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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

Latest Upgrade Planned for Millers Falls: Paddlers' Access

By JEFF SINGLETON

MILLERS FALLS – Paddlers in Franklin County will soon have a better way to put their boats on the Millers River, the latest in a series of developments



The town plans to upgrade this existing path to include a parking spot, information booth, staging area, and trail.

bringing visitors to downtown Millers Falls.

The state has awarded the town of Montague a \$17,900 recreational trails grant to improve access to the river at Millers. Town planner Walter Ramsey, announcing the grant at the October 29 selectboard meeting, said that the funds will be used to upgrade an old, dilapidated access point between the East Main Street bridge, which connects to the former International Paper plant in Erving, and the railroad bridge downstream.

The proposal calls for constructing an informational kiosk and handicapped parking space on Newton Street, regrading a gravel path down to the river; building a "staging area" with a picnic table; and clearing a quarter-mile loop walking trail along the river.

Montague's application stated that the project's primary purpose will be to provide "paddlers access" to the river between two existing access points – the new Riverside Park in Erving, 6.2 miles upriver from Millers Falls, and Cabot Station, two miles downstream, near the confluence of the Millers and Connecticut rivers.

"There will now be the opportunity for a leisurely day trip paddle from Erving to Millers Falls," the application read.

Another goal of the project is to increase access to the river for Millers Falls residents themselves. The application notes that the village is an "underserved community both economically and socially, but Millers Falls is also underserved in terms of open space. There are no public parks or trails within convenient walking distance from the village center.... While the Millers River abuts the village, there are no currently safe

see PADDLERS page A5

Turners Bakers Find a Buyer

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Just seven months after Laura and Josh Puchalski announced publicly that they hoped to sell 2^{nd} Street Baking Company and start a new bakery in Maine, they report that they have found suitable buyers for both the building and business, and plan for a smooth transition starting next month.

"It was a little quicker than we expected," Laura Puchalski says. "We thought, geez, the bakery is doing really well; the real estate market is really good; we're at a point where we feel like we've done what we can do with the business. So it seemed like a good time to



Locals, Catching a Trend, Vote Enthusiastically



Montague Precinct 5 warden Jean Hebden issues blank ballots to voters Jack Nelson and Eileen Dowd at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Tuesday.

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Tuesday's national midterm election brought out local voters at rates usually only seen in presidential election years. Turnout rates in the *Montague Reporter's* five coverage towns ranged from 59% in Erving to 77% in Leverett.

Taken together, the 6,813 locals who voted echoed statewide results, favoring incumbent Democratic senator Elizabeth Warren and representative Jim McGovern (heavily), incumbent Republican governor Charlie Baker (slightly), and voting Yes on a ballot question protecting freedom of gender identity and No on one seeking to set caps on nurse-to-patient ratios in Massachusetts hospitals.

There were, however, some variations within the zone. Wendell and Leverett were among only five towns statewide that went majority-Yes on Question 1, the nursing ratio initiative. They were joined by Montague's Precinct 5, downtown Turners Falls. Those three jurisdictions were, in turn, joined by Montague Center, Precinct 1, in favoring challenger Jay Gonzalez over Baker. Unopposed Democrats Jo Comerford and Natalie Blais were sent to Beacon Hill. In the Second Franklin House district, Independent Susannah Whipps defended her seat against Democratic newcomer Johnny Arena of Gill, besting Arena in Erving and Leverett, though his hometown supported him by a 54% to 40% margin.

time. "There was a steadiness to it. It was really kind of amazing, compared to even the presidential. There may be some lulls earlier in the day, but it's been exciting to see people constantly coming through the door."

But there would be no lull. At the final tally, 791 of Gill's 1,104 registered voters – 72% – cast ballots on Tuesday. The number means an average of 60.8 voters fed sheets into the town's modern AccuVote machine every hour.

Poll workers at the busy Gill firehouse enjoyed donated sandwiches, beef stew, coffee, and brownies, all of which were offered to the press.

Erving clerk Betsy Sicard said her town's turnout "for Erving is really good... it was a steady stream."

Wendell's Gretchen Smith said there "seem[ed] to be a relatively strong turnout." "There were a lot of young people, eager to vote," she said, adding that the count was "at least 20% better" than any mid-

start the process.

"That was last October, and we put the building and the business on the market this spring. It was fast. We found a buyer for the building, and then we immediately found a buyer for the bakery."

"I'm ready!" Josh adds. "We took our time with it, and made sure we found the right person."

