



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 46

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 11, 2018

State Approves Provisional License for Cannabis Farm Gun Club to Host Industry Event

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The movement to normalize marijuana in Franklin County took a step forward on Thursday, October 4 as the state Cannabis Control Commission approved provisional licenses for the cultivation, sale, and manufacture of cannabis by a business called 253 Organic LLC. The company will be located at the former Hallmark Imaging buildings on 253 Millers Falls Road near the entrance to the airport industrial park.

And on Saturday, October 20, the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club on Turners Falls Road will host a “Dia de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead) themed festival sponsored by Reli-

able Bud, LLC. The organization says its goal is to create a network of producers of cannabis products and accessories: “Lots of friendly and knowledgeable people, a great variety of products, and plenty of opportunity to sample things,” reads a post online promoting a recent Reliable Bud event.

The provisional license for 253 Organic comes nearly two years after state voters approved a ballot question legalizing the use, production, and sale of marijuana products. Last year, after modifying the statute approved by voters, the state established a Cannabis Control Commission to develop regulations and pass

see **FARM** page A4

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Schools Struggle with Tests

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Finding itself between budget seasons, the regional school committee spent a lengthy Tuesday night meeting hearing about a project to rework Turners Falls High School from a traditional to a “competency-based” educational institution, reviewing the state’s new ratings of local schools based on newly released MCAS scores, and volunteering each other for various subcommittees.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan reported that enrollment districtwide had fallen from 976 to 941 students, after having grown

slightly the previous two years. The largest factor in the decline is a drop from 85 eighth-graders last year to 37 ninth-graders this year.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has eliminated its five-number ranking system for districts, but is instead using a similar-looking system of five categories, ranging from “schools of recognition” to “requiring broad/comprehensive support.”

The overall district, rated a “3” in 2017, is now in the middle category “partially meeting targets,” but Turners Falls High School is “requiring assistance or intervention.”

see **SCHOOLS** page A4

Sewer Budget Hike OK’ed

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Wednesday night, Montague town meeting members voted at a special town meeting for a new wastewater budget of \$2,396,379, an increase of more than \$379,000 over the budget approved at the annual meeting in May.

Information distributed to the members by town staff estimated that the department’s cumulative budget increase and its decline in

projected revenue could mean an increase in 2019 sewer rates by as much as 71% over the previous year. The town meeting did not vote on the sewer rates themselves, which must be approved by the selectboard.

Water pollution control facility superintendent Bob McDonald explained the sewer problem by pointing to factors familiar to town meeting members – the end of the

see **SEWER** page A8

Fish Farm Changes Owners, Approach

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – For a decade, Australis Aquaculture has been pulled in two different directions. Its barramundi farm at the airport industrial park in Turners Falls was world-famous for its pioneering water-purification technologies, which allowed it to grow fish indoors using a nearly closed loop

of water. But the bottom line was better in Vietnam, where juvenile fish were transferred to open-ocean pens, grew faster, and could be frozen and shipped to the US and elsewhere on a much larger scale.

Last month, the two sides of the operation finally parted ways. Australis moved its sales and logistics staff to a Greenfield office, selling the Turners facility

to Great Falls Aquaculture LLC. The recently established company took on its live-market customers, 18 farmworkers, and 750,000 barramundi overnight.

I spoke with principals of both companies about the reportedly smooth transition, and about the different directions they are headed. (Full disclosure: I worked for Australis as a fish culturist from 2008 to 2011.)

Broader Adoption

Josh Goldman, inventor, founder, and CEO of Australis, was once the face of recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) – a 2011 *TIME* cover story on the future of fish began with his name. But his determination to help solve the world’s food problem eventually led him to frustration with the technology’s limitations.

“It’s a very good way to produce fish close to the market, but it’s kind of like growing a tomato in a hothouse,” he says now. “It takes energy, and it takes highly trained people.”

Though Goldman still calls see **AQUACULTURE** page A5



Great Falls Aquaculture general manager Spencer Gowan, with 40,000 barramundi. Production is continuing under new management at the Turners Falls facility.

Peace Pagoda Marks 33rd Anniversary

By NINA GROSS

LEVERETT – About 200 people gathered in Leverett Sunday to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the New England Peace Pagoda.

The ceremonies began with a procession of monks and nuns of Nipponzan Myoji. Incense, chanting, scattering of flower petals, invocations, recitations, and prayers were offered to venerate the Buddha, the dharma teachings (law of truth), and to consecrate the work of the Pagoda. The sun cooperated for the occasion, despite overcast skies elsewhere in the county.

The presiding monk, Venerable Gyoway Kato, read from a statement issued 33 years ago at the Pagoda’s founding. “We are living in very disturbing times,” he began, then emphasized that this is perhaps even more true now with the world still “consumed in violence and strife.” He urged renewed commitment to truth, simplicity, *ahimsa* – the noble practice of nonviolence – and the disengagement of nations



Kaneda-Shoni approaches the podium.

from attachment to nuclear weapons in order to restore compassion.

Kato Shonin emphasized the role of sacrifice and acts of non-violent disobedience and the necessity of moving away from war and materialism toward peace and

the spiritual way of life. “We must move in a direction that will uplift humanity,” he said. “Dharma essence” involves “righting the wrongs of policies of the state.”

These sentiments were echoed in see **PAGODA** page A8



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

The Franklin Tech Eagles’ Jovanni Ruggiano moves into position for a shot on goal as the Eagles blank the Smith Vocational Vikings 3-0 under the lights at Franklin Tech on Senior Night.

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in high school sports, the Franklin County Tech soccer team qualified for the playoffs one day before Senior Night, the Turners Falls football team defeated another conference opponent and prepared for a showdown with Frontier, and the Turners golf team kept their playoff hopes alive.

Meanwhile, the Turners field hockey and volleyball teams both sport winning records, and are preparing for postseason runs.

Soccer

FCTS 3 – Smith Vocational 0

On Tuesday, the Franklin Tech Eagles beat the Smith Vikings 3-0.

The win gives the Eagles an impressive 11-1 record.

Tech has seven seniors on their team, which made Tuesday’s game all the more meaningful. The seniors, in the order they were announced, are Eddie Oyalle, Ruben Galvez, Jovanni Ruggiano, Ryan Campbell, Jake Labelle, Will Turn – and goalkeeper Grayson Funk, who was wearing a Spiderman shirt and holding a “Fear the Keeper” sign.

I was told before the game that coach Kurt Richardson felt his team was outplayed the last time they played the Vikes. So Richardson would take a loss against Smith, as long as his team outplayed them. As it turned out, he had no worries: Franklin outplayed the Vikings, and

also won the game.

The Franks were coming off a 4-0 shutout of Greenfield, which qualified them for the postseason, but Tech didn’t take Tuesday’s game lightly. They played 80 minutes of heads up soccer. At 4:33 of the first half, Galvez scored, giving Tech a 1-0 lead. Ruggiano scored Franklin’s second goal of the night at the beginning of the second half with Galvez contributing with an assist.

Tech’s third goal came off a nice head kick by Oyalle at 16:18. With time running out, Richardson sent in his substitutes, explaining to his players, “We’ve made the playoffs, they have nothing.”

In goal, Funk made three saves.

see **SPORTS** page A7

The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Who Filled This Valley With Pioneer?

By MIKE JACKSON

As an editor of a newspaper, I see an awful lot of press releases from companies, performing artists, advocacy groups and other sources, and I always notice when they affiliate with the “Pioneer Valley” as a location.

For example: Community Action Pioneer Valley – formerly “Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin Regions.” I can see why they may have wanted a shorter name.

Or the Nite Caps, a honky tonk band “from the Pioneer Valley in Massachusetts,” playing everything from Western swing to bluegrass at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls this Friday evening. It makes me wonder just how geographically dispersed the band’s five members are, and whether they chose to use this place name in their promotional material for its accuracy, or its folksy resonance.

Next in my inbox I find the Pioneer Valley Swim League; the Pioneer Valley Public Hearing on Women’s Issues; the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; the Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran’s Service District; the Pioneer Valley Folklore Society; Pioneer Valley Mothers Out Front; Poems About the Pioneer Valley; Pioneer Valley Re-developers; Pioneer Valley Roller Derby; the Pioneer Valley Worker Center; a forum on “the Marijuana Industry in the Pioneer Valley,” the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, Leadership Pioneer Valley, the Pioneer Valley History Network, Pioneer Valley Regional School, the Pioneer Valley Resource Recovery Facility....

Where did this Pioneer Valley come from, and why? Who drew a line around this territory and gave it a name, and what were their motivations? Were they successful in their goals?

Once you pick at this seam, questions just start pouring out of it. How did the name catch on, and become so ubiquitous? Who has found it so appealing, and why? How did we lose the collective memory that it was such a recent invention? *Did we do so on purpose?*

And then – who is at the center of this place? Who has it attracted to its interior, and do those the most glad to occupy the inside of it have any way of seeing or recognizing those it repels?

As an outsider here, this issue

has been a gnawing fascination – particularly because I interact both with people who think of themselves as living in The Valley and people who don’t, yet live here.

There is a certain circularity in Pioneer Valley identification: people in “The Valley” tend to describe it as a place that holds cultural and social values which I strongly suspect are not shared by a majority of the 700,000+ residents of Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties.

And it’s also little strange that the Pioneer Valley is often described as an essentially rural place, even though 66% of its residents are crowded into the lowest 33% of its alleged area.

Well, I got bored wondering all these things and stewing, and did a little bit of research, which *just about anyone* could have done, and what I found astonished me.

Within living memory – *eighty years ago* – this place did not exist. All those other Pioneer Valley This and That groups were spawned from one organization – the Pioneer Valley Association – and they are doing its bidding by reproducing the brand, and within the brand the idea that this zone, boxed in by the Berkshires and the Quabbin and the invisible borders of Connecticut and Vermont, is a place.

That’s as far as I’m going to go in this column. If you’re interested in untangling this historic and ideological mess together – or even if you just plain like the place anyway and are into knowing about its history – come to the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls this Sunday, October 14, at 1 p.m. and I will try to tell you the rest.

The talk is free, with discussion to follow, and it is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Montague Cultural Council.

If you can’t make it to Turners this Sunday, or if you’re reading this after the fact, there’s a plan for Montague Community Television to record the forum for broadcast on cable access as well as online streaming. Stay tuned!

On another note: This issue is the final issue of Volume 16 of the *Montague Reporter*. Happy Birthday to us! And we’re starting a new chapter, so watch this space for two big announcements in the coming weeks! Thanks for reading....



James Fountain is working on a counter for the new GLOW Beauty Bar in Florence at his woodworking business, NOTICE workshop in Turners Falls.

Letter to the Editors

Costs and Benefits

Section 8 benefits the local housing authority and not me. My rent, on Section 8, is \$1.00 more than I paid without federal assistance.

Last year, my first year on the program, I saved \$25 a month in rent. Housing, on the other hand stands to gain \$1,872 this year from the federal program. Once Section 8 was approved, the price of the unit increased \$156 per month.

Why bother filling out the paperwork and revealing personal and financial information to pay more? It’s my insurance policy for when the job falls through or my health fails me. Is this the most cost-effective approach to affordable housing for me? Is it my civic duty to support the housing authority? Does this make your head spin?

Things don’t often work as intended, it seems.

