collection.

**MR:** So we are still filling landfills, they're just larger, regional, better-regulated, lined...

**AD:** But we're really separating out what we can, out of that load, for recycling.

Montague, for example, just had a pickup of freon. The company that comes to remove the freon from refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers just came: a resident comes in with a refrigerator, [the transfer station] takes a little money for it, and I have the company come with their machine and suck out the freon, and take it back to their headquarters in Mansfield.

Now the town can load it into their scrap-metal dumpster and send it off to WTE, and make a little money, which covers the cost of the freon removal....

We do 100 pickups like this per year, and our only extra charge is that \$5 administrative fee.

**MR:** You're not really in a direct position to affect any of the legislation that might create some of these incentives, upstream.

**AD:** There's only so much you even have time for.

Jan used to be the president of MassRecycle, which is the statewide advocacy organization – they do a little bit of lobbying; they give awards.... They really want us to help out more with these issues, but I personally don't have any extra time.

We support these programs by participating in them, and by educating towns about them. But there's only so much you can do. Most towns, cities, states, they don't prioritize these activities.

**MR:** It's an afterthought.

**AD:** These little towns have a transfer station attendant or two, who works two days a week – some of them one day–and that person might not have an office, besides the shed at the transfer station....

If you go to the Wendell transfer station on a Saturday morning, it's a really happening, fabulous place. It's like the town center! People are having great conversations, and swapping goods... Same with Montague transfer station, but it has more of a city feel.

And the Leverett transfer station is the best...



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WELDING from page A1

The refurbishment of the welding and metal fabrication shop will include the creation of an additional 800 square feet, built by students, and a new ventilation system to be installed by the school’s maintenance department. Several new machines, including computer numeric control (CNC) run presses, punches, and welding devices, will fill this enlarged shop space and bring student training up to industry standards.

Stepping into the current shop draws one into a beehive of activity. Students are hammering molten metal, sparks fly, and metal screeches in the cutter.

The need for increased space is self-evident: There is little walking space between machines, and movement is restricted by the necessary attention to safety.

No less important to issues of safety and comfort will be the installation of a new recirculating air system, which will not just vent air but keep fresh air coming in, and reduce the heat loss caused by the current system.

According to instructor Jesse Edwards, a 2005 graduate of the welding program himself, the acquisition of equipment with CNC and some robotics will bring students up to speed

with equipment in current use in the industry. For example, the current iron-working station, which shears, punches, and bends metal, will be replaced with a machine with multiple stations for each function, thus allowing the operator to save the time currently required to take down and set up for each function. The new machine will readily accommodate for a variety of metal stock sizes.

But, he emphasized strongly, while the CNC function facilitates work (for instance, setting the roller for the size of the metal), the operator still runs the equipment, and must be knowledgeable about how a given machine should be running in order to make needed adjustments.

And it is this ability to operate welding and metal fabrication equipment that draws students to the trade. There will always be the opportunity for hands-on work.

Jared Taylor, a program senior, chose the shop as a freshman because “the work is unique with so many options for employment.” Jared loves stick welding, also known as shielded metal arc welding, a manual process which uses a consumable electrode covered with a flux to lay the weld. He wants to be a pipe fitter, and notes that any place that you build will involve welders.



Shop instructor Lorin Burrows stands outside the shop in the footprint of the proposed addition.

Senior Kaylee Jackson loves the uniqueness of the shop and the sparks and excitement. She looks forward to joining the union for the job opportunities it can support.

This expansion and shop refurbishment will not be accomplished without challenges. State funding requires in-kind contributions from the participating school. In this case, the school will provide the materials and labor for the addition and the new air system. Students from several programs will be very involved in the construction phase.

Despite the fact that this all means that construction must be accomplished during the school year while still continuing to provide student instruction, Edwards and his instructional partner Lorin Burrows are excited at what the future will be for their shop program and for the future of their students. Burrows comments that it is projected that “by 2026, there will be 300,000 jobs available” nationwide in the field.

In 2013, the school also garnered a \$500,000 state grant, matched with \$217,000 of in-kind funding from industry partners, to refurbish the machine technology program. This shop, which previously housed a fleet of student-run lathes and cutting tools, now uses student-run CNC equipment to accomplish the same tasks.

In addition to increased student enroll-

ment in the shop and a higher rate of student employment placements, the program, in conjunction with GCC, has also successfully trained over 100 adult workers with new skills which allowed them to rejoin the workforce.

“We will work with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, Greenfield Community College and industry partners to enhance students’ 21st century skills and to provide a pathway in our adult program for underemployed and displaced workers. We can close the skills gap and produce students who are ready for the world of work,” enthused superintendent Martin.

Expansion in the world of computer programming dominates almost all aspects of modern life: engineering, construction, industry, medicine and communication, to name a few. In the setting of the vocational school, all vocational instruction is impacted by the changes computerized equipment has brought.

This, in turn, has changed the image of technical education. Once the poor relation of the academic high school, and seen as the only option for students drawn to “hands-on” work, technical education now offers a direct line to viable employment for students and adults alike.

This new vision gives fresh meaning to “lifelong learning.”



Sophomore Nate Holden does the layout for his next project, a metal scoop.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# State Holds Sheffield At “Level 3” Over One Absent Student

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – At Tuesday night’s school committee meeting, superintendent Michael Sullivan touched on the results of statewide standardized tests, which were released last night. “The detailed data we just received ourselves,” Sullivan said, adding that in-depth review would come at a future meeting.

At the grades 3-8 level, the previous MCAS and PARCC tests have been replaced with a “Next-Generation MCAS.” Fewer students statewide are judged as proficient.

“They’re saying, ‘we want to be competitive with the world, and we want kids going to college and careers highly ready for our complex global society, and therefore we’re raising the bar,’” Sullivan said. “[But] you can’t really compare this year’s performance with last year’s.”

In terms of the state’s “accountability” system, in which schools and districts are assigned ratings from 1 to 5, elementary and middle schools are being “held harmless” for their results – unless fewer than 90% of students in any given “sub-group” took any given section of the test.

At Sheffield, 96% of students took the English Language Arts test, but only 23 of the 26 students classified as “Hispanic/Latino,” or 88.5%, took it, so the school will automatically be held at Level 3, where it has been in previous years.

Sullivan also said the district was applying for an Efficiency and Re-

gionalization grant from the office of the governor, to investigate the feasibility of “some form of shared staff, services, or programs” with the Franklin County Technical School.

**Plans and Resolutions**

Sheffield principal Melissa Pitrat and assistant principal Christine Limoges, and Turners Falls High School principal Annie Leonard, gave presentations about their respective school improvement plans.

Pitrat and Limoges spoke about supporting more rigorous teaching standards, and meeting with teachers more frequently. Pitrat also described building relationships with parents.

“We’ve gotten some more feedback from our school committee members, but also families, that our communication really wasn’t consistent,” she said. “We’ve been working really hard at implementing both curricular information, that gets shared more regularly to families, as well as more timely information from teachers.”

This includes increased use of the Remind smartphone app. Lesley Cogswell, a parent at the school as well as a Montague school committee member, told them the app has been “really life-changing.”

Leonard discussed changes made in the wake of a Safe and Supportive Schools review, including streamlining communications about absence and tardiness, so that a small core of students with “chronic attendance issues” can be supported.

Teachers and students have also

co-developed “classroom norms” schoolwide this year, which helps create consistency and predictability, supporting “kids who have experienced trauma or toxic stress” in learning. “In reality, it’s a sizeable proportion of our population who have some level of toxic stress or trauma history,” Leonard said. “The practices are good for all kids.”

She added that the rollout of Chromebooks “has been a big help,” and that teachers have recently painted the staff lounge sky blue and installed a hammock.

The committee spent time discussing seven resolutions that will be brought before the Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference next month. Jane Oakes is the district’s official delegate.

They directed Oakes to vote in favor of six: calling on the state to enact the recommendations of the 2015 Foundation Budget Review Commission; supporting the ACA’s Medicaid expansion; supporting special ed circuit-breaker reform; barring DESE from dipping into federal money for its own costs; supporting a renewed attempt to force the state to properly fund public schools with a lawsuit; and opposing the use of state funds for expanding private schools.