That right person, they believe, is Daniela Speas, who formerly worked at 2nd Street as a cake decorator. If all goes as planned, the couple will close on the sale with Speas later this month, and sell the building on the same day to buyers Laura would identify only as "business owners from Northampton."

"We don't really know what their plans are for the building," she says, "aside from the fact that the bakery has a 10-year commitment to stay here."

The Puchalskis say they will overlap with Speas during the month of December to hand off the operation, staff and all.

"I'm here until Christmas Eve to make sure all the

2nd Street Bakery was put on the market this spring.

holiday orders get done up to par, the way everyone's used to them," says Laura, adding: "Don't be nervous about placing your holiday orders!"

The bakery and cafe, which first opened on Second Street in 2007 and moved to Fourth in 2012, serves hot

see **BAKERS** page A6

A Steady Stream

"We've had one voter each minute," Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo reported around lunchterm election in her memory.

"Overall, it was pretty stunning for a midterm," said Lisa Stratford, Smith's counterpart in Leverett. "By 9:30 or 10 [a.m.], 25% of our registered voters had voted." Leverett has exactly 1,500 voters registered – out of a population of about 1,900 – and 1,148 of them showed up to the polls Tuesday.

"Leverett votes heavily all the time, but I don't think we've ever had a midterm that's that high," said Stratford, who has been on the job 20 years.

"The energy is so high," Montague's Deb Bourbeau told us midday Tuesday. "It's crazy out there – it's crazy good. Crazy good. see **VOTERS** page A5



Jocelyn Silverlight, president of Local 2322 of the United Auto Workers, joined with area hippie Steve The Hippie to campaign in the rain for a ballot question seeking to set caps on patient-to-nurse ratios at Massachusetts hospitals.

"The hospitals and corporations have spent \$20 million to try to stop this," Mr. the Hippie said. "Just the fact they spent that much money tells you what's going on. They want to make a profit; the nurses just want to provide safe, quality care." Question 1 won in Wendell, Leverett, and Montague's Precinct 5, but lost statewide.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Arts and Economic Development: "It's a Quality of Life Issue"

By JEFF SINGLETON

Last spring the position of River-Culture Director, originally a contractor who managed a grant-funded program to promote the arts economy in Turners Falls, was added to the Montague planning department staff and allocated funds from the regular town budget. At the same time, the program expanded its scope to include the entire town of Montague.

On Monday night, cultural coordinator Suzanne LoManto met with the selectboard to review the progress of the program since it became a budgeted town activity. LoManto

told the board that there have been "three major changes to RiverCuture" over the past six months. LoManto, is that the program can now "think larger with a bigger vision. We can think of projects five

First, the program now has an eight-member steering committee, representing nearly all of the town's villages. "I am getting a lot of input from all five of the villages about how RiverCulture can develop in the future," LoManto told the board. And secondly, RiverCulture events now take place in all five villages, rather than being focused entirely on Turners Falls. "I've made some inroads, particularly in Millers Falls and Montague Center," she said.

The third change, according to

LoManto, is that the program can now "think larger with a bigger vision. We can think of projects five years, or even ten years from now. We can think of a series of grants that can lead to a really big grant. Previously – when RiverCulture was a grant-funded program and it ran from year to year – it was hard to have that kind of vision, when you didn't know if a year from now you were even going to be around."

LoManto listed some recent and upcoming events the program has helped organize, including a cider tasting which took place the previous see **MONTAGUE** page A3 NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

The Hontague Reporter "The Voice of the Villages"

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A Time To Plant

Nearly everyone living in America is trying right now to understand the implications of Tuesday's midterm elections. Though there are arguments to be made for finding silver linings – particularly for the Democratic Party, which regained control of the House of Representatives – the overall situated is mixed, split, complicated, and troubled.

A day after the election, president Trump ousted attorney general Jeff Sessions. Sessions was never one of Trump's favorite cabinet members, but many see his move as a maneuver to protect the administration from the investigation led by special prosecutor Robert Mueller before the new House is seated.

We have no insights to add about the strategies of the two parties locked in a terminal battle for control of the US state apparatus. We can hear the tendons crinkling in the necks of Democratic strategists as they rotate to stare at the Senate seats up for election in 2020.

But if interest in politics is indeed burgeoning on a mass level in this country, there are some other things worth suggesting.

It looks like about 45 million people voted for Democratic candidates for Senate, while about 33 million voted for Republicans. Nevertheless, the latter party's majority in that chamber is almost certain to increase.