Ellen Spring
Turners Falls

GUEST EDITORIAL

Dangerous and Generous

By ABBY GRISECK

Last Thursday, my family and I joined thousands of demonstrators in Washington D.C. at the “Cancel Kavanaugh” protest, organized by the Women’s March. I stayed on to participate in a direct action in which more than 300 people were arrested. Despite the awful fact that Brett Kavanaugh was ultimately voted onto the Supreme Court two days later, I am left feeling hopeful and inspired.

Thursday was a hot and humid day in D.C. as we gathered in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit, where Kavanaugh was judge from 2006 until just a few days ago. People held signs that read “We Believe Survivors,” “KavaNOPE,” and “Women Must Be Heard.”

After several speeches, including one from Senator Elizabeth Warren, we began to march. We marched on the mall, past the Hart Building – which houses senators’ offices – and then arrived at the steps of the Supreme Court for a rally.

The rally was deeply moving. The feeling of people taking back their power was palpable. Women, transgender people, people of color, and survivors of rape and sexual assault were the organizers and speakers.

With the Supreme Court behind them, survivors spoke. One by one, each person introduced themselves, named what they had suffered, and demanded, “Do *I* matter?” Many shared that this was the first time they

had spoken about what had happened to them. We responded passionately each time, “We believe you!”

After the rally, organizers made a last-minute change of plans for those risking arrest. We had intended to occupy the steps of the Capitol Building, but the Capitol Police had gotten wind and were surrounding it. They asked us, instead, to flood the Hart Building.

Within minutes, hundreds of us were occupying the atrium and first few floors. Looking up, the glassed-in offices of senators surrounded us, rising from the central atrium on all four sides.

We sat with our fists in the air, furious, chanting and singing, while the police surrounded us. It took over an hour for everyone to be arrested and then we stood for another hour outside, still singing on the street. After our arrest, we were held in a nearby park to await processing, and grouped into clusters.

I watched as each cluster formed a circle and people began to share with each other. In my group, people told their stories of oppression, sexual trauma, and how they had come to this moment of activism.

On my right was a woman who had come out as lesbian in the early ‘90s while a state trooper in Connecticut, and had gone on to get anti-discrimination laws passed on the state and federal level because of her experiences. On my left was a woman who told me about her

three children, and that she was a survivor of gang rape.

Earlier in the day at the rally, Ana Maria Archila had spoken. She was one of the two women who had stopped Arizona senator Jeff Flake in the elevator to share her story just before he requested an FBI investigation of Kavanaugh. “What happened in that elevator,” she told us, “was the result of thousands and thousands of women survivors, and survivors of all genders, who are doing something incredibly dangerous and incredibly generous.”

Ana Maria Archila is right. It is incredibly generous for survivors of sexual assault, rape, and oppression of all kinds to overcome their fear and rage and to speak, and it is very threatening to those in power.

I think that it can also be powerfully healing. What I saw on Thursday was the kind of healing and community-building that is happening in so many ways at this time. The personal stories so many are bravely unearthing as a part of the #MeToo movement are giving us the chance to see each other and our collective pain, and that is a powerful thing.

I am hopeful that, if we continue to share with and listen to each other, we will better understand ourselves, our needs, and our potential, and begin to build structures of collective caring and governance that actually serve us.

Abby Griseck lives in Gill.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls wants to give away an **electronic church organ!** It's a York 650B model, manufactured by Rodgers. Call the church at 863-2585 if interested.

Stop by the Great Falls Discovery Center at 1 p.m. this Sunday, October 14 to learn about **the Pioneer Valley Association**, which coined the phrase "Pioneer Valley" in their effort to entice wealthy tourists to discover this overlooked region.

This is a Montague Cultural Council grant program, and will be presented by Mike Jackson, managing editor of the *Montague Reporter*. The Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls.

The Great Falls Farmers Market is having a special **"Fall Festival" day** next Wednesday, October 17, featuring pumpkin painting, kids'

activities, pumpkin treats and apple cider, live music, and of course many wonderful vendors with fresh fruits and fall veggies, fresh hot tamales, crafts, and information booths.

The rain date is October 24, which will also be the last market day of the season.

Local Dirt Productions invites the public to **Unexplained!, a night of spooky tales by local storytellers**, next Thursday, October 18 at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield.

All are welcome to share and listen in as a stellar lineup of some of the valley's best raconteurs shares their first-hand encounters with ghosts, spirits, and things that go bump in the night. Following the story concert, the evening will continue with the opportunity for audience members to haunt each other with stories of their own in a spooky story swap.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the event will begin at 7:30. Hawks & Reed will serve up an array of autumnal cocktails and sweets, and

Kara Karland will set the mood with her ethereal and haunting violin. Tickets are \$12, and all proceeds will benefit the Literacy Project.

Northfield's Dickinson Memorial Library is going to the dogs! Please join the Friends of the Library for **their 12th annual Dog Show** next Saturday, October 20. This fun event is for all ages, and all dogs. There will be a showing of the dogs, a dog parade, a visit by the Greenfield Police comfort dog Donut, and other activities.

The Dog Show takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Northfield Public Library, with a rain date of October 27. Show your dog; adults \$10 and children \$5, or come as a spectator.

Saturday the 20th is also the date of **the Great Falls Festival** in Turners Falls! Pumpkin check-ins start at 10 a.m. in front of Saint Kaz, and Avenue A will be closed at 11 a.m., with the official kickoff at 2 p.m.

From then until 9 p.m., there will be music and dance performances on three stages all day, a beer garden, pumpkin decorating and kids' activities, and hundreds of vendors all up and down the Avenue. There will also be a free shuttle service from Turners Falls High School from 2 to 10 p.m. For more information, look for the "Great Falls Festival" on Facebook!

A **Public Hearing on Women's Issues** will be held on Thursday, October 25, at the Shea Theater Arts in Turners Falls, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The hearing is sponsored jointly by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and the Hampshire-Franklin Commission on the Status of Women.

The Commission, which advises state government on proposed legislation, is hoping to learn more from local women about their issues and concerns. Both written and oral testimony will be accepted.

For more information, contact mcsww@state.ma.us or call (617) 626-6520. Accommodations and interpretation services can be arranged by contacting jill.ashton@state.ma.us.

Another small paper route has become available! This route consists of less than 25 papers, and covers the Taylor Hill section of Montague Center. Papers will be brought to you on Thursday afternoon for delivery.

The *Reporter* is also still looking for a Gill delivery person. **We could really use some help in both of these communities.**

If you or someone you know is interested, please call 863-8666.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Attention Montague, Wendell, and Gill Voters!

The town clerks of these three towns have asked us to print this information, which we are providing in a combined format as a public courtesy. Residents of Leverett, Erving, and other communities can check in with their own town clerks for local information!

Voter Registration Deadline:

Wednesday, October 17 is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming November 6 State Election. Any residents who will be 18 years old on or before November 6, 2018 may register at their town clerk's office.

Even if you have been registered to vote for years, many federal and state laws impact your registration status. If you have moved, changed your name or if your local census form was not received at the town hall, you may encounter an issue at the polls.

Early Voting:

For the second time in Massachusetts history, early voting for the November 6 State Election is now available for all registered voters to cast their ballot before Election Day. The official early voting time period is from Monday, October 22 through Friday, November 2.

In Montague, early voting will take place at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls in the office of the town clerk. Early voting is held during normal business hours. For public convenience, Montague has decided to add week-end hours on Saturday, October 27 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Hours to vote early in Montague

are as follows:

Mondays (October 22 and 29):
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays (October 23 and 30):
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays (October 24 and 31):
8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays (Oct. 25 and Nov. 1):
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Fridays: Town hall closed.
Saturday, Oct. 27: 8 a.m. to noon

In Wendell, early voting in person is also available during the town clerk's regularly scheduled office hours. These hours include Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Anyone who cannot get to the Town Clerk's Office during these office hours may

call and arrange a more convenient time between Oct. 22 and Nov. 2.

Voters who choose to vote early by mail must first submit an application. Applications are available at the town clerk's office, or online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2018-Early-Ballot-Application.pdf.

Voters who choose to vote in person do not need to fill out an application, but their name and address must be listed on the current Wendell voter list.

In Gill, the official early voting site is the Gill Town Hall at 325 Main Road. The site will be open for early voting Mondays through Thursdays, October 22 through November 1. On Tuesdays through Thursdays, the hours will be 1 p.m.

more information call 863-3200, ext 203.

In Wendell, the town clerk's office will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17 for last-minute new voters. The town clerk's office is located at 9 Morse Village Road in Wendell, just off the town common.

In Gill, Town Hall will be open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17 for those voters who wish to change their party registration status or register for the first time. Gill Town Hall is located at 325 Main Road, Gill.

Absentee Ballots:

Absentee ballots are now available at the town clerk's offices for the November 6 State Election. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, November 5.

To vote absentee, you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls, or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to

the town clerk's office by the close of the polls on November 6. To download an absentee ballot application, go to: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/

In Montague, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 6.

Town hall hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The town clerk's office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200, ext. 203.

In Wendell, absentee voter applications are

available in person, or by mail from the town clerk, or online (see above).

Early ballots and absentee ballots are set aside in sealed envelopes until Election Day when they will be removed from their envelopes and tallied by an Election Official. Call the town clerk for more information at (978) 544-3395 x2.

In Gill, absentee ballots for the November 6 State Election are now available in the town clerk's office. If you have any questions about the election or your registration, please contact the clerk's office at 413-863-8103.

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FARM from page A1

on applications. According to spokesperson Maryalice Gill, four final licenses and 41 provisional licenses have been issued statewide. As of press time, 253 Organic was one of two businesses to receive a provisional permit for recreational sales in Franklin County. The other was Patriot Care, which operates a facility already licensed to sell marijuana for medical use in Greenfield. The provisional license issued to 253 Organic comes with a number of conditions. These include an inspection and audit to ensure that the facility complies with state and local codes and regulations, the payment of a licensing fee, and the submission of a “revised diversity plan.” Work on the former Hallmark Imaging buildings – primarily demolition and abatement – began at the end of last summer. Seth Rutherford, 253 Organic’s director of operations, said the “best-case scenario” for the opening of the retail store will be

SCHOOLS from page A1

The high school’s math and science MCAS scores grew below the hoped-for target, and the English language arts scores fell slightly. On a positive note, the school showed improvement in its absentee and dropout rates. Sheffield Elementary was the district’s most improved school, jumping from the 8th to 15th percentile statewide. The school will no longer require “targeted support” from the state. Principal Melissa Pitrat reported that the professional support team from the state -- formerly known as District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC), now known as the Statewide System of Support (SSoS) – would still be accessible as a resource. “We’ve been working with them for a decade,” Pitrat said, “but I kind of feel like they need to move on to somebody else.” Sullivan said that the district had focused successfully on student behavior, and then on basic literacy, and now could pivot toward math. “It’s all kind of on a good trajectory,” he said. The school committee unanimously approved two official goals for district improvement, which Sullivan suggested, and which will bear on his future evaluations: to be at the 55th percentile in the state for English Language Arts, and 50th in the state for math, in terms of growth at 5 of the 6 grade levels. They also unanimously approved the official school improvement plans presented over the past two meetings by the principals. Powertown Project Turners Falls High School principal Annie Leonard gave a halfway-point presentation about the “Powertown in the 21st Century” project, a grant-funded collaboration to rethink how students are educated at the high school, in an effort to make

