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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

THE BIG PICTURE

Stewardship and Strategy



JACKSON PHOTO

Mount Grace director Leigh Youngblood, at the Fall River in Gill's Bascom Hollow.

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – This week I met with Leigh Youngblood, executive director of the Athol-based Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, to talk about her organization's strategy in the region, the implications of rural land protection, and the changing face of conservation itself.

Youngblood and I chatted in the morning at the picnic tables at the Wagon Wheel. From there, we drove up to Bascom Hollow, where Mount Grace and the Franklin Land Trust have helped put over 160 acres of prime, open farmland along the Fall River, and another 94 acres of forest, into permanent protection.

It was cooler than either of us had expected: a sharp turn toward autumn. During our interview we passed donkeys, cows, and the farmhouse built for agricultural historian Brian Donahue out of locally harvested lumber, and we walked up the dirt road into the woods a bit before turning around.

I would have missed a solitary heron, migrating southward over our heads, if Youngblood hadn't stopped one of my questions to point it out.

This transcript has been reordered, abridged, and edited further for clarity. We began by talking about "What The Land Is," a recently produced 15-minute film featuring Mount Grace's work, found online at mountgrace.org/themovie, which I had watched in preparation for our interview.

MR: *The title wasn't directly answered in the film – what is "the land?"*

LY: It's different things to different people! We all need the land, but not everyone pays attention to that. Not everyone lives out in the country and is connected to nature like we are lucky to be. People think about the land in unique ways; there's no right answer....

That becomes important when dealing with landowners to protect land: you have to understand what their motivation is, and their objectives. There's a lot of different ways to protect land, and a lot of different reasons.

When you can find where the motivation of the landowner, the resources on their land, and the funding source all come together, that's where you get a conservation project.... In our region, plenty of people need to be paid for conservation.

MR: *How much of your own job involves sitting down and talking directly with landowners?*

LY: I've been doing that for 24 years. When I started, Mount Grace was one staff person; now we have ten, and three people are devoted to doing land protection, so they're mostly the ones who sit down with landowners. Now I do more support building and fundraising....

Keith Ross founded [Mount Grace] with a group of his friends, in 1986. He was a forester working in this area, and during the '80s there was a big building boom – a lot of development. He could see that two things were happening: people were selling their forests for subdivisions; and property values went up, so property taxes were going up. A lot of people were selling their land because they couldn't afford to own it anymore, and that was a threat to forestry.

Keith was motivated to get a master's in environmental law... and he and Diane Esser, a pro bono attorney, founded Mount Grace. They got off to a running start, operating out of Keith's garage in Warwick. The Lawton Tree Farm in Athol was on the market, and there was a lot of local interest in seeing that protected. It was like 350 acres....

Before [Mount Grace] I had done municipal wetland protection. The only landowners you meet when you're on a conservation commission are people developing within 100 feet of a wetland. And I discovered that a lot of people don't want to develop their land, but they didn't know there were conservation options....

Landowners were just selling for development, whether they wanted to or not. They can't afford their land, they called a realtor. Now they can call a land trust, and go from there.

MR: *And in many cases, they might have an option to stay where they are?*

LY: Oh, sure! There's a whole decision tree with land protection: do you want to keep owning it, or do you want to sell? Do you want it to be privately owned, with a conservation easement; do you want to sell to a person, but they just keep it the way it is – maybe a family member, but you don't want them to develop it? Or would you want it to become part of the state forest that's next door to you?

see **YOUNGBLOOD** page A4

Wendell State Forest Logging: Paused, But Not "Put On Hold"

By JEFF SINGLETON

Logging in Wendell State Forest, which began earlier this month, has paused while the logging company works on another project. John Conkey and Sons of Belcher-town, the company which submitted the winning bid to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for the forest management project in February, has moved its equipment to log a portion of the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, according to Lisa Hoag of the Wendell Historic Commission.

While the project faces growing local opposition and concern from town and state officials, DCR said in a statement Wednesday that it "has not been put on hold."

The Wendell project consists of two areas – a red pine stand planted by the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps, which straddles the road from Millers Falls to Wendell, and a more diverse and older stand between Ruggles and Wickett ponds. Wendell town officials and



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Plans to log an 88-acre stand of red oak have attracted protest.

environmental activists have primarily objected to the latter project, which includes 88 acres of red oaks believed to be over a century old.

Hoag visited the Wendell forest on September 13, a day after heavy rains, and found Conkey and Sons logging

see **FOREST** page A3

Fire District Votes to Buy New Truck

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – At a special district meeting Wednesday night, residents of the Turners Falls fire district voted unanimously to appropriate \$160,000 for a first-year payment on a ladder truck.

The article was the only one on the warrant, and the meeting, held in the Turners Falls High School auditorium, lasted about half an hour. About 90 voters attended.

The appropriation reduces the truck payments from \$950,000 to \$790,000, which will be financed over a 10-year period. Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman estimated that this would add 14 cents per \$1,000 in valuation to residents' tax bills.

Zellman said the department plans to purchase a "demonstrator" truck, rather than a new vehicle. He listed several problems with the existing truck, purchased in 1989 on a 30-year replacement schedule, including failure to pass inspections.

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Bill Tomb Will Fill Gill Seat

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – On Tuesday night, Bill Tomb was reinstated to the regional school committee after a 24-year absence. Tomb was the only resident of Gill to offer to fill the seat vacated this summer by Shawn Hubert, who resigned one year into his three-year term. Tomb will serve until May, at which time voters of both towns will choose a candidate

to fill the final year of the term.

After the committee officially nominated and elected him, Tomb introduced himself briefly, saying he had been a member from 1984 to 1993, serving as chair in his final year. "Right now, I plan to spend time listening," he said.

Tomb told the *Reporter* he had volunteered for the school committee because he supported public

see **GMRSD** page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

MCTV Eyes Highway "Archipelago"

By JEFF SINGLETON

"I'm just going to take a deep breath and let it rip," Mike Langknecht announced at the Montague selectboard's meeting Monday night. Langknecht is the chair of Montague Community Cable Incorporated (MCCI), the non-profit that controls MCTV, the town's community access television station.

Langknecht then entertained the board with a dramatic reading of a

statement calling for a discussion of his organization moving into a building soon to be abandoned by the town's department of public works (DPW):

"Ladies and gentlemen, before you know it, Montague will have a brand-new DPW garage. When the doors open on this long-anticipated facility, some doors will close on the existing archipelago of DPW buildings.

see **MONTAGUE** page A4

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week, the Turners Falls football team capped off a busy Friday night by defeating Greenfield 35-8. The golf team played even, continuing

their improvement; the volleyball team fell back to earth and then got right back on track; and the field hockey team was on both sides of routs as they waited for one player to reach 100 points.

We've had requests to cover

more Franklin Tech sports. Fear not. We're gathering contact information even as I write, and both photographer David Hoitt and I plan to attend some of their games.

Football

TFHS 35 – Greenfield 8

It was supposed to be an event. A day-long sporting event which included golf, middle school soccer, two field hockey games, two volleyball games, and the capper, the Turners Falls-Greenfield football game. Green jackets were spotted as early as the first field hockey game, and by the time the band played the National Anthem, the bleachers were dotted with Blue and Green.

It was such a big deal that Western Mass News was there. "We're here for the rivalry," a camerawoman told me as she panned the crowd.

The media had billed the game as a contest between two rushing teams. Both had solid blocking, and

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A8



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Stepping out: Turners running back, PVRS student Wyatt Keith, had an outstanding night last Friday as Turners crushed Greenfield 35-8.

The Montague Reporter

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New Restrictions

Every day, criminals and tariffs try to infiltrate our country. ("Remarks by President Trump After Review of Border Wall Prototypes," March 13, 2018.)

A human is born on the surface of our planet. She learns to eat, learns to talk, and learns to walk. How far she is allowed to move from her starting point will be, in almost all cases, determined by two factors that come down to chance: the location of her birth, and the economic resources her family holds.

Conditions for habitability and enjoyment of the planet vary widely from place to place. There are hot and cold zones; wet and dry zones; zones of disease and health; zones of violence and of quiet comfort.

Everywhere, humans are put to work, or must find it: trying to grow food or raise livestock on depleted earth; picking through mountains of waste; toiling in sweatshops; loading cargo onto ships and trucks; struggling to please the boss in a kitchen, call center, or hospital.

Is there a place for her in the village of her grandparents? Can she live for long in the crowded neighborhood where her parents met?

Many humans move. One in 32 has moved across an international border. One in 162 has moved across a border into the United States. And one in 694 has done so without legal permission of the United States government.

We inherited a lot of different things, but of all of them, immigration makes the least sense. It is a hodgepodge of laws that have been put together over years. And we have to change it. It's so simple. It's called, "I'm sorry, you can't come in. You have to go in through a legal process."

("Remarks by President Trump at a Lunch with Members of Congress," June 26, 2018.)

Our president campaigned on promises to fix the country by sealing it off, but his supporters continually make a rhetorical distinction between legal and illegal immigration. Anyone can migrate here legally, they argue, ignorant of the realities that make doing so nearly impossible for many of our fellow Earthlings.

They imagine a line people can stand in, clutching tickets like shoppers at a deli counter. They imagine a rolling case full of Bingo balls, opening every few minutes to announce another lucky visa winner.

For emergency cases? Despite our wealth, land mass, and day-to-day safety, 75 countries, from Austria to Zambia, harbor more refugees per capita than the US.

In June, attorney general Jeff Sessions ruled that fleeing what he called "private violence" – violence carried out by gangs, or by men against women – is no longer a valid reason to beg for asylum.

"The prototypical refugee flees her home country because the government has persecuted her," Sessions wrote, meaning anyone from countries where the government is merely too negligent, corrupt, or powerless to stop privately organized persecution is now out of luck.

And earlier this month, the administration slashed the cap for refugees it will allow to settle here from 45,000 a year to 30,000 – the lowest since the refugee program was created in 1980. This year, 280,000 migrants have requested asylum in the United States.

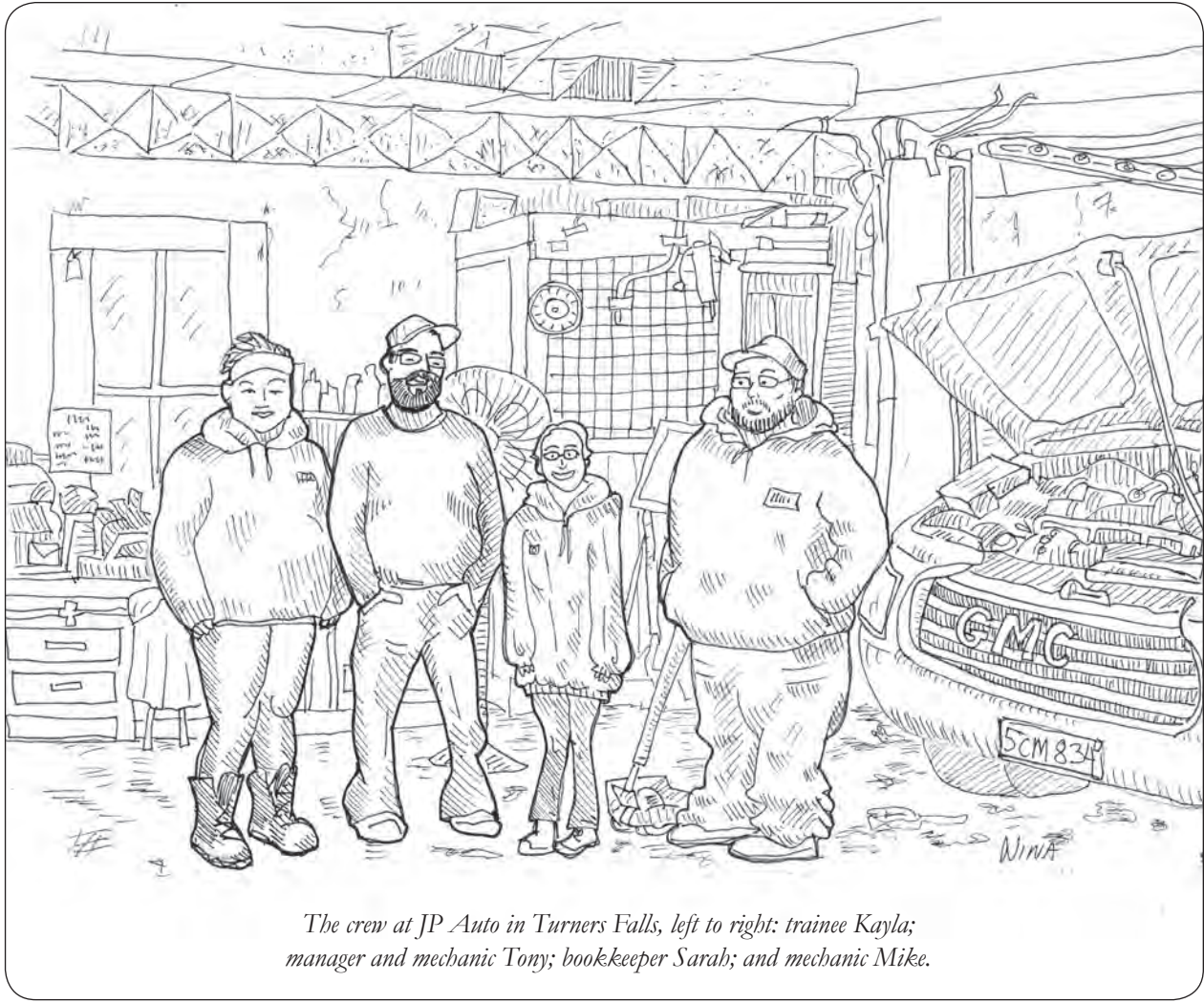
So what about green cards? Surely anyone intent on reforming a "hodgepodge" immigration system, not merely driving away foreigners, would want to streamline and expand programs that allow them to normalize status.

But this week, the Department of Homeland Security published a draft regulation that changes the game completely. An 1882 law holds that visas should be granted only to those who are "not likely to become a public charge." A 1917 ruling read this as applying to "persons who were likely to become occupants of almshouses," and since 1999 it has meant anyone likely to primarily depend on public cash assistance. About 3% of claims are turned down on this basis.