The one they did not support, submitted by the Framingham school committee, called for the Chapter 70 funding enrollment deadline to be pushed back to mid-March. “I’m not really clear why they think that would help,” Oakes said. The reso-

lution appeared to be geared toward larger districts, such as Framingham, which could grow by over 100 students in a given year, and had to do with reimbursement from a proposed Unfunded Student Reserve Fund. The committee felt the change would only make the budget cycle more challenging for small districts like Gill-Montague, with no benefit.

**Other Business**

The meeting was preceded by the first meeting of the taskforce to select a new Turners Falls High School logo. Nancy Perry, Thomasina Hall, Chad Cadran, Mike Mackin, Betsy Laczynski, Elyssa Serrilli, Rick Sawicki, Alana Martineau, Corey Martineau, Christine Bates, and Tupper Brown were in attendance. They discussed the taskforce’s charge with the school committee, then went to another meeting room to meet each other and nominate a chair.

During public comment, Everett Smith of Montague urged the committee to suspend the process of selecting a new team name, which until February had been the Turners Falls Indians, since the district was found to owe the state money on overbilled Medicaid reimbursements.

“I for one will be against the whole thing unless this is tabled, because you’re putting a big burden on the taxpayers of the community,” Smith, who had also spoken on record opposing the name change before the Medicaid news came out, told them. “These small towns are hurting.”

Business director Joanne Blier relayed a report from facilities manager Jim Huber, who advised that the oil tanks buried at the Sheffield and Hillcrest schools be replaced, one per year, at an estimated cost of \$250,000 per tank. “That’s really being handled by [Montague highway superintendent] Tom Bergeron,” Blier said. “The regulations didn’t require us to do them as immediately as we’d initially thought.”

Sullivan shared letters from the Amherst and Northampton school committees urging the state to deny a new request from the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School to expand its cap from 584 to 1,036 students. “I think it’s important to be part of this process, and for the powers-that-be to hear from us, because we’re so directly impacted,” said Christina Postera. The committee asked Sullivan to draft a letter, and Cassie Damkoehler and Oakes both said they would like to be involved.

After April Reipold’s resignation from the subcommittee that negotiates with custodial employees, Shawn Hubert was unanimously appointed to fill the vacancy, and Damkoehler was made its chair. “Look how far I’ve come,” Damkoehler, who joined the school committee this spring, joked.

The committee approved the district’s strategic plan, as written by the management team.

The next school committee meeting will be held November 14 at the high school.

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# October 28: Guests From Coal Country

LEVERETT – The Leverett Alliance is hosting a dozen Kentuckians from October 27 to 29 in an event called Hands Across the Hills, aimed at finding common ground and common goals.

A full day of public events Saturday, October 28 will include a Community Forum from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Leverett Elementary School. The morning includes an opportunity to meet and speak directly with the Kentuckians. The

Leverett Community Chorus will perform, followed by community potluck lunch at noon.

The public evening on October 28 includes a potluck supper, contra dancing and shape-note singing at the Montague Common Hall. Dance tickets are \$10, available at Leverett Coop and Leverett Library.

Both the Leverett and Kentucky groups hope that their experience may inspire similar efforts elsewhere to build bridges of understanding.





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The exchange has been established by a partnership between the Leverett Alliance and the Whitesburg, Kentucky-based organization Appalshop.

# November 5: College Financial Aid Info

TURNERS FALLS – Planning on going to college in 2017-2018? Then don't miss FAFSA Day Massachusetts – a free event where students and families can get help filling the FAFSA, which is a federally required form for all students seeking financial aid.

At FAFSA Day Massachusetts, financial aid experts will provide families with one-to-one assistance

in completing the FAFSA form. The services are free and available to anyone entering college for the 2017-2018 academic year; low-income, first generation students are especially encouraged to attend.

The closest FAFSA Day site is at Turners Falls High School on Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m. Visit [www.FAFSADay.org](http://www.FAFSADay.org) to register and learn more.



Pam Morawski, Patricia Pruitt, Chris Sanyer-Laucanno and Michael Brule take some time out to share the Reporter in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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YEAR 16 – NO. 3

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

OCTOBER 26, 2017

## Team Nova Finds the Racer's Edge



MARCY GREGOIRE PHOTO

Nova mechanic Andy Townsend discovered a new talent.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – Sports are big in Turners Falls, and this past summer marks the inaugural season for a new Turners Falls-based team – Team Nova. This motorcycle racing team, based at Nova Motorcycles on Third Street, races in the vintage racing league organized by the US Classic Racing Association.

The four-person squad includes Nova Motorcycles owner Sayre Anthony, Nova mechanics Bailey Sisson and Andy Townsend, and Townsend's roommate Vanessa Mathieu. The team was thrown notoriously into the limelight in August when neophyte racer Townsend, riding an inferior motorcycle, made a first-place finish in the highly competitive Middleweight Production class. He also placed a close second in the 50cc moped class.

"Within the first couple laps I'd passed the guy who'd been winning the division for as long as anyone can remember," explains Townsend.

Anthony, who was watching the race at the time, offered his own recollection: "Someone crashed trying to catch you."

Townsend did not believe that the response to his prodigal accomplish-

ment was exactly warm. "That's when people started telling me that my riding was bad. Well, I'm gonna do whatever I can, to get in front," he says. "You're not out there to be Mr. Nice Guy all day long."

The race took place at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway, which, in addition to being the only NASCAR race site in New England, hosted the third annual Extreme Chunkin competition this October, in which teams from as far away as New Jersey launched pumpkins high into the air with enormous homemade air cannons, catapults, and trebuchets.

Becoming a motorcycle racer is both easy and hard. For many, the hardest part is deciding to do it. "Last summer [2016], I went to a race. I never thought I'd do it myself," says Sisson. "It seemed crazy then. Now look where I am."

Townsend knew he wanted to race when he started working at Nova this past spring. "I'd been on the track before with mopeds," he says. "I was looking to have more track time. I got in real quick and real easy."

Anthony, who had gotten into motorcycles while working for New York racing organization

Team Obsolete, decided to become a racer out of dissatisfaction with riding public highways. "I got to a point in street riding where I was bored, and I was tired of the dangers of street riding," he says. Anthony has competed on the race-track for the past three years, two seasons without a team.

Anthony races a Yetman, built by the custom aftermarket frame builder David Yetman, who turned out around 400 culturally significant bikes from 1965 through 1975. (According to an online letter written by Yetman to his fans, he has not ridden a motorcycle in more than 30 years because of a consuming devotion to power boating.)

Like Buckminster Fuller's first foray into the space-frame chassis with his Dymaxion car, Yetman motorcycle frames were made up of triangles, its strength a product of the form itself. Anthony believes that "it has the pizzazz of an exotic European machine, but the reliability of a Honda motor."

Besides total conviction and dedication to the cause, proper equipment and training are the other requirements for racing motorcycles. A racer must wear full leathers, including boots and gloves, and a certified helmet is necessary.

One must also take an educational class. "It's only a few hours," says Sisson. "It's the night before the race. If you complete your rookie race without falling down, they give you your license."

Many modifications are needed to transform a street-legal bike into a race bike. Street gear such as kickstands and lights are removed. Fastening hardware, basically nuts and bolts, are drilled and wired into place. Special race tires are crucial.

Perhaps most important is the symbolic ritual of severing the

see **TEAM NOVA** page B4

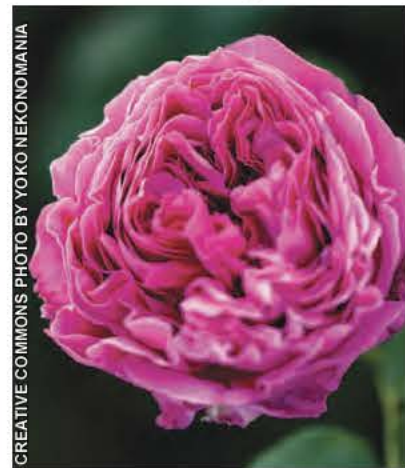


By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – These are the last golden days of October. One day at a time, the calendar drops a date, and a new weather front will soon bring an end the Indian Summer. The dog and I sit thinking on the morning of the first frost. I'm buzzing with the first cup of coffee, he's exceptionally patient waiting for the first walk of the day.

