

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 1

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 18, 2018

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This newspaper is run as a non-profit, community service, and we see **ARCHIVE** page A3



You can already browse most of the Montague Reporter's 16-year archive!

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

That Millers Falls Road Embankment Fails Again

By JEFF SINGLETON

The steep embankment along Millers Falls Road, which Montague has twice tried to stabilize at considerable cost, is failing again, and the town is required to undertake another reconstruction project. Department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron told the Montague selectboard Monday night that current plans call for the return of “riprap” to stabilize the steep hill.

Riprap is composed of relatively large pieces of crushed rock with sharp edges. It is often used to stabilize shorelines threatened by water flows.

Bergeron reviewed the history of the embankment. He said the company that had originally been hired to fix the collapsing hillside removed existing riprap and covered the hill with matting. Before contractors had completed the process, though,

a large rain event “totally washed out the side of the embankment.” After the matting was reinstalled, a second rainstorm again washed out the embankment.

Next, a pipe was installed, to bring the water down the hill to the Millers River oxbow. This solution lasted for three years, but due to heavy rains this fall, the embankment has failed yet again. “I’ve contacted three contractors who all asked why the riprap has been taken out,” Bergeron said. “[It] held for years and years and years... So, the rip rap is going back in.”

Town administrator Steve Ellis said that, in order to get the work done before the winter, the town has received a waiver from the state, which allows a shortened bidding process.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that the conservation commission wanted to “review the plans

see **MONTAGUE** page A5

GILL SELECTBOARD

Big Montague Sewer Bill to Hit Gill, Too

By GEORGE BRACE

The Gill selectboard addressed Montague’s large impending sewer rate hike at their Monday meeting, due to its impact on residents of Gill’s Riverside district, who receive sewer services from Montague.

Board member John Ward attended the Montague special town meeting last week that approved an increase to that town’s FY’19 water pollution control facility (WPCF) budget, and he provided his impressions of the proceeding. The board had a general discussion on the matter, and worked out a timeline for Gill’s response.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington introduced the subject by saying there was “no good news,” and from what he’s seen there is a “reluctant acceptance” that the situation sucks, but the rate increase is what’s needed. Montague did not set new sewer rates at the meeting, but a handout that was distributed said the WPCF budget increase was expected to result in a sewer rate increase of 71% over FY’18 rates.

see **GILL** page A7

DCR Commissioner Urged To Put Oaks In “Reserve”

By JEFF SINGLETON

WENDELL – “We are not clear-cutting 80 acres of old growth forest,” Leo Roy, commissioner of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), told a packed meeting of the Wendell selectboard on Wednesday. Roy defended the Brook Road logging project, which has encountered strong opposition from some Wendell residents and area environmentalists.

Roy said that 19% of Wendell’s forests are on state land, and roughly half of those are in “reserve status,” where logging is not allowed. He pointed out that a recent project by

the town on 73 acres of its own land had involved similar logging, and that logging projects on private land in Wendell were implemented “without a public outcry.”

“We are environmentalists, too,” he told the somewhat skeptical crowd of about 50.

Roy’s appearance was the result of an October 11 meeting at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls between the commissioner, selectboard member Dan Keller, and state representative Susannah Whipps of Athol, whose district includes Wendell. Whipps has told the *Reporter* that she has lobbied DCR for a pause in the

see **OAKS** page A2



The Wendell selectboard, DCR commissioner Leo Roy, and forest stewardship director Peter Church sat at the front table at the Wendell town hall Wednesday night.

NEWS ANALYSIS

A Stalled Federal Farm Bill Leaves Local Food Programs In Limbo

By KAREN SHAPIRO MILLER

GREENFIELD – “The thing that seems particularly frustrating,” says Margaret Christie, “is that even though money is still there, right

now it can’t be spent.”

Christie is the special projects director at Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), and she’s talking about the tangled situation with the 2014 federal Farm

Bill. The bill expired on September 30, and right now, there’s neither a replacement bill, nor an extension anywhere in sight.

The first Farm Bill – each one runs about 5 years – passed in 1933 to help farmers survive the Great Depression. Farm bills have since evolved into complex, multi-billion dollar pieces of umbrella legislation, funding the programs managed by the USDA, which include farm subsidies, nutrition programs, research, and conservation.

“There are so many parts to the farm bill,” says Christie, “and they’re affected in different ways [by the bill’s expiration.]” Some programs can continue, others can’t – and some, frustratingly, have still funds that have been budgeted, but nothing can be spent, as there’s no longer a farm bill to authorize the spending.

“Programs that support organic

see **FARM BILL** page A5



Anna Meyer of Hart Farm weighs peppers at the Greenfield Farmers Market.

A New Resource For Rural Seniors

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

FRANKLIN COUNTY– Living in a rural environment can present elders with challenges as they age. Longtime homeowners can find simple chores and repairs more difficult, and transportation can become an issue. The new non-profit, volunteer organization called Village Neighbors plans to provide assistance to local seniors in the communities of Shutesbury, Leverett, New Salem and Wendell, helping them to age gracefully within their own homes.

A launch party was held on October 14 at the Shutesbury Athletic Club. Elizabeth Fernandez O’Brien, a member of the Village Neighbors board of directors, said in an interview that they hoped this event would help introduce the program to seniors, and begin to grow their list of members, vol-

unteers and vendors.

By becoming a member, individuals get access to volunteers who can provide help by making social home visits, or offering a pair of helping hands for tech support, chores around the home, simple repairs, gardening, travel to doctors appointments and other tasks. Members will have access to a list of vendors; this could be plumbers, roofers, etc.

Fernandez O’Brien said the organization plans to make this available as they grow the organization, from information gathered over time, and she made it clear that these vendors are not vetted or recommended; criteria for the list might be “recommended by a member.”

Other social services could be provided through LifePath. The Council on Aging does also have

see **SENIORS** page A7

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week was a week of title bouts, as three Turners Falls teams played against top teams in their individual conferences.

The field hockey team, currently second in their conference, lost to top-seeded Southwick and third-ranked Mohawk. Volleyball, which had shared the top rung of the North Conference ladder with Mahar, outlasted them in an exhausting yet satisfying five-match victory.

Going into the week, the Turners football team was undefeated in Inter County North – as were the Frontier Red Hawks. Those two teams went head to head on Friday, with Turners stealing the win in overtime. The golf team finished the 2018 fall season this week, going 2-2. Unfortunately, that gives them a 7-8 record to

see **SPORTS** page A8



Franklin Tech Eagles’ Kate Garcia makes a shot on goal Tuesday night as the Hampden Charter School of Science Wolves’ Shalynne Gitabi tries to block. The HCSS Wolves won, 5-1.

The Montague Reporter

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OAKS from page A1

project while the department establishes better communication with the “stewards of the forest.”

Keller told the *Reporter* that Roy had explained DCR’s “vision” for the Wendell forest “in great detail” at that meeting. Keller called the conversation “very helpful,” and said he had requested that one section of the forest slated for logging be placed in reserve status.

The project is divided into two areas: a red pine stand planted in the 1930s that spans Montague Road, and a more diverse one containing oaks between Ruggles and Wickett ponds. Local officials and activists have objected to the latter portion, which they say contains many trees that are over 100 years old; a group that started a *MoveOn.org* petition presented over 1,000 signatures to Governor Baker’s office last week.

The Wendell conservation commission has not taken a stand on the project because it has “no jurisdiction” over the state forest, according to spokesperson Melinda Godfrey.

Last month, Hoag discovered that logging had commenced at the pine stand. After protests to DCR and a call by Whipps, the operation was “paused” while Conkey and Sons moved on to another project. DCR officials stated, however, that the logging had not been “put on hold,” as the company has two years to complete the work.

Keller began Wednesday’s meeting by apologizing to Roy for a letter the selectboard had signed complaining DCR had violated its “cutting plan” for the forest. He said that a review by an Amherst conservation official, and Wendell’s own conservation commission, had found “no violations” of the plan, or the state Wetlands Protection Act.

After a brief discussion among the selectboard, Keller opened the floor to the audience. Jonathan von Ranson referenced a “scary report” from the International Panel on Climate Change, and asked about the impact of forest cutting on state efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Critics say DCR’s woodlands policy undermines carbon sequestration.

Roy said DCR does not evaluate the carbon impact of its policies on a “stand by stand” basis, but that the “ideal forest” contains a “range of trees,” producing the highest level of long-term carbon reduction.

Corine Baker challenged Roy to explain the cutting of trees along town roads, which she called a “buffer zone.” Keith DiNardo, the project’s lead forester, said guidelines allow the state to cut up to 50% of the trees within 100 feet of a road. He said most of the trees in question were “heading in the direction of disease-ridden pine.”

Several speakers, including Hoag and Doug Harris, preservation officer for the Narragansett tribe, raised the issue of cultural artifacts at the Brook Road site. Roy did not comment on this issue.

A number of speakers endorsed placing the oak portion of the project on “reserve” status, which would prohibit logging.

“Landscape Designations for DCR Parks and Forests,” a 2012 document which guides DCR policy, divides state forest lands into three categories: Reserves, Parklands, and Woodlands. The Brook Road area is designated as a “woodland.” According to the guidelines, “Commercial timber harvesting that demonstrates a range of ‘excellent forestry’ through the application of best management practices will be the applied management standard” for woodlands.

Reserves, on the other hand, are defined as “large contiguous blocks of high value ecosystems. These are areas where the dominant ecosystem service objectives will be biodiversity maintenance, nutrient cycling and soil formation, and long term carbon sequestration. Reserves are areas that users often value for spiritual reasons and that may provide elements of a wilderness recreational experience. There will be no commercial harvesting of Timber in reserves.”

The document estimates 122,534 acres of state forest have been designated as woodlands, and 111,227 as reserves. (76,904 are parklands.)

The guidelines say that reserves “are intended to be several thousand acres in size,” but that there may be smaller “patch reserves” within woodlands that contain “highly significant and sensitive ecological or cultural resources...”

At one point, Roy suggested that the reserve designation had been assigned to specific forests in 2012, and “would not be reopened for at least 10 years.”

Leslie Luchonok of Shutesbury, a former DCR official, read from the DCR guidelines on patch reserves: “...all of the site specific information that is needed to properly identify candidate areas for ‘patch reserves’ was simply not available during the Landscape Designation process.”

Luchonok argued that this language suggests DCR has some flexibility to still place portions of woodlands, like those at Brook Road, in this category.

When asked by the *Reporter* after the meeting if any woodlands had been placed in the patch reserve category since the 2012 guidelines were published, Roy said he did not know, but “that is a good question.”



Robyn Mason and Veda Mason-Hellman are wrapping up the season at the Country Creemee in Turners Falls this Saturday. There will be no more soft serve until sometime next spring!

Letters to the Editors

Wendell Poles, Clarified

Thank you for reporting on the October 3 Wendell Selectboard meeting (“State Cable Agency Underestimated Poles”). I thought that I would offer readers some further details on the discussion involving short term borrowing for broadband, as I participated in the discussion and was referenced in the article.

Several years ago, when the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (the “MBI”) developed funding formulas for municipal broadband in towns like Wendell, certain assumptions around pole counts were made in the Cartesian model for financing of municipal broadband.

The MBI provided Wendell with funds for a pole survey, which provided a more accurate pole count. In Wendell’s case, the MBI estimate was 1,100 poles when in actuality our counts were closer to 1,600. The process of preparing these poles for holding fiber is called “make ready”.

Area legislators, town lead-

ers and state officials realized that make ready is a highly variable cost within these broadband projects, relying on pole counts, ground conditions, and pole condition, among other factors. The State House subsequently passed legislation which allocated additional funds to assist towns if actual make-ready costs exceeded MBI estimates.

In some towns, make-ready costs have exceeded estimates, while in other towns, they have come in below estimates.

Because of the additional state funding, towns whose make-ready estimates along public ways exceed MBI estimates have access to additional funds to cover cost overage. These funds are administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), the same agency which administers the Last-Mile Grant program of which Wendell is a part.

Wendell’s make-ready costs may exceed estimates; they may also

come in below estimates. In the case where costs come in above estimates, Wendell would short-term borrow the additional funds needed to complete make ready, and once those costs are settled, the town would apply to EO-HED for reimbursement.

This additional state funding is critical because it stabilizes the most variable aspect of broadband projects, since towns will be reimbursed make-ready overage costs, and we should all be thankful for these funds.

The broadband project in the town of Wendell is progressing quite well with the hard work of many town volunteers. I am very grateful to our regional and municipal partners, and particularly to the Baker-Polito Administration and EOHED, for their assistance in bringing this important infrastructure to Wendell.

Ray DiDonato
Member, Broadband Committee
Wendell

Yes on Question 4

The members of the Single Payer Task Force of the Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) and Western Mass Medicare for All have placed a non-binding ballot question in front of voters in the November election.

This will be Question #4 on the November ballot, except in Northfield where it will be Question #5:

Shall the Representative from this District be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care that would provide all Massachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services, and that would eliminate the role of insurance companies in

health care by creating a publicly administered insurance trust fund?

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) made some improvements especially for low-income workers and workers that had no coverage, middle-income workers got little relief on their health insurance costs. Health insurance costs keep increasing.

All in all, we have a healthcare system in this country that discourages people from going to the doctor in order to keep costs down. And this contributes to health and wealth inequality.