August 1, 2019. However, that will depend on the company’s ability to purchase retail products wholesale. The sale of the company’s own cannabis, which it plans to cultivate in a connected building, could push the opening to next October. Showcase Without Sale Cannabis products will be available at the October 20 Reliable Bud event for “sampling,” according to Rhiannon Snyder, the organization’s director of operations. Snyder said that the model for the Turners Falls gathering is a series of events in the central Massachusetts town of Spencer. She said there will be booths for accessories and food, and the organization will conduct a raffle, with the proceeds going to the regional food bank. In addition to sponsoring public events, Snyder said, Reliable Bud has created a downloadable application to serve as a “platform for the cannabis industry.” Here,

it both “more effective” and “more appealing” to families eyeing several regional options. Leonard explained the paradigm shift between traditional administration – in which students advance in age batches, are assessed for knowledge, sorted them by letter grades, and graduated for uncertain reasons – and “competency-based learning,” or CBE, which asks students to identify their post-high school goals and then assesses their mastery of whichever skills move them toward those goals. “There’s a worry that we might be headed toward some kind of sea change or big break,” Leonard said, adding that the dialogues with staff around CBE had already been valuable professional development experiences for many. “It’s not like we’re going to flip a switch and in the fall of 2019 all of this stuff is going to be happening,” she said. She said the team was hoping to visit Montpelier High School in Vermont, a regional school of a similar scale that had transitioned to a CBE model. In the next two months, the project will publish a draft “Vision of a TFHS Graduate” for feedback, and concrete recommendations for changes will be developed through the spring. Other Business Keith Cummings, a former school police officer in the Pioneer Regional district, has been hired as the district’s new facilities manager, following the resignation of Jim Huber over the summer. Cummings will start on the job Monday. Business manager Joanne Blier reported that the elimination of two “feeder buses” this year had resulted in a net savings of about \$50,000 for the district, after accounting for the amount reimbursed by the state. “The buses aren’t any more crowded, but they do take a little longer,” Blier said of the consolidat-

smaller producers in the region can “showcase their products” and be rated by consumers. The public events and the application are designed to “transition the little guys from an illicit market into a legal market,” she said. Snyder emphasized that cannabis product would not be sold at the Day of the Dead event. The Reliable Bud website encourages attendees at their events to familiarize themselves with current state law regarding the possession and sale of cannabis. The legalization of cannabis did not eliminate the prohibition on the sale of marijuana, a Class D substance according to MGL Chapter 94C Section 32C. Rather, Chapter 94G, which codifies the referendum question, has carved out exemptions for those awarded state-approved licenses. The law also allows for the personal possession of up to one ounce of cannabis, or 5 grams of marijuana concentrate. Up to ten ounces may

be kept at an individual’s “primary residence,” but nine of those ounces must be “secured by a lock” (Ch. 94G, Sections 7, 13). An individual is now allowed to cultivate up to six cannabis plants in his or her primary residence, with a maximum of 12 plants per “premises” with two or more occupants. And the law prohibits marijuana in an “open container” on the passenger side of a vehicle, but allows it to be transported in a “sealed container” or locked glove compartment. “Public consumption” of cannabis is still prohibited under the new law, and is subject to to a potential \$100 fine. Rutherford said he was “optimistic” about the progress of state policy under the Cannabis Control Commission. Snyder said Reliable Bud is working with other organizations to allow for more licenses for events like the Dia de los Muertes gathering in Montague.



Saturday: Tour Lake Pleasant

This Saturday, October 13 from 1 to 4 p.m., a benefit walking tour and digital slide show will revisit the highlights of the history of Spiritualism in Lake Pleasant. The event will be conducted by

David James, a village resident and member of The National Spiritual Alliance, and will begin and end at Thompson Temple, 2 Montague Avenue, across from the Post Office.

(Rain date is Sunday, October 14, same time and place.) Suggested donation \$20; all donations go to the Alliance.



This photo shows Ben Tilden, who raised vegetables on a Swamp Road plot and sold them in Lake Pleasant.

From “Spirit And Spa” by Louise Shattuck and David James.

ed routes from Montague Center. The committee unanimously approved payment of a \$3,556.28 invoice from Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinis, LLP, the specialty law firm that is helping the district pursue a settlement with New England Medical Billing, which formerly handled its Medicaid claims with the state. The firm has now made over \$46,000 for its legal work on the matter. Montague member Heather Katsoulis reported that she had received 14 design submissions for the high school’s new “Thunder” nickname. Mike Langknecht suggested the possibility of different athletic teams choosing different images, and chair Jane Oakes added that, historically, different teams had used different graphics to go with the now-discontinued Indians name. “Do we have an end date?” asked MontaguememberCassieDamkoeh-

ler. “I’m ready to give [the students] something to get behind.” Katsoulis said she planned to meet with student representatives and administrators to discuss a selection process, possibly to involve students voting on the options. The Friends of Sheffield will hold a pumpkin-carving all day on October 19, and the next day will run a booth at the Great Falls Festival in downtown Turners Falls. The Friends of Hillcrest are collecting hand-me-down children’s clothes in boxes outside the Hillcrest office, in advance of a clothing swap November 8 and 9. The meeting was preceded by a retirement celebration in the cafeteria honoring Janina Thayer, who retired this summer after 16 years as a nurse in the district. Her colleagues honored her with a pin that read “Nurse Extraordinaire.”



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THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

AQUACULTURE from page A1

Montague Center home, he has spent most of the last year in Vietnam. We talk, via Skype, across 11 time zones.

Goldman began experimenting with recirculating aquaculture systems as an undergraduate at Hampshire College, and was involved in several previous startups before the launch of Australis Aquaculture in 2004. The company formed with the idea that, since RAS was still a more costly method of production than traditional aquaculture or fishing, customers would need to be willing to pay a premium for its product; barramundi, a South Pacific bass-like animal that can withstand adverse conditions, was seen as an exotic enough commodity that the company hoped it would be worth marketing it to North Americans.

“As we were gaining momentum with the barramundi, we had the insight that someone was going to figure out how to do it at a lower cost – and eat our lunch, basically – so we’d better go do it ourselves,” Goldman explains of the company’s first exploration of ocean growth in 2006.

As product recognition spread, the company found it easier to meet growing demand with the imported fish. Processing fillets at the Turners Falls farm was terminated around 2009.

Australis now has 400 employees in Vietnam, working at five farms on Van Phong Bay. The company bought a neighboring cobia farm last year and converted it to barramundi, and this year it is building another two farms and a processing facility.

The company still uses RAS on land to nurture fish from fingerlings, but when they are big enough, they are shipped by barge into open pens on the bay. In an effort to mitigate the impact on the sea floor of keeping such dense pockets of fish fixed in place, the company moves its cages around – “the pens are rotationally fallowed,” as Goldman puts it.

Whereas the fish grown in Turners Falls were are shipped out as live cargo in trucks – mostly ending up at ethnic markets in coastal cities – the Vietnam product is flash-frozen, packaged, and ends up in supermarket display cases, where it finds a broader consumer market.

In the end, though the Massachusetts farm had served well as a model farm for the recirculating systems, including Goldman’s patented biological filters and special trapdoors that aid in the removal of any fish who have stopped swimming, the company determined that keeping it running distracted from pursuing its core mission.

“Our focus at Australis is really on globalizing the species,” Goldman says. “And to have broader adoption, you have to do it with the technology that can give you a smaller energy footprint, and lower cost basis.”

Closing More Loops

“We know how much energy we use,” Keith Wilda tells me. “Now we just have to build something that will give us enough.”

Its is an uncannily warm Wednesday morning in October, and Wilda and I are sitting in Goldman’s old office at the Turners Falls farm. Wilda is a former general manager at Australis who left, also in 2011, to pursue other projects. He returned last month with Jim Malandrinos, his partner in several other aquaculture ventures, to purchase the farm from Australis.

Though a longtime veteran of the aquaculture industry, Wilda says that what he has learned in the last seven years have changed his outlook on growing fish. “I – and all of our companies – are looking more local,” he tells me, before clarifying that “local” means different things at different locations.

Wilda and Malandrinos now co-own three parallel companies: Blue Stream Aquaculture on Cape Cod, which converted a 19th-century trout hatchery with solar panels and recirculating loops to raise trout and largemouth bass; Blue Stream Aquaculture NH, which is building a large farm to grow five different species as well as vegetables; and now Great Falls Aquaculture.

In their spare time they are helping research shellfish growth for a proposed underwater vertical-farming project off New Bedford Harbor.

A large blue silo sits behind the Turners Falls building. It was originally intended to store fish sludge for area farmers to use as fertilizer, but gases that had fermented in the tank during its first season caused a public nuisance and outcry on the Hill. The program was shelved, and since 2007 to 2018, Australis sent nearly all of its concentrated sludge into the Montague sewer system instead.

Malandrinos’ background is in engineering and biochemistry, and he specializes in landfill gas recovery and methane digesters. The farm’s new owners think they may be able to create a digester to recapture some of the energy from the fish waste and return it to the building. Their first idea is to convert the silo, though they will need to build a system to “flare off” gas that cannot be used.

Engineers are also scheduled to assess the roof of the large, warehouse-style building for



A worker feeds fish in one of Australis’s floating pens in Van Phong Bay, Vietnam.

bearing solar panels.

“We could produce a good chunk – maybe as much as 80% of our electricity, and 90% of our own heat,” Wilda tells me. “We may even be able to net meter.” Blue Stream’s Cape Cod farm has achieved this vaunted goal, making so much energy that at peak, it sells some back onto the grid.

“That’s why we’ve been so interested in this place,” he explains, “because of the opportunity we saw. We went through a due diligence period, and we felt really comfortable coming into this.”

Massive Global Need

The corporate divorce appears to have been amicable. “I’m really happy that it’s still locally owned,” Josh Goldman says of the Turners farm. “Basically all the staff are still there, and that’s a lot of where the value is: this really well-trained group of people, who understand how to run that complicated facility.”

Goldman also agrees that biogas is an unexplored opportunity at the Turners farm. “Because we were focused on Vietnam,” he acknowledges, “we hadn’t continued to think about, or invest in as heavily in, how it could continually improve.”

As Australis scales up its Asian operations, though, the company is also exploring new frontiers, most notably seaweed. It has begun cultivating one species of seaweed in the fallowed sites on its grid, after the fish cages rotate – a “pedestrian” species, according to Goldman, but the company may be working toward growing something much more exciting in those lots.

In 2015, Australian researchers discovered that a certain species of red seaweed, *Asparagopsis taxiformis*, was antimethanogenic: that is, if even just a bit is sprinkled into cattle feed, the animals will produce far less methane during their own digestion.

Since methane is a greenhouse gas, scientists at University of California-Davis and elsewhere are studying the plant to see if it might be safe and viable to add *Asparagopsis taxiformis* to the world’s cow-food supply.

“There’s no farming of this seaweed,” Goldman says. “If you could apply this globally, it would be the climate equivalent of taking every car, plane, and ship out of service. It’s a massive global need, with an urgent time frame...”

Australis currently produces about 90% of the frozen barramundi eaten in North America, and Goldman says he is intent on “globalizing” this market. But if red seaweed is what it is rumored to be, he also plans to use the company’s expanding facilities to workshop its cultivation, for the greater planetary good. “We’re going to figure out

how to really broadly scale that with lots of other participants once we know how to do it,” he tells me.

A Fresh Look

I tour the farm with Spencer Gowan, a longtime Australis fish culturist and production manager who has been hired as the site’s general manager under Great Falls Aquaculture.

“The transition is still ongoing,” Gowan says. Australis has been helping make sure there is no interruption in the delivery from vendors of chemicals and other supplies that are crucial to the farm’s proper operation.