Under the proposed rule, just about any use of public resources – such as Medicare subsidies for prescriptions, or food stamps – counts against an applicant, and assistance amounting to just 15% of the federal poverty line will disqualify her from eligibility. Since many forms of aid are only available to those who have held a green card for five years, this test will often be carried out by guesswork, based on applicants' wealth and income.

David Bier of the conservative Cato Institute crunched the numbers and pointed out that "\$2.50 per person daily for a family of four" would disqualify applicants, meaning that even a "91.4% self-sufficient" immigrant could now be considered a "public charge."

The Migration Policy Institute has estimated that 56% of newly arrived immigrants have incomes that



The crew at JP Auto in Turners Falls, left to right: trainee Kayla; manager and mechanic Tony; bookkeeper Sarah; and mechanic Mike.

Letters to the Editors

Pedestrian Woes

I never take the pedestrian crossing light for granted at the corner of Avenue A and 7th Street. If I did, I would have been hit by now, and my dog would be dead.

Frequently I find myself thinking, "I really wish a police officer would have been here to see that". Last week I got my wish, though not with the result for which I had hoped.

As always, I hesitated before crossing when I got the right of way. Good thing, since the driver (who also happens to be a bus driver for FRTA), came zipping along Avenue A without the slightest hint of a pause, and turned right onto 7th Street. I threw up my arms in desperation, and yelled "What the f---!?"

A police officer, waiting for the light on the opposite side of Avenue, did absolutely nothing. Did he not see this? Did he not hear me yell?

I guess it's time to dust off my old suit of armor.

Kevin J. Smith
Turners Falls

Taking A Break

Dear readers of the Montague Reporter,

I am taking a break from writing and taking photos for a while. I'll come back at some point.

If you want talk to me in person, email joeRparzych@yahoo.com, please, and thank you.

Joe R. Parzych
Greenfield/Gill

The Answers This Town Deserves

We've been noticing that the squirrel fatality rate this year is at an all-time high. After observing two squirrels and one human use three separate crosswalks in downtown Turners today, we thought maybe the town could take up squirrel crosswalk safety trainings.

If the town is going to spend so much money on fake rock production (we see you, Patch Fish Lab), this is the least they can do.

While they're at it, if someone can look into the shrinking population of alley skunks. That would also be helpful. Thanks.

Signed,
Some Concerned Residents
Turners Falls

P.S.: What is with all the various shrieking noises in the night... one being the "pig birds" recording? This town deserves answers.

An editor replies:

We tend as policy not to run anonymous letters, but included this one because we had the space and it raises several pertinent questions

The squirrel fatality rate is a function of the squirrel rate, which is a function of the availability of acorns – 2017 was a "mast year," or bumper crop, according to a number of legitimate newspapers. Lara Bricker, writing for the Exeter (NH) Newsletter, observes that "[t]he roads are covered with squished squirrels in varying death poses...."

As a point of clarification, the town of Montague does not fund the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory at the end of Migratory Way – that's the United States Geological Survey's fake rock hoard.

The "pig birds" are broadcast from the steeple at Our Lady of Peace, to scare off the alley skunks.

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The 20th Annual North Quabbin **Garlic and Arts Festival** is this Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, on Chestnut Hill Road in Orange.

Meander among 100 bountiful booths featuring regional artists, farmers, community organizations, and garlic cuisine. Strengthen community and economy by purchasing locally crafted and grown. There are over eighty engaging workshops, activities and performances scheduled throughout the weekend.

Admission is \$5 for adults, and free for kids 12 and under; a week-end pass is \$8. For more information, see garlicandarts.org, or see the full event description on Page B2.

There will be a **“Bring a Book, Get a Book”** swap at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this

Saturday, September 29, from 10 to 11 a.m. Browse a collection of gently used books perfect for children, teenagers, and adults.

Like romance? Thrillers? Adventure? Suspense? History? Check out the variety, but be sure to bring books in order to get books. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

Probiotics, prebiotics, and now symbiotics? Everybody’s talking about the gut microbiome and its importance for human health – but what does it actually look like to live in a way that supports the bacteria in our bodies?

The Franklin Community Co-op is hosting a free program on **“Fermented Foods, Nutrition, and Gut Health”** at its event space at 170 Main Street in Greenfield from 6:30 to 8 p.m. next Wednesday, October 3.

Local author and clinical nutri-

tionist Ana Maria Moise will join Real Pickles, Artisan Beverage Co-operative, South River Miso, and the Berkshires-based food business Hosta Hill to explore the role of fermented foods, diet, and nutrition in human health.

Gut-friendly refreshments will be provided by the event co-sponsors. The event is free, but seating is limited; pre-register at www.real-pickles.com/news/.

Looking for some bargains? Save the date for an upcoming **Giant Annual Tag Sale** to benefit the Montague Common Hall, next Saturday, October 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be furniture, clothing, kitchen ware, puzzles, games, art, and more. The Common Hall is located at 34 Main Street in Montague Center.

If you wish to deliver a donation for the tag sale, please contact Mary Melonis at 367-2184 for drop-off times. (Absolutely, positively no electronics, underwear, or toxic waste, please and thank you!)

The Amherst Hockey Association will host a **“Girls Try Hockey for Free Day”** for girls ages 4 and up at the UMass Mullins Center Community Rink on Saturday, October 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.

No skating experience is required. Free skate rentals will be provided; bring winter gloves and a bicycle or hockey helmet. A gear sale will also be held.

To save time at the door, register in advance at: tryhockeyforfree.com/8815. For more information, visit the AHA website at www.amhersthockey.org.

The **Northfield Fire Department’s Annual Golf Tournament** takes place on Saturday, October 13, at the Northfield Golf Club. The event is now officially named “Nathan J. Hutchinson Memorial Golf Tournament” in honor of departed firefighter Nate Hutchinson. The members of the department host this tournament to raise money, in part to help benefit the Firemen’s Association Scholarship Fund for deserving high school graduates.

The cost for a hole sponsorship is \$75, but any contribution may be made. To make a donation, make checks payable to “Northfield Fireman’s Fund” and mail to Northfield Fire Department, 93 Main Street, Northfield, MA, 01360. Gift certificate donations for prize awards will also be greatly appreciated!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

FOREST from page A1

at the Montague Road pine stand. Two days later, she left a phone message with DCR project manager Keith DiNardo, complaining that the logging violated the limitation set in the project contract that work would only take place under “dry, frozen or otherwise stable conditions.”

Hoag also said that DiNardo had promised that logging operations would only be conducted during the winter months. She posted numerous photographs of the operation, including ruts in the wet forest mud, to a publicly accessible website.

DiNardo responded in an email on September 17, a public record obtained by the *Reporter*. He said that his initial assumption that logging would be restricted to winter months was based on restrictions he anticipated the state Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) would place after its review.

In the end the NHESP’s review

only excluded logging from February 28 to May 15. DiNardo also stated his opinion that ground conditions the previous week were “not unstable to the point of halting of operations,” and that “wet weather timber harvesting is a commonly employed practice throughout the region as long as ground conditions remain stable.”

“In no way did I intend to mislead or misinform you on the issue and I apologize if that was the case,” DiNardo’s reply concluded.

Hoag said she was told by the office of state representative Susanah Whipps, whose district includes Wendell, that the Quabbin operation “will take a couple of months.”

Last week, Whipps contacted DCR commissioner Leo Roy to express concerns about the process that had led to the decision to log at the forest this month. She told the *Reporter* that she had been assured that logging at the older, more diverse

stand along Brook Road had not yet taken place, and that she believed there would be a “pause” in the project to allow more local input. She added that she felt the state needed to pay more attention to “stewards of the forest.”

Whipps, who lists her party affiliation as “unenrolled,” also said she would introduce legislation in January to prohibit logging in state forests “for profit.” She credited state senator Anne Gobi with being “very helpful” on the issue. Wendell, which Stan Rosenberg used to represent, is currently without a state senator.

Last May, DCR commissioner Roy sent the Wendell Historic Commission a detailed, six-page defense of the process that led to the Brook Road project. Roy did not discuss the issue of logging in wet weather, which has only been raised recently, but focused on Wendell’s complaint that the location may contain Native American “cultural resources.”

Roy’s letter concluded that “DCR has followed its guidelines and policies, and intends to proceed with the timber harvest.”

On Wednesday, DCR spokesperson Troy Wall issued a statement that defended the operation. “[T]he work that was accomplished thus far occurred during stable conditions,” he wrote. “The management forester constantly assesses ground conditions to ensure work can be conducted to minimize forest floor impacts, and the agency’s service forester has also visited and surveyed the site.”

Wall wrote that the department’s goal of logging the oak stand was “to ultimately provide an uneven aged, multi-species forest that can be resilient and withstand forest pests and natural disturbances in the future.”

He added that Conkey and Sons “has two years to complete the Wendell State Forest project,” and that it “has not been put on hold.”

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By ANNA GYORGY

ORANGE – In this area, we can count ourselves lucky, as the changing climate has not (yet) brought catastrophe. But we are part of a rapidly changing world, and the multiple results of the polluting and heating of the planet cannot be ignored, even if the connections between wildfires, mega-hurricanes and industrial and agricultural business usually are not featured in the mainstream media.

So what to do? Clearly action is needed on every level – to make the best of a changing climate – and prevent the worst that may come. Controlling greenhouse gas emissions by phasing out fossil fuels is important. But so is ecological and economic change, starting at home.

“Localization” can do a lot for our health and economy. Eating food grown and bought locally saves long-distance transport while providing jobs close to home and keeping area farmland in production. It tastes better, too! Our communities can pollute less, localize more, and work on what is called *eco-restoration*. It’s all about regeneration, as opposed to loss and devastation.

We are lucky that engaged people in our area come together to showcase local agriculture and arts. This weekend, September 29 and 30, the North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival on Foster’s Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange,

Why a “Portal to the Future”?

will celebrate 20 years of presenting the best in locally produced foods and crafts, entertainment on the main stage, spoken word presentations, children’s activities, and much more.

The part of the festival that focuses most directly on ecology and regeneration is the “Portal to the Future” section. Look for it behind the solar-powered stage in the large festival grounds.

Journalist Dahr Jamail has a recent article with both despair and hope in its title: “As the Biosphere Dies, So Do We: Using the Power of Nature to Heal the Planet.” In this review of the seriousness of the climate situation, there were useful links, including one to a website called Biodiversity for a Livable Climate (bio4climate.org).

There I read:

Global warming is a symptom of a much deeper problem, and to address the problem effectively we need to get to root causes: the human-caused degradation and desertification of lands worldwide. Regenerating healthy global ecosystems – and moving gigatons of carbon from the atmosphere back into the soils on billions of acres of degraded land – is the answer.

There is reason to believe that it’s possible to return to safe pre-industrial levels of atmospheric carbon in a matter of decades.

What does that have to do with festivals and portals?

Well, the Garlic and Arts Festival’s Portal to

the Future will feature exhibits, information, and talks on renewable energy and local living. In the sense of regeneration, a central exhibit will show how to transform boring mowed lawns into carbon-catching pollinator heavens – with a free packet of Bee the Change pollinator seeds from American Meadows for every visitor.

Saturday’s talks in the Portal’s large tent start at noon with presentations on Solar Co-operatives (“Solar Ownership for Everyone”); Renewable Fuels for Transportation; Farm to Garment bioregional clothing and textiles in western Massachusetts; and Urine Diversion and Use as Fertilizer (yes!).

Sunday’s offerings continue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with: Ecological Pollinator Conservation from the Beecology Project; Code-Compliant Tiny Homes in MA; Soil Carbon Sequestration: Practical Science in the Garden & Field; and – always last, but certainly not least – What is Green Burial and Why Might I Want One?

For more on all programs and speakers, visit the organizers’ website at northquabbinenergy.org. And give thanks for the great work on and for regeneration being done, in our area and beyond, in the face of great odds.

Anna Gyorgy is a member of the Wendell Energy Committee. She can be reached at anna.gyorgy@crocker.com.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

“We’d like to start the conversation about taking the lead about turning one of these islands of brick and motor oil... into a vibrant media center for the community, right here by town hall. We picture a hive of local activity that not only provides local media access services in a performance- and production-friendly facility, but also complements operations at town hall.”

“What’s the catch?” Langknecht asked. “There is no catch. MCCI, parent company of MCTV, has the resources, organization, creativity, and the corporate mission necessary to develop a dynamic resource that can serve the community as long as our new DPW garage does, which, if it’s like the old one, will be 100 years...”

Langknecht then invited the selectboard – along with members of the capital improvements committee, town administrator Steve Ellis, and town planner Walter Ramsey – to a “concept meeting to put all the possibilities on the table.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that the most likely candidate for MCTV, among the highway department’s current buildings, would be the “town hall annex,” the single-story extension attached to the rear of town hall.

Another possibility could be the large blue prefabricated building further down First Street where the department stores equipment. “The blue building is kind of out of place in the area we have developed along the river,” Kuklewicz continued, “and if there were a way to move it or remove it, I think that would be worth considering.”

Ellis proposed an initial conversation involving himself and only one selectboard member, which would not need to be a publicly posted meeting. “Maybe we could start with some initial thoughts and then have a more public meeting,” said Kuklewicz.

Ellis warned that the town might not be able to simply hand the facility over to a private non-profit. “We can’t just pick where something goes,” he said. “But this is the kind of creative thinking we appreciate.”

Langknecht suggested that it still might be possible for MCTV to purchase the former Cumberland Farms building on Avenue A across from Between the Uprights. The local access station, which seeks to move out of its current location in the Crocker building on Second Street, has frequently expressed interest in the “old Cumbie’s building,” but the town has negotiated a purchase and sale agreement for that structure with a whitewater rafting outfitter called Crab Apple Whitewater.

But the potential market for rafting on the section of the Connecticut River below the Turners Falls Dam is dependent on changes in the current federal license for the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project, and the building’s final sale is on hold pending approval of a new license.

The board did not take a formal vote on the local access proposal,

but member Michael Nelson volunteered to attend an initial meeting.

Before the building discussion, Langknecht also told the board that the current contract between MCCI and the town of Montague has “expired” and needs to be renewed. The town receives money designated for local access from the cable company Comcast, and passes it on to the station. Langknecht also suggested the possibility of the station reporting to the selectboard, rather than the cable advisory committee.