If we had a single-payer system, or Medicare for All, everybody is in and nobody is out.

Medicare for All would cover services not presently covered by existing Medicare or by most insur-

ance policies, such as dental, vision, and hearing care.

FCCPR has looked at several towns in Franklin County, as well as two school systems. Health insurance premiums are big items for schools, towns, and employers and employees in general. Passing a Medicare for All bill would cut out the cost of premiums, deductibles and copays, and replace those costs with a much smaller shared payroll tax.

The cost savings would be huge, and would provide savings to spend on improving education and town infrastructure.

Please consider helping us win Medicare for All in Massachusetts by voting for the Single Payer Ballot Question on November 6.

Judy Atkins
Greenfield

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Friends of Sheffield will be hosting a **Pumpkin Carving Party** for families to carve pumpkins for the Great Falls Festival.

From 2 to 5 p.m. this Friday, October 19, the Friends will be hosting community members at Sheffield Elementary in Turners Falls to help prep the pumpkins by gutting them. Families will arrive at 6 to 7:30 p.m. for the carving event.

Everyone is welcome, and if you can’t make it, look for the Sheffield pumpkins at the festival Saturday! Check Page B2 or the insert in this paper for more information about the Great Falls Festival itself.

A **Friends of Gill Pancake Breakfast** will be held this Saturday, October 20, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Gill Congregational Church. All are welcome.

Regular and blueberry pancakes, sausage and/or bacon will be served. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 10 and free for children under 4. Unbaked, frozen apple pies at \$12 will also be available. All proceeds go to a college scholarship program.

Are you at times **“At a Loss for Words”**? Come to an interactive discussion on public speaking with Dr. Paul Bassett on Saturday, October 20 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Dr. Bassett will present an interactive discussion on public speaking, the nature of fear surrounding such, and civil conversation for understanding. Dr. Bassett is a Montague native, and currently teaches Rhetoric at Stoneleigh-Burnham.

The Friends of the New Salem Public Library will be hosting New Salem authors Nansi and Leonard Glick, at the Library on Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m. They will share firsthand accounts from their recently published book, **“Among the Gimi: Fieldwork as Personal Experience.”**

Between 1960 and 1962, the Glicks spent eighteen months in a very remote village in the Highlands of New Guinea while Len Glick, a cultural anthropologist working on his doctorate, researched the Gimi, a native tribe who had been living for thousands of years relatively un-

touched by Western civilization.

The Glicks’ book includes fascinating details of their arduous and challenging journey just to reach the home of the Gimi tribe. There are wonderful black-and-white and color photographs that complement the narrative and give a glimpse into a personal journey that few people will ever have the opportunity to experience.

The book will be available for purchase at the program for \$15, with all proceeds benefiting the Friends of the New Salem Library. Wine, coffee and tea will be served along with cheese and crackers. The program is free with no pre-registration required.

Next Thursday, October 25, from 3 to 6 p.m. join the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association for some **Halloween fun** at the Millers Falls Library.

Stop by and decorate a *papier-mâché* mask made under the guidance of artist Eric Grab, or make your own paper mask. All ages are welcome, and snacks will be provided. The library is located at 23 Bridge Street in Millers Falls.

Franklin County Technical School will host its first-ever Hal-

loween **“Trek & Treat at Tech”** on Tuesday, October 30. This free event is open to children ages pre-kindergarten through 6th grade and will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Children should dress up in Halloween costumes. Teachers will be decorating the doors of their classrooms in Halloween themes, and student volunteers will hand out candy to the children as they trek from classroom to classroom throughout the school.

RiverCulture is compiling a **Holiday Calendar** of cultural events happening in all of Montague’s villages between November 15 and December 31. The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website, in social media, and inserted in the *Montague Reporter*.

To list your exhibition, craft fair, holiday concert, musical performance, theater performance or gift drive, please submit the following details to riverculture@montague-ma.gov by Wednesday, November 7: event name, location, address, time, price, description, and media links. Call Suzanne at 863-3200 x 126 with any questions!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Stiffed On Timber?

By ROB SKELTON

The Montague minister and sawyer Verne Williams has some ‘splaining to do regarding the \$6,000 payment made by the town of Leverett in 2013 for oak timbers and bridge decking which remain undelivered, it was revealed during Tuesday’s selectboard meeting.

The board decided that it shouldn’t be on road boss David Finn to track down a delinquent vendor whose contract long preceded Finn’s arrival, so selectman Tom Hankinson volunteered to “give him a kick,” in the paraphrased words of selectboard chair Peter d’Errico.

Ethan Dickinson of the road crew, who grew up next door to Williams, assured the board there was no mal intent: that Williams had been sick, or forgetful, or his sawmill was down.

Finn announced that bids will go out in April for the Coke Kiln Road bridge repair, with completion slated for June. The Mill Yard Road bridge repair requires a state-certified engineer’s rating; the bid is not ready because it needs to be rewritten. This prompted a sigh from selectwoman Julie Shively.

“Is it really that complicated?” Shively asked.

“It’s an equal opportunity trough, and there are as many fingers in the pie as possible,” answered d’Errico.

Finn also sat through a critique of his leadership and performance which Isaiah Robison had iterated two weeks earlier, with the result being the formation of a committee, including two past road bosses, Robison, and Richie Roberts, to ensure “institutional memory.”

Dickinson, responding to criticism of conditions on Dudleyville Road, noted that, because there were no electric lines present, the trees there had never ever been trimmed, and that recently his crew had trimmed up to sixty feet in height to allow in more sunlight to

melt the winter ice.

Robison also took exception to a blurb about the highway department written in the town newsletter by selectwoman Shively, noting it was a lost opportunity by the road boss to speak directly to his constituency. For his part, Finn said that he can’t grade a road when it’s soaking wet, and that he was open to criticism, to which Robison agreed.

When someone from Highway said they had a small crew, Robison retorted that it was “bigger than it’s ever been.”

Other Business

Sarah Concannon and a colleague from the Collins Center, a “think tank” based at UMass-Boston, presented a grant-funded capital planning assist to the selectboard, finance, school, and capital planning committees. Discussed were bond ratings, debt exclusion, Chapter 90 funds, liquidity, and financial sustainability.

They were encouraged to parley with Wes Goscenski, who heads capital planning, so that everyone can “get on the same page.”

Gregg Woodard of the fin com said that real numbers are hard to come by, because “we never know. I don’t like five-year plans because most of the infrastructure borrowing involves ten- or twenty-year terms.”

A letter was signed by the selectboard objecting to another proposed enlargement of the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion charter school in Hadley, because it “undermines local schools and threatens their survival,” according to d’Errico.

A solar installation proposed for the closed landfill site in south Leverett by Cinda Jones of the Amherst lumber giant W.D. Cows, Inc. was given an initial nod of approval by the board.

Steve Nagy of Finance was slated to represent Leverett at an impending four-town conclave to decide the regional school budget.

ARCHIVE from page A1

have been looking forward to making our full library of back issues into an accessible, free public resource for several years. Now, with the help of a number of volunteers, and the support of our subscribers and donors, we are ready to share our archive with you.

Too many publications seek to hide their libraries behind a pay-wall, but we think this would be misguided. Galaxies of information are deteriorating in such containers, while the reading public contends with a thick smog of attention-grabbing appeals, push notifications and unanswered email. Why bury what we have?

We think making our archive free and easy to use will create the most benefit to the towns we cover – and to us. One of the best things about this resource is that it will make it so much easier to *write* for the paper. Now, a new reporter interested in delving into any given topic will have all of our previous coverage at her fingertips!

The archive is linked from our home page, but you can navigate directly to montaguereporter.org/search/ to get started. Just type in any word – your name, the name of someone you are fond of, a business name, a dirty word, a genre of dance – and you’ll get a list of all the issues it has appeared in.

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The project is not yet complete – we’re still filling in a few missing issues, and most of the issues from our first two years will need to be scanned, unless someone out there realizes they have them in PDF form. We’re also still working on improving our search function and user interface.

But try it out, and let us know how it looks! There are over 600 issues up. If you’re interested in helping us test the archive, and otherwise finishing the project, get in touch at volunteer@montaguereporter.org.

A huge thank you is due to Johanna Bates, Julia Handschuh, Galen Huckins, Colin Mitchell, Lynn Pelland, Evan Serio, and Jason Woofenden for all the time and skill they have contributed!

If you find this resource useful, donations are always welcome – and if you don’t already subscribe, please consider doing so. Editions from the last two months will not appear in the archive, and are available only to subscribers or on newsstands.

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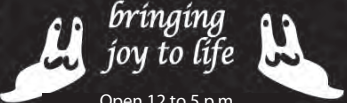
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Question 1 is a Social Justice Issue

By RUDY RENAUD

GREENFIELD – First, let me put this disclaimer out there. I work for the Massachusetts Nurses Association.

The MNA is the professional association and union that represents 23,000 nurses and healthcare professionals, including nurses at 70% of all acute care hospitals. MNA nurses who provide care at the bedside wrote Question 1 for their patients.

I am voting Yes on 1. The reason I am voting Yes on 1 is not just ideological, but personal.

Almost two years ago my wife Julie was in a very traumatic car accident. After spending about 10 days in the ICU, where there are Safe Patient Limits, my wife was transferred to a unit where there currently are no patient limits.

I was there day and night watching her suffer because she either had to wait far too long for pain meds or to get lifted or turned. The nurses were always apologetic and doing their best, but they were constantly short staffed.

The nurses and all hospital workers are victims of short staffing, just like the rest of us. This is how hospitals make money. They keep labor costs down to a bare minimum.

And in the meantime, they make huge prof-

its. Just see the article “Massachusetts Hospitals Remained Profitable in 2017” published on *MassLive.com* on August 1.

When you have healthcare executives spending millions to deceive and prevent delivery of safe patient care, while they make billions in profits and are paid obscene amounts of money, you have a social justice issue. There can be no other way to look at this.

Question 1 was written by nurses. This group of mostly women spent years researching, studying, costing out, and surveying nurses to come up with the best possible law to fix the understaffing problem. Tons of work went into a bill that would protect patients, keep hospitals open, and ensure that no other staff loses their job as a result of Question 1 passing.

Every part of this bill is intentional, well thought out, smart, and desperately needed.

Each time I hear the hospital executive and their surrogates say, “Despite the well-meaning intentions of this bill, it will have many awful unintended consequences,” I cannot help but feel the sting of sexism contained in these condescending remarks.

The mostly women who put this bill together would not try to pass a law that would shut down

hospitals and put everyone out of work. That makes no sense.

Despite the millions that the opposition is spending to defeat Question 1, there are tons of supporters of Yes on 1. These include Democratic nominee for Governor Jay Gonzalez, the State Democratic Committee, unions representing hundreds of thousands of working people, professional organizations, nursing associations throughout the US and internationally, state and local elected officials, town committees, Congressman James McGovern, and many more. (See www.safepatientlimits.org/who-we-are for a full list.)

Everyone, regardless of your political perspective, should support Safe Patient Limits because illness and injury happens to all of us. Please join me in voting yes on Question 1 this November 6.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane.”

Karen “Rudy” Renaud is the president of the Greenfield town council, as well as the director of strategic campaigns for the Massachusetts Nurses Association.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Ch. 70 Formula Disproportionately Taxes Poorer Towns

By JOANNE BLIER, TUPPER BROWN, MICHAEL NAUGHTON, and GREGORY SNEDEKER

(An open letter, on behalf of the Gill-Montague Regional School District Civic Leaders Group.)

GILL-MONTAGUE – In its search for ways to increase education funding, particularly for poorer and rural districts, the legislature should consider making changes to fix a glaring inequity in the current system, namely the provision that forces poorer towns to pay into the system at a higher rate so that wealthier towns may pay at a lower one.

Elementary and secondary public education in Massachusetts is funded under legislation referred to as Chapter 70. That law establishes “foundation budgets” for each town that represent the minimum expenditures considered necessary to provide an adequate education for our children. The law further provides that, on a statewide basis, the towns shall provide “local contributions” equaling 59% of those foundation budgets, and the state shall provide the rest.

The Chapter 70 formula is complicated, but in broad outline it calculates local contributions for every town by applying one percentage number (similar to a tax rate) to the town’s property wealth and another percentage number to its income wealth. These percentages are calibrated so that, statewide, the total property wealth and income wealth contributions are equal, and together they add up to the 59% requirement.

Since the same percentages are applied to the two wealth figures of every town in the state, there is an equitable distribution of local burden for public education costs based on the wealth of the towns of the Commonwealth. (In this letter, we call the amount so calculated the “initially calculated local contribution.”) So far, so good.

However, Chapter 70 has a further provision that limits (or “caps”) each town’s actual local contribution to 82.5% of the town’s foundation budget. This means that whatever the earlier calculation shows, no town’s local contribution can be greater than the cap, and any excess is

simply ignored.

As one would expect, it is generally the towns with larger property and income wealth whose initially-calculated local contributions exceed the 82.5% cap. The result in FY’19 is that 148 towns (out of 351) contribute at lower percentage rates than towns with lower wealth figures that do not reach the 82.5% cap.