“In the grand scheme of things, we weren’t making the amount of money that they could potentially make with [Vietnam aquaculture],” he says.

Changes here have already begun: one of the largest production tanks has been converted to an experimental denitrification system, and the crew is working to sort and grade all the fish in the building.

Whereas, at least initially, Australis sought to maximize the biomass produced at the Turners farm, Wilda says Great Falls is “never going max out the building: We want to get to a resilient position, where we’re producing enough for what the market demand is.”

“When I was here before, I was pulled in two directions,” he remembers. “I went to Vietnam a couple times... But I want to focus more on the local market.”

Wilda describes this as a boom time for aquaculture – including, despite Australis’s frustrations with the energy usage and difficulty of scaling up to meet demand, recirculating aquaculture. “After almost 30 years of me being in it,” he says, “we’re actually seeing companies that are viable. The technology has gotten so good now that it’s not top-secret.”

Investment in the industry is “the highest it’s ever been,” he adds. But this creates its own problems. Plans to build two separate, massive, recirculating salmon farms are underway in Maine. Many farms feed fish fishmeal-based food, and demand is growing even as the oceans’ populations of herring and other feedstock fish are in decline.

Wilda sees the Turners Falls farm as a opportunity to experiment with alternative feeds, and sources. He mentions the idea of building a new onsite hatchery – Australis dismantled one years ago in frustration – to supplement the fingerlings currently imported from Israel, or even to sell.

“This is exciting,” Wilda says. “There’s a lot of things we can improve on – and there’s a lot of things I’ve learned, over the past seven years when I’ve worked on other projects, that we’ll start to look at.”



Last weekend, Australis’s sign was replaced with the new company’s graphic.

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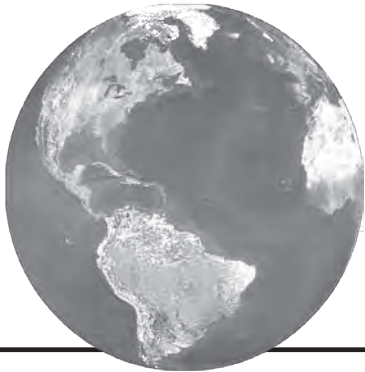
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Aquí se habla español

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



Sacando partido al centro urbano de Turners Falls: Great Falls Apple Corps



ANNABEL LEVINE PHOTO
Recogida de manzanas en el centro de Turners.

Por M^a VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

Muchos estudios afirman que la calidad de la vida en pueblos y ciudades se ve favorecida enormemente por el mantenimiento de las aéreas verdes y espacios públicos. Eso es precisamente lo que está consiguiendo Great Falls Apple Corps, que es una organización comunitaria formada por ciudadanos que quieren lograr el cambio de algunos de los espacios públicos en el centro de Turners Falls. Aunque su visión va más allá de solamente crear un espacio estético a la vista. La organización se fundó en 2017 con el objetivo de proporcionar a nuestra comunidad alimento, diversión y aire puro. Su primera actividad el año pasado fue recoger manzanas en lugares públicos y hacer sidra *in situ* con ellas en una prensa portátil. La actividad fue un éxito.

Esto les dio la idea para una de sus principales iniciativas: usar los recursos existentes y otros fáciles de lograr para poder conseguir alimento sostenible y gratis para todos. Durante gran parte del año, dependiendo de las estaciones y del tiempo, Great Falls Apple Corps lucha por conseguir acceso fácil y gratis a frutas y hierbas frescas para todos y, para ello han plantado árboles frutales y arbustos de diferentes bayas. También realizan talleres para enseñar diferentes conceptos en torno a la comida, y así mismo han plantado en las grandes jardinerías que podemos ver en el centro de Turners, que invitan a pasear y prestar atención a los árboles, hierbas, y plantas que hay en ellas. Se reúnen una vez al mes y Apple Corps da la bienvenida a nuevos miembros. Si usted tiene interés o quiere obtener más información puede escribir a greatfalls-applecorps@gmail.com.

Anuncio para el 17 de octubre:

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts en colaboración con la Cámara de Comercio de Franklin County y Montague C.O.A anuncian la distribución de alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes. La distribución tendrá lugar en el estacionamiento del Senior Center en 62 5th Street en Turners Falls en horario de 1.30 a 2.30 p.m. Por favor, acudan con sus propias bolsas. Se entregará una bolsa de alimentos por persona hasta terminar existencias. Si tienen preguntas, pueden llamar al (413) 247-9738.

Cortes Supremas en los países hispánicos

Por M^a VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

WASHINGTON, DC – El sábado 6 de octubre el Senado de los Estados Unidos aprobó por la cantidad mínima estipulada de votos, 50 contra 48, el nombramiento de Brett Kavanaugh como juez del Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos. Este hecho provoca que en este momento la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos se encuentre escorada claramente hacia la derecha lo que traerá implicaciones en importantes decisiones en torno al DACA, leyes de inmigración y relativas a los derechos de las mujeres. En Estados Unidos ser magistrado de la Corte Suprema es un cargo vitalicio y los miembros son elegidos por el Presidente siendo refrendados por el Senado. En los países hispánicos el sistema es similar, aunque no todos ellos tienen el mismo sistema. Aquí tienen algunos ejemplos: En **Costa Rica**, los magistrados miembros de la Corte Suprema de Justicia son nombrados por el parlamento que debe refrendarlos por los votos de dos tercios de los diputados y solamente pueden ejercer

por un período de ocho años. En **España**, los miembros son nombrados por el Rey aunque deben haber sido propuestos antes por el Consejo General del Poder Judicial. En **México** los miembros de la Corte Suprema de Justicia conservan su cargo por un máximo de quince años. Son nominados por el Presidente y sometidos a la votación del Senado donde deben lograr el voto de los dos tercios de la cámara. En **Chile**, los jueces miembros de la Corte Suprema de Justicia pueden conservar su cargo hasta cumplir 75 años a no ser que exista una incapacidad legal para el desarrollo de su función o una demanda. Los nuevos miembros son elegidos por los que ya están el cargo dando una lista de cinco nombres al Presidente que elige uno de ellos. A continuación ese nombre debe ser refrendado por el Senado, y en caso de no ser posible se pasa a un siguiente nombre. En **Argentina**, los miembros de la Corte Suprema de Justicia de la Nación deben tener por lo menos 30 años y se mantienen en su cargo hasta cumplir 75 años. Son nombrados por el presidente y el Congreso Nacional.

Celebrando el otoño en comunidad: The Great Falls Festival

Por M^a VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – En octubre se repite cada año la caída de las hojas, y desde hace algunos años llega también a Turners por estas fechas el Great Falls Festival (antes llamado Franklin County Pumpkinfest). Scott Kuzmeskus es uno de los organizadores del Great Falls Festival. En una tarde muy lluviosa hace algunos días me entrevisté con él para conseguir datos de primera mano respecto a esta fiesta en la calle. Scott es un nativo de Turners donde ha vivido casi toda su vida. Solía ir con su amigo de la infancia, Mike Nelson, al festival en Keene, NH. Hace unos nueve años Mike y Scott junto con otros amigos pensaron que podrían organizar algo así en Turners Falls. Por aquel tiempo en Turners casi no había nada, pero existían las infraestructuras para poder crear algo así que invitase a hacer comunidad.

En principio tuvieron mucha influencia de Keene, pero luego quisieron darle una vuelta de tuerca y hacer algo original. Esto ha traído también el cambio de nombre ya que cada vez hay menos calabazas, ya que no se pueden encender con velas, y cada vez hay más gente atraída por la comida y la artesanía. El nuevo nombre The Great Falls Festival quiere ser una celebración en la calle de la llegada del otoño y la cosecha, sin olvidar los disfraces y las calabazas. Quiere ser también un lugar de encuentro que invite a la gente de las zonas cercanas a reunirse y pasar un rato de diversión juntos. Scott me cuenta que hace nueve años casi no había nada en el centro de Turners Falls, solamente un Subway, no había mucho para hacer y sin un gran sentido de comunidad. Ahora el centro de la ciudad ha cambiado muchísimo y Scott ve el potencial para crear eventos y actividades. Kuzmeskus añade que el diseño



MAILLO PHOTO
Recogida de manzanas en el centro de Turners.

urbano de Turners lo convierte en lugar precioso y único para celebrar un festival. Los organizadores han pensado en ampliar la zona, pero es difícil controlar la seguridad en un mayor espacio, así que continúan usando solamente la Avenida A. En todos estos años la única incidencia ha sido algún niño perdido que ha encontrado rápidamente a su familia. Para los organizadores lo más importante es conseguir que sea una fiesta para la comunidad y una fiesta familiar. El coste del festival es de alrededor 25.000 dólares y se incrementa cada año en unos 5.000 dólares. Por lo tanto, las donaciones son importantísimas para financiar el festival, ya sean hechas por negocios, particulares, compañías y por supuesto gracias a eventos benéficos como su ya popular bingo. La relación entre los patrocinadores, y el festival ha sido consistente durante estos nueve años y se basa en la relación personal. Uno de los negocios que patrocina la fiesta es *Scotty's on the Hill* con un escenario en Peskeomskut Park y *Lundgren Honda* en Greenfield con otro escenario en Spinner Park en los que actuarán un total de ocho grupos de música muy diferentes. Todos los músicos actúan gratis. Los vendedores de comida y de artesanía pagan una cierta cantidad por el alquiler del espacio. El espacio es gratis para todas las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro, donde pueden darse a conocer y también organizar actividades para financiarse. Hay unos 190 espacios entre vendedores de comida y artesanía, que se llenan rápidamente y empiezan a reservar su espacio en abril. Scott me cuenta que en algunos casos deben decir no porque no tienen espacio para todos. Los organizadores dan preferencia a los vendedores locales, pero no cierran la puerta abierta a otros que vengan de lejos, y no solamente de Franklin County.

La seguridad también se ha incrementado en los últimos años. La policía de Montague y el departamento de Homeland Security colaboran para mantener el espacio seguro. La parte más rentable económicamente para el festival es la zona de alcohol en la que ofrecen cerveza, sidra y vino locales provenientes de pequeñas bodegas como *The People's Pint*, *Brick and Feather*, o *Element*. El resultado de la venta de alcohol es compartido al 50% entre la organización y dichos negocios locales. En el lugar reservado para la venta de alcohol no encontrará una cerveza hecha por grandes compañías. Es fundamental también la ayuda de los voluntarios sin los que no se podría realizar el festival. Entre los eventos que organizan están: Entretenimiento para niños y mayores, la decoración con flores de avenida, el sonido y luces en los escenarios de música y algo tan importante como la recolección de la basura para que no se note que algo ha ocurrido allí al día siguiente. Kuzmeskus agradece la ayuda prestada por Montague DPW, Pizazz Dance Studio, Karen's Dance Studio y F.C. Community Chorus. No se pueden perder la actuación de los Fire Dancer al anochecer en el cruce de Avenue A y la calle Tercera. El festival es gratis y los organizadores quieren invitar a todos a sentirse cómodos y participar en la fiesta en la calle haciendo comunidad. Una de las ideas de Scott es incrementar la diversidad en la música, no solamente en tipos de música sino también incluyendo música de otros países, y le encantaría que grupos Latinx contactaran con él para poder llevar a cabo esa idea en próximas ediciones. Si tienen preguntas o sugerencias, pueden escribir a esta dirección de correo electrónico: scott.kuzmeskus@gmail.com. ¡Diviértanse! ¡Nos vemos el 20 de octubre!