“I would prefer to keep a cable advisory committee, if we could,” Kuklewicz told him. “The selectboard wears a lot of hats.”

Meets or Exceeds

The most labor-intensive item on the selectboard’s Monday night agenda was the evaluation of town administrator Steve Ellis. Ellis has not undergone an official evaluation since he was hired nearly two years ago. He has been requesting an evaluation since last spring, but the process has been delayed by scheduling constraints, as all selectboard members need to be present.

Following state court decisions in the towns of Wakefield and Wayland, evaluations of top-level town and school administrators must take place in public sessions, or the supervising selectboards or school committees will be cited for violating the state open meeting law.

At the meeting, the selectboard reviewed five pages of “performance criteria” including communication, managing personnel, financial management, planning and organization, and innovation. Each board member rated Ellis on specific skills under each category, and was able to provide “comments” at the end of each section.

Ellis received either “Meets” or “Exceeds” ratings on every specific skill. The comments were almost universally positive, with some suggestions for improvement, and at the end of the session the board suggested priorities for Ellis’ attention in the coming year. These included funding issues at the water pollution control facility, the Strathmore building and other canalside projects, and the hiring of a new police chief.

Energy liaison Ariel Elan suggested Ellis’ consideration also be given to a “paintball, laser tag recreation center” just off Route 2 in Millers Falls. She said she knew the suggestion was very “un-Ariel,” but that she had been influenced by her nieces and nephews, who live in “fancy suburban communities.”

Other Business

The board voted to place 13 articles on the warrant for October 10 special town meeting. They plan to discuss and recommend them at an upcoming joint meeting with the finance committee.

Ellis discussed a grant proposal, to be submitted to the state this week, for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to a section of the Avenue A sidewalk

YOUNGBLOOD from page A1

If they don’t care if it becomes public or private land, we try to think in a strategic way about long-term stewardship: who does it make sense to be the owner? That’s why, of 400 projects, we only own 23 conservation areas: our top priority is not to own the land, it’s to see it get protected.

We’ve helped conserve more than 400 projects, and more than 32,000 acres. But we only own, and have conservation restrictions for, 100. Most of our projects, we help a state get a conservation easement, or the land, and the land trust is the partner that facilitates that....

You get a better outcome if it’s going to be a good long-term solution. The second part of Mount Grace’s mission is to encourage stewardship, which gives a little bit of preference to conservation restrictions, or easements, because if somebody owns 50 acres that they can’t subdivide in the future, they’re going to be a more active land steward.

Part of encouraging stewardship is maintaining that rural culture, by making sure there’s plenty of 50-acre homesteads around that are privately owned....

MR: In this region, are there pools of private money available to fund a conservation mission?

LY: Well, there are various foundations and individuals that support conservation, and their interest is going to ebb and flow over time – it’s not a steady-state situation. People have other interests.

The state funding, as variable as that is, is more consistent than private funding. On the state side, it fluctuates depending on the governor, and it’s competitive – and that’s true of grants, also. You’re competing with other needs that are brought to their attention.

That’s one of the reasons we’re so fortunate in the North Quabbin area. There’s already this existing pattern of protected land, so conservation projects that are most viable are building on previous investments for conservation, adding value to something that’s already recognized as valuable.

MR: It really strikes me that part of the opportunity in the region is a consequence of the Quab-

bin Reservoir.

LY: The Quabbin is a big anchor – land and water, it’s 80,000 acres. But it’s not just the Quabbin... if you look at a map that shows the ownership pattern, it’s also the state forest complex here – Northfield, Erving, Wendell, a huge complex that extends from the Quabbin – and then the Trustees of Reservations, and Mass Audubon, and the Army Corps of Engineers...

It’s like a mosaic of already-protected land. An “accidental green belt,” we call it.

MR: Your Mormon Hollow projects fills in the connections between that and the [Montague] Wildlife Management Area, and builds a corridor east-west for wildlife to range through.

LY: Yeah! Land was inexpensive here back when they first started funding public land acquisition, and we’re really fortunate that there are large blocks already protected.

Having large blocks that are connected by corridors is the most ecological protection – ecology can continue in the most healthy way, with the fewest impacts and degradation from development around it. You can have migration, not just of species, but of ecological processes that can fluctuate if they have room....

The size of the forest blocks we have in Massachusetts are exponentially smaller than in the western United States, so when we say “large,” that’s relatively speaking!

MR: There was a line in the video about a goal of protecting half of the land in Massachusetts....

LY: Half, and half of what’s left. Massachusetts has 5 million acres. There’s a little over one million that’s been conserved, and a little over a million that’s been developed. That leaves about 3 million acres, not protected and not developed.

There have been different strategic plans done to analyze what should be conserved – you might have heard of BioMap2, put out by Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Heritage program. It calls for the protection, just from a biodiversity lens, of 1.2 million acres....

We’re not trying to protect every acre; we’re trying to be strategic.

see **YOUNGBLOOD** page A5

between the Third Street alley and Spinner Park. The board did not vote on the grant request, which will be for \$44,000.

The restaurant Black Cow Burger Bar requested a one-day alcohol license and a permit for the use of public property on October 20. The board approved the request, which will allow the restaurant to serve customers on Avenue A during the Great Falls Festival, formerly Franklin County Pumpkinfest.

The board also granted an entertainment permit and one-day liquor license to Red Fire North for an event at its store at 245 Federal Street in Montague Center. The

event, which will feature local beer, cider, and music, will be held on October 14 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A \$3,100 agreement with the firm GZA Environmental for additional engineering work on the Rutters Park project in Lake Pleasant was “executed” by the board. They also discussed plans for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Kearsarge solar farm on Sandy Lane, which will take place at 11 a.m. on October 1.

Four pieces of surplus DPW equipment were approved for potential sale.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on October 1 at 7 p.m.



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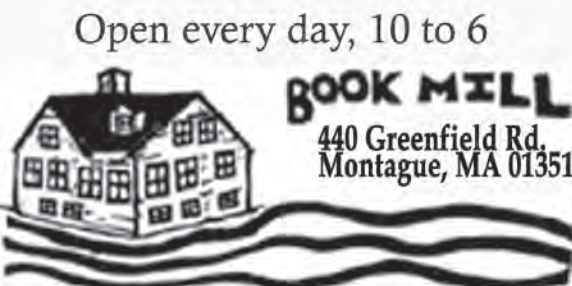
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YOUNGBLOOD from page A4

MR: *What are the the main development threats that you encounter in this region?*

LY: Well, it depends when. Before the recession, it was crazy subdivision plans. Now, there’s a lot of solar developments; a rash of them, I would say.

Athol is a great example – a terrible example. They just developed this new shopping plaza at Exit 18 [on Route 2]; I wish I knew how many acres, but dozens of acres. There’s a movie theater, and a restaurant, and a grocery store, and a Starbucks – this is in *Athol* – and there’s not, as far as I know, a single solar panel there.

But right across town, at Tully Lake, there’s a proposal for a 40-acre solar field. Why isn’t it on the roofs of the development? I think there’s a big resistance in this state to planning land use regulation. When you don’t have land use regulation, you get haphazard development....

If it doesn’t happen at the state level, it can’t happen very easily on the municipal level. Small towns are vulnerable to development pressure because there’s a lack of regulation across the state, and a lack of expertise in the towns – especially with new phenomena like solar. There’s new zoning happening in all these towns because they’re suddenly confronted with development pressure they haven’t had before....

It would be so great if the governor, any governor, had a vision for Massachusetts that included both economic growth and land conservation.

MR: *How does Beacon Hill tend to conceive of the value of conservation?*

LY: In Massachusetts, there’s five primary programs that fund land protection. There’s agriculture; wildlife; forests and parks, recreation; and then there’s the Quabbin watershed.

The fifth one is municipal projects – there’s two grant programs, called LAND and PARC.... They both go through the Division of Conservation Services, and they come with a match. They’ll make a grant to the town, say 66%, and the other money has to come from somewhere.

They all have different rules... that’s another way the land trust is helpful, by maintaining a familiarity with all these programs. The cycles and criteria are very specific.

Mount Grace has organized our conservation program – that’s separate from our land stewardship, the land that we own or the CRs that we monitor – into three areas: farmland conservation; landscape-scale conservation, and community conservation. We did that partly so our staff could develop an expertise in those funding sources.

MR: *What’s an example of “community conservation”?*

LY: Fiske Pond in Wendell was one: it was a local swimming hole, and Mount Grace got involved because a lot of the people in the community wanted to see it conserved. It had been owned by the same person for over 25 years; they lived out of state; they were ready to sell it.

At that point, Wendell didn’t have an open space plan, so they weren’t eligible for municipal money, and because it was standing alone, it wasn’t eligible for those other pools of money....

Another one was our project in Northfield, Alderbrook Meadows.... At the time, there were no accessible nature trails in Franklin County. The land was given to Mount

Grace, and we built a trail. That whole trail-building aspect is in our wheelhouse.

It was a standalone project that had local significance, versus a landscape project like Mormon Hollow. It wasn’t farmland *per se* – it was an individual project that had cultural significance locally. It might have conservation value, but its cultural values were just as important. Those isolated projects can be locally important....

By dividing our conservation program into three parts, it’s easier to remember to do all of the kinds of conservation. If there’s a million acres to protect – this 5-acre trail took years! It took at least two years to build this five-mile trail. You could protect thousands of acres in that time, and that’s a real tension.

When you do community conservation, it might not be the acres, but it’s the connection to the community. We’ve been operating like that for over 10 years....And those community conservation projects will change.

One that we’ve been talking about for a long time is a green cemetery. Cemeteries are open space; you don’t have to pay to walk around them; some of the best birding spaces are cemeteries.... That will take a long time, because all of the protocols will have to be designed... but everyone’s going to have a final resting place one way or another, so I think they’re very important for helping that awareness that land is meaningful to everyone.

MR: *Does rural conservation feel socially exclusive to you?*

LY: No – not to me. I know it feels exclusive to some people, and certainly, conservation can be done in an exclusive way, but it doesn’t have to be done in an exclusive way.

Community conservation has been sort of a trend for about 10 years. It comes more naturally to some organizations than to others.... Some [land trusts] are really trying to be more inclusive in their conservation – to greater and lesser degrees of success, is the way I would put it. And some don’t make the effort, but there is definitely an increased trend.

Because, by history, open space was for the leisure class: if you were working in the mill 16 hours a day, you couldn’t really enjoy a park.

My father’s father was a migrant farmworker; he never owned any land. He was in the Ozarks, and then Oregon, and California. My dad turned his back on agriculture, and when I grew up in the city, we had a garden, but as someone who’s always loved the outdoors, I totally valued parks, like Forest Park in Springfield. They were open, and they were free.

And so I think a lot about access to open space, as a fundamental right. We all need it. And it’s been a challenge.

MR: *How much talk is there, in conservation, about the value in creating places where people from cities can come to and experience?*

LY: Well, that’s the whole recreation thing, right? Ecotourism.

If you look at the economics of conservation, the big ones are agriculture, forestry – which is surprising, because the prices are so low – but ecotourism is the one with the biggest potential. And people are very mindful about that.

And sometimes there’s too much ecotourism. You hear about the national parks, where they want to

be able to have quotas about how many people can enter, because they get trampled.

What I like about things like urban gardens is that they’re a way to build a common understanding about the value of the earth – literally, the soil, of growing things.... I think it’s really helpful that a lot of those “country lifestyle” kind of activities have a place in society, and in our personal life – slowing down, and making things by hand – and you don’t have to go to the country to do it.

The population is going to increase, and we hope to protect more land before the population pressure comes. I like the population the way it is now.

It’s interesting, working with the people who are here, and meeting landowners – I’ve worked with everybody from new arrivals to people who are nine generations of the same family, on the same land. They weren’t part of any trendy thing, but they still kept their land and their lifestyle rural.

The same way the land is a quilt, or mosaic, the people here come from a lot of different backgrounds. Some of the things they have in common are reflected in, say, the Garlic & Arts Festival, or the culture of Mount Grace and the kind of community-based conservation we’re trying to do.

We’re not preserving the forest to be isolated; we’re preserving it so that you can log in it, so you can walk in it, so you can tap the trees. It’s part of the lifestyle.

MR: *What’s the ideal range people are working toward, in terms of how much use of forest as woodlot should be encouraged?*

LY: For Mount Grace, we have everything from “forever wild,” where you don’t interfere, to conservation restrictions that allow forestry. The old [restrictions] just said that you had to follow the laws, and now we require forest stewardship plans, which are 10-year management plans.... There’s a lot of leeway for the landowner to decide.

In Massachusetts, the forest stewardship program is a more multi-faceted way of looking at forest management than just timber: protecting for soil quality, water quality, recreation, biodiversity.... What you don’t want is short-term forest management. I’ve heard that 75% of cutting plans are not connected to a long-term plan.....

Forest stewardship is really a site-specific approach to forestry. We think it’s important to demonstrate good forestry, because that’s part of the rural culture. The forest economy, burning cordwood, building a house from your own timbers: this is a part of life.

MR: *Part of me feels suspicious of this idea of the social and cultural landscape of “rural New England” as something that happened naturally. The more I learn about the layers of history here, the more*



Barns and open fields, and mailbox at Bascom Hollow.

I see there were all these intentional ways it was shaped this way – a lot of what we see now comes after two entire waves of deforestation, for example, and in many places agriculture wasn’t exactly successful....

So I tend to get stuck on this concept of “the rural culture.” Sometimes it feels like “we know it when we see it”...

LY: Well, it means different things to different people, and I guess you can just stop there... I don’t know what an authentic rural culture is. Personally, it feels a little bit like life in the slow lane....

Most people I encounter that are part of rural culture either enjoy looking at the out-of-doors in a less developed state, or they are in tune with the seasons. They garden, or maybe they’re early risers, or they work in the cool part of the day. It’s not complicated; it’s not a formula: it’s a lifestyle that incorporates the out-of-doors.

It’s harder to do, growing up in the city. In Springfield, incorporating the out-of-doors into your day-to-day life wasn’t always that pleasant! It was noisy, there was pavement, and it was dangerous.