Since the total of local contributions in the state must equal 59% of the state-wide foundation budget, the reduced contributions from towns affected by the cap must be offset by increased contributions from towns that are not affected. Thus, the original percentage figures have to be raised, but the raise only affects those towns which do not meet the 82.5% cap.

This results in a clear subsidy of the affluent by the less affluent.

As an example, consider the towns of Greenfield and Weston. In FY’19, each is educating roughly 2,000 students, and has a foundation budget of a little over \$20 million. Greenfield’s initially calculated local contribution (based on its wealth assessment), before application of the cap, is just over \$10 million. Weston’s initially calculated local contribution (also based on its wealth assessment) is more than \$83 million.

In the end, Weston’s actual local contribution is less than \$18 million due principally to operation of the 82.5% cap, which means it is contributing barely 21% of its initially calculated local contribution. Because Greenfield has a much lower wealth assessment and thus is not affected by the cap, its actual local contribution is 100% of its initially-calculated contribution.

Poorer towns pay the full rate; wealthier towns do not.

It should be noted that if there were no cap on local contributions, many of the more affluent towns would be required to contribute above and beyond their own foundation budgets, and they would thus help fund the public education costs of other towns. This is not possible under the current law, because there is no mechanism for collecting and distributing the portion of a town’s local contribution that exceeds its foundation budget.

However, the magnitude of the inequity built into the current law is indicated by the fact that, for FY’19, the difference between the initially-calculated local contributions of towns benefiting from the 82.5% cap, and the smaller amount they actually are being required to pay due largely to the cap, totals for all such towns about \$1.778 billion [...]

Given that the statewide local contribution target is about \$6.2 billion, this is truly a huge amount of local contribution to be shifted away from those towns. And to repeat, this is money that must still be found, and it is currently raised principally from those towns not affected by the cap. If there were no cap and wealthy towns in fact paid 100% of their initially-calculated local contribution into the system, as less affluent communities do now, a burden of many hundreds of millions of dollars would be lifted from those less affluent towns.

The unfairness and inequity in the current system are obvious. We should reject a system that collects funds for public purposes on a basis that requires economically disadvantaged communities to pay disproportionately more than their wealthiest counterparts.


As citizens, we can and do debate the uses to which our public funds are put, and we certainly don’t always agree. But once the decisions have been made, all of us owe it to our fellow citizens to step up and pay our fair share. When it is discovered that this, in fact, is not happening to a very large degree, our legislators and the governor should work diligently to rectify the situation as quickly as possible.

Joanne Blier is the business manager of that Gill-Montague Regional School District. Tupper Brown is a member of the Gill finance committee. Michael Naughton is a member of the Montague finance committee. Gregory Snedeker is a member of the Gill selectboard.

This letter has been endorsed by the selectboards and finance committees of Gill and Montague, as well as the GMRSD School Committee. For more information, visit www.gmr.sd.org/node/1325.

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THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

Comerford at the Common Hall

MONTAGUE – Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) is pleased to be hosting our likely new state senator, Jo Comerford, on October 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center.

Comerford will be the featured guest at FCCPR’s October General Assembly, which is open to the general public. She has been asked to discuss her first legislative initiatives and how the movement that helped get her elected can continue to play a role in advancing our shared priorities. There will be lots of opportunity for questions from the audience.

FARM BILL from page A1

farmers; programs that support beginning farmers; programs that support limited-resource farmers; programs that support local agriculture, food hubs, or value-added production.” Christie ticks off a list. “The programs that fund our work here at CISA are mostly stalled. If you already have a grant, [the government] can continue paying it. But we can’t write new grants to fund the next round of our work. So that’s a significant impact.”

“The bottom line,” says Congressman Jim McGovern, “this is a lousy situation.” McGovern, Representative for the Massachusetts 2nd Congressional District, is a member of the House Agricultural Committee, which has been developing a Farm Bill.

Without a Farm Bill, or Farm Bill extension, farmers won’t get help developing better soil conservation or crop rotation practices. The programs being cut off, says Christie, are “many of the programs that benefit farmers in New England.” Without them, farmers won’t get help promoting and developing their products. They can’t use the programs that help protect wetlands and install buffers for organic farms.

The very successful Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program – known as the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) in Massachusetts – will, without new funding, also stop. HIP is an innovative “two-fer” pioneered in Massachusetts: it supports both local farmers and SNAP participants. By reimbursing SNAP users in their SNAP accounts for amounts they spend on produce at farmers markets (and other places), it provides an incentive to buy local, healthy food.

Yet, for all the problems caused by the suspension of these programs – which account for less than 1% of the farm bill budget – their loss is just collateral damage, the consequence of a bitter, intransigent struggle. There’s a reason a new Farm Bill can’t be passed. “The problem,” says McGovern, “is that House Republicans are insisting on deep cuts in SNAP.”

About 80% of the Farm Bill budget is allocated to SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps. About 1 in 8 people in the country use SNAP, and most recipients are children, elderly, or disabled. According to *statisticalatlas.com*, about 16.9% of households in Greenfield use SNAP; in Montague, about 28.5% do.

“The Republicans want to gut the Nutrition title,” says McGovern. “The House Farm Bill cuts \$23 bil-

FCCPR is a multi-issue organization with its roots in the Bernie Sanders for President campaign. The organization supports progressive candidates, is active around ballot initiatives, and organizes and demonstrates around a variety of issues through its taskforces on education, climate, single-payer healthcare, peace, civil rights, women’s rights, labor, and campaign finance reform.

FCCPR endorsed Comerford, and many FCCPR members worked to help get her elected.

For more information, contact Ferd Wulkan at (413) 376-2373, or ferdwulkan@gmail.com.

lion out of the SNAP program. It would throw millions of people off their benefits. It would throw hundreds and thousands of kids off free breakfast and lunch in schools.”

The House Farm bill throttles SNAP eligibility. It increases work requirements, and makes work hours more difficult to document. It increases the penalties for folks who don’t meet them, or don’t fill out the paperwork properly. A person who fails to meet the work requirement loses SNAP for a year; those failing a second time, for 3 years.

By tightening work requirements, by making the documentation process harder to comply with, and by failing to provide adequate help for people trying to meet the requirements, the Republican-sponsored House bill is likely to push people deeper into poverty.

Fortunately, there’s another version of a new Farm Bill in play, and that’s the one written and approved by the Senate. The Senate farm bill is fairly non-controversial, and McGovern would like to see it move forward. And, he says, he’s not the only one: the bill is widely supported. “Eighty-six senators voted for it,” says McGovern. “You can’t get 86 senators to agree on lunch, never mind to support a bill!”

McGovern believes that the Senate version of the farm bill has not just Democrat supporters in the House, but Republicans as well. He thinks that if House leadership would bring the Senate version of the farm bill to the floor, “the votes are here in the House to pass it.” What’s making it especially difficult,” he says, “is the intransigence of the House Republican leadership.” It’s not, he says, “just the Democrats who think the House bill is terrible. Pat Roberts [Republican senator from Kansas; chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee] does not like the House Bill, period. He’s made it very very clear.”

What happens going forward depends largely upon the election.

“What I’m hoping for,” says McGovern, “is that when the election is over, Speaker Ryan agrees to allow us to move a bill to the floor that looks more like the Senate bill than the House bill. And we pass it, and we’re done.

“Short of that, we’ll have to do some extensions, and then, if the Democrats take control of the House, I have no doubt that we can work with the Republicans in the Senate – if they still control the Senate – to work out a Farm Bill really quickly. But if the Republicans retain control of the House, then we’re going to still have this showdown.”



MONTAGUE from page A1
before they get down there and do the work.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he would like to see “greater supervision” of the project by town officials than in the past.

Bergeron noted that a road would have to be constructed to allow vehicles to access the lower part of the hill. “I want to spend what we need to get it done, he said, “and get it done right, so we don’t have to be here in another five years.”

Kuklewicz said the company that did the original engineering work, Weston and Sampson, “is not somebody that’s not known to us,” and “they should understand the situation that they have put the town in.”

Ramsey said that his “big take-away” from the previous failures was that the engineer was not onsite during the construction.

Ellis said that, “since this is going to be in the newspaper,” people should know that the embankment in question is steep and sandy, and “we don’t want people going down there to check it out.”

Ellis did not have a contract for the board to approve, which he hoped would be on next week’s agenda.

Ramsey also requested the board award a contract to environmental engineers Wright-Pierce for the design and permitting of a project to stop the perennial flooding on Montague City Road. The \$45,000 contract will be funded by a state grant to address the effects of global warming, as well as Chapter 90 state roadway funds allocated to Montague. The board approved the contract.

Heart Health

John Dobosz of the parks and recreation department received approval for the use of public property for the annual Sawmill River 10K Run on New Year’s Day. The run starts in Montague Center, passes down Greenfield and Meadow roads, and then returns to the Center via Old Sunderland Road.

Dobosz said that this is the eleventh year his department has been sponsoring the run, which was started in the late 1980s by former selectboard member Allen Ross.

Dobosz then introduced Stephanie Biza, of the KEVS Foundation, which has donated an automatic

emergency defibrillator (AED) unit to the parks and rec department. The KEVS Foundation is dedicated to increasing public awareness of sudden cardiac arrest among children and young adults. The portable unit can diagnose and treat heart arrhythmia.

The board voted to “express gratitude” for the donation.

Polar Shift

The selectboard approved a request from the Eversource Electric Company to install four “jointly owned poles” on East Taylor Hill Road. The company, which did not have a representative at the hearing, wrote that the poles were needed to reduce long spans between current poles. They are jointly owned with Verizon.

Taylor Hill Road resident John Reynolds asked if the company was also going to install underground conduit, which had been mentioned in the information he had received.

Kuklewicz responded that his map did not show any planned underground work, but “I do think we should ask the utility to send representatives next time.”

Plow Grant

Bryan Camden, the manager of the Turners Falls Airport, asked the board to execute a state grant to help purchase “snow removal equipment.” He said the airport was in the process of purchasing new attachments for its tractor and a six-wheel dump truck, which would allow the facility to avoid contracting for snow removal and save up to \$46,000.

John Reynolds asked where the equipment was going to be stored. “For the time being, it’s going to be stored outside,” said Camden, noting that in the spring the airport was going to apply for another grant to build a “pole barn” storage facility. The selectboard executed the grant.

Other Business

Ellis announced that the “assessment center,” the testing process for applicants for the permanent police chief position, will be held on Friday, October 19. He also updated the board on the process for selecting a project manager for constructing the new public works facility.

At the request of acting police chief Chris Williams, the board

agreed to request a civil service list to allow the town to hire an additional reserve officer.

Without a formal vote, the board agreed to have a hearing on the FY’19 sewer rates, which are expected to rise sharply, at its October 22 meeting. “I think we all know what’s coming, and I don’t know what we can do about it,” said Kuklewicz. “But we can ask questions and give the public a chance to speak.”

At Ellis’s request, the board approved a letter being circulated among rural towns advocating changes in the way the state calculates and allocates funds for state-owned lands, in lieu of paying local property taxes (PILOT).

Ellis told the board that the contract between the town and the local access television station – MCCI – would expire next March, and did not expire on September 1, as had previously been indicated.

The board once again read and approved the lengthy warrant for the annual state election on November 6. A revote was necessary because a previous version had not contained Question 4, which instructs representatives in certain legislative districts to vote to create a single-payer healthcare system statewide.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell of the War Memorial Committee requested permission for the use of public property for the annual Rag Shag Parade, a Halloween-related event where young people dress in ragged clothing. The board approved the request. The October 31 parade, which Boutwell said has been taking place for fifty years, will commence at 6 p.m. and proceed from Aubuchon Hardware in Turners Falls down Avenue A to the Discovery Center parking lot.

At the end of the meeting the board retired to a non-public executive session to discuss the town’s complaint against the Southworth Company, which owns a closed factory building on Canal Road.

According to Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman, Southworth has not responded to a state Superior Court order to secure the building and remove hazardous materials.

Zellman told this newspaper he will be appearing in the Greenfield Court this Thursday, October 18.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was October 16, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Erving Hires Library Director

The six-year stint of library trustees running the town library has come to an end. This week, the trustees have finally been able – with increased funding from the town – to hire a professional library director.

Barbara Friedman had her first day on the job Wednesday. She accepted the \$17,000 a year, 17 hour a week un-benefited position after the trustees worked their way through a list of six candidates for the opening.

“She has a well-rounded background in librarian work,” said trustee Beth Bazler. “She’s been a library consultant, and she worked as the library director for the town of Westminster for five years. When she walked out of the interview, we looked at each other and said, ‘She’s the one!’”

Zero-Energy House Warming

About 60 people, including architects, educators, builders, politicians, and curious neighbors, showed up at the lot behind 389 Montague City Road to have a look at the new house under construction there, being built by Bick Corsa for Doug Stephens and Tina Clarke.

The home – built on a six-inch concrete pad, with a second, interior frame that will provide an envelope stuffed with 12 inches of packed cellulose insulation, with another 20 inches of blown loose-filled cellulose in the ceiling – is a simple “24 foot by 48 box,” in Corsa’s words.

But this box will contain more than just three bedrooms, kitchen and bath. It will also, in a modest way, contain humanity’s hope for a sustainable future.

The house is one of six finalists in a statewide zero-energy challenge, sponsored by Massachusetts investor-owned utility companies: National Grid, NSTAR, Unitil, and Western Mass Electric.