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SPORTS from page A1

Field Hockey
TFHS 8 – Amherst 0
TFHS 1 – Belchertown 0
Frontier 4 – TFHS 2

The Turners Falls field hockey team played three home games back-to-back-to-back, beating Amherst and Belchertown before dropping the final against Frontier.

On Wednesday, October 3, Lady Thunder had a field day against the Amherst Hurricanes. Turners controlled the ball throughout the contest, frequently passing the ball to several players before taking a shot. This ball control and teamwork led to eight Blue goals, with seven different girls getting in on the scoring.

It started quick for Powertown. 35 seconds into the game, Brynn Tela fed the ball to Cassidyh Wozniak, who popped it in the net.

Less than three minutes later, Kate Boulanger scored a goal, assisted by Wozniak. And on it went. Turners led 6-0 at halftime, and added a couple more in the second half.

With the game well in hand, Coach Becky Dame sent in her JV players, easily identifiable by their black kilts. When it was all said and done, Wozniak came away with 5 points off three goals and two assists, while Amber Taylor got 2 points with a goal and an assist.

Also scoring points for Blue were Kaylin Voudren, Tela, Kate Boulanger, Paige Sulda, and Alyson Murphy. Goalkeeper Haleigh Greene kicked away eight shots in the shutout.

Then the next night, Turners hosted the Belchertown Orioles. In this game, Turners only put one in the net, but another Greene shutout gave Powertown the win.

This was an interesting game to watch, as the Birds employed an unusual strategy. They seemed comfortable pulling everyone back, playing a defensive game. So although Turners controlled possession for most of the game, they only scored one goal.

When the Birds did get the ball, they would try to execute a fast break, hoping that Turners wouldn't get back in time. But Turners was able to get back, and one of the reasons they got the shutout was their own defense. When the ball was in Turners' end, defensemen Jade Tyler and Murphy would whack it hard, usually deep into enemy territory.

Wozniak scored Turners' goal, assisted by Taylor. In goal, Greene made six saves to preserve the shutout.

Then on Friday, October 5, the Blue Ladies hosted the Frontier Red Hawks. The Hawks took a 2-0 lead into halftime, and matched Blue's 2 goals in the second half for the 4-2 final.

Tela and Wozniak scored Powertown's goals, and in net, Greene made 10 saves.

Volleyball

The volleyball team had a light week, playing only one game.



The Eagles' Ryan Campbell shields the ball from Viking defender Jacob Rafus, as Rubin Galvez looks on.

On Thursday, October 4, they traveled to Springfield to face the Sabis Bull Dogs. Powertown has won some close contests of late but Thursday, with the game tied 2-2, they were unable to win the fifth and deciding match, dropping the game 3-2.

The loss gives Turners an 8-4 record, and they remain undefeated in the Northern Conference.

Golf

TFHS 12 – Smith Academy 12
Monson 18 – TFHS 6

The Turners Falls golf team played two games this week: they traveled to Greenfield Country Club and earned a tie against Smith Academy, and then lost against Monson at Thomas Memorial.

On Wednesday, Turners played Smith and shot to a 12-12 tie. Smith fielded the top two golfers, but Powertown used its depth to force the tie. Joey Mosca shot a team-best 43, followed by Brian Poirier (45), Brady Bodska (46), Tyler Noyes (47), Alex Sulda (48), and Aidan Bailey (49).

Then on Friday, October 5, they hosted the Monson Mustangs. Monson took the top five spots in this one, with Bodska, Poirier, and Mosca shooting 49 and Sulda and Bailey finishing in 50. Noyes also competed and finished in 56 strokes.

Football

TFHS 28 – Mahar 7

Last Friday, the Turners football team bested the Mahar Senators, 28-7, on Mahar's home turf.

Blue wasted no time in drawing first blood. After the Blue D shut down Mahar, Powertown marched down the field for a 59-yard scoring drive. And at 5:07 of the first quarter, Blue was up 7-0.

The teams traded possessions, but in the second quarter, Mahar broke a 66-yard run. Even though the runner was off and running, Andy Craver never gave up and caught the runner just five yards from pay dirt. Blue's goal line defense played

well but on their fourth try, the Senate finally put it into the end zone and at 6:21 of the second quarter, it was all knotted at 7.

Turners took back the lead with 3:11 left in the half when Kyle Dodge connected with Craver for a 15-yard touchdown reception. It looked like the game would stay 14-7 for the rest of the half, but a stingy Blue defense and mindful clockwork gave Turners the ball with 38 seconds left on the clock.

That's all Powertown needed: exactly 38 seconds later, Craver caught another TD pass to put Turners up 21-7 at the break. Turners would score one more time when Wyatt Keith ran one in with 6:08 left in the game.

Dodge made 10 completions for 144 yards and two TDs. Craver (5), Jaden Whiting (3), John Fritz, and Jake Wallace were his targets.

On the ground, Keith led Powertown with 216 yards. Dodge, Whiting, and Craver also carried the ball for Blue, and Tyler Lavin tacked on 4 extra point kicks.

The win gives Turners a record of 4-1, and they remain unbeaten in the Inter County North.

Next they head to South Deerfield to challenge Frontier for the league's top spot!



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

State Cable Agency Underestimated Poles

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard met twice on October 3 without a break: once as the town's municipal light plant (MLP), discussing broadband issues, and after that, with a second agenda, in their regular capacity as a selectboard.

Broadband committee member Ray DiDonato and town treasurer Carolyn Manley told them, as the MLP, about some of the intricacies of borrowing for the townwide fiber-optic network.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) estimate of the number of utility poles in the town was low, and so the cost of the make-ready phase of construction will be higher than the MBI's estimate.

Permits for different sections of town are coming in one at a time, but all the permits are expected to be complete by December. After the permits are accepted, the town has 45 days to pay for them.

DiDonato and Manley recommended a short-term borrowing of \$450,000 to pay for the make-ready work, which should be completed by May. When it is completed, the town can look at a long-term state house loan at a lower interest rate.

Manley suggested consulting with the finance committee to structure that debt, and set the schedule of payments to have the least harmful impact on taxes.

The network operator may be structured as a Municipal Light Plant, which is a separate entity, a business with a budget separate from the town's. If the MLP has a cash flow problem, the town would not be allowed to give it money. Town auditor Tom Scanlon recommended, instead, an enterprise fund which is also run as a business, with customers paying for services, but with a connection to the town and its finances.

Floor Spots and Kitchen Spats

The regular selectboard meeting then began. Citizen Jonathan von

Ranson reported that the Franklin County Selectmen's meeting determined that demand in Wendell for transportation services is too small for the county to justify the expense. The selectboard thanked him for his effort by email.

Citizen Kathy Becker sent the board photographs of damage to the town hall floor: black oily spots. Board chair Dan Keller thought the spots may be small enough for spot repairs, and suggested a check with Tom Chaisson and Dennis Hudson, both of whom have done good work for the town.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich summarized a report from Colonial Power that showed quarterly increasing savings by Wendell's 260 residential customers who participate in electrical aggregation, up to a total of \$28,000 in the summer quarter.

Selectboard member and energy committee member Laurie DiDonato said that energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger was trying to get the green electricity sources closer to town, and encourage local sustainable electricity production. Aldrich agreed to try to find out if Colonial Power will do that.

At a Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts (STAM) meeting, Aldrich learned that OSHA work safety standards which apply to private contractors, will now be extended to municipalities. Enforcement is the responsibility of the state department of labor standards, and fines will be imposed only for willful violation.

Wendell's municipal employees are the road crew, the police department, and the fire department. Safety policies must be put in place for every town department, and grants of up to \$25,000 are available for safety training.

Aldrich said she expected that fire chief Joe Cuneo already emphasizes safe procedures during trainings, and highway supervisor Rich Wilder also was made more aware of safe procedures as part of his "Roads Scholar" training.

At the request of animal control officer Maggie Houghton, the board scheduled a dog hearing for their next meeting, October 17 at 7:30 p.m., for a dog that left town with its owners, but then also returned with its owners. Since then it was accused of running loose.

Before the garlic festival, one person had reserved the town hall kitchen from 9 to 11 a.m., and another had reserved it from 11 a.m. on. The first person continued cooking when the second arrived, and the second got angry.

Aldrich said she does not have time to "babysit the kitchen." Board members continued their discussion of potential members of a kitchen operating committee.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week, enjoy the following new videos on our website!

- Exploded View, 9/16/18: Exploded View is a group of women artists creating original performances and exhibitions. This performance was part of the "Paper Jam" exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center.
- The Snow Maiden: A performance of the No Strings Marionettes at Montague Public Library.

- Turners Falls versus Greenfield football game, 9/21/18.

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.

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PAGODA from page A1

the interfaith prayers offered by representatives of Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Native American traditions and by representatives from the Pagoda’s partnership organizations speaking on behalf of the marginalized – poor people, asylum seekers, people of color, and trees (Stand4Forests).

Emcee Casay Yamazaki Heine-man also read a moving tribute to the work of the Pagoda written for the occasion by Representative James P. McGovern.

Among the Peace Pagoda speakers, Vickie Elson, co-founder of Nuclear Ban US, highlighted the

work of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), lauding the dedication of nuns arrested and jailed, now able to return to the sites of their arrest with the Nobel Prize.

Savina Martin, Massachusetts statewide coordinator for the Poor People’s Campaign, demanded an end to military aggression on our borders—keeping families together—and an end to voter rights violations and injustices, reminding the audience that in Massachusetts, convicted felons are denied the vote.

Marlene Campbell, founder of People of Color Against Homicide, expressed a similar activist senti-

ment, and the need to ban the sale of assault weapons.

Annie Hassett and I provided the music. I sang an original prayer poem, *Many Ways to Greet the Spirit*, and Sibelius’ *Song of Peace*. Annie shared an inspiring song about clothesline activism, bringing the festivities to a close before the sharing of a meal.

Upcoming events include the building of a new Peace Pagoda in the Tennessee Smoky Mountains, and the annual Walk for Peace (October 27 to November 4) leading up to the 2020 commemoration of 400 years of colonization since the Mayflower landing. The Spiritual Walk for Peace will be coordinated by Tim Bullock.



GROSS PHOTO

Savina Martin, Massachusetts statewide coordinator for the Poor People’s Campaign, addresses the celebrants.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!

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SEWER from page A1

“Montague Process” for reducing solids, and the decline of revenues from industrial users, particularly after the closing of the Southworth paper plant in August 2017.

“What happened to the Montague process?” asked Precinct 1 town meeting member Lynn Reynolds.

McDonald answered that when the process was put on hold by the state Department of Environmental Protection in 2016, the plant lost the ability to reduce solid waste products effectively.

“When the state required the town to initiate a pilot of the process, they asked us to take the biology to do one thing and ask it to do another,” he said. “The original process took six years to create, but the state said we had to start it up in two months.”

McDonald also said the plant had been operating “on the edge,” attempting to process nearly three times as much sludge as it was designed to handle. The state decided “it was not sustainable,” he said.

The budget adjustment was approved, with a few dissenting votes.

Most of the other 12 articles were approved without a great deal of debate. These included an application to the state for a beer and

wine license for 104 Avenue A, the location of Mystic Pinball Company; an appropriation of \$19,750 for a technical review of capping the former Sandy Lane Burn Dump and constructing a solar facility on it; and \$9,535 to build a bathroom at the Shea Theater.