MR: *Although that’s changing, too, in some cities.*

LY: Designing more green space? That’s good, yup, to prioritize that. Before, [conservation] was focused on the large blocks of forest that we need to protect forest ecosystems. And people in Boston or the suburbs, which is where most people are, it doesn’t feel like it relates to them, right?

But people, no matter where they are – in Boston, or Fitchburg – there’s probably a forest near them, or a forested pathway with trees. When you can see the commonality between the parks in the city and the forest out there, then there’s more hope for the future.

MR: *I’ve talked to people around here who view conservation as a conspiracy to designate areas as no longer viable, even for the degree of settlement that they already have.*

LY: I wish there was more strategic development.... Harvard Forest has put out a series of reports called “Wildlands and Woodlands,” since 2005... They look at the future of forests with a 50- or 60-year horizon, but they try to build in the number of acres needed for development. They demonstrate, in their graphs and figures, that the economy – the footprint of humanity – can double or triple, and still protect these acres.

So it’s not one or the other, but it comes into conflict when people aren’t strategic about either their conservation or development – you have development happening in a high-priority conservation area, or you’re trying to do conservation in a place that’s more suitable for development. That’s the big picture.

In the small picture, it’s my land or my neighbor’s land, and they

want their property rights. That’s the tension: between property rights, and what someone wants to do with their land, and what makes sense from a smart-growth point of view....

Property rights are very important; the foundation of land protection work is recognizing property rights.

Regulation can be seen, maybe, as whether or not it takes your property rights. Land conservation pays you! We’re working with people who want to protect their land. Land conservationists recognize the importance of property rights.

MR: *You alluded to population growth. We’re looking at a drinking water crisis in the American Southwest, and also a loss of coastal land –*

LY: Right, climate refugees. We’d better protect the land now! We could have more dense housing – we don’t have to gobble up the countryside to accommodate more people....We’re consuming land at a disproportionate rate to our population increase. That’s by choice; it’s not required.

You could have more houses per acre, and just do more with planning. We don’t have to lose the protected land, or the land we need to protect....

When they talk about the water quality here, it’s directly proportional to the amount of pavement in the watershed. If you look across the population density, and think about it in watersheds – especially the ones that are the cleanest, you want to keep them clean, and not have them degraded.

MR: *So then you want to have more people per mile of pavement.*

LY: That’s smart growth: working from the infrastructure network that we have, and building from that.

Like Turners Falls: it’s a very densely developed area, but you have proximity to vast tracts of protected land – isn’t that cool?

MR: *And our planning board is working on a big overhaul of the zoning in Montague. Some of the proposals on the table would increase the lot size for the agricultural zoning, making it higher, and incentivize cluster development.*

LY: Open space zoning.

MR: *It’s not all just about preservation of something, right?*

LY: At Mount Grace we don’t use the “P” word – we say “conservation.” Preservation comes in a jar; preserves come in a jar.

It’s a nuance that’s lost on many people, but if you think closely about it, it’s less of a hands-off thing, which is definitely how we think about conservation in general: making room for places that are reserves, and wild, at the same time – we’re not going to treat every acre the same.



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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
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or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

September Poetry Page

In this month’s Poetry Page we are delighted to print poems by five internationally-known poets who will be reading their work at the Pioneer Valley Poetry Festival, at Amherst College at 6:30 p.m. on October 19 and 6 p.m. on October 20. For further information about the festival, go to www.pioneervalleypoetry.com, or look on Facebook for “Pioneer Valley Poetry Productions.”

The Descent

Untitled

when shall your wounds
welcome their scabs?

daily your kingdom squeaks
and leaps to the starlight

it wants all of you
you of all and the music

of the pastures of midnight
a little boy’s kaleidoscopic

you are the one the music
has chosen and whom strings call

twilight moans behind you
all you are you are all

it is the boy in black talking
how civil is the civil war?

- Uche Nduka
Brooklyn, NY

The descent has deepened
the interior lengthened

designated ending

Blind

pulled down inside and then
shot up again

to see east via the plateglass
a moon a monsoon an ashram

I used time almost wantonly
in that bald but sensual sky

to give me gusts
and more measurement

not to snap the stars shut
but Joseph said
you really ought

to tender how you sail by eye
your soul is just a length of baby

- Fanny Howe
Boston, MA

How to Look at Mexican Highways

1. You are not going anywhere.
 - 1.1. No one is waiting for you.
 - 1.2. In case someone is waiting for you, you can always explain the delay later.
 - 1.3. Blame it on the traffic, no one else knows that you chose to walk.
2. Don’t look at the pavement, look at the things that you don’t see when you’re indoors.
 - 2.1. Water towers.
 - 2.2. Cables.
 - 2.2.1. Cables bringing other people’s voices and faces onto TV monitors.
 - 2.2.2. Cables bringing electricity to light bulbs and refrigerators.
 - 2.3. Laundry on clotheslines.
 - 2.4. Empty cans of food.
 - 2.4.1. With flowers growing out of them.
 - 2.4.2. With cactuses growing out of them.
3. Feel the waves surrounding you.
 - 3.1. Waves bringing other people’s voices to the speakers of your sound system.
 - 3.2. Waves of street sounds.
4. Measure how fast you can run up and down staircases; compare that to the speed of the cars driving by.
5. When you tire, stand in the middle of the overpass.
 - 5.1. Look down.
 - 5.2. Try to look ahead, attempt to delineate the city’s skyline.
 - 5.2.1. If there’s too much pollution, look down again.
 - 5.2.2. Hold on tighter to the rail.
 - 5.2.3. Stay there a bit longer; remember no one is waiting for you.
 - 5.2.4. You’re not going anywhere.
6. Through the rails you will see stories unfolding on the street.
 - 6.1. Pay attention.
 - 6.2. You are not they.
 - 6.3. They are not they.
 - 6.3.1. They are one plus one plus one, indefinitely.
7. You’re surrounded by monads going somewhere.
8. There is a purpose to their movement.
9. Desire is a Federacy.

- Mónica de la Torre
New York, NY

MorningSong

Every time, these days, it seems, an equation gets forced. Forged:

far cry

low rise

and every morning sticks, figure A, for alas, stick figures, it figures that we awaken in the same rectangle at different points on the time line, these every days the sum of all our

angles, a beyond-complementary rate, exceeding three hundred sixty, then three hundred sixty-five, three hundred seventy

days, and angles, a supersaturated moon. Also it is morning and I am far

from and I cry.

The last ditch grows deeper and I stuff the world into a quadratic of words, for example: But -I-love-you. Place-in-the-box. Pass-the-god-damn-butter. That’s four against three. Far against which cry.

- Sawako Nakayasu
New York, NY

In the Airport

A man called Dad walks by then another one does. Dad, you say and he turns, forever turning, forever being called. Dad, he turns, and looks at you, bewildered, his face a moving wreck of skin, a gravity-bound question mark, a fruit ripped in two, an animal that can’t escape the field

- Eleni Sikelianos
Providence, RI

Contributors’ Notes

Uche Nduka, born in Nigeria, earned his BA from the University of Nigeria and his MFA from Long Island University, Brooklyn. He lived in Germany and Holland for a decade and immigrated to the United States in 2007. Nduka is the author of numerous collections of poetry and prose, including *Nine East* (2013), *Ijele* (2012), and *eel on reef* (2007), all of which were published after he arrived in the United States. Earlier collections include *Heart’s Field* (2005); *If Only the Night* (2002); *Chiaroscuro* (1997), which won the Association of Nigerian Authors Poetry Prize; *The Bremen Poems* (1995); *Second Act* (1994); and *Flower Child* (1988). *Belltime Letters* (2000) is a collection of prose.

Fanny Howe is the author of more than 20 books of poetry and prose. Howe grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and studied at Stanford University. “If someone is alone reading my poems,

I hope it would be like reading someone’s notebook. A record. Of a place, beauty, difficulty. A familiar daily struggle,” Howe explained in a 2004 interview with the *Kenyon Review*.

Eleni Sikelianos was born and raised in California and earned her MFA from the Naropa Institute. She is the author of eight poetry collections, including *Make Yourself Happy* (2017), *The Loving Detail of the Living & the Dead* (2013), *Body Clock* (2008), and *The California Poem* (2004), as well as the hybrid memoirs *You Animal Machine (The Golden Greek)* (2014) and *The Book of Jon* (2004).

Poet, translator, and scholar Mónica de la Torre was born and raised in Mexico City. She earned a BA from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and, with the

support of a Fulbright scholarship, relocated to New York in 1993 to pursue an MFA and a PhD in Spanish literature at Columbia University. Her poetry collections include *Public Domain* (2008), *Talk Shows* (2007), and, coedited with Michael Wiegers, the bilingual anthology *Reversible Monuments: Contemporary Mexican Poetry* (2002).

Born in Yokohama, Japan, poet and translator Sawako Nakayasu moved with her family to the United States at the age of six. She is the author of several poetry collections, including *The Ants* (2014), *Texture Notes* (2010), *Hurry Home Honey* (2009), and *So We Have Been Given Time Or* (2004). *Mouth: Eats Color – Sagawa Chika Translations, Anti-Translations, & Originals* (2011) is a book of both translation and original work. She divides her time between the US and Japan.

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GMRSD from page A1
education, and had been “thinking of things to do.” “Because it’s so late into the beginning of their year, when all of this came about, I have to spend some time and acclimate,” he added, “and then I’ll probably be more vocal.”

Business Management
Superintendent Michael Sullivan and business director Joanne Blier reported that they had made an offer to a candidate to replace Jim Slavas, who also left during the summer, as facilities manager. “It’s someone we’re looking forward to having on board,” Sullivan said.
The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is scheduled to release district accountability ratings this Thursday. Sullivan explained that the state is using a new system, doing away with its previous “five levels” ranking system and dropping historical MCAS scores from the formula.
Blier presented an operating statement that appeared to have good news both on the revenue side – including

possible growth in tuition from Erving, which may have sent as many as 10 more students than anticipated – and on the expense side.
“I’m assuming charter and SPED tuitions will offset each other,” Blier summarized of the projected shifts in expenses, “but with transportation, we’ll have a bit of a savings.”
The committee voted unanimously to pay an invoice of \$2,896.07 to Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas LLP, the law firm retained to pursue a settlement with New England Medical Billing (NEMB), which apparently overbilled the state Medicaid program for reimbursements on behalf of the district over the course of a decade.
Tuesday’s public meeting was preceded by an executive session that ran over an hour, to “discuss strategy with respect to... litigation” on the subject of recovering some part of what the district now owes the state from the cut NEMB received. No public announcement was made, but Gill member Timmie Smith noted that the district had paid the law firm “something like \$42,509.90 to

date,” and made a motion to continue retaining them, which also passed unanimously.
Refusing to Accept
Sullivan told the school committee he had received complaints that parents of Turners Falls High School volleyball team members were selling t-shirts and sweatshirts bearing the school’s former “Indians” logo as a team fundraiser.
The committee voted in February 2017 to end the use of that name, and in May 2018 accepted the recommendation of a community task force to replace it with “Thunder.” Illustration proposals for the new logo are being accepted until October 5, and the committee hopes to involve students and community members in picking a final design.
“Those who have contacted me about this have requested that the district decline to accept the fundraising donations that may come our way,” Sullivan said, “as doing so would be a form of really sanctioning the use of this retired symbol.”
Though district policy states that

“[t]he Superintendent will have authority to accept gifts and offers of equipment for the schools in the name of the Committee,” Sullivan sought their input.
“This really goes against what the decision was,” said Montague member Jen Lively, who characterized the fundraiser as “continuing the divisiveness.” “The kids really seem to be getting behind the new logo,” she added, saying she had seen students “embracing” the Thunder name during Spirit Week.
“While I appreciate the fundraising efforts of any parent group that supports our teams,” said Cassie Damkoehler, “I think it’s really important that we’re supporting the students moving forward.”
“It puts us in a bad position,” she added, of the fundraising effort.
“We can’t control what people do privately,” said Gill’s Jane Oakes. “The only control we have is whether to accept contributions raised in that manner, or not.”
The committee decided it should review overall policies about fundraising that uses the names of the districts or its schools.
Montague’s Mike Langknecht said he felt “ambivalent” about the issue. “I view this as a form of protest,” he said. “There’s still unresolved feelings.... We can’t resolve everybody’s concerns about everything, but there is a stalwart group that’s been very clear right from the start, and I’m just concerned that somehow, sometime, we find a way of engaging [with them].”
“I don’t necessarily see this as a protest,” said Damkoehler. “I’ve seen people that were dead set on not changing evolve... I also think it’s important to stay steadfast in this.”
In the end, the committee voted unanimously to request that Sullivan “give serious thought to not accept-

ing the money on our behalf.”
Other Business
The committee welcomed Theresa Kolodziej as a new representative from Erving. Erving appoints a non-voting member, but no recent appointee has served for very long.
Principals Sarah Burstein and Conor Driscoll presented in depth on the school improvement plans for Hillcrest and Gill elementary schools. Sullivan hinted that certain support for professional development granted through the state District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC) might not continue after the new accountability ratings are issued.
Committee members discussed existing subcommittees, and agreed to come to the next meeting with an idea of which ones they might volunteer for. Lively recommended reconstituting a “community engagement” subcommittee, while Langknecht made a case for a “financial oversight” subcommittee that would work closely with Blier.
They also discussed rewriting the “school committee norms” document. Smith pointed out that the existing version was written by “someone at DESE” a decade ago, when the committee “was not as unified as we are now.”
Lively suggested that the policy subcommittee could be given the task, but Oakes, who serves on that group, shot down the idea. “I think norms should be written by the whole committee,” she argued.
Open houses will be held at Sheffield Elementary on September 27, Hillcrest on October 10, and Gill on October 11. On October 15, the public is invited to a bonfire at Gill Elementary. The school committee’s next meeting is scheduled for October 9 at Turners Falls High School.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wet Earth, Weak Roof, Slippery Slope

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Not scheduled on the posted agenda, but within her rights as a concerned citizen, Lisa Hoag came to the Wendell selectboard’s September 19 meeting with news about tree cutting in the Wendell State Forest.
She has met the selectboard several times with concerns that the state DCR was not following its own guidelines and best practices to respect cultural artifacts. Among those best practices is to avoid the use of heavy equipment unless the ground is frozen, dry, or otherwise stable.
Hoag said that logging had started, in spite of recent heavy rain: loggers were working; machines had been out, making new roads where the plan told them not to, and making deep wheel ruts that filled with water. She said a logger she had spoken with claimed no knowledge of the restrictions he was supposed to adhere to.
Cultural artifacts, Native American stone landscapes, were not supposed to be marked to avoid desecration, but were flagged and had been vandalized.
Finance committee member Al McIntire, who makes an effort to attend selectboard meetings, added that the double-length log trucks had been crossing the bridge over the railroad tracks into Millers Falls, and not taking the short detour that allows heavier vehicles to reach that village.
Planning board and energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger said the cutting has also violated the state Scenic Roads Act, as well as Wendell’s bylaw that accepted the state law. “How do we get them to stop” an illegal activity, she asked.
Fin com member and conservation commission chair Robin Heubel said the town could ask for a court injunction, but using the courts is expensive.
Hoag said she had contacted state representative Susannah Whipps’ office, but had not yet heard back.
Selectboard chair Dan Keller asked what the board could do. He suggested that Hoag write a letter and have board members sign it, but she said she could not do it fast enough.