Birds are quiet, robins lisp somewhere high up in the frosty, foggy skies. A jay complains and a new mockingbird buzzes and floats through the yard on slender wings, doing a slow dance in the air.

Clouds of wheezing cedar waxwings descend on blueblack chokeberries, left hanging on magenta stems by the catbird, who left in the middle of the night without so



CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO BY YOKO NEKOMANIA

Othello rose

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

GATHER APPLES, CUT WOOD

much as a good-bye. After another frost, those berries will be fermenting, and the waxwings will soon be Flying Under the Influence.

Frost has edged the burr-like heart of the black-eyed Susans that have lost all their yellow petals. The last rosebuds of summer, two Othello and a Marie Rose, are frosted too, but are hardy enough and will bloom yet.

The furnace rumbles back in the cellar, heating the upstairs rooms now closed against the cold night. But by noontime, the sun will have gotten the temperatures back up, and we'll open all south-facing windows and doors, as the house will this time be heated by drawing in the golden warmth of these late October days.

The inspiration came over me to go out and spend an hour gathering dropped apples strewn at the foot of the heirloom Baldwin tree we planted forty years ago, since it's a good New England winter keeper, they say. It'd be a shame to let them go to waste. I spend an hour scouring the ground for the best drops, leaving behind the damaged, gnawed, soil-blackened or bruised fruit for other creatures: fox, deer, maybe bear.

Drunken wasps, tipsy on fermented apple, are drinking deep, on a last binge before their last days of this year's summer. They stumble in flight from cidery apple

see **WEST ALONG** page B3

## The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls Football Team won the Blue Bowl by 1 point against Franklin Tech. The Field Hockey Team swept 2 Bi-County foes and fought their way back to even. The Volleyball team, who are having their best season since 2008 got the chance to play against 3 excellent teams in preparation for the playoffs. Also this week, the Franklin Tech Golf Team put their perfect record on the line.

### Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Belchertown 0

Chicopee 3 – TFHS 1

Lenox 3 – TFHS 2

In 2008, the Turners Falls Volleyball Team went 18-3. This year, with the playoffs looming, they also have only three losses and sit at #9 on MassLive's top ten list. It's still the regular season, but this week, the Blue Ladies played three games in four days against playoff caliber teams.

On Monday, October 16, Turners took on #7 Belchertown. On Wednesday, they traveled to Chicopee. And on Thursday, October 19, Powertown hosted #8 Lenox.

The Blue Ladies beat #7 Belchertown in three straight matches 25-17, 17, 16.

Two days later, the Tribe traveled to Chicopee to take on the Pacers. The first two matches on Wednesday were tight, with the Pacers taking the opener by 4 points, 25-21, and then outlasting Powertown in the extended second match, 26-24.

Blue got back on track and took the third match going away 25-13. The fourth match was as close as the first two had been, and was tied at 21-21, but Chicopee scored the last 4 points to take the game, 3 matches to 1.

The next day, they hosted the Lenox Millionaires. Going into the game, both teams had two losses and were neck and neck on the top-ten ladder. But at the end of the

see **TFHS SPORTS** page B8



DAVID HOULT PHOTO

Quarterback Kyle Dodge hands off to running back John Torres as TFHS tops the Franklin Tech Eagles, 21-20.

## SCENES FROM THE GREAT FALLS FESTIVAL



JOE KOEPPA PHOTO



Small pumpkins, decorated and carved, line the middle of Avenue A.

Above: A crowded Avenue A street scene. Below: Community Smokes kicks off the festival in costume.



Emily Giguere dances to the music with MEGAdance.

GRACE JILLSON PHOTOS



# Pet of the Week

Yo, the name's Kale. Just like the vegetable, I come with many health benefits - but I am much more fun! My purr will ease your stress, and I'll cheer you up with a cuddle whenever you're feeling down.

And hey, maybe my beautiful green eyes will remind you to add



“KALE”

## Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 30 to NOVEMBER 3

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

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

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

**Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Monday 10/30**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday: 10/31**  
1 p.m. A Matter of Balance  
**Wednesday 11/1**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday: 11/2**  
NO Tai Chi OR Chair Yoga  
10 a.m. to Noon Brown Bag  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday: 11/3**  
Noon Pizza Party  
1 p.m. Writing Group

**LEVERETT**  
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

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

Senior Lunch – Fridays at

in a few more veggies to your diet. Well, I think I've made my argument. I'm a friendly, handsome guy and can't wait to explore my new home, so hurry in and scoop me up!

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

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Unlimited by genres, trends, or even good taste, Llama Lasagne is an ever-evolving circus of musicians who host themed costume parties for fun and charity with a supergroup twist. Similar to the annual Transperformance held at Look Park, the concert features performers from all reaches of the Pioneer Valley's diverse musical spectrum joining together with local artists and circus performers to create a theme with songs and costumes.

“Night of the Living Dead” will be the theme of the group performance at the Shea this Friday night, October 27, starting at 8:30 p.m.

A musical theater experience that spokesperson Jay Metcalfe says can only be described as “Llama Lasagne,” it's also a benefit for the Shea itself. With a motto of “It's Hilarious,” the night promises to be full of fun antics and the audience is expected and encouraged to wear costumes.

It all started as a joke in 2004, explains Metcalf. His band had a gig at The Harp, but with one week to go, the bass player and drummer had to cancel. The band ended up partnering with “these singers that wanted to do songs that their own band would never go for – so we did those, and then more people got involved.”

And the unusual name?

“We were tossing up names, nothing really hit. This was like two or three days before the show and the drummer Jeremy (really a mandolin player) just said ‘I Got it: Llama Lasagne.’ Laughing, Simon the bassist instantly drew a llama, dotted it into cuts of meat (like a cow chart), and each of us was a section. We chose the old spelling



The scene at *Return to the Wild Kingdom*, a 2014 benefit performance for Dakin Humane Society at the Florence VFW.

of lasagna, and ‘It's Hilarious.’”

They made up a case of fliers and the gig sold out. The Harp had them back five times, and since that original gig, they have produced 32 shows at a variety of Valley venues for the benefit of causes such as the Food Bank, Dakin Shelter, etc.

Some of the original crew are still in the mix: “Troy Lorusso is still rocking it on drums, percussion, flute, Tears for Fears and Hall and Oates vocals when needed. And I don't believe he's missed any! Also James Hana-burgh came on board for Llama2, Dan Thomas and Emmalyn Hicks came in at Llama4, and they really carried the thing from 2007 to 2013.”

Participants learn the songs on their own, then have one big dress rehearsal. Metcalfe says most people are in four or five songs, and the idea is to get out of your comfort zone and try out a new genre. “We try to recruit people; it's a really cool combination

of people, and older people learn how to stay relevant. We have some people from Show Circus School in Easthampton, some theater people and props artists... definitely a crew of people of all ages. One show, we had a giant whale we brought in.”

Two shows a year are planned, one a festival event and one at another venue. An earlier performance this year was held at the StrangeCreek Music Festival. According to Metcalf, “We played a ‘Strange Saturday Night’ set... It was totally rad. Next year we have a late night cabin set with a knock-your-socks-off theme for the fest.”

Want to get involved? Come in your spooky best for a night of music, dancing, props, and antics “... it's hilarious. Spit spit llama llama!”

Tickets for the all ages show are \$12 in advance, and \$15 on the day of the show.

## Sunday at the Shea: Ceremonial Stone Benefit

From combined sources.

**TURNERS FALLS** – A benefit concert will be held this Sunday, October 29 at the Shea Theater to raise funds for the protection of Indigenous sacred stone landscapes.

Joe Graveline, musician and long-time Indigenous activist, has gathered fellow musicians to perform. Joe performs with Nina Gross; Pat and Tex LaMountain, Cathy Sylvestor and Joe Pod; Orlen and Gabriel; and Kate O'Connor and Rico from Blue Rendezvous are on the lineup for the evening, which starts at 5 p.m. and ends at 7:30.

Doug Harris, deputy tribal historic preservation officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPO), will introduce the evening's program by providing a brief illustrated overview of ceremonial stone landscapes and their importance. The forests of New England are dotted with ceremonial stone landscapes, living prayers of stone created by the Indigenous peoples of this region. According to Mr. Harris, when the stones are disassembled and reassembled, “Then what you have is an artistic replica of something that was spiritual. Once you remove the stones, the spiritual content is broken.”