This is a deeply weird system, and in beyond trying to change who occupies its seats of power once every couple years, those 45 million people could put their shoulder into making material change that improves the lives of everyone, even of their political rionly three types of action: an occasional round of winner-take-all voting; communicating about political preferences in an effort to affect the voting; and spending money, in an effort to affect the communication and, again, the voting.

In 2016, \$4.4 billion was spent on the Congressional election – and that's just the legal, declared spending. This year, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, the figure jumped to \$5.2 billion.

All that time and effort and talk and money can also be focused on joining, or starting, civic organizations. Helping secure jobs for poor young millennials, and housing for poor aging baby boomers. Volunteering to coach, or to help a local scout troop, youth group, or teen center. Planning group babysitting events to let tired parents relax and de-stress. Driving people to their appointments. Teaching a craft or a language. Learning a craft or a language. Organizing neighborhood buyers' clubs, or consumer cooperatives, to help reduce the cost of food and basic supplies. Organizing groups to push for the enforcement of workplace safety standards, or to stand up to wage theft. Checking in on neighbors regularly enough that they ask you to help when an emergency comes. Cooking them food. Fixing and sharing vehicles. Showing up to protect each other's places of worship or celebration. Bringing city groups to enjoy the peace and beauty of the countryside.

Doing all *that* won't be enough, to build a world of safety and calm for everyone, either, but it's a damn good start. And your neighbors might be better inclined to hear your ideas about the government, if that's your bigger goal, when they know and see you, in your actions, as a helpful person.



Leslee Colucci, deputy sheriff and director of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, skritches Tessa's chin before the yellow lab leaves for her new home. The shelter is having a "9K for K9" trail run fundraiser at 8 a.m. November 18 at the Wendell State Forest.



Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Perhaps you have been curious about rabbit ownership for years. Perhaps you did not realize, until reading this column, that a rabbit *could be the thing* that has been missing from your life all this time.

As your luck would have it, Dakin Humane Society has recently found itself seething with a larger than usual number of rabbits, and wants to move quickly to attract adopters. But act soon! They're running a promotion, "We're Splitting with Hares," now through this Saturday, November 10, during which **rabbits can be adopted** for the low low price of \$30, or two for \$30 in the case of bonded pairs.

Dakin's Leverett location, at 163 Montague Road, is open from 12:30 to 4:30 each day. Go. Get. Yourself. That. Rabbit. into mittens, using recycled wool sweaters and fleece. Bring your portable machine and sharp fabric scissors; a couple machines will be available to share.

Non-sewers can help by matching colors, cutting out patterns and pinning them together. Donations of sweaters (at least 70% wool) will be accepted, holes and all. Sign up at the library or by calling (978) 544-3559!

Also this Saturday, November 10 at 10 a.m., the **Turners Falls planter committee** will be having one more dowtown planting day, and invites volunteers to help!

Glow Beauty Bar, Mystic Pinball, and Stenhouse have donated generously toward adding 20 perennials and 200 bulbs to the planters in front of their block. The committee will plant these, adding compost donated by Martin's Farm and mulching. Bring rakes, shovels, and hand trowels, and meet in front of Stenhouse. Many hands make light work – and more fun – so pass the word along!

your gratitude about recovery at this family-friendly event with a live DJ, potluck, snacks, and dancing.

The event takes place at the group's RPX Space at 1 Osgood Street. A \$5 donation is suggested, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day, has since been celebrated around the world at this time; in 1954, it was renamed as Veterans Day in the US, in honor of the nation's military veterans.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the holiday, and in gratitude to veterans, the Social Justice committee at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Greenfield has partnered with the Traprock Peace Center and Franklin County CPR to host a free screening of French director Jean Renoir's 1937 masterpiece *The Grand Illusion*.

Generally hailed as one of the greatest films ever made, The Grand Illusion is a poetic, absorbing tale of prisoners of war, and reveals that significant borders may not be those between countries, races, religions, sexes, or ages, but may, perhaps, be those between classes. The film can be seen as a call to weigh friendship and good company over nationalism, and for all men to accept each other as comrades. Created amidst the possibility of another war, Renoir's film asks for viewers to renounce extremism. The free screening will be held at 2:30 p.m. at All Souls Church, 399 Main Street in Greenfield, this Sunday, November 11. Refreshments will be served.

vals in the polling booth.

A political society obsessed with gaining and using the power of the government seems to encourage



To whomever came on my property (called trespassing) and defaced a sign (called vandalism) that I had displayed on land that I own and pay taxes on in the Town of Montague.