Together, people in the room made a list of people to contact, including representative Whipps, state senator Anne Gobi, governor Baker, attorney general Maura Healy, and DCR commissioner Leo Roy, and the board sent a protesting email.
Shingles Needed
There was a difference in interpretation of facilities engineer Jim Slavas’ appraisal of the town office roof for mounting solar panels: Riebschlaeger understood him as saying the roof could support the panels, while Keller understood him as saying it could not.
The roof is ten years old, and solar installers want a newer roof. Riebschlaeger said that Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar had said that solar panels can extend the life of a roof. Keller thought that the difference of understanding might have happened because Slavas meant that the roof’s framing is adequate for the additional weight of solar panels, but that the shingles are too old. The cost of putting new shingles on the roof was not included in the money set aside for the solar installation.
“This would have been done if the town was on CommBuys,” Riebschlaeger said.
Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato suggested looking in other places for money to replace the shingles, and suggested the town building maintenance account. Wendell will be eligible for more Green Communities grant money if it has spent the first grant money by January.

Slippery Hut
Board members discussed spending \$40,000 for the hut that would hold the central connections for the town fiber-optic network. Keller said he thought that authorizing that purchase now, before Westfield Gas and Electric had a full system design and cost, was a slippery slope.
DiDonato said that a choice to go ahead was not a firm commitment to buy the hut, but an indication that the town is willing to continue the process of establishing the network.
The broadband committee will continue to discuss the process, and cost, of getting a town-wide internet system.

Moldy Building
Michael Wing sent the selectboard a letter expressing interest in buying the building at 120 Wendell Depot Road. He said he would create a non-profit organization to assist low-income elders.
Treasurer Carolyn Manley, who spent at least ten years getting the property out of land court, said the building is now a “terrible hazard.” The roof has leaked, the floor is probably not sound, and the building has mold. She suggested that the board send Wing a letter telling him it is beyond habitable.
Also, town properties can only be sold at auction, or through requests for proposals (RFPs).

Other Mold
Nancy Aldrich reported that Tom Chaisson cleaned mold from the office building’s north wall with bleach and then hydrogen peroxide at a cost of \$150.
Other Business
Board members signed the letter that Aldrich wrote to Barbara and Larry Williams, explaining and defending the actions of the building inspector and conservation commission on property they own on Locke Hill Road.
School committee chair Johanna Bartlett nominated Beth Erviti to be a new member of the school committee. Erviti was out of the state, but Bartlett said she was excited to join the committee. The selectboard will vote on her appointment at its October 10 meeting.
The new kitchen oversight committee needs members. Heather Wiley is willing to be on the committee, but she gets paid as coordinator and inspector, so selectboard members considered that a conflict of interest.
DiDonato said she had spoken with Nancy Graton of Good Neighbors, who seemed willing. Selectboard members are hoping for someone from the Full Moon Coffeehouse committee, the board of health, and even a willing resident.
Board members reviewed warrant articles and prepared motions for a special town meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 25. (*See adjacent article.*)

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Swift River Repairs OK’d

By JOSH HEINEMANN

As Tuesday’s rain eased to a drizzle, thirty Wendell residents came to a special town meeting and approved the entire warrant unanimously, with two exceptions.
Article 7, which would have allowed limited-income elders to defer property taxes, was passed over because, as fin com chair Doug Tanner said, town counsel advised that the action needed to be brought up prior to the start of a new fiscal year, and that annual town meeting was the appropriate forum for it.
The other exception was **Article 3**, which had one nay vote. It established a revolving fund for maintenance and expenses of the town hall kitchen. Article 3 also increased the revolving fund expenditure limits for the plumbing and wiring inspectors to \$10,000 each.
Articles 2, 4, 5, and 6 took a total of \$2,175 from stabilization to pay bills of prior years, and pay for town sick pay.
Two articles needed immediate attention, and were the reason this special town meeting was held as soon as time allowed.
Article 1 called for taking \$30,000 from stabilization to pay for a schematic design study for the replacement of windows and doors at Swift River School. This study is the first step in the process of replacing the doors and windows.
Building inspector Phil Delorey said he has been watching those

doors and windows deteriorate during inspections over the last 20 years. Union 28 superintendent Jen Haggerty said the repair would create direct operational savings.
School committee chair Johanna Bartlett said teachers have seen water pouring into the building during rainstorms, and that this was an opportunity to get Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) reimbursement for the work that will be needed, whether the towns get the MSBA grant or not.
Haggerty said an estimate for the entire repair is difficult, because similar work has never been done on a building as small as Swift River School. She thought the entire bill would be \$1 million to \$2 million, but closer to \$1 million.
The study does not commit Wendell and New Salem to complete the project. The article passed unanimously.
Article 8 authorized taking \$30,000 from stabilization for a down payment, and authorized the treasurer to borrow up to \$150,000 for a new front-end loader.
Delorey, speaking for the highway commission, ran through a list of recent repairs, and said that with 6,000 hours the machine that Wendell owns is at the end of its useful life. It broke just as the warrant was being written. It is being repaired now, and if that repair is successful, its value may be more than scrap metal.
The article passed also unanimously.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1
a strong backfield. But they left one thing out of their equation: the Blue D. Unwilling to allow any big runs to the outside, they stayed in position corralling the ball inside. This forced Green to pass, taking them out of their run game.

On their opening drive, Turners proved the pundits at least half right. They used 6-1/2 minutes to drive down the field. Then at 4:23, Wyatt Keith, number 11, pounded into the end zone to give Blue a 7-0 lead.

One-One didn't stop there. On Turners' next possession, Keith crashed and dashed his way to a 60-yard touchdown run to put Powertown up 14-0.

Turners held the 14-point lead late into the second quarter, but with only 28.1 seconds left, Greenfield scored and pulled within 6 points, 14-8.

This could have spelled disaster for Blue. In the Lee game, Turners led until 11 seconds of the first half. Lee scored and took that momentum into the second half, winning the game. But the Blue D wouldn't let that happen. Not again.

They forced another punt, and Turners took the ball into the Green Zone for a 21-8 lead. On the ensuing kick, Green fumbled it, giving Thunder a chance to put it away – and they did. For the first time all evening, someone besides Keith scored a touchdown for Powertown. It came off a Kyle Dodge Quarterback Power from one yard out. And Turners took a 28-8 lead with 10:52 left in the game.

Turners scored one more time when Andy Craver took a pick six 60 yards to pay dirt, and Tyler Lavin

put the cherry on top by kicking his fifth PAT of the game.

The win gives Turners a 2 – 1 record, and places them in a three-way tie for the Inter County North lead.

Volleyball
Chicopee 3 – TFHS 0
Lee 3 – TFHS 0
TFHS 3 – Athol 0

The Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder played three games this week, dropping two. But it's no big thing: they ended the week with a record of 6 – 2, and retain their place atop the Northern Conference. And remember, this is a very young team and each game gives them valuable varsity experience.

On September 19, Turners played the Chicopee Pacers in front of the home crowd. Turners kept the first match close, but several missed kills and a late-game rally gave the Pacers a 25-16 victory. In the second match, Chicopee came out firing and shot out to a 12-0 lead before cruising to a 25-10 win.

It wasn't until the third match that Turners found their sea legs. They matched Chic point for point, and even took a 24-22 lead. But the Pacers scored the last 4 points, and won the game 3 matches to nil.

Then on Friday, September 21, Lee came to town. The volleyball game was delayed and the field hockey fans had time to watch the first serve. In the first match, Lee took a 13-4 lead and then outscored Blue 12-10 to win 25-14. In the second, Lee added to a 5-4 game with a 20-7 drenching to take it 25-11. Turners held tight in the third match, keeping the game an even 12-12 at

midgame, but a late surge gave Lee a 25-17 win and the 3-0 sweep.

Turners reversed their fortunes on Monday, beating the visiting Athol Red Raiders 3-0: 25-9, 25-14, 25-15. Hailey Bogusz, Lindsay Whiteman, Taylor Murphy and Dabney Rollins all served aces in this one, and Isabelle Farrick had the most kills.

It doesn't get any easier for Powertown, as they have three tough road games on tap next week: Lenox, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

Field Hockey
TFHS 7 – Palmer 0
Greenfield 9 – TFHS 1

On September 19, Powertown defeated the Palmer Panthers 7-0 in a home field hockey game. This game was interesting, not because of the score, but because Cassidhe Wozniak had 93 points going into it.

Amber Taylor scored Blue's first goal, assisted by Brynn Tela, at 13:02. Then Wozniak scored two goals to close out the half. She scored two more in the second, followed by Taylor, who scored two additional goals of her own to give Powertown the 7-0 victory.

In goal, Haleigh Greene made four saves to preserve the shutout. Taylor ended with 4 points off three goals and an assist, Tela got a point for her assist, and Wozniak scored four goals and gave an assist to give her a total of 98 career points. Offensively, Blue made an amazing 22 shots on goal.

Then on Friday, September 21, Turners hosted the undefeated Green Wave of Greenfield. There were many Greenfield fans in at-

tendance, and several people told me they were planning to stay at the high school until the Blue-Green football game, which wouldn't start until after 7.

For the first 10 minutes of the field hockey game, Lady Thunder played Greenfield pretty even, and kept the game a 0-0 tie. They even had their chance to break the goose egg when they set up for a corner shot, but Green deflected it and hit the ball downfield. Powertown didn't have time to get back, and the Wave took the 1-0 lead.

The second Greenfield goal came after goalkeeper Greene blocked a shot with her body. The ball was kicked back and the Green Wave shot into the open goal for the 2-0 lead.

Greenfield scored their third goal off a wonderful glove-save by Greene, and that's when it fell apart for Powertown. Turners began playing on their heels, and stopped contesting every loose ball. As a result, Greenfield's lead shot out to 6-0.

But Taylor found Wozniak with six minutes left in the half, and Wozniak found the net, finally putting Blue on the scoreboard, and giving her the 99th point of her field hockey career.

I remember when Carl Yastrzemski was going for his 400th home run. How much pressure was on him to get that last one? So I won't mention Ms. Wozniak's point total, until of course, she hits the century mark.

The field hockey team travels across the road to take on Franklin Tech on Thursday, September 27 before returning home to take on the Frontier Red Hawks on October 1.

Golf
Greenfield 18 – TFHS 6
TFHS 14.5 – Franklin Tech 9.5

The Turners Falls golf team continued to impress on the links. This week they went 1 – 1, giving them a season record of 2 – 2, a far cry from last season's 0 – 16.

On September 20, they hosted Greenfield at Thomas Memorial. Alex Sulda shot a team-best 46, winning his match 3-1. Joey Mosca (49) tied his 2-2, and Aidan Bailey scored Turners' other point with a 53. Brady Booska (48), Brian Poirier (50), and Tyler Noyes (58) also competed for Blue.

On Friday, September 21, the team returned to Thomas, but in this contest they were the visitors, as Franklin held the home course advantage. Of the seven Turners Falls sporting events held on Friday, this was the only one not at the high school.

In this game, Mosca and Tech's Mike McGoldrick tied for a course-best 42 strokes. McGoldrick beat Booska (45) 3-1, while Mosca bested Mike Patenoide 3.5 to 0.5. Tech's Nate Pelletier (42) beat Poirier (50) 3.5-0.5 to give Tech a 7-5 lead.

In the fourth match, Bailey defeated Ryan Artus 4-0, putting Turners up 9-7. The fifth was a 2-2 tie between Tech's Jacob Shaw (56) and Tyler Noyes (56) for an 11-9 score. Then Alex Sulda (45) beat Anthony Zager (51) 3.5 to 0.5 to give Turners a 14.5-9.5 win.

This Wednesday, the golf team travels to Mohawk, and then they return to Thomas Memorial to play Easthampton.

Next week: 100? And a look at Franklin Tech!



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In the Air of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING

Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Thursday, 4/3/14

12:45 a.m. Alarm set off by balloons inside Millers Pub.

Tuesday, 4/29/14

9 a.m. Caller reported receiving a voice mail overnight stating that there was a dog “floating between yards” on Meadow Street and acting lethargic.

Sunday, 8/31/14

8:23 p.m. Caller reports a dozen red lights in the sky near her house. Second caller reports 30 red lights in the sky. Officers advise that these are likely luminaries being set off. Source located. Motorist reported that one of the luminaries was caught in a power line at Dell and Dunton streets and that the line was sparking.

Tuesday, 9/2/14

7:02 p.m. Model airplane crashed into a tree at airport, causing the tree to catch on fire.

Wednesday, 9/10/14

7:13 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Hill Loop reports that at 11:30 this morning, his wife noticed a helicopter flying in the area for approximately 2.5 hours. During that time, a suspicious vehicle came halfway up the caller’s driveway.

Tuesday, 1/20/15

10:55 p.m. Burglar alarm, “stock room motion,” at Family Dollar. Keyholder stated that last time, a ceiling tile had fallen and triggered the alarm. This time, helium balloons in the back were tripping the sensor.