Tribes have different beliefs about the meaning of these stone features, and interact with them in a culturally appropriate manner. The traditional belief is that these stone structures were placed to create and restore harmony between human beings and Mother Earth. The prayers they



Guitarist and activist Joe Graveline organized the event's musical lineup.

embody continue to live as long as the stone landscapes are kept intact. They may be intentionally placed to mark astronomical cycles, deaths, or other significant events.

Some of these ceremonial stone landscapes are now being destroyed for gas pipeline projects, including one-third of the 73 stone features identified in Otis State Forest in Sandisfield, MA. Indigenous Americans have occupied the Sandisfield area for thousands of years. The stones remained, untouched, until now. In 2016 the pipeline route was surveyed by a team representing four federally recognized Tribes: the Narragansett, the Wampanoag of Gayhead-Aquinnah, the Pequot, and the Mohegan.

However, FERC had already approved the route and the pipeline company had already taken the land through eminent domain, so FERC decided that it was too late to avoid one-third of them. At that point NITHPO realized that the process

required under the National Historic Preservation Act was not working as intended, and retained Anne Marie Garti, who led the successful fight to stop the Constitution Pipeline, as counsel.

NITHPO is asking for public support to bring a case against FERC to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. While harm has already been done in Otis State Forest, desecration of other sites can be avoided by insisting the FERC comply with the law.


“This is an opportunity to support the Indigenous peoples of our region so they can challenge FERC's behavior in the courts,” said Susan Theberge of the community coalition supporting NITHPO's efforts. “If successful, ceremonial stone landscapes will be preserved, not destroyed, a result that would have national implications.”

For the past fifteen years, NITHPO has been working with other tribes and federal agencies to promote the significance of Ceremonial Stone Landscapes, and has been leading efforts to preserve them. For example, NITHPO advocated for the protection of stone features in Turners Falls from the impacts of an airport expansion project, and as a result, the site and a twenty-mile radius was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in December 2008.

Tickets to the event are available for \$15 online at [sheatheater.org](http://sheatheater.org) and for \$18 at the door.

For more information or to make online contributions, go to [tinyurl.com/protectsacredstones](http://tinyurl.com/protectsacredstones).

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WEST ALONG from page B1

to cidery apple, the bounty on the ground making it difficult for them to make up their minds about where to draw their last pleasures.

At the end of an hour’s effort, a crate of apples has been gathered up and trundled off to the front hall on the north of the house where it will stay cool, even cold, all winter. There to set awhile before being transformed into apple sauce or apple pie. They perfume the stairwell and the upstairs bedrooms.

Apples in the hall bring back a familiar autumn smell in the house from the old days: a hundred years ago, grandfather and his brothers would have been racing up and down these same stairs, heading for the last haying or the last ballgame. Living in their house, it’s easy to remember, and you get used to talking to the dead, though they’re forty-five years in their graves up on the hill at Highland Cemetery.

After the apples, there’s another chore, the ritual of October wood cutting.

I’ve scrounged, like my apples, more than a cord of wood, all shapes and sizes and degrees of decay, destined for the fireplace. The Glenwood C cook stove already has its own neatly stacked wood, cut to just the right size, whereas the open hearth fireplace is less fussy, and will consume anything from Yule log to river birch.

Brought up from the lower pasture-turned-to-woodland, turned over to trees since the 1938 hurricane, storm-dropped windfalls produce fuel without my having to fell a single tree. There’s beech, ash, maple, oak, even ironwood downed by wind or beaver. Either way, the opportunist hauls it up onto the old barn site, ten feet above the flood plain. There I’m happy as a monarch among my sprawling riches of piles of maple, oak and hickory, drying all year, all by itself.

I’ve managed to shanghai my old friend Rod, up from New York City for the weekend, to be my spotter, sliding logs onto the sawhorse, and making sure I don’t accidentally amputate while I’m at it. We went all through school together in this town, starting in kindergarten down at the South End School in the Patch with dear old Molly Stratton, our very first teacher in a long line of teachers.

So there’s some poetry and symmetry in the fact that here we are cutting wood, a couple of old friends. Hale and relatively hearty septuagenarian *bons vivants*, doing something as primitive and simple as working on the firewood to warm friends and family during the winter.

We work through two hours of the wail and roar of the chainsaw, through smoke, noise and sawdust until we have a mountain of cordwood before us. Enough! We may well regret the exceptional effort by tomorrow morning.

In the evening, a couple of stiff drinks, a hearty meal and a few glasses of wine at the local restaurant, and it’s high time to call it a day.

Up above, bright stars glimmer in the clear night and frosty air. In spite of weary bones and strained muscles, there is the afterglow left by a day of work and a sense of small accomplishment.

But I have to say, I’ve had enough of chainsawing and stooping over to gather apples. I’m sure that as I drift off into deep fatigue slumber, I’ll be seeing log after log dropping off the end of the sawhorse. I’ll still be cutting wood in my sleep.

...Tonight,  
Maybe the woodchuck could say  
whether it’s like his long sleep,  
As I describe its coming on,  
Or just some human sleep.

– “After Apple-Picking,”  
by Robert Frost



## A New Twist This Halloween: Truck or Treat in Erving!

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Usually, there is a Rag Shag parade for Halloween in Erving that starts at the Park Street Park and ends at the Erving Fire Station #2. (There are two fire stations in Erving.) Alison Rollins, an assistant on the Erving Recreation Commission, mentioned that they have “alternated between both fire stations in the town.”

This year, instead of a parade featuring little kids in costumes and their parents, the Recreation Commission is doing an event called Truck or Treat at their new Riverside Park. The flyer describes an event that lets kids trick or treat in a parking lot, where car owners decorate their cars and pass out candy. The event will be on Tuesday, October 31 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Rollins, who says she has been on the commission for four years, stated the reason they did this was “because we wanted to use our new Riverside Park.” The event is free to get into.

She also said, “We are hoping to have over 20 cars involved, and the car owner is responsible for passing out the candy.”

With this being a new event for Erving when it comes to what they do for Halloween, I wondered if

they hope this to become a tradition for the town. Her answer was, “if we get a lot of participation, we will do it again.”

It would appear that at this event, we could be seeing “superheroes, princesses, monsters, and lots of animal costumes” like we’ve seen at the rag-shag parade previously, according to what I have learned from Alison. I also learned that Rag Shag parade has been going on for over 10 years, and they will have succeeded very nicely if the Truck or Treat event goes on for that long.

I would call people decorating their cars for this event to be a very cool idea. But I can only think of one way to decorate a car, which is basically with lights specifically for Halloween. If someone can come up with another way to do that, that would spark my imagination and leave me more interested in the event.

So if there are some people wondering the same thing about the cars and their decorations, then more than “over 20 cars” could show up for the event. That would be very helpful in making this event a tradition as well.

If you want to enter your car in the event, contact [recreation@erving-ma.org](mailto:recreation@erving-ma.org) or call (413) 422-1187. Here’s to the first Truck or Treat being a success!

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Embers Rekindle; Two Dozen Chickens Trespass; Hunting Season; Drunks At Great Falls Festival

Monday, 10/16

11:50 a.m. Report of male wearing camouflage clothing and carrying a bow and arrow on his back riding his bike near Cross Street and Millers Falls Road. Caller was not sure whether it was legal to transport that item in plain view in the vicinity of a school zone. Advised caller that this would be relayed to an officer; however, it is hunting season. Officer confirmed bow hunting is in season.

3:52 p.m. Caller states that he received a call from a neighbor on Seventh Street saying that someone went into the residence, trashed the place, and stole a TV. Officer checked residence. All doors were still secured; does not appear anyone was there.

9:07 p.m. Officer from Wendell PD states he checked on a green sedan parked in a parking area on Wendell Road that had a young male and female in the car. All checked out fine, but he could not figure out what they were doing there and wanted another officer to check to see if they were still in the area.

11:07 p.m. Caller from K Street states that it sounds like people are fighting at this location.

Tuesday, 10/17

7:44 a.m. Report of smoke in basement on Hillside Avenue. TFFD and PD units advised. Moderate smoke condition caused by fire in hot water heater.