Maple Valley School Holds Community Meeting

Maple Valley School held an open informational meeting in the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday. Chris Ezzo, the school’s executive director, opened the session with an overview of the school’s operation, organization, and mission.

A dozen staff members showed up for the presentation, more than the number of Wendell residents who came. Two of the Wendell residents who showed up work at the school, and spoke on its behalf.

In the back room were handouts, refrigerator magnets with school contact information, a list of “helpful hints if a Maple Valley student shows up at your house,” copies of the school organizational chart, procedures the school follows in case of an AWOL, and a list of families in the neighborhood on the AWOL telephone tree.

Cookies and treats were available, baked by students as part of the Shamrock Diner, which the students run for school personnel.

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOOD ILLUSTRATION

Give these puzzles a try! If you can solve them all, send an email to "kids@montaguereporter.org." The first reader of any age to send us a full set of correct answers will win a free fish fry from Hubie's Tavern in Turners Falls! (Can you say "free fish fry" five times fast?) This page is from a May 1917 edition of "John Martin's Book," a children's magazine from long ago. Edited by BEVERLY KETCH

THE FINNY FISH PUZZLE

BY WALTER WEBBMAN

1. REARRANGE THE LETTERS AND FIND WHAT VARIETY OF FISH MR. RAT EXPECTS TO CATCH.




A cartoon rat wearing a top hat and a suit is standing on a small patch of land in a body of water. He is holding a rectangular sign that has the words "MEEK CARL" written on it. The sign is tilted slightly to the left.

2. SUPPLY THE MISSING LETTERS, AND HAVE THE NAME OF A FISH.




A cartoon rabbit wearing a top hat and a suit is standing on a small patch of land in a body of water. He is holding a rectangular sign that has the letters "-LO_N_E_" written on it. The sign is tilted slightly to the right.

3. THE NAMES OF TWO KINDS OF FISH ARE HIDDEN IN THE SIGN. THE FIRST IS WHALE.



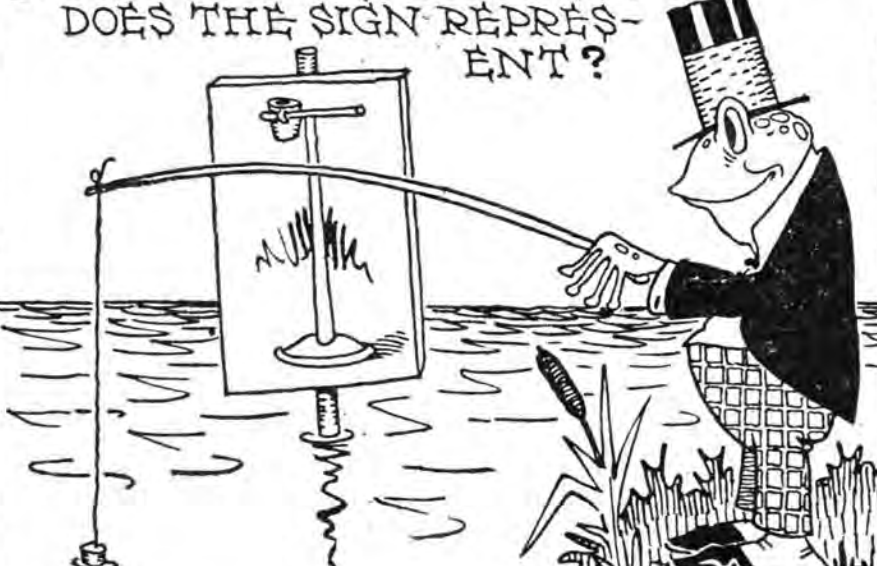
A cartoon hippo wearing a top hat and a suit is standing on a small patch of land in a body of water. He is holding a rectangular sign that has the text "HOW HALE AND HEALTHY HE IS! HE'S HAD BAD LUCK, TOO." written on it. The sign is tilted slightly to the left.

4. FILL IN THE TWO BLANK SPACES WITH LETTERS. WHAT FISH IS THEN REPRESENTED?



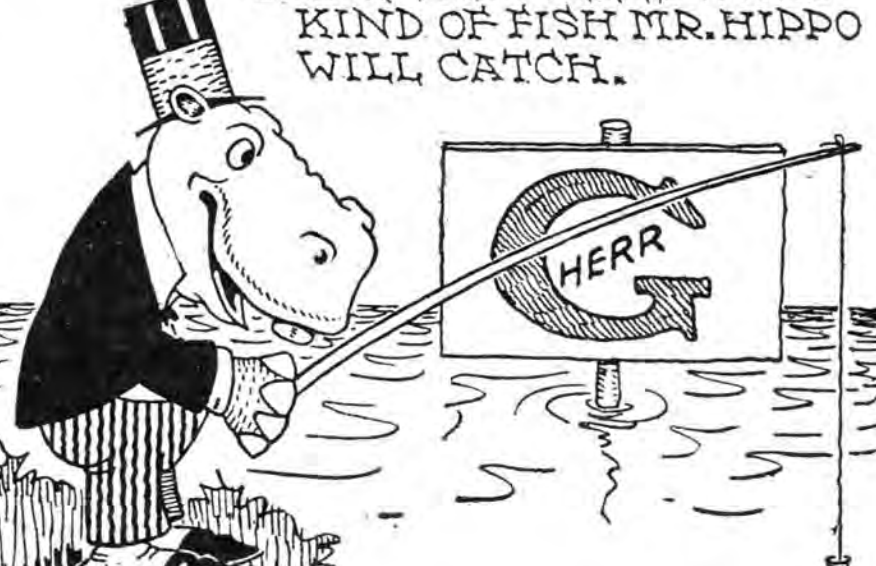
A cartoon rat wearing a top hat and a suit is standing on a small patch of land in a body of water. He is holding a rectangular sign that has the letters "-R_L_" written on it. The sign is tilted slightly to the right.

5. WHAT VARIETY OF FISH DOES THE SIGN REPRESENT?



A cartoon rat wearing a top hat and a suit is standing on a small patch of land in a body of water. He is holding a rectangular sign that has the letter "W" written on it. The sign is tilted slightly to the left.

6. THE SIGN TELLS WHAT KIND OF FISH MR. HIPPO WILL CATCH.




A cartoon hippo wearing a top hat and a suit is standing on a small patch of land in a body of water. He is holding a rectangular sign that has the word "HERR" written on it. The sign is tilted slightly to the right.

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GILL from page A1

Purington asked Ward for his take on the Montague meeting. Ward reported that following an overview of the situation by WPCF superintendent Bob McDonald, moderator Chris Collins tried to keep the meeting focused on the issue at hand, which was the budget article, and not on how things looked moving forward.

He said that, not being a Montague town meeting member, he did not raise any questions, but will be meeting with McDonald and Montague town administrator Steve Ellis on October 25 to discuss some of the possible future steps Montague may take to improve the situation.

Ward presented some thoughts on the pros and cons on methane digesters and composting, but said that as much as anything, his outreach would be intended to let McDonald know the entire responsibility for dealing with the situation is not falling on his shoulders alone.

Purington suggested that contacting Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste District before his meeting might also be helpful.

Ward said his outreach would be intended to let McDonald know the entire responsibility for dealing with the situation is not falling on his shoulders alone.

Discussion then turned to a timeline for the rate increases for Riverside. The town of Montague bills the town of Gill for the service, and Gill in turn bills the customers. Purington and the board agreed that the customary approach – gathering input at one meeting, then setting the rates several weeks later – works well.

The board decided to hold the initial discussion at its October 29 meeting. Montague plans to set its rates October 22. Gill’s rates would then “most likely” be set at the November 15 selectboard meeting.

Finally, the board then approved paying the town’s current sewer commitment of \$28,184.

Still Fuming?

Highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire sought the board’s guidance in asking the department’s newly-hired mechanic-operator to drive its Sterling dump truck.

Since it was purchased used in 2015, the truck has been a source of

ongoing consternation over reports of fumes in the cabin. Repeated attempts to document or fix the issue have not yielded definitive results, and LaClaire said he had a moral question in asking a new employee to drive it. The truck has not been driven since the spring.

Taking the bull by the the horns, Ward told him, “I’ll take the responsibility off you.” He said that the new employee, Brandon Ovitt, may be “the perfect one” to drive the truck and provide an independent and informed opinion on what is going on with it.

The board had approved Ovitt as a full-time employee earlier in the meeting, and Ward, chair Greg Snedeker, and member Randy Crochier all spoke of his qualifications and ability to make a decision on driving the truck himself. Along with a commercial driver’s licensee (CDL), Ovitt possesses a certification in diesel mechanics and has experience in that area.

Ward commented that in his past experience in the automotive repair industry, he would want to drive a problematic vehicle and evaluate it himself: “I loved those challenges.” He said LaClaire should give Ovitt the choice, and that based on his impression of the employee in the interview process, his guess was “he will jump right on it.”

Crochier added that there had been conflicting reports as to the vehicle’s safety, and that LaClaire’s responsibility was only to make Ovitt aware of that. LaClaire said he had briefed Ovitt and made available a file of reports on the vehicle.

Crochier went on to say that, as someone with a CDL, if Ovitt doesn’t feel safe in the truck, no one can make him get in it, and that as a diesel mechanic, he should be able to make an informed decision.

LaCaire then brought up the subject of the foreman’s position that was vacated by the retirement of the employee Brandon Ovitt is replacing, saying he was concerned about decision-making when he was out sick or on vacation. The board felt that having a foreman wasn’t necessary, and did not like the idea of a three-tiered system in a three-person department.

Ward and Snedeker suggested that LaClaire could ask someone to be a “point person” when he is not present if he felt it was necessary. In cases where a decision was still needed and LaClaire was not available, the board said employees could call Purington or a board member.

Other Business

unteer organization, which helps keep costs low. This is a locally run organization, but it is based on a national model called Village to Village which encourages communities to build local organizations that help seniors age in place. Their success depends on people in the community participating both as members and volunteers. It can be a wonderful way to engage in your community and connect with others.

Membership is available to all seniors, 60 years and older, and at present costs \$75 per year for individual membership, or \$125 annually to cover all seniors in a household. Some subsidies are available.

To learn more about this program, or to become a member or volunteer, contact Village Neighbors at (413) 345-6894, or visit online at village-neighbors.org.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien spoke on several issues. The board approved a purchase order for \$4,500 to refurbish and move the department’s “cascade” air tank system from Engine 3 to the new rescue truck. Engine 3 is scheduled for replacement, and the chief said he would prefer that the system was hosted on the rescue truck anyway.

Crochier suggested that it made sense to refurbish the system while it was being transferred, so as not to take the truck out of service twice.

The board approved pledging a 10% match of \$45,000 in the department’s 2018 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant application for a new fire truck. They also declared the retired 1986 rescue truck as sur-

plus to be put up for auction. Both the chief and the board felt it should have some value and be auctioned rather than scrapped.

In addition to appointing Ovitt as a full-time mechanic-operator, the board appointed Valerie Magoon as an election worker. The board also signed the warrant for the November 6 election, and approved an early voting hour schedule.

Gill Cultural Council members Isaac Bingham and Judd Greenstein provided notice of recusal in reviewing grant applications, due to having spouses who will be applying for grants. The council recently received \$4,500 in grant money to distribute for cultural projects.

Purington reported that he is still

playing “phone tag” in scheduling the installation of equipment for the elementary school well water treatment project.

He also reported on an informal assessment of the town hall’s basement water issue from civil engineer Sean Kimberley. Purington said Kimberley had some good suggestions, and offered a bit of further assistance in looking at the problem.

Purington said that now that the highway position had been filled, he would be posting Help Wanted notices in the town newsletter for an administrative clerk.

Tax collector/treasurer Ronnie LaChance also needs clerical help on a temporary basis, due to this being her busy season.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Working After “Retirement”

By KATIE NOLAN

On October 31, Erving town accountant Deborah Mero will retire from her other job as Northfield town accountant. For both the Erving and Northfield jobs, Mero is covered under the Franklin County retirement system, and under that system’s rules, she is required to retire from all public service by her retirement date. So, she will retire from her Erving job as well on October 31.

Retired public employees are allowed to work after retirement with specific restrictions on hours and earnings. Because she wants to continue working in Erving, she asked the board at its October 15 meeting to re-appoint her after the official retirement date.

“We’ve had excellent reviews of all your work,” selectboard chair Scott Bastarache said, and he supported re-appointing Mero at the November 5 selectboard meeting.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith told Mero, “We’re glad you’re willing to stay.”

Working under similar rules in the Massachusetts Retirement System, town clerk Richard Newton intends to retire as network manager for the UMass president’s office in January 2019. In order to make that retirement effective, he is required to retire from his elected town clerk position as well.

Newton said he wants to remain as town clerk. Board members asked administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to check with town counsel to find out whether the board can appoint him as town clerk after his retirement, or whether a special election would be needed.

Selectboard member Smith commented that, after Newton retires, if a special election is needed, the town wouldn’t have a town clerk to supervise the election.

Library Construction Permits

At a joint meeting of Erving’s selectboard and planning board on Monday, the planning board approved a zoning change that will allow the new library to be built in the rural residential zoning district on Route 63.