Tuesday, 2/3/15

7:31 p.m. Burglar alarm set off by balloons at Greenfield Savings Bank.

Monday, 5/4/15

12:50 p.m. Caller from Highland Street reports that a helicopter has been circling near his residence for approximately 5 minutes. There is an unknown spray coming from the helicopter, and the caller states that he can taste what he believe is insecticide. TFFD advised and responding. 2nd call reporting low-flying helicopter. TFFD checked with various agencies, none of whom had knowledge of the aircraft. Upon further investigation, it was determined that 2 private companies were out spraying in the area; they appear not to have notified the town, as is required.

5:40 p.m. Caller reports a bird flying around Cumberland Farms;

states that bird is landing on people/pecking at them, is very friendly, and looks like a sparrow. Requests Ms. Moondream’s phone number for assistance with bird. Same was given.

Second caller (employee) advises of same. Phone number given for Ms. Moondream; advised caller to leave door open so that bird could fly back out.

Wednesday, 6/17/15

6:00 p.m. Caller requests to have on record that earlier a plane was flying very low over her house and occasionally making a stalling sound. Neighbor suggested that it might be a flying instructor giving a lesson.

Saturday, 7/4/15

10:56 a.m. Caller from East Chestnut Hill Road concerned about airplanes flying over her neighborhood on a regular basis. Caller states that the planes sometimes dive, and she has noticed variations in the sounds of their engines.

Saturday, 7/11/15

7:16 p.m. Hot air balloon landed in a yard on Dell Street.

7:24 p.m. Officer checking on a low-flying hot air balloon approaching the high tension lines on Depot Street.

7:33 p.m. Hot air balloon attempting to land in Walnut Street area. Traffic hazard caused by vehicles stopping to look.

7:39 p.m. Hot air balloon landed in a yard on Linda Lane. All appears to be fine.

7:42 p.m. Hot air balloon landing in roadway on Bulkley Street. Shutting down the road.

7:47 p.m. Officer keeping an eye on another hot air balloon that appears to be about to land near Vladish Avenue.

Sunday, 10/4/15

5:18 p.m. Caller reports that there is a deceased raccoon in front of her home; she states that a couple of youths came by and tied a balloon to it and it is “floating” in the area.

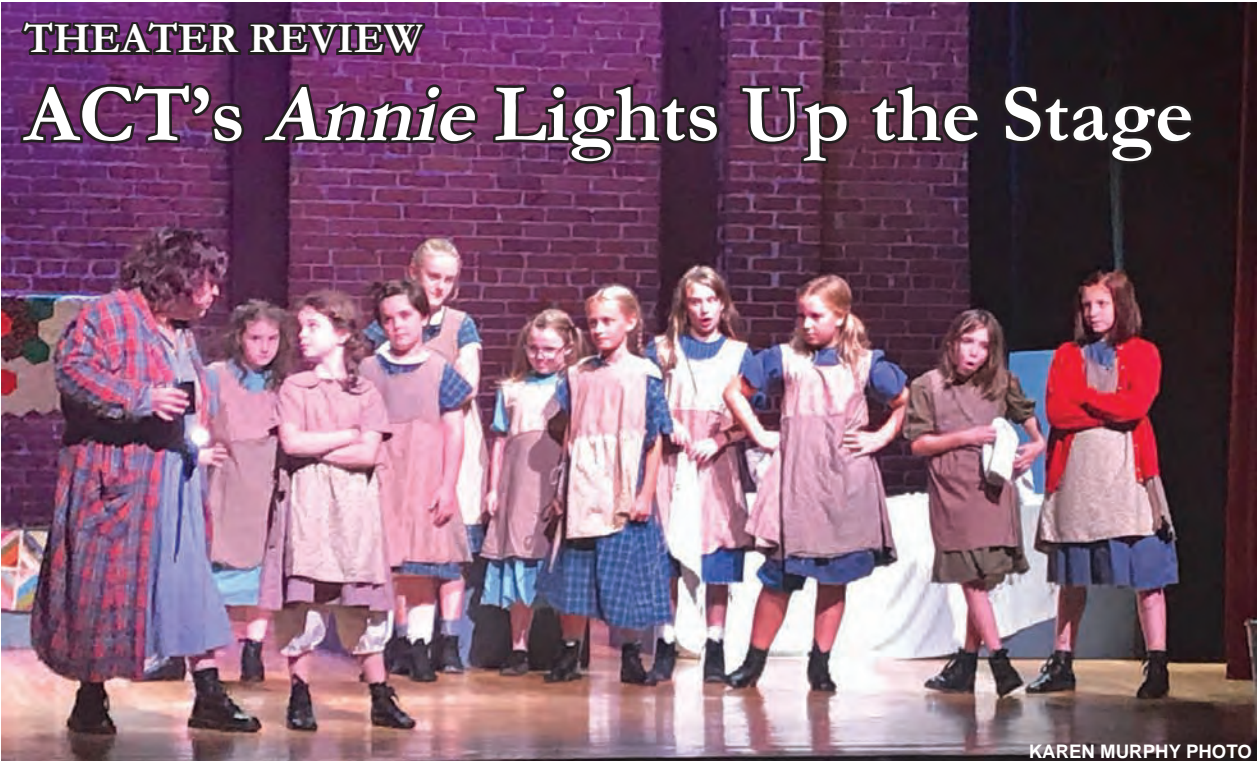
Tuesday, 2/23/16

1:02 a.m. Burglar alarm at town highway garage on Avenue A. Responding officer advises that there is a bat flying around in the building; this is believed to have been the cause of the alarm. Bat removed; building secure.

see AIR page B2

THEATER REVIEW

ACT’s Annie Lights Up the Stage



KAREN MURPHY PHOTO

Left to right: Miss Hannigan (Catherine King), orphans (Kai Healey, Ruth Robison, Camille D’ziura, Kate Murphy, Liya Glabach, Sophie Michel, Ashleigh Thayer, Ary Dias-Plavcan, and Myra Glabach), and Annie (Ripley Dresser) in last weekend’s production at the Shea.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – Arena Civic Theater returned to the Shea Theater last week with a production of *Annie* that was thoroughly entertaining. The musical brought a bit of light to the world as well as optimism which, to quote the fictitious Franklin Roosevelt in the play, is something the world needs right now.

Director Megan Healey and choreographer Sue Dresser have often worked together on a variety of theater projects that include children and seem to be especially gifted in working with young actors, bringing out the best in them. They created the right atmosphere here with the cast of *Annie* to encourage these young performers to demonstrate professionalism in their approach to musical performance; it looked effortless, and so surely required a great deal of work.

A musical that was originally performed on Broadway in New York City, plus made into a movie, *Annie* has a timeless appeal for many reasons. There is a book by Thomas Meehan, who developed the Broadway musical that featured music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Martin Charnin.

On the surface it’s a story of a young girl abandoned by her parents as a baby, stuck in an orphanage without hope. It talks about the Depression-era poverty of the distant past, yet resonates through time. It also speaks to the power of kindness and love. It is in the end op-

timistic in a truly American way that puts hope for a better future over the misery of today. The belief that things can change, that we can change, is very powerful in our culture. And *Annie* has all of that tied up in an endearing story of one little girl and her dog.

From the beginning, the Arena Civic Theater (ACT) performance at the Shea was fast-paced and dynamic, with constant movement on stage, and a live orchestra that set the pace for strong musical numbers. The young performers who made up the group of orphans were impressive in talent and acting skill, singing so well together, always on key with powerful action and dramatic intention throughout. There was something inspiring about watching young actors and singers who are so invested in their performance.

The show opened with a soft, quiet number, with Annie and the orphans onstage draped in blue light as Annie wistfully sings the song “Maybe.” Then the stage fills up with action as they sing “Hard Knock Life” with the orphans running across the stage, standing facing the audience challenging them to listen, some of the girls doing cartwheels as others sang out with feeling.

Throughout the show, this group of actors showed themselves to be serious performers, with devotion to the craft, however young they may be. The orphans were: Molly (Ruth Robison, age 7), who as the tiniest of the orphans seemed daring and bold, often speaking out

see ANNIE page B6

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Winding Down



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – It’s hard to believe we were complaining of the heat just a few short days ago. Now, in the early morning, the cat comes upstairs and climbs under the covers, complaining of the cold.

We balance between summer and fall. The clematis vine which drapes the pergola is in full bloom and has spread a bridal veil of tiny white stars. But above it in a perennial bed, the autumn crocus has bloomed (although a springtime lavender) and up the street a massive sugar maple is already turning a sunset red.

The official Fall arrived in a near-full-moon Saturday night. It had been a warm, mostly sunny day, but when the moon rose it came in a modest coat of misty air, as the temperature dropped rapidly after sundown.

This Sunday morning the sun has banished the fog over the river but the air remains cool. It is only sixty degrees in the sun room, and the cat demands the comfort of a warm lap. This comfort spreads happily between feline and human.

There’s nothing like the comfort of owning a pet. A cat on the lap purrs with petting and shares calm and serenity with its owner. We are well aware that she rules the household, but she also gives much back.

Only a couple of weeks ago, despite dire hurricane warnings, we traveled to Gloucester for a last time at the beach until February. We were fortunate in renting a small two-room apartment in Rocky Neck with a small private deck over the water. This afforded us a front row seat at the changing of the tides, and much entertainment from a gaggle of mallards who announced the rising water, even if it came in the middle of the night.

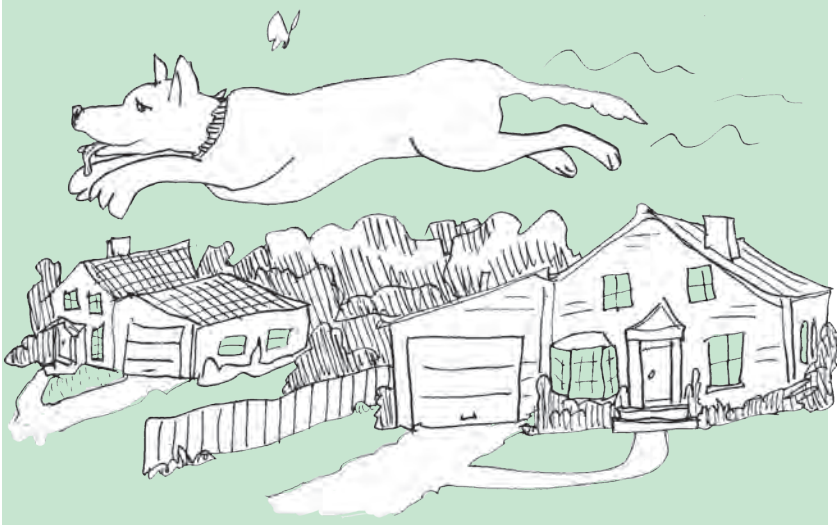
We got up when we pleased and went out likewise, enjoyed much fresh fish, one meal out a day, and a pleasant leisurely pace of sight-seeing, walking, and reading. Many of the tourists were gone, so traffic was reduced and we were able to spend some time browsing the shops in Rockport and Gloucester. The weather was quite cooperative; we enjoyed little rain and warmer temperatures than were experienced at home. The only sign of hurricane weather was the heightened surf on the rocky shore. It was absolutely spectacular although there were small craft warnings out. Five

nights and four days later we returned home, much refreshed and ready to take on the fall chores.

There is much to do as the season winds down. We are near the end of our garden harvest. Stored are: potatoes, scallions, garlic, and soon, the last of the butternut squash. Then it will be time to pull the last of the weeds in the tomato bed and cut the corn stalks for some autumn décor in the yard. The asparagus stalks will be browning soon; they have no doubt done good work in feeding up the roots for next season. It will be good to cut them, as well, and pull the last weeds in that patch.

It will be good to clean and rust-proof the garden tools and put them away for spring. Of course, we’ll have to leave leaf raking gear at the ready for later this fall. It seems like we’ve had plenty of moisture this season, so it’s probably time to drain the hoses and hang them up in the shed.

One final big project this fall will be the addition of a good-sized shed, as it has become readily apparent that one shed is not enough. With our combined gear for gardening and camping, not to mention snowshoes, paddles and kayaks, a bicycle and yard chairs, it is impossible to locate anything readily in see GARDENER’S page B4



Pet of the Week

Yawwwwwwn – you woke me up! Hamsters are nocturnal. We play at night. We have poor eyesight and when startled we may nip, so take it slow when picking us up!

We like to live alone but we do enjoy spending time with people! We love to run and explore!

We enjoy fresh grains, nuts on occasion, veggies, and fruits. We especially love apples, carrots, spinach, and lettuce!

Interested in adopting? Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“CHUCKIE”

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 1 THROUGH 5

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 10/1
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 10/2
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
Wednesday 10/3
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 10/4
No Chair Yoga or Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. to noon: Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Friday 10/5
12 p.m. Pizza Party
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

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.

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.
Art Classes run July 10 to August 28, 1 to 3 p.m.
Monday 10/1
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 10/2
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
1 p.m. South of the Border Lunch
Wednesday 10/3
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
1 p.m. Drumming for Health
Thursday 10/4
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks
Friday 10/5
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

AIR from page B1

Thursday, 4/21/16

12:52 p.m. Officer noticed male party parked across road from airport flying a drone; request contact someone from the airport to determine rules regarding same. Vehicle appears



to have moved along. Airport rep responded that any drones flying within

a 5-mile radius of airport need to advise/receive permission from airport personnel prior to flying.
Wednesday, 6/15/16
7:22 p.m. Shelburne Control advising they took a call from a party in Erving who reported seeing a plane that is possibly in trouble; sounded like its engine cut out and it was stalling, then disappeared over the tree line.

Wednesday, 7/27/16

10:35 p.m. Caller complaining of 2 drones flying overhead on Lake Pleasant Road the last 2 nights.

Thursday, 9/1/16

12:56 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that a helicopter has been hovering outside her house for an extended period of time.

Sunday, 3/6/17

7:21 a.m. Commercial burglar alarm at Greenfield Savings Bank; interior break room motion. Bank manager on scene. Building checked. Balloon in break room determined to have set off alarm.