The only article that generated as much discussion as the sewer appropriation was a motion to authorize the town treasurer to transfer a parcel of land next to the power canal, the site of the old Indeck power plant, to the selectboard.

Some members thought the motion was inelegantly worded. Peter Golrick noted that the treasurer was not a “board or commission,” as it suggested.

Former building inspector David Jensen argued that the article’s use of the word “conveyance” virtually required the board to sell the property, rather than allowing it to be put to public use. After over half an hour of discussion, the meeting agreed to amend the article by inserting the phrase “or any municipal purpose.” The article was approved with a lone opposing vote.

The meeting adjourned after two hours.



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A Cozy Canteen For Millers Falls



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

A new café has opened this month in downtown Millers Falls.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

MILLERS FALLS – Opened on October 3, the brand new Whistle Stop Café is not your ordinary kind of restaurant, according to Dan Hunt, its enthusiastic owner. Located at 29 East Main Street, the 800-square-foot eatery offers some things not normally associated with a small canteen. “We’ve tried to make it somewhat of a unique place,” said Hunt. “We’ve tried to blend touches of the past with the modern.”

To begin with, the Whistle Stop has enjoyed positive feedback from its clientele for its homey atmosphere. Folks have praised the new café’s coziness and warmth. “And we use as many organic sources and local products as possible,” said Hunt, giving a perfect example of the past and present coming together with the place’s traditional diner-type ambience and the current day emphasis on the quality of the product.

“Our customers have been terrific,” said Hunt. “They really like our food, the cozy layout of our place, and the prices put a smile on their faces. Quite a few folks have told me our café is just what the town needed: a nice new place to enjoy breakfasts and lunches.”

Another feature of the Whistle Stop is its emphasis on making its own chow. The café offers bakery goods made from scratch, along with home-style staples made on the new premises: soups and stews, lasagna, and American chop suey, along with pre-made salads and sandwiches. There are

the traditional beverages – soda, juice, and iced tea – plus ice cream and milkshakes. And don’t forget the sundaes!

How about coming in for a quick coffee? “We’ve got organic brands,” said Hunt, “such as Dean’s Beans. I grind beans fresh every day. We use an art deco style of grinder – a 30-inch-high old Hobart coffee grinder from the 1930s. When our patrons drink their coffee, nostalgia will take them back to the past.”

In addition, the Whistle Stop offers delicious buttermilk pancakes. “A woman from town offered the Whistle Stop her cherished recipe,” said the owner. To illustrate her claim, she brought in a sample. “Those pancakes were so good, I immediately added buttermilk pancakes to the menu.”

For Dan Hunt, being in the kitchen and cooking are nothing new. “I started cooking,” he said, “when I was in high school at Frontier Regional.” The 1983 graduate worked in the kitchen at Al’s Seafood Restaurant in West Hartford, Connecticut his junior year and went on to thrive in the kitchen at the Whately Diner in Hatfield his senior year.

Hunt worked for the state of Massachusetts for 19 years. At one point, he labored for Environmental Health and Safety at UMass-Amherst as an industrial hygienist, monitoring and supervising the clearance of asbestos on campus. “We were the first state employees trained and licensed to remove asbestos at the

see **CANTEEN** page B6

Pets Rule!

By NINA ROSSI

MONTAGUE CENTER – Moti Zemelman has the kind of job that a lot of folks dream of having: working at home selling something they’ve created and successfully marketing their product on the internet so they can, among other things, be stay-at-home parents of young children.

Moti found a unique niche that allows him to work from his Montague Center home (or anywhere he can bring a laptop): an internet business that taps into the astoundingly large amount of money that Americans spend on their pets every year, projected to be over \$70 billion for 2018. What he offers is the illusion of nobility for pets worldwide; dogs and cats become their own noble ancestors by having their visage placed into a Renaissance painting via the wonders of Photoshop!

It is impressive the way that Moti melds the pictures into each other with this professional imaging software. He is able to create texture and lighting effects that blend even a not-so-great snapshot of a pet into the shoulders and neck of a famous portrait from the 14th to 17th centuries.

Velvets and silks provide rich backgrounds for shiny eyes, fur and teeth; tongues loll above lace collars and paws peep out from embroidered cuffs; the clothing, heraldry, and accoutrements befitting a ruler elevate purebred and mutt, canine and feline, into royals. Presumably, the animals themselves are unaware of their new status, and surely don’t care about the authority of art history or the status of long dead Europeans.

There is a surprisingly good business in creating these anthropomorphic time warps for doting pet owners, and more than one business engaged in it, as an internet search will quickly reveal. Moti believes his training and experience as a fine artist and longtime digital photographer give him an edge on his competitors, and after surveying his competition on the giant craft



ROSSI PHOTO

Moti Zemelman in costume at the Montague home studio of his business, The Renaissance Pet.



RENAISSANCE PET

Zemelman’s portrait of famous Instagram cat Nala Cat uses a painting of Queen Anne of Austria.

network of *etsy.com*, I would agree. There is something more “alive” about the Renaissance pets that Moti creates, with the colors, lighting and sharpness of detail matching the painting they are placed in.

Like many good ideas, this one sidled into the artist’s life through another business before becoming the main focus. Moti had previously caught the wave in making custom iPhone cases, and rode it until a proliferation of copycat businesses cut into his market share. Creating them at home with a dye-sublimation printer that heat-set images on aluminum, he was, at the peak of the demand, printing, assembling, and shipping a hundred cases a day.

“It was like gangbusters: it was insane,” he says. “Except, people were copying the business, and also the designs I did that went viral. Like the ice cream sandwich one: people stole it left and right, taking the design straight off of my website.”

Moti started looking at what he could do that was more unique and people couldn’t just copy. “People would occasionally send me photos of their pets and say, ‘Can you put this on an iPhone case?’ and I would do it,” he remembers. “And one person sent a picture and said, ‘Can you make my pet look like a king?’ So I took some random painting of a king from the Renaissance, and superimposed the pet into the painting, and printed it into the case.”

Then he thought, “Why limit myself to this tiny little phone case?” The Renaissance Pet went online as a separate website, and the business grew over the last four years.

Moti used to do the booths at Renaissance fairs and dog shows, but now he is mostly working online with search engine optimization strategies. So far, he has done about 800 portraits for customers, with sizes ranging from 8x10 inches to 32x48. The prints can be made on canvas or on photo paper, and customers have a choice of a few simple frames for the canvases.

There are about 45 templates of Renaissance paintings available on Moti’s website, and he also has a list of character types that people can select according to their pet’s personality, so he can match them with other paintings available in the public domain. He has also done a few character requests for more modern

see **PETS** page B2

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

The Lure of the Fire



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – We are a bit bemused by the proliferation of the outdoor fire pit, but we can also relate. Particularly at this season of the year, when the sun sets earlier and earlier and the days shorten visibly, we look forward to the evening’s fire in the woodstove and like to light candles at the supper table. We miss the extended daylight and anticipate the changing of the clocks, which will merely confirm what we already know.

Soon we’ll be making a brief overnight visit to Ken’s family in

Rhode Island. One of the highlights is the gathering of the clan around the fire pit with a large blaze to bring warmth and push away the dark.

Early cave dwellers must have relied even more intensely on fire for warmth, for cooking, and very importantly, to keep away the beasts in the night. Today’s beasts are more metaphorical, and the terrors which bring us frightening dreams are our own internal fears and anxieties.

Every century must have had its night terrors and public anxieties, and this one is no exception. One of the greatest challenges is the sense of loss of control and the extreme lack of trust. There is always much that seems out of control. We remember in early elementary school, being shepherded, class by class, into the basement to practice in the event of the dropping of bombs. People even built bomb shelters in their yards.

On the other hand, it was all a bit unreal. During our early years in that sheltered suburb, we felt so safe that even young children were allowed to play outside until dark, and go trick-or-treating unchaperoned.

The terrorist attack on 9/11 changed everything for those of us too young to have lived at the time of the attacks on Pearl Harbor. It was unimaginable that enemies would take us on in our own safe space. Of course, we were already doing the same, waging warfare in other places, all with a mysterious sense of righteousness in many Americans. But to happen to us, here, was another thing altogether.

My mother, who was suffering from developing dementia, expected to be attacked in the safe haven of her assisted living home. She was very small during the First World

see **GARDENER’S** page B4



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Dan Hunt (right), the proprietor of the new Whistle Stop Café in Millers Falls, with his sister Jackie Hunt inside the Main Street eatery the two are operating.

Pet of the Week

How handsome am I, you ask? I'm REGAL. Need a king in your life? Pick me. Need a formidable, epic presence? Me again. Need a total love bug who appears all tough and rugged but is really a big softie?

Meeeee! So what are you waiting for!? Get in here and adopt me while I'm still here!
Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“BAROTONE”

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 15 THROUGH 19

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 10/15

8 a.m. Foot Clinic by appt.
12 p.m. Potluck & Bingo

Tuesday 10/16

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 10/17

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
9 to 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry

Thursday 10/18

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 10/19

1 p.m. Writing Group

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.

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 10/15

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 10/16

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 10/17

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
1 p.m. Drumming for Health

Thursday 10/18

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Friday 10/19

8:45 a.m. New Exercise TBD
9 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
10 a.m. M3 Exercise
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

PETS from page B1

themes, but there are sometimes copyright issues with those characters. A portrait of Alexander Hamilton shot up in popularity after the musical became a big hit, and the founding fathers have all been selected by pet owners at one time or another.

"I've done enough portraits that people spread my name, and there's links on a number of related sites. Some articles have come out on Bark Post and a few online dog magazines," says Moti.

"But my most viral moment in this business has been a portrait I did for the most famous Instagram cat, Nala Cat. I don't know how this particular cat is the one that gets all the attention: she has very blue eyes and is white and fluffy, but somehow it is surprising she has 3 million followers!"

Moti did a portrait trade with



Ophelia, as Alexander Hamilton.

them, using a painting of Queen Anne of Austria that he had never used before: "It's one of my better portraits, and Queen Anne became one of my more popular options." In return, Nala Cat did a couple of posts on Instagram of the painting,

"and they have an online video of Nala where I can see the painting in the background, placed prominently in their home."

The portrait artist has no pets of his own, due to allergic family members, but he loves animals and has lived with many dogs and cats over the years. There is a memorial aspect to the portraits; people will often have one done in memory of a pet they have lost.

In addition, there are lots of possible tie-ins within the burgeoning pet industry: "I'm definitely looking for businesses to team up with for promotions and stuff. If there is a dog grooming business, or vet to team up, I would do a portrait to hang there," says Moti.

Interested in catapulting your furry friend back in time to become a jester, King, Queen, beggar or knight? Check out the site at therenaissancepet.com/



FACES & PLACES



TOM HANKINSON PHOTO

Julie Shively of the Leverett selectboard (at left) presents a plaque and pin representing the town's "golden cane" to Ethyl Williams of Richardson Road (seated at right), believed to be the oldest woman in Leverett.

She was joined at last Thursday's presentation ceremony by (standing, left to right): Edie Field of the Leverett Historical Society, and a friend; her granddaughter Karla Williams; granddaughter-in-law Amy Williams; daughter-in-law Jean Williams; grandson Kevin Williams; and (seated at center) her son Dick Williams.

OUT OF THE PARK: October 2018

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello and happy October everyone! It's a great time of year; the leaves are starting to turn, there's a crisp in the air, and we're starting to make new homes for our jack-o'-lanterns and scarecrows! It's been a busy autumn here at Montague Parks and Recreation, that's for sure.