1:54 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to officer re: video that was sent to his office. Suspected chop shop at that residence. Officers off at residence with building inspector following up. Investigated.

6:11 p.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer about damage done to his vehicle in the Third Street parking lot from rocks being thrown. No answer upon callback.

Wednesday, 10/18

4:40 a.m. Male walk-in reporting loose horse on Hatchery Road. Officers checked area extensively; unable to locate.

12:25 p.m. School resource officer concerned about a male who is eating at the Franklin County Technical School restaurant. Involved male verbally trespassed from property until further notice.

4:04 p.m. Report from Meadow Road of vandalism to one of the tires of the caller’s trailer.

7:07 p.m. Rollover accident on Greenfield Cross Road. Two vehicles involved. Occupant of one vehicle is out and uninjured. Occupant of roll-

over vehicle is moving; unknown extent of injuries, but s/he is bleeding. Conferred with MedCare; Shelburne Control advised for MCFD. Rau’s requested for both vehicles. Officer conducting field sobriety tests.

was arrested and charged with a marked lanes violation, operating under the influence of liquor, and operating to endanger.

Thursday, 10/19

6:53 a.m. Two 911 calls and one business line call reporting gunshots in area of East Chestnut Hill Road/Chestnut Hill Loop. All reporting parties were called back to advise of shotgun pheasant hunting season.

1:45 p.m. 911 caller reporting that someone just stole her bike while she was down by the Rock Dam. Investigated.

6:02 p.m. Caller requesting that an officer contact his ex-girlfriend and advise her to stop calling his place of work; states she has called five times. Referred to an officer.

6:50 p.m. Report from Unity Hill of large roll of plastic in the road creating a hazard. Officer checked length of Unity Street. Item was a plastic bag. Bag removed.

10:40 p.m. Report of fight on Second Street. Upon clearing, officer advises verbal altercation. Parties have separated for night.

Friday, 10/20

6:05 a.m. Walk-in party reporting flames on lawn of tech school. From description, believed to be rekindle of sanctioned bonfire from last night. TFFD advised. Officer advises no active flames; just glowing embers. TFFD brush committed; putting a tank of water on rekindle.

10:04 a.m. Report of male stealing scrap metal behind Montague Machine on Rastallis Street. Caller not concerned with recovering metal but wanted MPD to be aware in case subject returns or steals from another location.

4:38 p.m. Caller states

that there has been a suspicious red [redacted] parked on K Street near the Senior Center for the last couple of days. Caller states that he has witnessed vehicle occupants exchange cash and what appears to be “drugs” with several people over the last few days.

9:33 p.m. 911 caller from Second Street reporting intoxicated man threatening to destroy apartment. Involved male was upset about some items he claims are missing; will be leaving residence for rest of evening.

10:35 p.m. 911 caller reporting vehicle all over road. Vehicle eventually made it into Erving, where Erving PD was able to stop it.

Saturday, 10/21

1:35 p.m. Two-vehicle accident with airbag deployment at Millers Falls and Turners Falls roads. Child in back seat struck his head, which is now bruised. Med-Care and TFFD responding. Transport refused. Citation issued.

2:04 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street looking to have vehicle towed off her property. Advised caller re: tow card process.

2:51 p.m. Caller from Federal Street requesting assistance with approximately two dozen chickens on her property. Owner unknown; caller advises that this has been an ongoing issue. Officer spoke with caller. Owner of chickens will retrieve them.

3:03 p.m. Officer requesting DPW be notified that the new paint on the crosswalks is very slippery. DPW foreman advises that the glass beads have not yet solidified, so the crosswalks may be slippery. No barricades left; may be able to set out cones, but festival goers will likely go around them. Foreman suggested for officer to talk to DPW superintendent, who is a vendor at the event.

4:07 p.m. Caller advised by patron that approximately ten minutes ago, three youths on bikes and

skateboards were hanging onto the bumper of one of the shuttle buses while it was moving in vicinity of St. Kaz. Command post officer advises that he has spoken with several youths in area due to complaints about bikes, scooters, etc. Will continue to be on lookout.

4:38 p.m. Report of intoxicated male on bench in Peske Park who keeps getting up and yelling at people. Party and companions sent on way.

5:28 p.m. Caller requesting assistance with out-of-control son. PD units including K9 unit en route. Juvenile located.

5:54 p.m. Caller reporting that his sister left the high school operating a silver coupe; sister was highly intoxicated after having consumed alcohol at the festival. Unable to locate.

6:59 p.m. Intoxicated subject stumbling around on Avenue A. Courtesy transport provided; male under care of mother.

10:10 p.m. Caller states that while she was in the beer tent at Pumpkin Fest tonight, a male party threatened her life. Advised of options.

Sunday, 10/22

12:24 a.m. Shelburne Control states that they have received two 911 calls from parties in Deerfield complaining of loud music in area of Greenfield and Hatchery roads. Officers spoke to owner of house and advised them to turn the music down.

9:51 a.m. Report of vehicle struck overnight on L Street; significant damage. Report taken.

4:34 p.m. Report of vehicle struck overnight on Fourth Street. Front end damage. Report taken.

Monday, 10/23

1:34 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that neighbor’s chickens are in her yard again. Ongoing issue. ACO followed up with owner of chickens, who will make an adequate fence to contain the chickens.

# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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Pit crew: Nova's Bill Chaney and Chris Zinn talk with Steve Viarengo. At right, Vanessa Mathieu.

**TEAM NOVA** from page B1  
speedometer to prepare the bike, and one's self, for incredible speed. "You don't want to think about it," says Anthony.

Racing motorcycles is a foreign concept to most people. Anthony relates the feeling to riding a roller-coaster. "It's got that feeling of, *holy crap, I'm flying*," he says.

Anthony describes his state during a race as being petrified and ecstatic. "It brings out primal fear," says Anthony. "You're hurling yourself as fast as you can go. You're scared, but part of you is like, 'nah, man, faster!'"

During races, Anthony describes having a heightened consciousness of the space around his bike: "You're responding and reacting. You're taking in a barrage of information. When someone passes you, you don't want to twitch."

According to Anthony, much of the processing and responding that's occurring while traveling at great velocities is unconscious. "Your conscious brain is trying to comprehend what you already did," he explains.

Townsend divides the experience of racing into two parts: how one feels in corners versus straightaways. Corners require an exhausting combination of extraordinary concentration, strength, and control. The linear parts of the course are the opposite.

"At your fastest moment, the straightaway, you're at peace," he says. "You're floating." It's hard to know how fast you've gone without a speedometer, but Anthony guesses that he hits 110 mph in these sections.

Racing motorcycles is an adventure Townsend is drawn to because of his thrill-seeking nature. "I'm very comfortable with adrenaline," he explains. "It feels great. I tend to push myself. It can be a little scary when you start to find the edge."

According to Townsend, being a highly competitive person is one thing that makes him a great racer. "It's hard to turn off," he says. "I can't *not* find the limit of the bike. I'm pretty aggressive, pretty intense."

It may also be his adeptness at quelling the fear of bodily harm

that gives him an edge. "I remember it cropping up in the middle of a race – remembering that if I crash, it'll be bad – then stuffing it down. It's not going to help me. I've got a job to do."

Racing motorcycles is a sport that requires great strength and endurance. "It's a fully physical workout," says Anthony. "Real racers train – they're running, biking."

Racers hit corners at very high speeds, and therefore must lay their bike over much farther than in road riding. "We hang off the bike, not unlike out-rigging on a sailboat," explains Anthony. "The idea is to allow the bike to have a less radical lean angle, which both increases grip and lessens the possibility of dragging the bike on the pavement."

While cornering, racers extend themselves so far off the bike that they can drag their knee on the ground. This helps them know exactly where they are in relation to the ground plane, and, like a centerboard used in sailing, gives them another level of control. All of this physical work and adrenaline takes a toll on the body. "At the end of the weekend, you feel beat up," says Anthony.

One of the most challenging races, in terms of brute force and balance, is the sidecar class. Riding in the sidecar, the passenger/stunt-double-in-training has the brave and dynamic task of being human ballast. More than being dead weight, the passenger is essentially a fallen wing-walker, being required to crawl, prostrate, and fully extend their body on or off a small platform attached to a speeding motorcycle.