Tuesday, 6/14/17

6:36 p.m. Caller at skatepark reporting that a white pickup with New Hampshire plates towing a jetski is flying a

drone in the area. When caller approached party, he became belligerent and said he can fly the drone where he wants.
10:31 p.m. Caller from Park Street states that a drone is flying over her house; she would like to know if this is legal or not.
Friday, 10/6/17
8:37 a.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue requesting to speak with an officer re: a drone that flew over her yard last night.



Amazing Domino Topple at Museum

By ERIN JENKINS

BRATTLEBORO, VT – The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) presents its Eleventh Annual Domino Toppling Extraganza this Sunday, September 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Doors open a half hour earlier for audience members to choose their vantage point and inspect the domino course before it all comes tumbling down. Audience members will have a chance to guess how many dominoes make up the course; whoever comes the closest will get to start the entire chain reaction.

BMAC’s domino topplings began in 2008, when Mike and Steve Perrucci, brothers from Perkasio, Pennsylvania, traveled to Brattleboro to build and then topple a course created specifically for BMAC. The Perruccis returned to Brattleboro each of the next four years, creating bigger and more amazing courses each time.

In 2011, the brothers enlisted the help of other domino-toppling enthusiasts, who eventually took the helm after the Perruccis retired from domino duty. Now in its eleventh year, BMAC’s annual topple is the longest-running event of its type in the world.

This year’s course will be created by Nathan Heck, Lily Hevesh, Shane O’Brien, and Chris Wright,



Last year’s domino toppling event at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center.

all of whom have participated in the BMAC event in previous years. Hevesh, whose YouTube channel, *Hevesh5*, has over two million subscribers, is quite possibly the best known domino artist in the world. She pursues her uncommon art full-time, and her mesmerizing videos have been viewed over 250 million times and counting.

The four topplers will arrive in Brattleboro on the Friday before the event; it will take them at least 24 hours of solid work to fill the floor of the museum’s gallery with dominoes. The toppling itself will last about five minutes.

“This event has attracted quite

a following,” said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld. “Every year, the museum has been filled to capacity, with audience members squeezed around the perimeter of the museum’s main gallery. It’s loads of fun, but also nerve-racking, since one false move could trigger the entire chain reaction.”

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis – free for kids 8 and under, \$3 for BMAC members, and \$5 for everyone else. The museum is located at the intersection of Main Street and routes 119 and 142. For more information, call (802) 257-0124 or visit brattleboromuseum.org.

October 2: Reception for Millers River Photo Exhibit

ATHOL – This coming Tuesday, October 2, from 6 to 7 p.m., the Athol Public Library and Millers River Watershed Council will host a reception at the Library for the first-ever Millers River & Watershed Photo Contest and Exhibition.

Light refreshments will be served. The exhibition will run at Athol the end of October, at which time it will move to the Beals Memorial Public Library for November.

Over three dozen photographs were submitted for judging. Contest prizes include gift certificates for Frames Ink and Market Basket in Athol, the Kitchen Garden in Templeton, Trailhead and Tech 1 computers in Orange, the Winchendon History and Cultural Center’s Escape Room, and more.



MRWC director Ivan Ussach takes a sneak peak at some of the entries in the Millers River & Watershed Photo Contest and Exhibition.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

TURNERS FALLS – Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out the end of the exhibits at the Great Falls Discovery center! “PaperJam,” a community art show curated by Exploded View, and “On a Roll – the Story of Paper in Turners Falls” are on display through this Saturday, September 29.

In the meantime, check out Channel 17 to catch the latest from Montague TV. You can always count on Montague TV to keep up

to date on local selectboard and school committee meetings, on TV or online.

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

We’re excited to work with you!

League of Women Voters Hosts Second Annual Civics Trivia Fundraiser

GREENFIELD – The League of Women Voters of Franklin County (LWVFC) is hosting its second annual Civics Trivia Night next Friday, October 5 at the Greenfield Elks Lodge, 3-5 Church Street. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the trivia game starting at 7:30 p.m. Questions will cover federal, state, and local government, current affairs, and American history.

This year’s Quizmasters are Natalie Blais, executive director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and presumptive new state rep for the First Franklin District; and Barry McColgan, former Greenfield High School English teacher and part-time librarian at the Greenfield Public Library.

“Last year’s trivia night was a fun exercise in community-building, and helped fund our many candidate forums this year, as well as our voter registration and outreach efforts,” said Marie Gauthier, president of the LWVFC. “We have a lot

more on deck, so we’re hoping for another great turnout!”

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

The Trivia Night will raise money for the League to continue conducting forums on various policy issues and informational events, help create a fund to subsidize membership dues for the less advantaged, and eventually a scholarship fund for local high school students.

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

The League of Women Voters of Franklin County is a non-partisan grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. For more information, visit lwvma-franklincounty.org.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Short Foot Pursuit; Fuel Spill On Bridges; Fishing; Two Loose Horses; Millers Falls Fight; Bonfire

Monday, 9/17

3:20 p.m. 911 caller reporting she was just involved in a two-car accident on Turners Falls Road. No injuries or fluids. Citation issued.

7:34 p.m. Walk-in requesting officer verify that she had something fixed on her car as part of a “fix it” ticket that she received in New York. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 9/18

7:45 a.m. Burglar alarm activation at Comcast Cable on Industrial Drive. Due to nature of codes, consulted with TFFD. TFFD advises they will respond; also advise that if upon arrival PD observes a red light above the door, DO NOT ENTER; light is part of the fire suppression system and would be an indicator that the oxygen is removed from the building, and that only responders equipped with SCBA should enter. Units advised and caution added to site file. Upon arrival, workers were on site; false alarm.

8:42 a.m. Report of street flooding in several areas on Montague City Road (usual flooding spots). DPW already aware and *en route* with barricades/cones.

8:48 a.m. Fire panel trouble alarms received for two locations on Avenue A (TF Post Office and Our Lady of Peace). TFFD advised. Appears to be related to power surge/outage. Rep from post office advises they had a few power surges but their panel is reading system normal at this time. Status of Our Lady of Peace still unknown.

9:08 a.m. Report of TV stolen from community room on Canal Street. Report taken.

4:35 p.m. 911 caller reporting that it looks like someone is stranded on the “island” on the river below the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Area checked; no one out on the island or in the water.

7:24 p.m. Officer reporting that the traffic lights at Avenue A and Third Street are not functioning properly, only flashing yellow and red. DPW notified.

11:58 p.m. Officer out on Green Pond Road with

suspicious male and female parties. Both claim to be coming from parents’ house in Erving. Male had a small laptop and charger with him; states that it is his and he took it from his mother’s.

Wednesday, 9/19

9:36 p.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop at Montague City Road and Walnut Street. After a short foot pursuit, female party not in custody. A 23-year-old Montague Center woman was arrested on a default warrant and charged with resisting arrest.

9:43 p.m. Caller requesting that MPD remove people playing basketball from Unity Park as it is after park hours. Referred to an officer. Response time affected due to call volume.

Thursday, 9/20

7:49 a.m. TFFD requesting PD and DPW respond to assist with a fuel spill that goes across the bridges over the canal. DPW sanding truck requested. Road closed; spill cleaned up; road reopened.

8:20 a.m. Caller from Court Square states that in the very early mornings there is a vehicle driving around delivering newspapers. The vehicle has a very loud muffler/exhaust that is disturbing the neighborhood. Call documented; on-duty officer advised.

8:51 a.m. Walk-in from Eleventh Street reporting that recently a man named [redacted] has been sleeping on the front porch of his apartment building. Party looking for advice and options for dealing with this. Advised party to notify landlord of situation and ask landlord to have male trespassed from property. Also advised to call police when male is there, and we can move him along.

10:38 a.m. Officer came upon a horse that had gotten loose on Turners Falls Road. Animal safely returned to its property.

2:06 p.m. Fire department

received direct call about odor of gas in a K Street building. TFFD advising that they have cleared from location.

5:42 p.m. Shelburne Control advising of 911 hang-up on Turners Falls Road. Officer advised and *en route*. Officer found male party gardening in the cemetery who advised that he had accidentally called 911. Shelburne Control advising of another call from this number. Officer instructed caller to turn his phone off while working.

7:32 p.m. Caller advising of loose horse near Greenfield and Hatchery roads. Officer advising that horse is now back with owner.

8:20 p.m. Caller advises that two men are fighting on the sidewalk on Bridge Street. One involved party advised officer on scene that the other party left in a silver sedan. Medical attention declined.

Friday, 9/21

12:08 a.m. Caller reporting that front door to Third Street Laundry is wide open with no one around. Business hours say close at ten. Voicemail left for owner. Business secure upon arrival; no signs of forced entry. Officers clear.

2:55 p.m. Caller reported to TFFD that parties are fishing in the drained portion of the canal. TFFD advising that they have requested the parties leave but are not confident that they will. Area searched; unable to locate.

5:22 p.m. Caller advising that a workshop is on fire behind a house on Highland Avenue. Shelburne Control advised; MCFD dispatched. Copied direct from Shelburne Control that this is a fully involved structure fire and the first alarm has been called at this time.

5:46 p.m. Caller from L Street advising that he found his vehicle’s passenger side window smashed but nothing missing. Caller told officer he does not have any enemies. Officer advised caller that glass is covered by insurance.

Saturday, 9/22

6:37 a.m. Caller from Montague Machine reporting two extremely aggressive

dogs in the area. Both dogs attempted to attack caller when he came out the door of the business. Caller was forced to mace one dog to escape. MPD patrols advised; call placed to animal control officer. Officer out with one dog near Replay; out on N Street to attempt to locate owner of dogs. Officer clear; dogs have been caught by owner. Officer requesting ACO make contact with owner as this is not the first time the dogs have been aggressive.

6:45 a.m. Caller from Gunn Street reporting that a yellow Mustang-type vehicle has been parked running in front of her house since late last night. Officer made contact with operator, who states he has been there for only four hours. Operator advises he was sleepy and decided to take a nap. No signs of impairment.

8:47 p.m. Caller advising that she hit a cat near Millers Falls Road and Edward Avenue moments ago. Animal described as black and orange calico with white paws. Officer advising animal is on side of road, dead on arrival. Montague Highway advised.

Sunday, 9/23

12:06 a.m. Complaint of noise coming from Montague Retreat Center. Investigated.

2:34 a.m. 911 complaint from Turner Road of nearby residence having bonfire and people outside being loud. Parties advised of complaint and will be going in for the evening.

2:46 a.m. Caller from previous call reports that once officer cleared, neighbors began yelling and screaming, directing comments at caller. Quiet upon arrival.

4:51 p.m. 911 caller reporting loose brown dog on Central Street who apparently attacked a small dog being walked by a young boy. Dog’s owner is trying to catch dog. Caller later advising that dog and owner left neighborhood.

5:12 p.m. Walk-in reporting that while she was parked at the bike path off Greenfield Road, the vehicle she was driving was keyed. Report taken.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

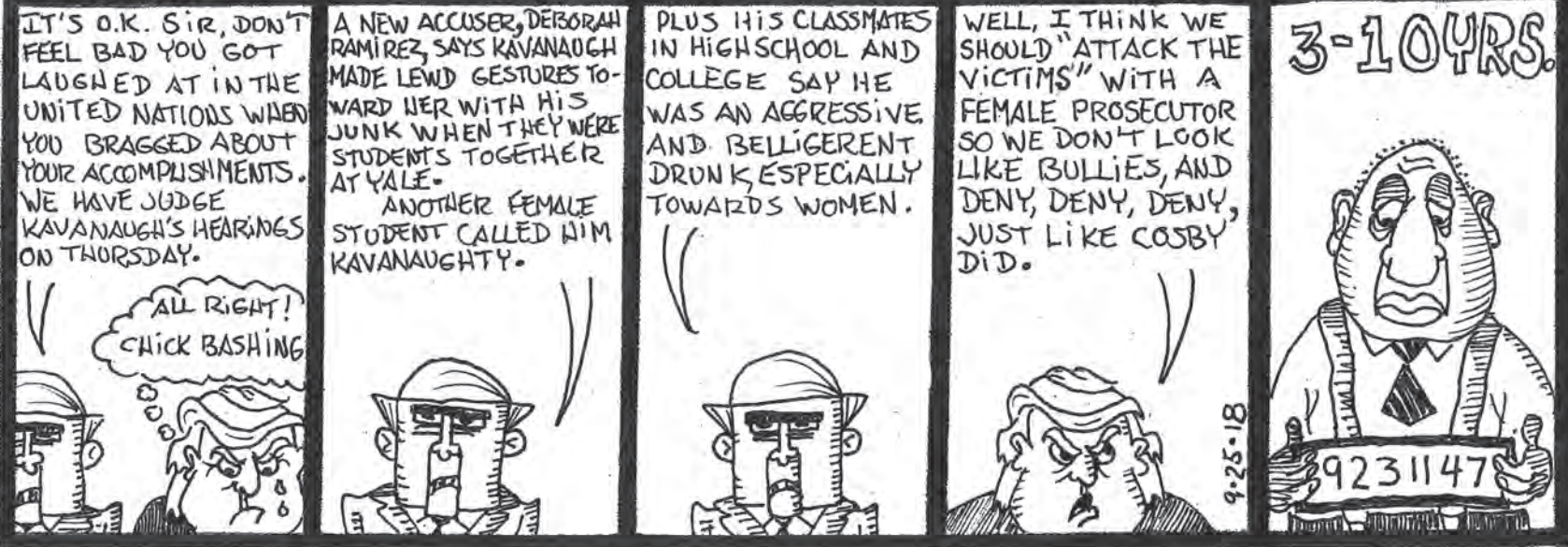
the pile-up which has overflowed into the garage despite how much we’ve sold and donated.

We are preparing the spot by cutting down a tree and having the site leveled, but the shed itself will come in pieces on a flatbed and will be assembled by the delivery folks right where we want it. Ken built a beautiful addition to my old shed. It was put together with great craftsmanship and much time, but once was enough.

After all, we will be getting a load of firewood soon, and that will need to be stacked, and there are the storm windows to put back up in the front porch, and winter proofing, and I guess that’s enough, or the list will become so burdensome as to be overwhelming. I’ve already put new gaskets in the woodstove.