Let's first send out a reminder about our **Bluefish Swim Team**. Bluefish starts this Monday, October 15, and we still have a few spots available. The program goes until early March 2019, and we're proud members of the Pioneer Valley Swim League. For more information, check out the team's new webpage: montaguebluefish.com.

Monday the 15th will also be the first day to register your child in our **Youth Basketball Program** (for Montague residents). Youth Basketball is held from December through the end of February. We offer an Instructional Program for children in grades K through 2, Junior Travel for kids in grades 3 and 4, and a Senior Travel Program for those in grades 5 and 6.

Our Instructional Program goes from January 2 to the end of February, and is held at Sheffield Elementary, and the travel teams participate in the Tri-County Youth Basketball League with other area communities. Registration for non-residents begins Monday, November 5. Spots fill-up fast, so register early!

Speaking of basketball, we'll also be holding **basketball clinics** mid-November for girls and boys in Grades 3 through 6. The Girls Clinic will be held



Tuesday, November 13, with the Boys Clinic scheduled for Wednesday, November 14. The clinics will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Elementary School gym.

Montague Residents are \$20 per player; there's a 15 player limit and a 10 player minimum for each clinic. These clinics are fundraising events that support our Youth Basketball Program, and are not "try-outs" for those teams. You must register for our Youth Basketball Program separately.

We'll also be hosting the **Pumpkin Decorating Station** again at this year's Great Falls Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, October 20, with decorating from 2 p.m. until dusk. We'll be located in the same spot as last year: the corner of Avenue A and Second Street. Stop by, and bring your artistic talents!

On November 1, pre-registration will begin for our **Annual Sawmill River 10k Run**. The Sawmill Run is held on Tuesday, January 1, 2019, and is our major special event of the winter. If you're a runner, hope to be one, or know of someone who runs, this is *the* perfect way to start off the new year. Here's hoping it will be a little warmer than last year.

Of course, you can find additional information on all of these programs (and more) on our webpage at montague-ma.gov. That's about it from here. Enjoy the rest of your October, and we'll talk to you next month!

Jon Dobosz is the director of parks & recreation for the town of Montague.

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FROM A KID’S POINT OF VIEW

Fun in the Sun

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

GREENFIELD – Hello again! I’m excited to be writing my ninth column. I hope you all enjoy it. The reason I am writing this column is because I wanted to tell you all my favorite activities in the sun that you can try, too.

The first, and one of my favorites, is a game played on a field with goals at each end. You need to have a tennis ball and a Velcro pad shield and pals to play with. Start off by the teams being on each side, then throw the ball to the other team; they try to catch it with their shields. Your team can intercept the throw, too. And while running, somebody goes to their end of the field to score.

The second one you all know about. It’s biking. I like to bike around my neighborhood, because there are lots of bumps and hills. I wear a helmet to keep myself safe.

Next comes swimming. I enjoy swimming in a pool or the ocean. I like the pools to have some shallow water and some deep water. I am okay at swimming, and my favorite thing about it is jumping into the pool and coming back up. I like the feel of being underwater. One day I want to go scuba diving.

Sledding! Beacon Field in Greenfield is a great place to go. My purple sled is a plastic sled with brakes. I love sledding because you get to ride down a hill fast.

I enjoy golf, too. My fifth column talked all about that.

Playgrounds are a lot of fun.

Usually I go with my Mom and brother, and when we go I like to climb on top of things like zip lines and monkey bars. Meanwhile, my brother either plays on the swings or goes down slides. Sometimes on big ones, I slide down with him. The Bernardston elementary school has a great playground with a huge structure and dinosaurs to climb on.

Jumping in leaves in the fall is a favorite, too, but not raking them. There is a huge tree in my backyard that will soon be dropping a ton of leaves. That’s where my swing is, too. My brother’s swing will go there soon.

When I have a play date with my friend, we play with laser guns. We run around outside the house, trying to blast each other. There are monitors on our laser guns that show the level of health and ammo that is left. When one of us runs out of health, the game is over, and when one of us runs out of ammo, we click a switch on the side of the gun, and shove the stick that pops out back in for more ammo, so the game can go on.

Ladder Ball is a great game, too. There are two ladders spaced apart. Each rung has a different score. Players throw a string that has a golf ball attached to each end. If it wraps around one of the rungs, you get points – one for the top rung, two for the middle, and three for the bottom. Whoever gets to the agreed-upon score first, wins.

Thanks again for reading my column. Watch for my next one!

MOVIE REVIEW

Solo: A Star Wars Story (2018)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – *Solo* was a Star Wars prequel that was a heist film and also the origin story of Han Solo. Among other things, we learn how he got his name, how he met Chewbacca, and in a bit more detail, how he got the Millennium Falcon as his ship.

The film did a good job of having elements that we are used to seeing in the Star Wars world. Those elements include the assortment of aliens we have seen in the Star Wars films, and those stormtroopers in white outfits. It shows Han Solo being the rogue, outlaw type and great pilot he is in the first couple of Star Wars films. They don’t change that about him. But they also make him be still a good guy, like he is in those films.

This film shows us how Han Solo got his ship in more detail, through an actual scene where it happened. I knew that he got that ship from Lando Calrissian because it was mentioned in *The Empire Strikes Back*, the original sequel to *Star Wars*. In this film, because of that, we see a younger version of this character Lando.

He cheats Han in a card game when he first attempts to get the ship. The next game, Han stops him from doing that, and wins the ship fair and square. We see a sampling of Han’s pilot skills, with a move that I believe he did in Star Wars. That was cool.

I believe we also see a cameo appearance from someone people



should be familiar with if they saw one of the other prequels that shows Darth Vader being born. I get the thought people must have a lot when it comes to making prequel movies, which is to explain how someone or something is the way it is. Or maybe filmmakers just want to give more details about an event or person.

They didn’t exactly do a bad job of that, when it came to the films George Lucas made showing Darth Vader’s origin. The plots of the films made sense when it came to that story and a few other things, I just didn’t care for the movies. With something like that, I believe it’s possible to go overboard with having too many elements of action and drama in a film. But what worked in just the right way in those films featuring a young Darth Vader was his origin story.

As you may gather from my review, I am knowledgeable about the Star Wars prequels that Lucas did. I told you what I like about them. I also don’t like *Rogue One*. It just seems to me to be a bad plot for a movie.

Solo: A Star Wars story was tastefully done. It didn’t go overboard with anything, and it had the right amount of action present. I think people will be pleased with it.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

At Least Six “911” Misdials; Pit Bull Bites Two; No Church Parade Escort; Skunk Just Lying There

Monday, 10/1

3:29 a.m. Female caller reporting unknown type of disturbance on L Street. Patrol units *en route*. Officers spoke to male; same was outside yelling to other male about borrowed money. All verbal. Male outside was advised of complaint and options.

8:05 a.m. Shelburne Control advising that they received a 911 misdial from the area of Depot Street; they called the number back and spoke to a male who said it was a pocket dial. Montague dispatch confirmed that party was not in need of assistance. 10:49 a.m. Silent 911 call from Avenue A; sounding like a pocket dial. A male’s voice could be heard yelling at another person, “Where’s my car?” Area checked; nothing found.

9:10 p.m. Caller complaining of dog barking in spurts since 7:15 p.m. near Grove Street and Goddard Avenue. Officer spoke with owner of the dog and advised of the complaint. Animal is now in the house.

Tuesday, 10/2

7:34 a.m. Acting sergeant advises he will be putting down a raccoon on Millers Falls Road. Clear; DPW on scene to remove.

10:11 p.m. Caller advising that a vehicle traveling down Avenue A in the direction of Montague City Road is swerving into the other lane of traffic. Officer advising that he found vehicle on the grass in front of a house on J Street. Elderly female stated that she parked like that to stay out of the rain. No signs of impairment.

Wednesday, 10/3

6:47 a.m. Male 911 caller from Turners Falls Road transferred from Shelburne Control reporting two-car crash. Caller denies injuries to himself or lone occupant of second vehicle. Both vehicles negative for smoke, fluid, flames; both vehicles out of traffic. Caller advises he was pulling out of his driveway when another truck came down road and collided with his front end. Officer *en route*. Both vehicles left under their own power. Report taken; citation issued.

9:02 a.m. Abandoned 911 call; upon callback, spoke with female resident who advised she meant to dial 411. Confirmed misdial.

9:29 a.m. Caller reports that a vehicle has been parked in the Unity Park parking lot for the past three days; no note on the vehicle detailing why it is there or when it will be moved. Officer attempted to make contact with registered owner at

his residence. Negative contact. Rau’s requested; vehicle towed.

12:56 p.m. Party calling from Johnson Controls (Heatfab) on behalf of employee whose vehicle was keyed while he was at work. Report taken.

3:03 p.m. Caller requesting additional patrols for speed near Ja’Duke on Industrial Boulevard.

3:22 p.m. 911 caller advising that she can hear yelling and barking on Turnpike Road; believes some kind of fight might be taking place between people, dogs, or both. TFFD advising of dog bite; MedCare advised and *en route*. Officer advising that dogs were separated upon arrival and one will be transported to the animal hospital in Deerfield. Copied via radio that two parties have sustained dog bites. MedCare advised. Officer advises that owner of pit bull has had several incidents similar to the one today during the past few months. Report taken. Call printed and left for animal control officer.

6:34 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer; his car was parked at Unity Park and is now missing. Officer advised and stated that the caller can collect his car from Rau’s after paying the towing fee. Caller advised.

7:28 p.m. 911 misdial; caller advises that he accidentally called 911 when he was paying his cell phone bill. Officer *en route*. Confirmed misdial.

8:28 p.m. A 45-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

Thursday, 10/4

7:09 a.m. Staff entrance motion at Carnegie Library. DPW advising that their janitor set off the alarm; DPW super *en route* to reset.

4:30 p.m. Report of three males at the skate park with a six pack of beer. Males appear to be under 21 years old. Services

rendered.

4:44 p.m. Caller requesting assistance with two teenagers who are refusing to listen to her and left on foot on Montague Street. Officer off with two juveniles. Courtesy transport provided. Peace restored.

6:45 p.m. Hit-and-run in the public parking lot next to the Rendezvous. Report taken.

8:16 p.m. TFFD attending to a fuel spill at Cumberland Farms; requesting PD to assist.

Friday, 10/5

10:48 a.m. School resource officer reporting a minor motor vehicle accident at Franklin County Technical School involving a parked truck and a school-owned tractor. SRO advises they are dealing with it in house.

4:03 p.m. Caller states that the driver of an older model silver Ford pickup truck with a loud exhaust appeared to pass out behind the wheel. He went through a stop sign, then stopped and appeared to slump over the wheel for a few seconds. He then woke up and headed towards I Street from Eleventh Street. Area checked; unable to locate.

Saturday, 10/6

4:06 a.m. 911 open line received from state in which they heard two males shouting with no response. Upon callback, the cell number goes to a voice-mail that has not been set up. Cell pinged to Third Street. Officer advises area quiet upon arrival.

10:44 a.m. Caller from Third Street reporting that the smoke detectors were going off in his apartment; he was cooking and there was a lot of smoke, but it is all gone now and the detectors are off. Caller wanted MPD to know there was not a fire in case they received any other calls. TFFD advised and will not be responding.

10:44 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting a skunk in her

yard; advised it is just lying there, sometimes gets up to move a little bit; appears injured or rabid. Advised caller to call back once she is home again and has seen if the skunk is still there. Officer advises that he will head out to take care of it if needed.