Townsend competes in this role in the sidecar class. "At the halfway flag, I just hoped I could make it another four laps," he says.

In the practice of driving, racing is the high form while the everyday maneuvers of commuting and errand-running are the low. Racing removes government regulation like traffic laws and traffic control, the unpredictable vagaries of amateur drivers, and the complicating function of the road as a public space that hosts diverse activities. Racing also isolates and amplifies the parts of

driving that are most cool: the machine, the racer, and their limits.

"It's a very pure form of the sport," says Anthony. Lay drivers often channel the archetype of the racer, and Team Nova's gang of tenderfoots demonstrate that a daily rider can become a racer.

"I'd never done anything like it," says Sisson. "I'm more confident. If I can do that, I know there's more stuff I can do."

Part of the appeal of racing is, apparently, being able to drive in ways that you can't in the world that's touched by law. But besides illegal speeds, Anthony believes there's another part of racing that would be forbidden off the track: "It's way more fun than anyone should be allowed to have," he says.

Team Nova welcomes new recruits, and plans to build on their reputation as an up-and-coming race team in 2018.



# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 25, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

## Superintendent Rocks On School Closings

Interim superintendent of Gill-Montague schools Ken Locke proposed that Hillcrest Elementary School become a pre-K center for the district next year, with Sheffield School absorbing Hillcrest's seven kindergarten through second grade classes into the available classrooms of Sheffield's new wing.

During the 2008 school year, Locke proposed, a consensus should be formed and funding secured to renovate Sheffield School's old wing to ensure there is enough room for students now attending Montague Center School to also move to the Sheffield building. But he "left the door open a crack" for the possibility that community support could avert the closing of Montague Center School, if funding could be found to complete renovations at that facility, and perhaps a new governance structure developed for that school in the intervening year.

Locke's proposal – and others that may emerge for closing one or more of Montague's elementary schools – will be discussed on a tight timeline, as school committee chair Mary Kociela made it clear at the school committee's Tuesday meeting that she would like the committee to reach decision on school closing by the end of November.

## New Town Offices Dedicated in Wendell

Instead of the predicted rain, a wonderful sunny day greeted the thirty citizens who attended the dedication of the new Wendell town office building on Saturday. Selectboard member Dan Keller opened the ceremony, saying, "Is

this a beautiful building?"

He said the effort to construct the new office building began 20 years ago when the town started saving money for the project. In those days, town officials were keeping their records in cramped, inadequate offices or at home. In 1991, administrative assistant Regina Curtis drew a sketch of a dream building, and since then the number of people who helped bring the project to completion has been staggering.

Keller said, "It is impossible to build a public building in Massachusetts," citing prevailing wage law, accessibility requirements, and other regulations. But the handsome structure behind him stood in eloquent testimony to the fallacy of that statement, or the perseverance of the townspeople in spite of it.

## Wendell Subscription Drive: Gift Certificates

It's always a good time to subscribe to the *Montague Reporter*. In truth, a growing list of subscribers is the only thing keeping the paper in print, and the only thing persuading local business owners to spend advertising dollars with us, and the only justification for the hard work we do bringing the town news to you each week.

For Wendell residents, however, the next two weeks is an especially good time to subscribe, thanks to the generosity of some anonymous Wendell readers. These supporters have put up the funds to purchase a great list of raffle prizes, and every new Wendell subscriber added between now and November 15 will get their name entered to win.

First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at the Diemand Egg Farm; second prize, a \$40 gift certificate at the Copper Angel; and five third-prize winners will each receive \$20 gift certificates at the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.



Bailey Sisson heads to the track. Behind her is Nova owner Sayre Anthony.

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## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

## This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Greetings Montague TV viewers! We hope you are all looking forward to a fun Halloween on Tuesday. MCTV is counting down to the holiday with Halloween-themed movies playing every night. Tune into Channel 17!

Something going on you think

## Celebrate Prescription Drug Take Back Day This Saturday!

FRANKLIN COUNTY – According to the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more than half of people aged 12 or older who misused pain relievers said they had obtained them from a friend or relative – with, or without, their knowledge.

By having unsecured drugs in our homes, we could inadvertently be contributing to the current opioid crisis. But we can be part of the solution by locking drugs up at home, and properly disposing of unwanted ones.

Anyone can bring their unwanted prescriptions and other medications to a drop box at locations throughout Hampshire and Franklin counties on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, this Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for environmentally sound disposal, no questions asked. There

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, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

are also permanent drop boxes at many police stations.

"Let's get these drugs out of circulation, and help prevent addiction from taking hold in our communities," Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan said.

Since 2011, over 18 tons of unwanted medications have been collected from the permanent boxes and National Take Back Days. Over 2,000 pounds were collected during last year's Take Back Day alone, and so far in 2017, some 4,700 pounds have been collected at the permanent drop boxes.

Participating communities in the October 28 Take Back include, in Hampshire County, Amherst, Belchertown, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Northampton, Southampton, South Hadley, Williamsburg, and Worthington; and in Franklin County: Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, and Sunderland.

Thursday, November 2:  
Brick House Staff Send-Off!

TURNERS FALLS – Jared Libby, who began his tenure at The Brick House Community Resource Center as an AmeriCorps member in 2003, splitting his work between the Brick House and Montague Catholic Social Ministries; then went on to oversee all things Teen Center, engaging teens with music, art, technology, intelligence, and humor; and finally, filling the position of Operations Manager, keeping the Brick House functioning and viable from the top level; and Didi de Almeida, the Brick House's fabulous on-the-mark Business Manager for the past six years, are both leaving the Brick House this fall in order to pursue other dreams.

On Thursday, November 2 from 5 to 8 p.m., the Brick House board of directors and staff invite everyone to visit this wonderful little non-profit, at 24 Third Street, so they can enjoy some time with Jared and Didi, and thank them for their stellar work for our community.

We'll have lots of delicious things to eat, music to hear, and a few visuals too. We encourage everyone who

has been touched by their work to come by for a visit – people in the community who have participated in BH programs and events, worked with Jared and Didi in an effort to better the community and offer something new and different (like the Skate Park); folks who work for other social service entities that have crossed paths with BH; and former and present BH participants, staff, and board members.

The presence of both Jared and Didi has made the Brick House a better place, and a better community partner.

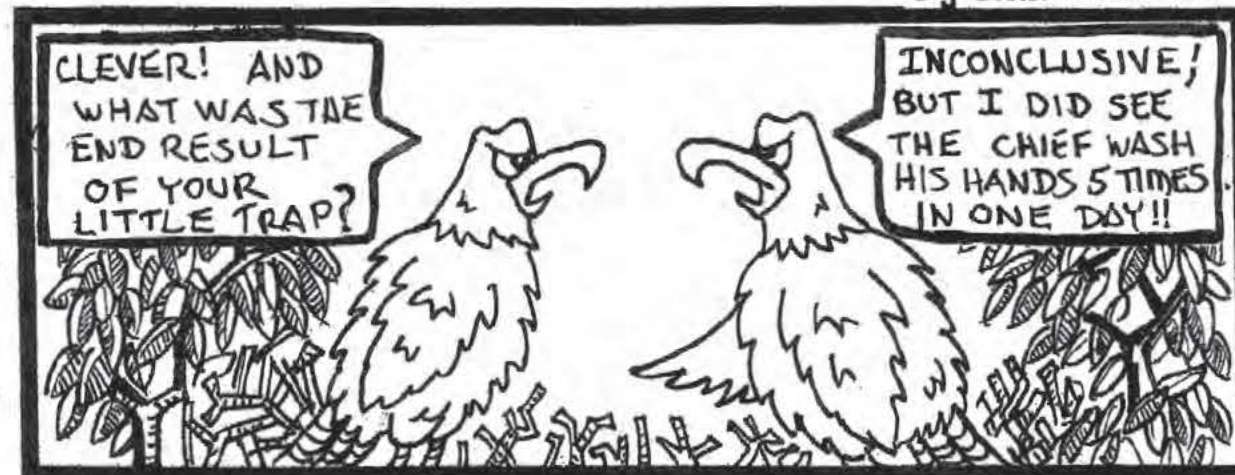
Folks are welcome to drop by anytime during the Open House for a visit. Remarks from Board members, and any other interested guests, will take place at 6:30. There will be guest/memory books available for both, as well as card baskets for people to share their thoughts and memories with both Jared and Didi.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, so mark your calendars and take this opportunity to thank these two community heroes!