The selectboard, acting in their capacity as water commissioners, considered the construction plans presented by engineer Chris Garcia of Garcia, Czaluska & DeSousa, Inc. The project must obtain a special permit from the water commission because it is located in the town’s

drinking water protection zone.

Garcia explained that the property will be cleared, with the exception of a few trees, to build the 8,325-square foot library. New trees and shrubs will be planted based on a plan prepared by a landscape architect.

There will be impervious parking areas, and an impervious pad for a future photovoltaic array to supply electricity to the building. Garcia said that a stop valve was planned for the stormwater catch basin system that could be closed to protect the groundwater in the event of a fuel spill in the parking area.

The water commissioners continued the special permit hearing until 7:30 on October 22. Bryan Smith said that engineering consultant Tighe & Bond is reviewing the plans for the library for the town, and will report back before the October 22 meeting.

Board members told Garcia and architect Philip O’Brien of Johnson Roberts Associates that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be working on the Route 63 sidewalk project at the same time as the library construction. O’Brien said that the building contractors would need to be informed so they could coordinate with MassDOT.

Erosion Control

On September 17, Tighe & Bond presented three erosion control options for the Center Cemetery: installing a turf reinforcement mat (TRM) or geocells (panels of cells that confine topsoil) for \$50,000; installing rip-rap on the slopes for \$70,000; or installing a 6½-foot-high stone wall for \$700,000.

At that time, the selectboard asked Bryan Smith to have Tighe & Bond develop an alternate plan, to cost less than \$200,000, potentially combining TRM or geocells and a 3½-foot-high wall.

At the October 15 meeting, the board discussed the new plan, which included a lower stone wall and an estimated cost of \$400,000.

Selectboard member William Bembury suggested a request for proposals to seek lower-cost options for the project. Board members discussed using TRM and geocells, and possibly a low block wall. However, the three board members had concerns about the appearance of a block wall.

French King Solar

Bryan Smith told the board that Ameresco, Inc. has not yet provided

requested information for the proposed 54-acre solar installation at 129 French King Highway.

The project was approved by the planning board in June. On August 21, the water commission voted to grant the permit on the condition that Ameresco would provide a final draft of the spill prevention plan, a revised copy of the vegetation management plan with the tree replacement requirements, a surety bond for 125% the cost of decommissioning the project, and a revised training plan that includes mutual aid departments and the results of site soil testing to ensure that the stormwater management plan is effective for the site.

In an email, Smith wrote that he had reminded Ameresco about these requirements on September 20, and has not heard back from them.

Other Business

On October 1, the Western Mass Climbing Club (WMCC) applied for a BYOB liquor license for a club event with entertainment, a barbeque, and camping at Riverfront Park on October 20 and 21. At that time, the board said they would not grant an unrestricted BYOB license, because the town would be liable for any problems.

At Monday night’s meeting, the board approved a one-day liquor license for the evening of October 20. Tony Gardner of WMCC said that Lefty’s Brewery would be selling alcohol in a cordoned-off area at the park, and that a police detail would be present.

The club also obtained a rider on its insurance policy to cover alcohol and agreed to provide documentation of the extra insurance.

“Thank you very much,” Gardner told the board. “I do assure you we will do a good job in running this.”

Fire chief Philip Wonkka presented a 105-page revised draft Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, based on a template provided by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The board decided to review the plan by sections, starting with the organizational section, at the November 5 meeting. The plan is a portion of the town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, which should be completed in April 2019.

The board appointed Bastarache as representative to the secondary school collective bargaining committee, with Bembury as an alternate.

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SPORTS from page A1

finish the regular season.

Plus: an update on the teams of Franklin County Tech!

Field Hockey

TFHS 5 – Pioneer 0

Mohawk 3 – TFHS 1

Southwick 4 – TFHS 3

After the Turners field hockey team shut out Pioneer 5-0, they faced two Bi-County foes, Mohawk and Southwick.

Against Pioneer, October 9 in Northfield, Cassidhe Wozniak pumped in three goals and gave an assist. Amber Taylor scored three points off a goal and two assists, Brynn Tela scored the other goal, and Lindsay Davenport added an assist. In goal, Haleigh Greene pitched a shutout.

Last Friday the third-place Mohawk Warriors came to town and defeated second-place Turners. Mohawk led 2-1 at the half and coasted to the 3-1 win. Wozniak scored Blue’s goal with an assist from Tela, while Greene made 11 saves.

Then on Monday, the Lady Thunder traveled to meet the BIC-leading Southwick Rams. The Rams also took a 2-1 halftime lead, then matched Blue’s two goals for a 4-3 win. Kaylin Voudren, Wozniak and Cecilya Wood scored Blue’s goals, with assists from Wozniak and Wood, and 14 saves by Greene.

Golf

Greenfield 17 – TFHS 7

TFHS 16.5 – Mohawk 7.5

TFHS 17.5 – St. Mary 6.5

Monson 19.5 – TFHS 4.5

Last Wednesday, October 10, the Turners golf team traveled to Greenfield. Sixth man Tyler Noyes (63) was the only Powertown golfer to win his match, 3-1. Brady Booska (44) had Blue’s best stroke count, but dropped his match 3-1. Joey Mosca (51), Alex Sulda (55), and Aiden Bailey (56) also dropped theirs 3-1, and Brian Poirier (52) was shut out 4-0 for a 17-7 score.

On Friday, Turners hosted Mohawk at Thomas Memorial. Bailey had Blue’s hot club, finishing in 46 strokes and winning his match 4-0.

New addition Matt Marchefka shot a 69 and swept his match 4-0. Brady Booska (52) won 3.5-0.5, while Mosca (49) and Sulda (53) tied their matches and Poirier lost his 3-1.

Then on Monday, St. Mary came to town. The Saints had the top golfer, but Turners was able to take four of six matches to win. Bailey (47), Mosca (50), Noyes (57), and Joe Kochan (64) all swept their matches, Sulda (59) scored 1.5 points, and Poirier (51) was swept.

Their last game of the regular season was played on Tuesday, October 16 at Quaboag Country Club. Turners faced off against Bi-County East leaders Monson, and Powertown lost 19.5-4.5, giving them a 7–8 record. Suda (45) scored 3 points for Powertown, Bailey (62) got a point, and Kochan (61) added 0.5. Also swinging for Blue were Mosca (51), Poirier (52) and Noyes (62).

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0

TFHS 3 – Mt. Everett 0

TFHS 3 – Mahar 2

The Turners Falls Volleyball team traveled to Northfield and Sheffield this week before returning home to take on Mahar.

On October 10 they defeated Pioneer 3 matches to nil. Blue pretty much had their way with the Panthers, winning handily in all three, 25-13, 17, 11. Dabney Rollins, Taylor Murphy, Hailey Bogusz, and Hannah Welles excelled at the service line, while Murphy and Rollins had multiple kills and Bogusz gave 13 assists.

On October 12 the ladies traveled to the Berkshires to take on the Mount Everett Eagles, who they swept in straight matches. The Birds gave Blue all they could handle in the first match, but Turners squeaked out a 25-23 victory. The Lady Thunder didn’t allow Everett to even get close in the next two matches, taking them 25-13, 16.

Then on Monday, the Mahar Senators invaded the gym. The Senators came into the game with a record of 10–3, undefeated in the Northern Conference at 5–0. Powertown was 10–4 and also 5–0 in the NC. The

crowd didn’t really get loud until midgame of the first match, when it was evident that it was going to be close. With Blue down 23-20, Coach Kelly Liimatainen called a timeout to settle her ladies. Powertown got the side out, and Lindsay Whiteman came to the service line with her team trailing 23-21. The Blue Ladies used excellent teamwork and chipped away at the lead.

With Whiteman still at the line, Mahar was pushed to the brink of elimination, 24-23. When she was about to serve match point, Mahar’s coach called time. It was during this interlude that the Mahar fans, who occupied an entire section of the bleachers, began to chant, “Go Mahar,” which was answered with hand clapping and foot stomping from the hometown faithful.

Turners took the next point and put the match in the win column. The Senate held tough in the second match, but a late run by Turners gave Blue the match 25-16. A lesser team would have given up, but Mahar isn’t a lesser team. The third match was just as close as the first. With the score 24-22 and Turners serving, Mahar got the defensive point and won 25-22. Mahar had a late-match rally in the fourth, and tied the game 2-2 with a 25-20 win.

The tiebreaker had amazing volleys, with neither team willing to give up a single point. But Blue out-hustled the visitors, turning a 5-4 nail biter into a 10-4 runaway. Mahar again made a late-match surge, but Turners held on to win 15-10.

With the win, Turners advances to 11–4, a half game ahead of the Senators. This Friday, the last game of the regular season, these two teams do it all again, though this time it will be Turners Falls who’ll be the visitors.

Football

TFHS 35 – Frontier 28 (OT)

On Friday, October 12 the True Blue faithful traveled to South Deerfield to take on the Frontier Red Hawks for bragging rights in the Inter-County North. Both teams shared first place in the ICN, with Easthampton hot on their tails with one loss.

It wasn’t a runaway by any means, even though the Birds shot out to an early lead. Both teams played tough. A long Hawk completion led to a first-and-goal from the Turners Falls 1, and then the first score.

Red’s next score came off another long play. On a key third down, Frontier had the ball on their own 34. After a completion and the run-after-catch, they got the ball on the Blue 34. Red then converted another third down and completed a 8-yard pass for the 14-0 score.

On Turners’ next possession, their drive stalled at the Blue 41, but on fourth and 4, Kyle Dodge completed a pass to Jake Wallace to keep the drive alive. One-One, Wyatt Keith, carried the ball three times starting from the Red 31. His third run was into the end zone, and Turners had halved the score 14-7.

The Blue D forced a punt and Powertown drove down the field, setting up a first-and-goal from the 2. One play later, with less than 46 seconds left in the half, Turners tied the game. Frontier had burned their timeouts early so they didn’t have time to answer, and at halftime the score was knotted at 14.

The teams traded punts in the third quarter, and then Turners got the ball back. A long run by Keith and a clutch catch by John Fritz moved the rock to the Red 10, leading to another Keith touch, and Turners took their first lead of the game, 21-14.

The Reds tied it back up on their first play of the fourth quarter. Then a long drive for Powertown with catches by Jaden Whiting and Andy Craver, and more runs by Keith, gave Blue the ball on the 1-yard line. Dodge squeaked ahead, and Turners took back the lead, 28-21.

It was Senior Day at Frontier Regional High School. Life-sized posters of the players hung on the sidelines, and the players’ families filled the bleachers. Also in the crowd were hundreds of screaming Frontier students, all dressed in red and many holding posters. And those kids never stopped cheering. When the Red Hawks tied it up to send the game into overtime, they went crazy.

But the True Blue faithful made a little noise themselves, and the game went into the fifth quarter with both fan bases cheering loudly.

Overtime in high school football is similar to college rules, but in high school, the teams start on their opponents’ 10. If they score in four plays, the other team gets the ball on the ten. Turners won the toss. After Keith gained a yard, Dodge found Whiting in the money zone to put Blue on top. Tyler Lavin kicked his fifth PAT of the night and Turners went up 35-28.

With a shot at the ICN title on the line, it was all up to the Turners Falls defense to ground the potent Red Hawk scoring machine. Red gained a yard on first down, but the Blue D blew them back, setting up a third-and-13. Then on fourth and 13, Powertown charged in on the Red quarterback. He had no time, and his pass fell incomplete.

The Turners win didn’t dampen the spirit on the sidelines. The exhausted and hoarse fans continued shouting their enthusiasm for their teams even after the handshake.

Frontier takes on Easthampton next week, and Turners meets them the week after. Easthampton, who currently has one loss, is hoping to play the spoiler and to claim a share of the ICL title.

Tech update: This week, the Franklin Tech girls volleyball team and their field hockey team both had reasons to smile. The volleyball team got their first win of the season when they beat Renaissance 3-1, and the field hockey team tied Athol for their first non-loss of the year.

The girls’ soccer team is a half game below .500 with a record of 5-6-1. They have five games left in the regular season. Boys’ soccer is riding a six-game streak, currently occupying the top spot in the Tri-County Conference with a record of 13-1. Their only loss coming of a one-goal upset against #2 Pathfinder.

The Frank golf team is 13-2; their last loss was a 13-12 tie-breaker to conference-leading McCann Tech.



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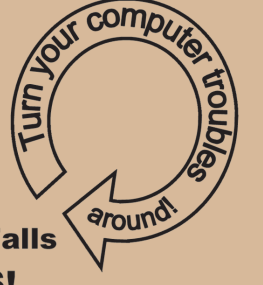
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POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

NOTES ON
LATE OCTOBER

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – October is the revolving door of the year. There are those who are on the way out, among the last to leave. There are others who are coming in, perhaps to stay for months. Part of the task that has fallen to me is to keep lists, to keep track of those comings and goings.

On a morning like this, leaves are quietly dropping. Yet the yard is animated by all manner of winged life, random movements caught out of the corner of the eye, along with the falling leaves.

Sparrows have come down from the Wendell forests and uplands, the first to arrive of the winter birds. Soon they'll be joined by hordes of juncos, but not just yet.

Kinglets of the ruby-crowned kind make their nervous flitting way through the undergrowth. The Baldwin apple tree swarms with myrtle warblers, some will stay, some will move on. Nowadays, they are called yellow-rumped warblers, but I prefer their old-fashioned name.