It’s much more fun to think about projects which will bloom in next year’s flower beds. We’d like to put in a few more daylilies for July blooming, when many of the summer annuals are winding down and the garden seems bare. There are many other perennials we would enjoy more of, like shasta daisy, echinacea, and black-eyed susan. It would also be nice to try a couple

T-RUMP



of perennial grasses. They come in beautiful colors which often change and even provide color in the winter.

If you don’t have enough spring bulbs in your yard, fall is the perfect time to plant them. We’ve found the daffodils to be the best. They continue to spread, and are not appealing to deer or the underground critters which keep relocating our crocus and tulip bulbs. Daffodils come in such an array of colors now, and some are even fragrant. They provide weeks of carefree beauty just

when you’ve had enough of March and are eager for winter to wind down into spring.

There’s a lot to look forward to in the fall: picking apples, sampling the first cider of the season, baking the first of many aromatic spicy pies, and walks and drives to admire the splendid colors of the season.

All in all, we guess it’s just fine if the summer season winds down and the fall comes quickly. We’ll happily wave goodbye to the mosquitoes!



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was September 25, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Budget Setbacks
For GMRSD

The Gill-Montague school committee met amid piles of books in the Sheffield School library on Tuesday, after an effort to achieve a budget agreement with the member towns of Gill and Montague went down to overwhelming defeat at last week’s district meeting, where the school budget failed by a vote of 196-44.

In the aftermath, the committee offered a list of bad news in school choice losses and new special education enrollment, which will negatively affect the budget by another \$325,000.

The GMRSD continues to co-operate under a “1/12” budget of \$16,820,004 mandated by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education on July 1, and bills the towns quarterly. This is the identical budget number the towns voted down at the district meeting last week.

Another district meeting will be scheduled in coming weeks.

Old Fashioned
Barn Raising

Over the weekend an 1850s-era chestnut post and beam barn facing the town common in Wendell was reassembled by 60 community volunteers in a good old-fashioned barn raising. The barn is owned by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson.

As the volunteers gathered on Saturday morning, Jonathan told them the barn had been used by generations of the Lewis family as a dairy barn, with four stanchions, a stall for mother and calf, a horse stall, and another low stall area, perhaps for pigs. There were haylofts above.

“It was the most beautiful barn inside, with wonderful aged timbers and whitewashed areas in the dairy,” he said. “There was a lot of

history inside: old calendars and a hand carved fishing pole, with line and hook, clearly created by a kid to go fishing long ago.”

The von Ransons are seeking permission from various boards to live without electricity, to use a composting toilet in their new apartment, and to reduce the requirements for their septic system since they will use only about 10% of the average amount of water for a household of two.

“We want to lighten our environmental footprint and not be forced to install unnecessary infrastructure,” Jonathan von Ranson said.

Railroad Salvage Owner
Given Two-Week Reprieve

On the 19th, Gary Kosuda, owner of the derelict Railroad Salvage building in the Patch neighborhood of Turners Falls, showed up in court with a structural engineer, and reported to the judge about the discussions he had held with a demolition contractor and an abatement contractor about removing asbestos from the accessible areas of the collapsing building.

Montague building inspector David Jensen gave an update to the selectboard Monday. “[Kosuda] has concluded that demolishing the four-story section of the building was the preferred alternative at the moment,” said Jensen. That part of the building – the major section – has been steadily tumbling down in the direction of Power Street since May 27 of 2006, forcing the town to block off that road, one of only two access routes to the densely populated neighborhood of the Patch.

More than 50 residents of the Patch signed a petition calling on the town to take action to reopen Power Street earlier this summer.

Judge Fein allowed Kosuda two more weeks to produce an environmental assessment of the work that would be required to clean up, stabilize parts of the building, or demolish the main structure.

Garlic & Arts Celebrates 20th Year

From combined sources.

ORANGE – The 20th Anniversary of the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival is September 29 and 30 at the Forster’s Farm in Orange. This family-friendly destination is bursting with exceptional art, local farm products, fabulous food, endless entertainment, and inspiration for a hopeful future. Held on a historic farm amid fall foliage, the festival attracts thousands from throughout New England; organizers estimate 10,000 attendees last year!

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary: Pick up a packet of pollinator seeds in several festival locations – a gift from the festival to sow seeds of goodness far and wide. Then at 3 p.m. on Sunday partake in a parade with the Expandable Brass Band, circle of peace and community, and a giant cake!

Great music, entertainment, and spoken word fill three stages and the rolling fields. The line-up of performers this year is an amazing testimony to the culturally diverse and abundant talents of the region.

On the main stage, powered by PV2 Solar: Celtic Heels, She Said, Bamidele Drummers, and the Outer Space Band on Saturday, with the Inside Out Dance Co., Kate Lorenz, Incus and the Pangeans on Sunday. Three readers every half-hour on the Spoken Word stage, both days.

The Family Stage features Josh Levangie, Barret Andersen, Bomba de Aqui, and ReBelle on Saturday,

and the Green Sisters, Crazeface, and Amandla Chorus on Sunday.

Over 100 booths will feature regional artists, farmers, community organizations, and practitioners of healing arts to peruse. Please help strengthen community and economy by purchasing locally crafted and grown. Plus, over eighty workshops and demos to engage your mind, with activities and performances scheduled throughout the weekend!

Garlic games abound on the main field, including the famous raw garlic-eating contest. Travel the garlic globe in the chef demo tent, and fill up with farm fresh and savory cuisine in four food courts that feature 19 food vendors. Learn about planting and growing garlic at a workshop.

“Orange is the New Green”: This festival is trash-free! Last year’s event produced only three bags for 10,000 people, with everything else recycled or transformed into fertile compost to make gardens. Bring your own bottle for the free drinking water provided on site, or buy a souvenir refillable one along with an artist-designed festival tee shirt and collector cookbook.

The **Portal to the Future** at the north end of the festival site is the place to visit for all things renewable energy, with an inspiring workshop line-up, demo gardens, and special urine-collecting toilets provided in collaboration with the Rich Earth Institute in Brattleboro. Make your golden contribution to the largest known event seeking to divert urine to be transformed into

natural fertilizer by the Institute.

Attend one of the talks, which will cover subjects such as Green Burial, Solar Cooperatives, Renewable Fuels, Tiny Homes, and more.

Visit the **The World We Love**, a giant handcrafted globe at the kids’ art and activity tent, and add your vision for a positive future. Many kids’ activities are planned for both days.

Family friendly admission: Admission to the festival is still only \$5 per day for adults, weekend pass \$8, kids 12 and under free. On-site parking is for accessible tags and carpools of 3 or more; free nearby shuttle lot for all others. No pets allowed (service dogs only). Festival proceeds keep the event sustainable and affordable, and support the festival’s community grant program for local art, agriculture, health and energy projects.

Get the whole bulb at garlicandarts.org, including the 2018 schedule of exhibitors, entertainment, and workshops and activities for all ages. Come find out for yourself why the festival is consistently rated in the top three among hundreds across the region by the *Valley Advocate* Reader’s Poll.

A fully volunteer committee of friends and neighbors and the non-profit Seeds of Solidarity Education Center organize the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival every year. Supporters include the Forster/Stewart Family, our exhibitors, and over 200 community volunteers.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EXHIBITS:

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT: Five new exhibits open on Friday, October 5 during Gallery Walk. They 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. An opening reception with the exhibiting artists, free and open to all, will take place at 5:30 p.m.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh Burnham School, Bernardston: *What is Just?* Paintings by Alice Thomas. Through November 9. Artist talk October 4 at 7 p.m., reception October 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *PaperJam* group exhibit curated by Exploded View: art inspired by paper. *On a Roll – the Story of Paper in Turners Falls* is an exhibit exploring the transition from hand-made to machine-made paper, the paper industry's arrival in Turners Falls, and the rise and fall of the village's paper mills. Through September 29.

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: *Ixchelailee Art*. Digital collage by Turners Falls artist Diana Pedrosa. Through October 6.

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. Reception October 6, 3 p.m. Through October.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement*. For children and

caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Fafnir Adamites Artist Talk*. Part of the PaperJam event series. Turners Falls artist "using paper making and other craft processes to create sculptural works that act as monuments and reminders of trauma and intuition." Adamites will talk about her recent works and the meaning of the materials. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Michael Hurley*. A singer/songwriter in the subversive Greenwich Village folk scene of the late '60s and '70s. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Covers for a Cause: The Kinks*. Benefit for Stone Soup kitchen. \$. 7:30 p.m.



Orly Cogan's painted and embroidered linen pieces in "Don't Call Me Princess" explore feminism, domesticity, and the constantly changing role of women in society. "Don't Call Me Princess" will remain on view through March 2, 2019 at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, part of a new round of exhibits opening on October 5. Cogan will give a free talk about her work on January 19 at 2 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Frank Rozelle and Friends*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band*. Swing dance and lessons. \$. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Michael Hurley*. See Thursday listing. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures Presents *Big Night*. Roger Ebert called it "one of the great food movies" and a "film of great wisdom and delight." The soundtrack is wonderful, the acting is a treat, and as for the food... don't come hungry. Live music at 7 p.m.: Friday features Dave Boatwright. Saturday showcases Jim Eagan. Part of a series of movies on the theme of food. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *De-*

lectable Durang. An evening of Christopher Durang's best short comic plays directed by John Reese. A Silverthorne Theater production. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond* session. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Origami Workshop* with Michael Naughton. Part of September's PaperJam series. 1 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Cindertalk*. Cindertalk is the spell-binding project of multi-instrumentalist, composer, songwriter, and glass musician Jonny Rodgers. Grounds open at 3 p.m., concert indoors at 4. \$. 4 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls:

one page in each book, with a different theme in every book. Find out more at this reception. 12 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Literary Rendezvous* at the Voo! Open Mic. Sponsored by Straw Dog Writer's Guild, hosted by Candace Curran. Featured poet, Nicole M. Young. 3 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Delectable Durang*. See Friday's listing. \$. 3 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Pile, The Spirit of the Beehive, and Strange Fate*. Indie rock. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

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.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With McCoy and DJ Roger Jr. Lesson and dance. \$. 8 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Paranoid, High Command, Dirt Devil, and Corrode*. Hardcore from Sweden with a New England punk welcoming committee. \$. 8 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

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

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Delectable Durang*. See Friday's listing. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sólstafr, The Atlas Moth, Cazador and InAeona*. Heavy metal. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Rosali, Pigeons*, more TBA. \$. 8 p.m.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

FAB Fashion Passion Show: Actively seeking regional designers to join an impressive international group along with Richie Richardson (NYC/Turners Falls).The designer/ boutique fee is \$500 and includes visibility in FAB Fashion Passion advertising, participation in the catwalk show and space at The Church venue in Turners Falls for October 13 event. To register, more info: Richie Richardson, richie@richierichardsonfab.com.

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ANNIE from page B1

in a way that was surprising; Evie (Kate Murphy); Kate (Camille Rose Dziura, who gave a strong performance); Duffy (Avy Dias-Plavcan); Pepper (Myra Glabach); Tessie (Sophie Michel); Alice (Lilya Glabach); Penelope (Kai Healey); and July (Ashleigh Thayer). Each one brought something special to the show as they ran rings around Miss Hannigan, contributing that bit of energy and freedom that only children can bring.

Ripley Dresser played Annie with confidence, bringing to the part a strong voice that rang out across the theater when she sang “Tomorrow.” She held her own with adults, and was brightly charming in scenes



KAREN MURPHY PHOTO

The Arena Civic Theater's Jerry Marcanio as Oliver Warbucks, and Ripley Dresser as Annie.

with Daddy Warbucks (played by Jerry Marcanio) and even when facing the President, Franklin D. Roosevelt (Christopher Rose) and his cabinet.

Annie's part puts her on stage in most scenes as a sympathetic character, and Ripley did a fine job of being consistent in her performance, holding the audience's attention with strong musical numbers and even taking out her tap shoes at the end.

The adults in the show did have a great deal to contribute, of course, although a cute kid or two will always steal the show. In this case it was more like ten kids, plus a dog, so it was easy to become supporting cast unless they did something to stand out.

That was certainly the case for Catherine King who played Miss Hannigan, the very mean woman in charge of the orphanage. A somewhat bedraggled woman who appears to hate her job and care nothing for the children in her charge, she demanded attention by striding across the stage scolding the children, ordering them in cruel terms to clean the floors in the middle of the night and strip the beds for the laundry man. Endlessly blowing the whistle hanging around her neck, more to startle and control than for any good reason, she smiled cruelly while promising the kids a breakfast of cold mush.

Loud and demanding, singing her evil songs with heartfelt energy, King dominated the stage, inviting all in the room, audience and orphans, to despise her even as she

flirted with that laundry man and tried to endear herself to the rich Oliver Warbucks.

Jerry Marcanio was outstanding as “Daddy” Warbucks. He brought just the right amount of superior aristocrat mixed with gentle-kind-father-figure to the part, playing a man who rubs elbows with the President but looks out for a little orphan and her friends. He is the ultimate hero of the story, and he played the part with pride.

Also of note were Sue Dziura, who played Grace Farrell, and Terrence Peters as the craven Rooster Hannigan. A large group of actors added to the scenes, joining in on the musical numbers and enriching the sound of the chorus. One member of the ensemble was Brooke Martineau; tall, elegant, she dominated the Turners Falls High School musical scene when she was a student there. Now a teacher herself, she returns to the stage here as a member of ACT.

Musical director Anthony Ferreira led a small orchestra of gifted musicians who made this show so much better than if the music were piped in, as often happens these days. The lovely piano music of Jenny Ciarelli floated through the show, along with Isabella Bulnes on flute and piccolo, Parlee Hayden on trumpet, Jacob Kaplan on saxophone and clarinet, Guss Kohlin on bass, Annierose Klingbeil on violin, David Lookwhy on cello, Michael Massu on guitar, Sean Swanton on trombone, and Tariq Woods on drums.

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musical numbers means there was support for the singers and dancers instead of their having to conform their performance to the pre-recorded music. The creativity this brings is well worth the effort.

The audience on Saturday afternoon was enthusiastic in their appreciation of the talent on stage. The room was packed – a good sign for

community theater. The renovations at the Shea have paid off, with good acoustics so that singers could easily be heard, and the small orchestra was able to balance sound with the singers they accompanied.

In all, the show was a big success, and all are happy to see community theater come back to the Shea.



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