11:25 a.m. Greenfield PD advising they took an abandoned 911 call from a cell line on Clark Avenue; called back; caller advised his sister was playing with the phone. Officer clear; confirmed misdial.

11:33 a.m. Caller reporting that a male and female are in a silver minivan parked near the dumpster in the Third Street parking lot; advising both parties are shooting up heroin. Officer advises all set; they were reading up on how to fix the brakes on the van. Male subject is staying at an apartment on Fourth Street.

7:01 p.m. Motorist reporting a large deer dead in the southbound lane of Sunderland Road. Deer determined to be in Sunderland.

8:04 p.m. 911 misdial from Ferry Road; caller stated he accidentally dialed 911 while talking to a Verizon representative, working on a phone issue. Confirmed misdial.

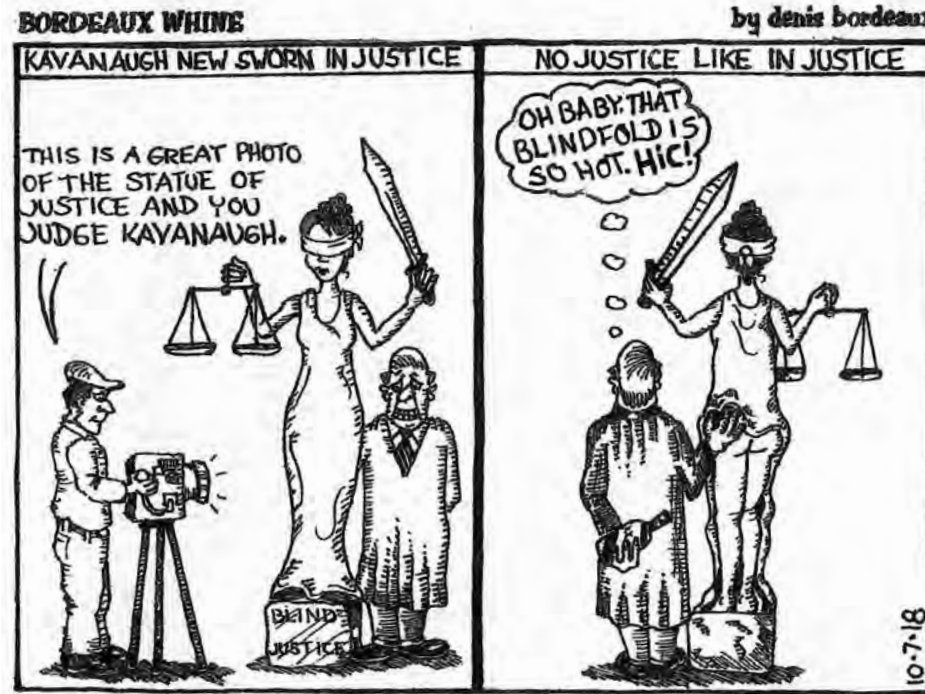
Sunday, 10/7

4:30 a.m. Officer reports finding pieces of two mailboxes near Turners Falls Road entrance to PD. Investigated.

4:26 p.m. A 46-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a probation warrant.

6:01 p.m. Caller from Our Lady of Czestochowa requesting a call back regarding a procession that occurred earlier today that she believed was going to have a police escort. Referred to an officer.

6:25 p.m. Officer advising that he was flagged down at Turners Falls and Randall roads by a motorist who was concerned for a child on a tricycle. Scene clear.



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GARDENER’S from page B1

War, but was married and pregnant during the Second. It was all very vivid again in her warped memory.

Since then we have endured the horror of murderous attacks on school children perpetrated by others who have been children themselves. Despite the presence of police, armed guards and locked buildings, we have not been able to prevent these events. Instead, we have become a more factionalized society, with some demanding greater control over the selling and availability of guns, and others lobbying that teachers should be armed. Most schools now practice

drills for sheltering-in-place.

Most of us harbor some level of chronic anxiety which seems to come with these turbulent times. The rifts between classes and beliefs grows, making it extremely difficult to come together as communities, and more so as a nation, to meet the challenges of our times.

And so come on the seasons of the short days and the long, dark nights. We push away our fears with ceremonies of many kinds, most including fire and light. We seek comfort against the dark and the unknown.

The blazing fire in the fire pit warms us and pulls us closer. Dis-

embodied voices share stories and memories at the edges of the dark. There is greater truth and honesty in the telling. The feeling of family is very strong.

Imagine a peace summit at night, in the dark, around a bright light of fire where truth and honesty would be spoken, fears dissolved, and solutions created. Maybe this is not as phantasmagorical as it sounds. What would be the harm in trying?

Come sit around the fire with us. We can share truths and stories, feel comfort and strength in the communing. Even if for just a brief time, we can feel safe.



The Greenfield Gallery Debuts “NUKKUA/TO SLEEP”

By **TRISH CRAPO**

GREENFIELD – When Anja Schütz describes her new work, she uses words like “moody,” “ethereal.” The images, black and white ink transfer prints of photographs

she took at a month-long artist’s residency in Finland this summer, resonate with a mysterious, dream-like quality.

Small leaves seem to grow from a woman’s hands, or a large leaf completely obscures a woman’s face. The way the woman’s arms hold the leaf suggests that they, too, are more stalk than human. The line between flora and fauna is shown to be arbitrary, transmutable. Embroidered elements in earth-toned thread add evidence of a human touch and a sense of three-dimensionality to the prints.

This Greenfield Gallery exhibit, with artist’s reception and ink transfer workshop, marks the first time this unusual work will be on view.

Schütz says the work grew out of a dream of plants growing from humans that she had right before she left for Finland. The dream and the resulting images are connected to recent and ongoing losses she’s experienced, including the death of a beloved grandmother, and the long-term illness of a close friend.

“I’m still trying to figure out exactly what it is I’m trying to express verbally, but I know that it’s feeling right,” Schütz says. “It’s very much about how close we are to the natural world – death and decay. And regrowth,” she adds.

Working in Finland, where 20 hours of daylight would lapse only briefly into a deep dusk, contributed to the ethereal quality of the work, which Schütz says is a departure from her previous portraiture. And the ink transfer process, which she learned there, transforms what she sees as the over-perfection of digital photography into a more handmade aesthetic.

Schütz says that going to photography school, and then studying graphic design, led her to believe for a long while that she couldn’t possibly be an artist, because she





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could never come up with a concept for her work beforehand.

“I thought it all had to be up here,” she says, tapping her forehead. “I didn’t remember any more this part of it – ” She moves both hands down over her heart.

Over the years, Schütz has learned that art has to come from the unconscious. “You have to follow threads even though you don’t know where they’re going,” Schütz says. “This whole project, especially keeping it open to imperfection and mess-ups and threads I don’t know how to follow, has been really, really important for me.”

The exhibit will be on view until November 5. There will be an artist reception on Friday, October 26 at 6 p.m. For more information, see bit.ly/AnjaGG.

Schütz will also lead an Ink

Transfer Workshop on Saturday, October 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn how to easily create your own transfer images to take your photographs in a creative new direction. \$45 per person. Bring laser jet print-outs of the images you would like to use; all other supplies will be on hand. (Schütz warns that the process requires the use of wintergreen oil, which is highly fragrant. People with extreme fragrance intolerance should not take part.) Register at the Greenfield Gallery, or online at bit.ly/AnjaWorkshop.

Trish Crapo is the Greenfield Gallery publicist. The Greenfield Gallery is at 231 Main Street, Greenfield, and is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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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 11

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Julian Gerstin Sextet*. Jazz inspired by Caribbean and Balkan music. \$. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Scientists* (Australian punks on first US tour, only New England show) with *Easy Action* (mem. Negative Approach). \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 6:30 p.m.



Home Body brings their new-wavy-electronic-a-pop'calyptic-shimmer-core sound, dramatic light show and feverish spectacle to Hawks & Reed in Greenfield, with Hot Dirt, Fire Letters, and Blame Cadence. This Saturday, October 13 at 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. Pothole Pictures Food Movie series. Story of 85-year-old Jiro Ono, world's best sushi chef. Live music before the show: *Aaron Riverwood* plays live music at 7 p.m. on Friday; movie at 7:30 p.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Nite Caps*. Part of the Great Falls Coffee-house series to benefit programs at the Center. Donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Taproots, Rebirth*. World fusion. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Negative Approach*, Detroit hardcore legends, with *Human Ignorance* and *Gay Mayor*. 18+. \$. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Kat Wright*. "Rock 'n'roll with serpentine seduction." \$. 8 p.m.

Sweeney Concert Hall, Northampton: *Jane Yolen & 3 Ravens: The Infinite Dark*. Poet, author Yolen weaves poetry and music with folklore. Ravens cast: Max Cohen, Lui

Collins, Donna Hebert, Molly Hebert-Wilson. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Modifieds*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

The former St. Anne's Church, Turners Falls: *Fab Fashion Passion*. World-class designers show their collections on the runway at 6 p.m. View the collections, meet the designers at 4 p.m. \$. 4 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. Pothole Pictures Food Movie series. See Friday listing. *Vimana* plays live music on Saturday at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m. \$

Montague Common Hall, Mon-

6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tony Vacca and World Rhythm*. Jazz, world music, and spoken-word fusion. \$. 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo Night*. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

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 Than Pamutto. Open to all. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam*. on the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Frank Hurricane, Arkm Foam*, and *Unholy Basil*. Benevolent mischief. \$. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

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 storytellers with spooky tales. Cocktails and sweets, benefit for the Literacy Project. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Di-Trani Brothers and the Hammer of Spring*. Fusion folk, gypsy jazz, ragtime ruckus. \$. 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

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

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.

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

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from page B1

university,” said Hunt.

During his years at UMass, he was also a full-time cook in one of the dining commons. The Stop proprietor also worked construction for 15 years. “I grew tired from the physical demands and I also wanted to be my own boss,” said Hunt. “Owning my own café and restaurant always seemed a faraway dream for me. I decided to go for it.”

One of the big reasons the new eatery is in operation is his sister Jackie. “She helped me purchase equipment and now she’s the waitress at the Whistle Stop,” said the grateful owner.

But the road to the dream was long and difficult. When Hunt purchased the diner-to-be it was filled with nothing but empty space. Obtaining the site in February of 2016, the Wendell resident thoroughly renovated the building and then spent two years acquiring equipment.

“I guess I hadn’t realized,” said Hunt, “how hard it is to hang up an ‘Open For Business’ sign. I had the helping hand of my sister, and my landlord helped me, keeping



The Whistle Stop’s Dan Hunt takes a pepperoni, spinach, and mushroom pizza out of the oven at lunchtime Wednesday.

my rent down. I’ve been very lucky to get this chance at ownership.”

Rick Bayer of RTB Design in Montague also played a role in Dan Hunt’s dream quest. Hunt went to the Florida Keys in September 2017 to earn money for his Whistle Stop enterprise. “I asked Rick if he knew of any work there as a contractor,” Hunt said. “Rick told me to come on down, and I connected in Florida with him.” Eight months later, Dan had the means to fully tackle his dream.

“What really makes the Whistle Stop Café different,” said its proud owner, “is our emphasis on the arts. We’ve put up local painters’ work on our walls, and we’ll have musicians in the corner, playing their instruments. In fact, there’s a guitar on one of the walls. Anyone who wants to can take it down and play it. This kind of approach makes us pretty unique!”

The Whistle Stop Café is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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