## BUBBA and CARMINE



by denis bordeaux



## OUT OF THE PARK: October

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – It's hard to believe, I know, but we're in the process of wrapping up our fall programs and events! Our youth soccer program has come to an end, we had a few scarecrows adopted, and a bunch of pumpkins have been decorated. What made this fall seem so quick were the really warm temperatures we experienced. Hey, look at it this way – at least it hasn't snowed yet.

Nevertheless, autumn still has some tricks left up its sleeve. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Montague Business Association's annual Rag Shag Parade. This wonderful tradition will be held on Halloween evening on Avenue A. Ghouls, ghosts and goblins are asked to meet at the Food City parking lot at 5 p.m. to have their costumes judged, and shortly thereafter, they'll get to slink down the avenue in proud display.

Before the parade, local businesses and organizations on the Avenue will be open for trick-or-treating from 3 until 5 p.m. Participating locations will have a bright Halloween-themed hanging displayed on their storefront.

As always be sure to stay safe that evening, and parents, don't forget to help your kids get rid of the candy once they get home (if you know what I mean).

While autumn still has a ways to go, we've already started the regis-



tration process for our Youth Basketball Program, which is held from December through the end of February. Registration began on October 16, so please call us to check on availability, as spots fill up fast. We offer an Instructional Program for children in grades K through 2, Junior Travel for kids in grades 3 and 4, and a Senior Travel Program for those in 5th and 6th grades.

Our Instructional Program goes from January 3 to the end of February, and is held at Sheffield Elementary, and the travel teams participate in the Tri-County Youth Basketball League with other area communities. Junior and Senior League games are held Saturday mornings, and we typically have separate boys and girls teams.

Registration for non-residents begins Monday, November 6. We'll also be holding separate boys and girls basketball clinics mid-November, so please inquire if you are interested.

On November 1, pre-registration

will begin for our Annual Sawmill River 10k Run. The Sawmill Run is held on Monday January 1, 2018, and is our major special event in the winter. If you're a runner, hope to be one, or know of someone who runs, this is the perfect way to start off the new year.

In the next several weeks we'll also be working on the design work of Rutter's Park in Lake Pleasant! We received critical funding from the Community Development Block Grant, and are excited about the opportunity of bringing an amazing design to the community.

The design process will take about three months, and we're confident that it will be well received by "the powers that be" and we'll receive funding for construction. Time will tell, so keep your fingers crossed.

Of course, you can find additional information on all of these programs – and more – on our webpage, as well as the winter edition of our "Fun Times" brochure. The winter brochure will be available in the next week, so please keep your eyes peeled. That's about it from here. Enjoy your Halloween, and we'll talk to you soon!

For continual updates on everything "Parks & Rec," check out our Montague Parks & Recreation Facebook page, or call the office at 863-3216.

Jon Dobosz is director of parks and rec for the town of Montague.

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the  
poetry  
page

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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

Untitled

heavy black leather!  
I could keep holding it up,  
but it might be too heavy after a while.  
I am glad to let it go, also —  
eager to pick it up again,  
to hook my finger in the collar,  
slide in and find safety there.  
I am considering the heft of  
those skins as  
part of the  
equation  
as I mull over my involvement —  
or not —  
the degree of my interest;  
my motivation;  
wondering if I need  
any other pleasure than  
standing in the hall  
weighing his coat and  
wondering  
what kind of good bye it will be.

- Nina Rossi  
Turners Falls

You Are My Heart

Every night is my last  
night among forsythias. The night  
I cannot sleep spent listening

memory muscles recall  
phantom sounds call forth  
voices of the dead  
my breath's ragged exhales,  
the soft symphonic hum of bugs  
congregated outside the window.

When I was a child, the sad  
song of sycamore trees always  
lured me out of bed. I crept

into my grandfather's room  
and listened to his heartbeat.

- Jake Matkov  
Brooklyn

Waiting for the Gestapo

In Tenth Grade we read  
*The Diary of Anne Frank.*

I told Ms. Smythe I knew  
how Anne felt,  
always aware of the Gestapo  
hovering outside the door,  
that living itself was fear.

She told me that in America  
there was no Gestapo,  
that no one was going  
to come  
and take away  
a "nice little Mexican girl"  
like me.

I wanted to tell her  
about Lourdes and her family.

I wanted to tell her how ICE came  
in the early morning  
and broke down the door  
and hauled Lourdes and her brothers  
and her mother and father away.

I wanted to tell her about Tito  
and his family who disappeared  
one cold winter afternoon.

I wanted to tell her  
that in America there was Gestapo.

I wanted to tell her  
that we immigrants  
all lived in fear.

I wanted to tell her that deportation  
was not so different  
from being sent to the camps

since the gangs back  
in the country  
we'd left long ago  
would come for us

and my brothers and I  
could perish  
as easily and quickly  
as the Jews at Bergen-Belsen.

But I said nothing.

I just looked up at her  
and nodded my head  
in such a way it could  
have meant yes or no.

Then I went home  
and wrote this poem,  
waiting for the Gestapo.

- Cristina Aserrador  
Brooklyn

Five Turtles in a Pond

What is round  
and walks slow  
and swims  
in the water  
reflecting  
five brown rounds  
but only four legs  
one head and two eyes,  
one tail

- Joe R. Parzych  
Greenfield

The Crossing

I plucked the wind,  
its sadness harmonized with hope  
and led me to your eyes.  
My disguise, to you,  
was clear,  
and peaceful,  
though it always had  
made me afraid. "Of being afraid",  
I thought...  
I stopped...  
I sobbed...  
and I loved. You,  
the bridge  
to my heart which runs  
and rubs the rocks  
on its journey back. To you  
I've sung before,  
but now more quietly,  
so that I, too, may  
hear.

- Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls

Contributors' Notes

Nina Rossi is an artist and writer living in Turners Falls since 1987. Six years ago she opened Nina's Nook, her tiny alleyway gallery on Avenue A.

Kevin Smith is a Turners Falls resident, tubist, and therapist as well as poet.

Cristina Aserrador is in the MFA Program at LIU. She's trying to dream in Trump's America, but mostly has nightmares.

Jake Matkov is English Department Graduate Coordinator & Adjunct Assistant Professor of English at LIU, Brooklyn. His work has appeared widely. He was the recipient of a 2017

New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry.

Joe R Parzych lives in Greenfield and Gill. Since 2003 he has been a contributing photographer to the *Montague Reporter*. He is a member of the United Arc and works part time at Riffs North. For fun he plays guitar.

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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 [mcb Brass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcb Brass@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. Through October 28.



JONWAYNE came onto the Los Angeles music scene by way of the east LA club Low End Theory circa 2008-09, then emerging as the epicenter of a new generation of hip-hop beat makers. With Posca, Danny Watts, EMV. This Sunday night at Hawks & Reed.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Paintings by *Charlie Shaw*. Through October.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *New Oil Paintings by Lori Lynn Hoffer*. Resident artist Hoffer exhibits her recent work. Through October.

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

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Live Studio Artist/owner Nina Rossi* creates her own maker-space in the tiny gallery: paint, wire, fabric, wood; assorted fine art and craft as well. Through Thanksgiving.

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, bak-

ers, brewers, vintners and frozen treat makers. Miniatures are paired with local specialties, distorting our perspectives of space and place, and engaging our childlike sense of wonder. Through October.