Where do these professional ornithologists get off anyway? Changing bird names like that. Those earlier names mostly derived from the idiom used by common rural folk of the 19th century have been changed by bird bureaucrats to less descriptive monikers.

I much prefer the old name of the yellow-shafted flicker of my youth. That familiar bird has now been given the banal name of northern flicker, the sparrow hawk has become the kestrel, the pigeon hawk has become the merlin. It all smacks of British interference in our bird world, in my opinion. But I digress.

At least the red-eyed vireo has been allowed to keep its real name. Mentioned in last week's report, the individual passing through today will be included on this year's List of Lasts. One of this species

was back again working the apple bough with his cousin, the blue-headed vireo. He is a dapper gent, with a blue cap and a white-ringed eye like a monocle.

The two vireos worked from the north to the south side of the now-bare Baldwin apple tree. They were steadily moving south, one branch at a time. And then they were gone, leaving no wake in the empty air, except in the moment's chance glimpse. There's likely a strained metaphor in there somewhere, about fleeting time and lost friends, or maybe it's just the melancholy mood of fall coming on.

Summer, for its part, is ready to leave us, having lived out most of its nine lives during the month of October.

A chill all-day rain turns into a warm and muggy day following. All insects are still accounted for on days like those. Katydid's chant at nightfall, mosquitos linger on exposed skin, hanging around for one more drink before dying. Ticks are re-emerging in the cooler weather. The nine P.M. dog walk still brings us through a patch of glimmering glow worms slowly lighting up, before their pale cold light fades just as slowly, ghostlike.

For the first time, the flame leaped and danced in the firebox of the old Glenwood C cookstove last night. We renewed the ritual of bringing in oak and maple to stack near the stove, brought in branches for kindling and recycled some newsprint to feed the flame. The old stove ticked and seemed to purr like a tabby cat, and we sidled up to the growing warmth of the cast iron.

In the chill of the morning, another familiar radiant heat emanated throughout the house. From the baseboards lining the kitchen walls, there wafted forth that cold weather smell of heat and summer dust as the furnace in the cellar woke up, shook off the summer's

see WEST ALONG page B3



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION
A male myrtle warbler, Dendroica coronata coronata.

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – Welcome to the October edition of the Great Falls Apple Column!

For those just tuning in, this column is written by rotating members of the Great Falls Apple Corps, a community group centered around the growing of food and community in downtown Turners Falls. We are made up of mostly Turners residents, and are always looking for new members. If you are a fellow plant lover, and interested in growing free food downtown, we encourage participation at any level.

This month's column is about one of our passions and reasons for existing at all as a group: edible landscaping. The Apple Corps became possible in part because Turners already has some edible landscaping downtown. A few of our members met picking apples in front of the Shea.

Those apple trees, luckily for us, are not the only useful plants we have around. You can make your own pectin from the crabapples on the Avenue. There is a redbud at Town Hall that has edible flowers in the spring. The two large shadbushes planted on either side of the sculpture on Third Street and Avenue A produce delicious berries in June



LEVINE PHOTO
Gill resident Molly Freeland picks kousa berries in front of the Greenfield Savings Bank BRANCH on Avenue A.

called – surprise! – juneberries.

We want to plant the idea that landscaping can be beautiful, but also provide other facets of usefulness. Aesthetics are important, but landscaping can also be edible, herbal, medicinal. The truth is that there are already abundant plantings in public spaces; why not have them help feed us, for free?

Wild Edible Spotlight #3: Kousa Dogwood Berries

This month's spotlight focuses less on a "wild" edible and more on a "foraged" edible from my favorite

example of edible landscaping, the beautiful kousa dogwood (*Cornus Kousa*). You can find examples of kousa dogwood trees planted at the Discovery Center and at Greenfield Savings Bank (as pictured).

Chosen for its beauty and hardiness, this tree also happens to bear prime fruit! In spring, the tree produces what looks like a flower with four white, pointed petals. Not actually a flower, the "petals" are actually four leaf bracts around a small flower head, from which sprout tiny flowers. As the summer progresses, see APPLE CORPS page B2

Sailing to Montreal part 1: crossing the once-great lake

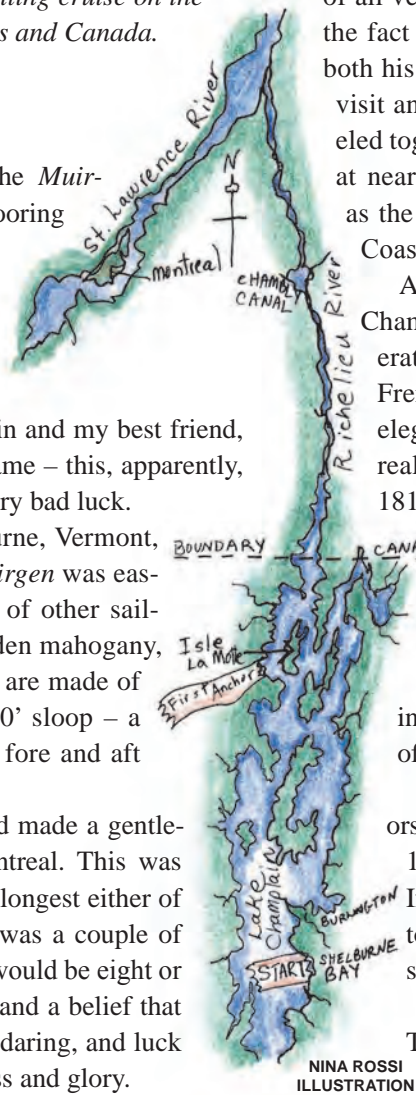
In this tripartite saga, Wackernagel tells the intriguing tale of a possibly too-long sailing cruise on the inland waters of the United States and Canada.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

LAKE CHAMPLAIN – The *Muirgen* bobbed serenely on its mooring like an overexcited duck. *Muirgen* means "born of the sea" in Dutch, a clue to the yacht's paternity in Holland, 1969. While its pronunciation is a bit of a challenge to Anglophones, our captain and my best friend, Serge, chose to not change its name – this, apparently, is known among seamen to be very bad luck.

In its home harbor of Shelburne, Vermont, just south of Burlington, the *Muirgen* was easily spotted in a veritable forest of other sailboats. Its mast was made of golden mahogany, while most sailboat masts today are made of grey metal. The *Muirgen* is a 30' sloop – a one-masted yacht that is rigged fore and aft with a jib and a mainsail.

Back in May, Serge and I had made a gentlemen's agreement to sail to Montreal. This was somewhat unprecedented, as the longest either of us had ever spent on a sailboat was a couple of nights, and this trip, we figured, would be eight or nine. I had faith in our abilities, and a belief that the combined qualities of effort, daring, and luck were the raw materials for success and glory.



For some reason, I trust Serge in the operation of all vehicles on land and sea. This is in spite of the fact that he had already this summer crashed both his motorcycle and bicycle, requiring an ER visit and three stitches in his chin. We had traveled together a lot, and I know that he is a natural at nearly everything. Although I refer to Serge as the "Captain," he has not yet completed the Coast Guard course that certifies one as such.

Anyone who has gone boating on Lake Champlain has noted the annoying proliferation of Quebecois in their Beneteaus, a French boat maker known for producing elegant yachts. As if existing in an alternative reality where the British had won the War of 1812, the lake's culture is dominated by this occupation of the Quebecois.

Years ago, I wondered how this invasion came to be. After Serge had bought the sailboat a couple years before, I learned that the Quebecois do in fact sail into Lake Champlain from Montreal, by way of the Richelieu River.

If Thor Heyerdahl and the *Kon-Tiki* sailors could make it to Polynesia on a raft in 1947, could we not sail safely to Quebec? If those Canadian amateurs could make it to our lake successfully, why could we not sail into their island metropolis?

We planned the course we would take. The voyage would require sailing to the see SAILING page B4

Pets of the Week

“HOSHI & DR. PHLOX”



Interested in providing a home for Hoshi and Dr. Phlox? Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities

OCTOBER 22 THROUGH 26

GILL and MONTAGUE The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. 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 machine when the center is not open. M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch Monday 10/22 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 10/23 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Movie TBA Wednesday 10/24 9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 9 to 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic 12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 10/25 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Friday 10/26 1 p.m. Writing Group	WENDELL Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride. ERVING Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations. For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic. Monday 10/22 8:45 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance 10 a.m. Step & Sculpt (New!) 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:30 p.m. Downton Abbey Tuesday 10/23 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch Wednesday 10/24 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 1 p.m. Drumming for Health Thursday 10/25 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks Friday 10/26 9 a.m. Quilting 9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling 10 a.m. M3 Exercise 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
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LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Wednesday 10 a.m.: Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).
Friday 12 p.m.: Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

APPLE CORPS from page B1

the bracts fall off, and out of the middle grows a fruit which I can only describe in appearance as an “alien soccer ball.”

Despite my nickname perhaps not painting the most appetizing picture, this is one of my favorite forageables. It is a taste of tropics in fall, an unreal flavor I did not know could grow at this latitude. The berry can taste like strawberry banana, or like a papaya. The pink-to-orange colored outside skin is bitter, but the flesh inside, though seedy, is worth the work.

I take the stem off, break the fruit in half, and eat the inside of the fruit. Due to the high number of seeds inside – it varies tree to tree – I am well on my way to becoming a champion seed spitter, and I highly recommend enjoying your berry outside.

Processing is possible, with time, a sieve, and lots of patience, but I prefer grabbing them raw as a snack. Check out some of the trees downtown, and see what you think!

UPCOMING EVENTS
Sunday, October 21: Applesauce Party. Meet at the Shea at 10 a.m. to pick apples, then we’ll walk to the grills at Unity Park to make applesauce at 11. Maybe

we’ll even add some kousa berries to a batch!

Monday, October 22: Great Falls Apple Corps October Meeting. Come join us at our October organizational meeting at 6 p.m. Those interested in coming should email greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com for more information.

Date TBD: Unity Park Community Garden Fall Clean-Up. Keep an eye out for our fall clean-up in early November. We’ll need help putting the beds to rest for the winter and laying wood chips on the paths.

Plenty of mint and strawberry plants in the aisles are still free for the taking. As there are also a heap of wild carrots in the paths and PYO beds as well, we’ll be having a garden foraging event beforehand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Do you have fruit that is going unpicked? Contact us and we can help you pick and distribute your harvest.
Do you have land downtown that you’d like to plant with some edible landscaping? If you’re all right with letting the public harvest for free, we can provide you with free plants.
Catch us on Facebook, or email us at greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com!



“Great” Fest Returns This Weekend

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – It is that time of year again, when Turners Falls braces for the milling hordes of the Great Falls Festival happening on Saturday, October 20. Estimated to draw eight to ten thousand people into the downtown for the day-long festivities, the event features food and craft vendors lining Avenue A between First and Seventh streets and various bands and performances.

Organizer Michael Nelson has renamed the festival from Pumpkinfest to Great Falls these past few years due to low turnout for pumpkins, but jack-o-lanterns are still expected at the event and festival goers are encouraged to bring them. School children are busy carving as you read these words, anxious to get their gourds completed before the weekend. Pumpkins may be checked in in front of St Kaz as early as 10 a.m. and at a second check-in station on Second Street and Avenue A from noon until 6 p.m.

Nelson has added an inducement: “Every pumpkin brought allows the guest a spin on our prize wheel for a chance to win gift certificates from event vendors and downtown businesses. Folks who would like to decorate a free pumpkin for the display can do so at our area next to the Country Creemee on Second Street from 2 until 6 p.m.” The Creemee



A jack-o'-lantern from the 2014 Pumpkinfest.

will be open for the last day until next spring, so stop in for your favorite treat of the season.

Traffic will be routed up and down First and Seventh streets, with Avenue A closed to accommodate 150 food and craft vendors lining the street. Park at Turners Falls High School or the Sheffield School to catch a free shuttle in and out of the festival area from 2 until 10 p.m. with pick up and drop-off at the Carnegie Library. Nelson advises people to leave their pets at home, for both the pets’ safety and that of all guests. Costumes are encouraged!

Two stages provide musical entertainment during the day and evening:

the Lundgren Honda stage at Fourth Street and Avenue A and Scotty’s stage (sponsored by Scotty’s on the Hill convenience store and lunch stop in Turners Falls) in Peskeomskut Park. The beer tent at Peskeomskut Park will be featuring many local brewers.

Scott Kuzmeskus has lined up the following local bands:
Lundgren Stage: Date Night (2 p.m.), Robie Bones (3:20 p.m.), Mister Right Now (3:40 p.m.), Curly Fingers Dupree (5:30 p.m.), Mass Floyd (7:20 p.m.);
Scotty’s Stage: Fortified Blues Band (2 p.m.), Decades (3:40 p.m.), The Feldons (5:30 p.m.), Jimmy Just Quit (7:20 p.m.)

Karen’s Dance Studio will perform hourly in Peske Park, and the North County Line Dancers will kick off the festival at 2 p.m. at the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street. The intersection will also host Franklin County Community Chorus, Pizazz Dance Studio, MEGA Dancers, and Fire Dancers at various times throughout the event. Free children’s arts, crafts, and games are available in a special area on Third Street from 2 until 6 p.m.