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

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 26

Root Cellar, Greenfield. *Prozacs, Rebel Base, and Belle Machine*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Super Star Open Mic* hosted by Phil Simon of Rice: an American Band. 8:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

The Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Halloween Music Show* featuring The Screaming Hearts, Seth Newton, Austin James, Chris Goudreau, Brook Batteau, Jean Rohe. Costumes encouraged! 7 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *John Caban and Jared Quinn* perform extensive repertoire of cover songs. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Llama Lasagne presents "Night of the Living Dead."* Featuring performers from all reaches of the Pioneer Valley's diverse musical spectrum joining together with local artists & circus performers; a musical theater experience that can only be described as Llama Lasagne. 8:30 p.m. \$ to benefit the Shea.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit* CD Release party and Halloween Costume Party. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hierofante* (polyrhythmic afro-punk) 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Monster Ball*: The Jeff Holmes "Big Funkenstein" Band with Dawning Holmes Vocals. Prize for best costume. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Halloween Costume Party with: "The Shadow Twisters."* 60's & 70's Classic Rock Dance Party. Fun, Snacks, Prizes & a Bonfire! Pub will be open from 6:30 pm until 1 am. Music starts 7:30 p.m.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne

Falls: *Evelyn Harris* (of Sweet Honey in The Rock) on vocals, *David Rodriguez* on stand up bass/vocals & *John Caban* on dobro/vocals. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Kris Delmhorst's *The Wild Album* Release with Jeffrey Foucault presented by Signature Sounds. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Plywood Cowboy*, 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Strangers Helping Strangers* benefit featuring *The Alchemystics*. Nonprofit which organizes and hosts food drives at concerts and festivals, then delivers the donations to local food banks. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Matt Byrde's Magical Monster Mash* (costume party!) 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Benefit Concert to Protect Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes*. Joe Graveline and Nina Gross; Pat and Tex LaMountain; Cathy Sylvester and Joe Pod; Orlen and Gabriel; and Kate O'Connor and Rico from Blue Rendezvous. info: [tinyurl.com/protectsacredstones](http://tinyurl.com/protectsacredstones). 5 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Roland LaPierre Trio*. A mix of Country, Rock and Roll, and traditional roots music with a touch of Twang. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *JONWAYNE, Posca, Danny Watts, EMV*. Jonwayne came onto the Los Angeles music scene by way of the east Los Angeles club Low End Theory circa 2008-09, then emerging as the epicenter of a new generation of hip-hop beat makers: *Flying Lotus, Gaslamp Killer, Nosaj Thing, Kutmah, Daedelus*. Fresh out of high school, Jonwayne jumped in with homemade rap mixtapes and immersed himself in the scene. 7:30 p.m. \$

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mini-Monster Mash Dance Party*. Kids! Bring your grown-ups to our costume and dance party! In the heart of downtown Greenfield, during downtown trick-or-treating and the parade. 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Come get spooked on this night of Halloween-themed experimental, punk, and metal music and art installation from beloved local performers. *Goatweed, John Trudeau, Darklight, Landowner* and *From Earth's End*. 7 p.m. \$

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Katie Sachs*, a special

performance of original songs in an intimate evening of soulful Jazz-Folk to support The Art Garden. 7 p.m. Donation.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series* poetry reading. Hannah Fries & L.I. Henley, 7 p.m.

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**The Rendezvous**  
MONDAY: Open Mic

FRI 10/27 9:30  
**Hierofante (afro-punk)**  
Duendecitos  
Jon Shina

SAT 10/28 9:30  
**Matt Byrde's Magical Monster Mash (Costume Party) w. The Moon Chasers**

SUN. 10/29 9pm  
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all shows no cover - tips much appreciated

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**TFHS SPORTS** from page B1

night, one team would have a third loss, and the other would take bragging rights into the second season.

It was extremely loud in the gym on Thursday. And it wasn't just the true blue faithful: there was a crowd of rowdy millionaires at the game, taking up the entire far section of the bleachers.

The first two matches were blowouts, with Turners taking the opener 25-17 and Lenox taking the second one 25-13. In the rubber match, the largest margin was 3 points when Lenox led 11-14. But for the rest of the match, the margin was 2 points or less.

At end game, with the score knotted at 23, Taylor Murphy came to the line. The Blue Ladies scored two straight, and took the match 25-23. Lenox went into the fourth match with their backs against the wall, win or go home, while Turners still had a match in the pocket.

In the fourth, Lenox opened a 7 point lead at midgame, 17-10. Turners went on a mini-run to pull within 3 points 18-15 but the Millionaires finished strong to win 25-17 and tied the series at 2 matches all.

"They flip a coin," Mackenzie Martel explained. She and her friends were sitting in the parents' section at Thursday's game. "Whoever wins the toss gets the choice whether to serve. They play to 15, and switch sides when one team gets 8 points."

I'm glad she could explain it. because I had never witnessed a fifth match. Until Thursday, that is.

Lenox got an ace on the first serve of the shortened match and extended the lead to 6-1. The teams switched courts when Lenox took an 8-5 lead and then they went up 11-5. Turners pulled to within 2 at 12-10 but Lenox went on an endgame rally to take the tiebreaker 15-10.



Turners' libero Adrianna Dimaio gets under a spike with outside hitter Taylor Murphy at her side.

**Golf**

The Turners Falls golf team ended their season this week, but the other school in town, the 16-0 Franklin County Tech Eagles, made the playoffs.

Congratulations to Hunter Sessions, Michael McGoldrick, Travis Cutting, Michael Patnode, Nathan Pelletier, and Jordan DiGeorge, and good luck to all!

**Football**

**TFHS 21 – FCTS 20**

On Saturday, October 21, the Turners Falls Football Team defeated the Franklin Tech Eagles 21-20.

Going into the game, both Tech and Turners were wildcards. The game was a question

mark. Tech had pulled out a close win against Athol while Turners blew them out. Turners lost to Greenfield by 12, and the Franks beat Green by 18. Meanwhile, Athol pummeled Greenfield 41-12.

So on Saturday, either team had the potential to win.

"What went right," coach Chris LaPointe told me after the game: "John Torres running the ball downhill, and the play of John Driscoll." He also lauded the contributions of Ryan Campbell, Andy Craver, and Jaden Whiting.

Last week I wrote that "a team that can pass can never be counted out." And although Turners gained almost 300 yards on the ground, it was the passing game that got them the W.

Turners took the early lead when Torres scored with just under five minutes to go in the half and Tyler Lavin kicked the PAT to give Turners a 7-0 edge.

The Turners Falls Football team has the tendency to score with less than two minutes on the clock, but on Saturday, it was Tech's turn to score as time was running out. With 30 plus seconds left in the half, Spencer Telega scored a Tech touchdown and Seth Aldrich added the 2-PAT to put the Franks up 8-7 at the half.

Marcus Sanders scored a TD at the end of the third period to put Turners up 14-8, but Tech roared back again at the beginning of the fourth. Bailey Young scored the tying TD but Tech was unable to get the 2-pointer and the game remained tied at 14.

Tech took their first lead late in the game when Aldrich popped into the end zone with 2-1/2 minutes to play. The Turners D prevented the 2-PAT, keeping the score 20-14, and Tech took their 6-point lead into the last two minutes of the game.

But a team that can pass can never be counted out. With 51 seconds left, Kyle Dodge

threw a touchdown pass to Jaden Whiting to knot the game at 20, and Lavin kicked the 1-pointer to give Turners the 21-20 victory.

For Turners, Torres ran for 146 yards on 25 carries and scored a touchdown. Sanders had 55 yards on the ground, caught two passes for 32 yards, and also scored a TD.

Whiting had three receptions for 39 yards, scored 6 points, and completed a pass. Campbell ran for 21 yards and caught a 17-yard pass. Craver rushed for 14 yards and caught a pass for 20, and Driscoll rounded out the ground game with 22 yards rushing.

Under center, Dodge completed seven passes for 108 yards and a touchdown, while Lavin added three critical PATs.

**Field Hockey**  
**TFHS 1 – Palmer 0**  
**TFHS 4 – Southwick 2**

Last week, MassLive predicted potential field hockey playoff teams. Turners Falls was not included. Their record was 5-7-2 going into this week, and they had to play two BIC rivals.

On Wednesday, October 18 the Blue Tribe had to travel to Palmer, and on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> they got back on the bus and rode to Southwick. At the end of the week, they were 7-7-2.

Wednesday's contest was a defensive battle, with neither team getting more than six shots on goal in the entire game. The first half was scoreless but Cassie Wozniak scored a goal in the second to put the Powertown up by the final score of 1-0.

On Friday, Turners outscored Southwick 1-0 in the first half and 3-2 in the second. Wozniak scored three goals for Blue and gave an assist, while Aly Murphy scored the other Powertown goal.

Next week: The rankings.



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