Have a safe and enjoyable evening in downtown Turners Falls this Saturday. Let’s hope the rain and drizzle goes away for the event! For more details, see [facebook.com/greatfallsfestival](https://www.facebook.com/greatfallsfestival).

Fall “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its Fall “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day this Saturday, October 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility, the Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and the Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any District town may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for most items. Fees, cash only, will be

collected at each site. A list of prices can be found at franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and participating town halls and transfer stations.

The District covers Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

Electronics are accepted, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and TVs at their town’s transfer station or the Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge, and various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics.

Clean, dry textiles and books

are accepted for free. Acceptable items include clean and dry clothing, shoes, bras, purses, curtains, pillows, comforters, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, and hardcover or paperback books (no encyclopedias). Textiles must be bagged.

Bulky rigid plastics will be collected at \$5 per load. (No toys, hangers, shelving, kiddie pools, plastic pots and nursery trays, Styrofoam, PVC tubing, vinyl siding, fencing, toolboxes, hoses, chemical containers, or plastic bags and films.) They must be empty and free of batteries, soil, rocks, and liquids.

For more information, contact info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

slumber and inactivity, and took up its cold weather chore for the first time.

The first gunshots of the new duck season echoed throughout our peaceful valley. We silently wish that the hunters be lousy shots, and that they fail to hit their mark. May our wild ducks wing away to safety, to be ducks for another day.

I’ve listed the last hummingbird of summer, the last thrush singing at dusk, the fact that the last of our

seventeen monarchs fledged just two days ago.

But soon, it will be time to list other firsts: the first killing frost, the first snowflake, the first hint of commercialized Thanksgiving and Christmas. But that’s all still in a few weeks time. No sense in rushing things, soon enough, soon enough.

November, looking over our shoulder will be casting a baleful eye on our journal’s page, all in good time.



October 27: Turn In Drugs

FRANKLIN COUNTY – On Saturday, October 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., area residents can bring their unwanted drugs to 17 locations in Hampshire and Franklin counties for sound disposal. Participating communities in Franklin County include Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, and Sunderland.

Most people who misuse prescription drugs get them from friends and family, sometimes without their knowledge. Getting unwanted and unused drugs out of people’s homes, where they can be accessed by children and other people who shouldn’t have access to them, is part of the nationwide effort to combat the opioid crisis.

Since 2011, more than 47,000 pounds have been collected in the

Northwestern District. “This is one of the most important initiatives we participate in to help combat drug addiction,” Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan said.

Helping elders clean out their medicine cabinets can help prevent accidental overdoses and the misappropriation of prescription drugs by personal care assistants or loved ones. Another objective of Take Back Day is keeping harmful chemicals out of the environment. Pharmaceuticals are already present in some of the nation’s waterbodies, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The long-term consequences remain to be seen.

For more information, contact the TRIAD Coordinator Rachel Senecal at Rachel.Senecal@state.ma.us.

New Art at Tiny Gallery

From combined sources.

TURNERS FALLS – Julianne Jones presents their new work “Face Forward,” an exhibition of paintings and works on paper featuring anonymous decorative faces as well as self-portraits, at Nina’s Nook until November 17.

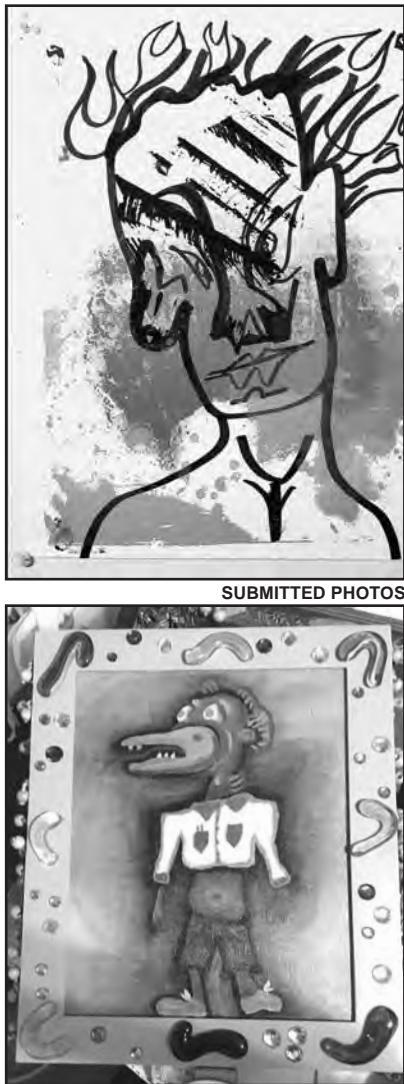
These “funky face” pieces range in size from miniature canvases to full grown lengths of paper and medium sized canvases. The exhibit includes screen prints and lithograph prints drawn on, or pasted over, with original and scanned doodles. The show aims to immerse the viewer with expressive characters brought to life from paper and paint, their inquisitive stares begging to be met.

Jones’s collage and print paintings incorporate print media like monotype, lithograph, and screen prints with pieces of other paintings on paper, each adding diversity in texture to the paintings’ surface; their mosaic-like pieces challenge the notion that painting and print-making are separate artistic actions. A hallmark of their work is the complexity they achieve through layering line, color, and shape.

Julianne Jones is a Turners Falls artist who has exhibited work throughout the Valley, as well as the Berkshires, Hudson NY, and Brooklyn NY. Jones’s work has delved into themes of fat femme body image as well as racial inequality and other social injustices.

Displaying with Jones are Exquisite Corpse paintings by gallery owner (and *Montague Reporter* features editor) Nina Rossi. These oil paintings are derived from drawings that the public was invited to make during the April 2018 Arts Week initiative, where three people take turns drawing head, body, and legs (or tail) on a folded piece of paper.

The Exquisite Corpse, as it is sometimes called, is named after a word game devised by the surreal-



Top: A mixed-media portrait by Julianne Jones. Bottom: One of Rossi’s Exquisite Corpse paintings, based on drawings created by participants in an Art Week project of the same name last April.

ists which resulted in the phrase “The exquisite corpse shall drink the new wine.” Come see the wacky results!

Nina’s Nook is at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls. Hours are Thursday through Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m. or by appointment: call (413) 834-8800. The gallery will be open until 9 p.m. during the Great Falls Festival, with refreshments in the rear courtyard, weather permitting.

See ninasnook.com for more information about the gallery.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Tractor Vanishes From Lawn; Blue Lamp Appears; Museum Break-In; Gun Threat; Wheelchair Vandalism

Monday, 10/8
8:49 a.m. Walk-in advising that someone dumped a trailer on his property. It had been there for a few days, so he took it up to the town landfill and left it there since it was abandoned property. No plates or any other identifiers on it.
11:29 a.m. Officer flagged down by someone stating that their neighbor’s vehicle was vandalized overnight on [location redacted]. Officers discovered four slashed tires on vehicle. Vehicle owner is not home at this time. Report taken.
3:40 p.m. Caller reporting that all four of her tires have been slashed (location redacted). Caller believes that it was a party known to her. Detective advised and *en route*, advises that this is related to previous call.
9:26 p.m. Caller requesting officer to inspect Turners Falls Municipal Airport after learning of an unknown and uninvited party looking around the grounds and buildings of this establishment today at approximately 5 p.m. Officer advised; report taken.

Tuesday, 10/9
1:13 a.m. Burglar alarm sounding from Great Falls Discovery Center. Officers located open door. Contact made with keyholder who stated that there should be no reason that a door was left open. Greenfield PD sending officer to help clear building. Door to bathroom hall was found pried open. Keyholder responding. Building cleared. Officers checking on occupied vehicle in parking lot. [Redacted.]
2:35 p.m. Report of breaking and entering into caller’s apartment on Fourth Street this afternoon. Caller states she was gone for ten minutes and her door was locked. Caller’s wallet is missing. Report taken.
5:10 p.m. Caller from Montague Street advising that the lawn tractor he was selling off his front lawn has been stolen. Officer advising that the green Sears lawn tractor was close to the road and without a For Sale sign, it could have been assumed to be free. Report taken.

Wednesday, 10/10
11:35 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer on behalf of one of his tenants who is being harassed by three males who have been hanging around her vehicle on multiple occasions over the past week. Officer advised caller of options and requested extra patrols in area.
11:57 a.m. Animal control officer assisting resident with an issue involving a skunk on Twelfth Street.
8:15 p.m. Officers off at Avenue A location for a disturbance. Verbal altercation between two parties; female is leaving location now. Units clear.

Thursday, 10/11
8:31 a.m. Caller from Bangs Street reports that several items were stolen off of her porch and she observed them in plain view inside a burgundy-colored Honda CRV that has been parked for a while in the church parking lot adjacent to her residence. Caller advises there are no plates on the vehicle and believes it may be abandoned. Caller later reported she was able to retrieve her belongings. Advised of security options by officer.
9:22 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer about his options; states that he was accused of stealing while at Food City this morning. Officer called back and left message.
1:37 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments calling on behalf of Housing Coordinator requesting assistance with three subjects in a tenant’s apartment who are not authorized by Housing to be there. Tenant is not home, and they have not been able to reach her. Officers spoke with male parties, who claim to have permission from the female tenant to be there. Males were advised re: situation and agreed to pack their things and leave. Female tenant located at Power-town Apartments; will be meeting officers over at her apartment for follow-up. All parties moved along from apartment and advised of options.
2:53 p.m. Report of suspicious object in middle of Avenue A in front of Pipione’s. Caller advises object is two feet tall and likened it to a piece of survey equipment. Officer checked area; advises object is a blue lamp. Clear.
3:16 p.m. Walk-in requesting to speak with an officer re: threats involving a gun made by a neighbor. Male tenant reportedly made statements yesterday dur-

ing a verbal dispute claiming to have a loaded gun; threatened to shoot caller and her friend, and made a statement to the effect of “Just wait til the bullets start flying.” Caller’s friends have told her that party has been telling people in the building that he is going to shoot her. All parties advised of options and also advised to stay clear of one another.
3:53 p.m. Caller states that a black Ford pickup had tried to run her off the road on Route 2. Vehicle continued to follow her and threw something at her vehicle as he passed her at the intersection by the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. She followed the truck and got the plate info. Truck headed north on I-91. State police contacted and given pertinent information; they will look for the truck.
4:40 p.m. Walk-in reporting ongoing barking and possible neglect of dogs on Grove Street. Referred to animal control officer.

Friday, 10/12
12:59 a.m. A 44-year-old Winchester, NH man was arrested on a default warrant on Third Street.
3:41 a.m. Officer out with a male party walking in the area of Green Pond Road.
7:18 p.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street reporting a lot of people yelling out in the street; also sounded like someone was harming a dog. Area checked; nothing found.
10:23 p.m. GPD reporting some kind of disturbance between a male and a female in the area of the White Bridge. Involved parties are on Greenfield side of bridge. Incident not as reported; no issues.

Saturday, 10/13
12:24 a.m. Officer off with suspicious vehicle behind airport. Male operator warned and moved along. This was the second warning to the male for trespassing on airport property. Male does not have a permanent home at this time; staying with friends in MA and VT as well as in his car.
8:32 a.m. Caller from Sec-

ond Street Baking Company states that a man in a red hoodie and a Yankees cap came into the store and stole a donation jar with about \$10 in it. While on the phone with dispatch, she saw the male come out of F.L. Roberts and get into a black sedan and head toward First Street. Male suspect located back at F.L. Roberts and identified as person who stole money from bakery. Summons issued.
9:59 a.m. Caller from Food City states that he was threatened over the phone by an irate customer who had been in the store the day before and caused a disturbance. Caller called back to report that there is now a slanderous post on Facebook about him by this same male. Investigated.
12:50 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road states that a train has been left running on the tracks near her home since 1 p.m. yesterday. Very noisy. Train company contacted. They are working on getting the train out of there, but there is heavy congestion in the train yards right now.
5:57 p.m. Caller from Central Street believes that he has received counterfeit coins from two businesses in Turners Falls. Caller would like to hand over the coinage so he is not in possession of it any longer. Officer advises that coins look like gaming tokens.
7:47 p.m. Caller from Newton Street reporting vandalism to his wheelchair earlier today; would like it on record that he found condoms on his wheelchair as well as his brakes disengaged. Services rendered.

Sunday, 10/14
12:55 a.m. Report of belligerent male at Hubie’s Tavern that they would like removed. Party’s son arrived to provide a safe and sober ride home.
2:17 p.m. Caller states that there is a large raccoon in one of his dumpsters. PD unavailable due to a motor vehicle accident. ACO number given.

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SAILING from page B1

northern extreme of Lake Champlain. Then we would sail up the Richelieu River, and through the Chambly Canal with its hand-crank operated locks.

Finally we would travel west down the St. Lawrence, where we would play a cat-and-mouse game with the “salties,” the enormous container ships that hold the cheap cornucopia of capitalist production. They are so big, with so much inertia, that they cannot avoid a sailboat if one strays into its path.

The Crew Sets Out

“Ah, the jolly sloop,” said Serge as we gazed across the water, sparkling in the morning light, at our craft. It was the end of August. Serge, Emma, and I loaded our personal items, food, water, and beer into the aluminum dinghy, and paddled out to the *Muirgen*.

The dinghy’s oars came from a yard sale, and they were too short and did not fit in the oar-locks. The dinghy traveled with a dizzying, whirling motion, like a leaf that revolves madly as it floats downstream.

We waved goodbye to Serge’s girlfriend Sarah. They had bought the boat together for about \$4,000.

The *Muirgen* sailed out of Shelburne harbor with a light wind, the rumbling gasoline engine producing most of the speed we needed to make it to Isle la Motte, 50 miles away on the border, by that night.

Emma and I were an inexperienced crew. We took turns holding the tiller steady, while Serge ran around doing everything else: hoisting the sails, studying the charts, plotting the course, and anything that involved lines and tying knots. He opened his first beer around 10:30 a.m. and continued drinking in a slow but constant way, all the while working at an accelerated pace that suggested the sound of a bugler playing inside his head. He whistled while he worked.

The *Muirgen* required a minimum of two people to sail, and having three was preferable. As we became a crew, a real team, we developed a rotating set of roles. The first was Pilot. The Pilot’s job was to

T-RUMP



steer with the tiller, hold the course while maintaining a proper aspect to the wind.

The next position was Navigator, whose job was to read our waterproof, laminated charts of Lake Champlain. Serge had made them by shrinking down a PDF version of a set of nautical charts, which made them a manageable size to hold, but also very, very hard to read the tiny numbers that told the depth of the lake.

Our third role, and my personal favorite, was Look-out. When I was Look-out, I was a bionic sailor – the green “Hoo-Way” Chinese Army binoculars attached to my face as I scanned the watery distances for the buoys that marked dangerous reefs. I obsessively spotted and announced birds, other wildlife, boats, clouds, and aircraft.

Serge was not committed to hierarchical authority structures, and so the responsibilities of the captain rotated. Whoever was inspired to be in charge at a particular moment was the captain.

Exploring the Tongue

Lake Champlain has the superlative distinction of being the only “Once-Great” Lake. For 18 days in 1998, Lake Champlain was officially the sixth Great Lake. Senator Patrick Leahy had secretly added the lake to a funding bill

that finances the Federal Sea Grant program, a program that funds research in the Great Lakes.

After *The New York Times* publicized this major change in our national geography, a backlash followed. Midwestern lawmakers, averse to sharing finite Federal funds and fearing a change in the definition of their region and to the very idea of what it means to be “Great,” had Lake Champlain removed from the official list in less than three weeks.

The *Muirgen* motorsailed north. While seagulls circled over the mast and the sun beamed down onto the white hull, we watched Burlington and its beaches pass slowly by in the distance. We navigated to the west of the Champlain Islands: Grand Isle, South Hero, and North Hero. We entered the shallow region in the northern reach of the lake where these small depths mark, under the water, the physiographic frontier between the mountains of Vermont and the flat plain of Quebec.

That evening, we arrived at our first destination: a sheltered channel between Isle La Motte, the farthest north of the Champlain Islands, and the Alburgh Tongue. While the Tongue is a mainland peninsula, the town of Alburgh is politically an island – it is surrounded on three sides by water, and on one side by the Canadian border.

We went ashore to explore the northern tip of the island, the site of the first European settlement in the state of Vermont. Originally settled as an outpost of French traders, the site is now a shrine owned by the Order of Jesus. Sailing by an hour earlier, I had spotted, using the binoculars, a metal cross, taller than the strange white house behind it, rising from a wide grassy field on a bluff overlooking the lake.

After leaving the dinghy on a muddy beach, we crossed an overgrown field to find an abandoned vacation home, with its rotting blue shingles like a haunted house of summer. The ruin, on its cliff over the beach, stared across the lake into Canada. It was probably on the prime piece of real estate on the island.

We walked out its long, overgrown driveway until we reached

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We’ve got some great new cultural videos available for you this week on our *MontagueTV.org* and local Channel 17!

First, join the band Rose Cora Perry, as they are interviewed on *The Untold Truth* before their recent show at the Rendezvous.

Then watch the spectacular Angyl Fyre – the performance name of fire dancer Megan Thompson – as

she dazzles a crowd at Greenfield Savings Bank!

Something going on you’d like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, *in-fomontaguetv@gmail.com*, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’re excited to work with you!

FREE FILM

Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad (A Little Bit of So Much Truth)

TURNERS FALLS – In the summer of 2006, a broad-based popular uprising exploded in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

A 90-minute documentary, “A Little Bit of So Much Truth,” captures the unprecedented media phenomenon that emerged when tens of thousands of school teachers, housewives, indigenous communities, health workers, farmers, and students took 14 radio stations and one TV station into their own hands, using them to organize, mobilize, and ultimately defend their grassroots struggle for social, cultural, and economic justice.

The film will screen this Sunday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street,



Turners Falls. Two guest speakers from Oaxaca will provide updates and their perspectives.

Presented by Great Falls Books Through Bars. This event funded in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, which is funded by the MA Cultural Council. It is free and open to the public.



Our correspondent with Captain Wiltshire.

fresh pavement and a development of contemporary ranch houses, only a few of them occupied. We walked past a much older summer cabin with generous, but overgrown, perennial gardens. Like most of the ranch houses that hemmed it in, it was for sale.

We walked down to the beach road and found what we assumed was the drive to the shrine. We stepped over a locked gate and stalked up the dirt-track road.

While “No Trespassing” signs usually do not bother me, after the fourth, the tension was too much, and we decided to return to the boat to sleep. We would hit the border in the morning.

Peter Wackernagel is an aspiring cultural critic and perspiring travel writer who hopes to someday be a self-made, genuine hoaxer.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EXHIBITS:

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT: Five new exhibits include a six-decade survey of the work of abstract artist *Emily Mason*, photographs by *Michael Poster* of people in recovery from addiction, and artwork by *Orly Cogan*, *Robert Perkins*, and *Elizabeth Turk*. Through February 10.

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: *STEAM-Y Art and Science*. Group show of art inspired by and incorporating the sciences including vintage quack objects, demos. Workshop on November 3 with *Kathy Johnson* on Embroidered Rusty Fabric. Through November 11.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh Burnham School, Bernardston: *What is Just?* Paintings by *Alice Thomas*. Through November 9.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Migrations*. Third annual migrations festival and history of the Massachusetts state parks, in celebration of 125 years of stewardship and 15 years of the Discovery Center. *Festival of Migrations* on October 27; exhibits through October.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Nukkua/To Sleep*, ink transfers by *Anja Schütz*. Through November 5. Artist reception October 26, 6 p.m.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Bob Ellis: A Retrospective*. Proceeds from paintings for sale will benefit the Wendell Free Library. Through October.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Face Forward*, self-portraits by *Julianne Jones*. Through November 17.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *22 Homes*, by *Hannah Hurricane Sanchez*. A colorful display of rigid spaces and flexible boundaries, a response to moving 22 times last summer, with family adventures in between houses. Through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Works on Paper*, paintings by Greenfield artist *Joseph McCarthy*, and *Stream of Consciousness*, paintings by *Petula Bloomfield*. Through October 28.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Paper Mosaic*. *Jen Hale* has mounted small paper cuts on magnetic panels and will display them across a wall on magnetic boards as a long mosaic. Some areas will be designed to be interactive. Through October.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Halloween Story Telling: Unexplained!*. Local Dirt Production featuring local storytellers with spooky tales. Cocktails and sweets, benefit for the Literacy Project. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Nate Staniforth, Real Magic Show*. All ages magic show. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Di-Trani Borthers and the Hammer of Spring*. Fusion folk, gypsy

ret of theater and song by Bertolt Brecht, set in the devastation of WWII and McCarthy era. Repeats Saturday and Sunday same time. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Donna the Buffalo*. Original roots music fusion. \$. 9 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country*. With Heath Lewis. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiet Houses*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jazz Showcase Benefit*. Benefit for Breast Cancer. Donations encouraged. 3 p.m.

Mt Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Rod MacDonald with Mark Dann*. Folk singer and composer, founder of Greenwich Village Folk Festival. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dave Dersham and Ian*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Brattleboro Museum: *Ruggles & Hunt Fashion Show*. Fashion show and costume contest to benefit the Museum's work with Headstart programs. Over \$300 in Ruggles & Hunt gift certificates awarded in prizes for best costume. \$. 6 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *JEFF The Brotherhood*. \$. 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

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

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Meditation Series*. With the venerable Tahn Pamutto. Open to all. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Girlpool, Porches, Loone*. Indie rock, pop. \$. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Pioneer Valley Public Hearing on Women's Issues*. Mass Commission on the Status of Women wants to know about the issues that affect women, children, family and community. Free and open to the public. Info: mcsw@state.ma.us. 4:30 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Meditations*. Roots Rock Reggae led by Ansel Cridland. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Escape the Room: Stranger Things Edition*. Part scavenger hunt, part haunted house; an immersive team experience of puzzles and riddles. Benefit for PVRs music department. \$. 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Hallowed Sounds*. NuAncestral music from Columbia, Morocco, USA. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mile Twelve and Mamma's Marmalade*. bluegrass, newgrass. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hero and the Horror, Tides, Live Well, Etiquette*. \$. 9 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country*. With Heath Lewis. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

Old Town Hall, Wendell: *She Said* at the Full Moon Coffeehouse. See photo. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Nite Caps. Honky Tonk Hal-*

loween with local country band. Round of drinks for the best costume. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *RJD2*. psychedelic electronica, hip-hop and rock. \$. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Garcia Peoples, Matt Valentine, Spectre Folk*. \$. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Dance Party with Free Range. Costume encouraged. Musical Duo. 9 p.m.



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Come to the Wendell Fullmoon Coffeehouse on October 27 to hear great music and support the Wendell Community Garden. She Said, the all-female 5-piece band, will get you movin' with their original music, inspired by multiple genres of blues, rock, jazz, country and a bit of punk. Doors at 7 p.m. and open mic at 7:30, with She Said around 8. Coffeehouse has been ongoing for 30 years in the Old Town Hall. Sliding scale donation and a dessert-o-rama, refreshments.

jazz, ragtime ruckus. \$. 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

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

Amherst College, Amherst: *Festival of American Poetry*. Readings by Monica de la Torre, Brian Henry, Sawako Nakayasu, Uche Nduka, and Eleni Sikelianos. 6:30 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro VT: *Emily Mason* talk at BMAC. Renowned abstract painter Emily Mason, 86, talks about her life and career as an artist. 7 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Moon Over Dark Street*. Caba-

Hamel. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen*. New American acoustic roots. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Date Night*. Musical Duo. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Traditional Irish Music* in the Wheelhouse. 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic 2*. 8 p.m.



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BOOK REVIEW: Hazel Dawkins, *Eye Sleuth* (2011)

By MARY CHICOINE

GREENFIELD – A mysterious woman clutches Yoko Kamimura’s arm on a busy sidewalk in Manhattan. Moments later the woman is shot dead, but not before uttering an ominous warning in Japanese to Yoko.

Who is this mysterious woman, and why does she warn Yoko that she is in danger? The reader is asking herself these questions, and more, after reading just a few pages into *Eye Sleuth*, the first of four books in the Yoko Kamimura Mystery series penned by Greenfield resident Hazel Dawkins.

In this fast-paced novel, Dawkins sweeps the reader up into the drama and intrigue of the main character’s life.

Dr. Yoko Kamimura, a respected behavioral optometrist at the College of Optometry in New York,

is thrown into a kaleidoscope of strange happenings.

From the attack on her beloved godmother at New York’s National Arts Club to the death of an esteemed colleague, Yoko struggles to make sense of what appears to be a pattern of violence happening all around her. All this while detective Dan Riley at the 13th Precinct seems to doubt her account of the incidents.

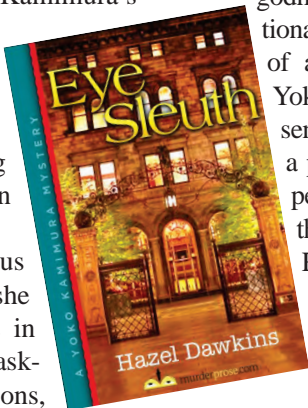
Why does the attacker of Yoko’s godmother look eerily similar to one of Yoko’s colleagues, a man just charged with a crime? And why does the same person suddenly appear at a prestigious conference Yoko attends in Bournemouth, England?

Accompany Yoko as she attempts to discover the answer to these and other questions, a discovery that crisscrosses the globe and ends in a nail-biting chase in and around Gramercy Park in Manhattan.

Hazel Dawkins, an editor-writer, started out in London’s newspaper business and made her way to Greenfield via Paris and New York City. An adept author, her factual books on behavioral optometry, a healthcare field, are published by the OEP Foundation.

Says Dawkins: “I wanted to weave together my knowledge of behavioral optometry and my desire to write mysteries. And I wanted my novels to entertain the reader.” The Dr. Yoko Mystery series does just that, and includes *Eyes on the Past* (reviewed by Lyn Clark for the *Montague Reporter* in May 2018), *Eye Witness*, and *Eye Sleuth’s Ghostly Vacations*.

Dawkins says another book is in the works. It is not a Dr. Yoko mystery. All Dawkins would say is that the book is a mystery. *Eye Sleuth* and Dawkins’ other mysteries are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and Boswell’s Books in Shelburne Falls, or online at amazon.com.



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