I appreciate the neighborly manner in which you snuck around under the cover of darkness!

Should you have any further im-

provements that you would like to make to my property, feel free to leave your plans at the Montague Police Department. They know who I am and would love to meet you. Quite frankly, so would I!

Sincerely,

Linda Ackerman Montague Center This Friday, November 9 at 7 p.m., Nick and Valerie Wisniewski of Walnut Hill Tracking and Nature Center will give a free presentation at the Wendell Free Library on "Using Animal Tracking to Reconnect with Nature."

Topics include tracking, a multiyear effort investigating sightings of cougars (the large cats) in southern New England, and a study of black bear communicative marking behavior. The program brings awareness and appreciation to the diversity of animal life found in our forests.

The next morning at the same library, the public is invited to a workshop, under the instruction of Moe's Mittens cofounder Camille Magin, to **make mittens which will be given to local people** who are currently homeless.

Participants will pin parts together and machine-sew them If you're looking for more of an indoorsy thing that morning, and if jigsaw puzzles are your thing, head over to Greenfield Savings Bank's Turners Falls branch with any puzzles you've gotten bored of and swap them for new ones!

The **puzzle swap** runs from 10 to 11 a.m. this Saturday, November 10, and is a great time to meet fellow puzzle-masters and talk strategy. Light refreshments will be available, courtesy of the bank.

Later on this Saturday, from 7 to 10:30 p.m., the RECOVER Project in Greenfield is hosting a **fall gratitude dance and potluck.** Share The day this issue went to press, we learned of the **tragic earlymorning accident** on Millers Falls Road that took the life of an 89year-old pedestrian. Our hearts go out to her friends and family. Please, be alert on the roads.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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MONTAGUE from page A1 weekend at Unity Park as part of Franklin County CiderDays, and the Great Falls Word Festival, scheduled this weekend at the Shea Theater.

She said that RiverCulture also provides "direct artists' support," including, for the first time, a \$2,000 donation to the town Cultural Council, which awards grants to local artists for specific projects. She also described work she had contributed to grants for a number of other organizations, including the Brick House Community Resource Center and the Turners Falls Cultural District.

LoManto also reported working on a state grant for funds to convene meetings for a "Creative Place-Making Plan" for Millers Falls, a process modeled on a similar project in Turners Falls a few years ago.

"State-wide, Montague is known as a really small town that has a real vision for the future," she said, noting her participation in a statesponsored "Downtown Summit" conference in October. "We're kind of leaders, for a town of our size, for using art and culture as an economic development tool."

LoManto did not elaborate Monday on the challenges of transforming a former industrial town into a center for the arts. In a telephone interview with the Reporter she called the arts a "quality of life" issue.

"Arts and culture attracts people to move and work here. It improves the tax base. That's part of the reason why businesses, like Judd Wire, donate to RiverCulture." she said.

Previous Economy Crumbles

Earlier in the same meeting. Montague building inspector Chris Rice came before the selectboard to request emergency funds for a quick inspection of the chimney that hovers over the former Strathmore mill complex. Rice told the board that the Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman "has a drone" which identified the chimney as in danger of collapsing.

The board approved \$3,000 from the town's "unsafe/unhealthy buildings" account for "engineering related to the Strathmore." The board also authorized chair Rich Kuklewicz to sign a contract with the company Boston Chimney and Tower to perform the inspection.

"If it weren't for imminent dangers to the road and the building," said board member Michael Nelson," I can just hear people saying 'what do we care? It's going to collapse, it just saves us time later on."

The complex, with the exception of two buildings, is already the subject of an engineering study to create "bid-ready plans" for a nearly total demolition.

The chimney in question has some historical significance for the town. Its brickwork features the large letters KPC, facing downtown Turners Falls. KPC stands for Keith Paper Company, which constructed the original mill in the 1870s.

"Maybe we could take off the top ten feet, and put it in a park somewhere," town accountant Carolyn Olsen suggested.

Other Business

Olsen requested that the selectboard officially approve a change to the Enterprise Fund overhead policy, "which we've already been doing, but just to make it official." The board approved the change.

They also approved a request from Olsen to allocate \$840 from the "community development discretionary unallocated" account for an evaluation of the roof of the townowned Shea Theater.

The board approved a request from department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron to allow foreman William Stratford to take his town vehicle home with him, so he could respond to emergencies, particularly in the winter. The board approved the request, with the proviso that the vehicle only be used for town business.

The board approved requests from Bergeron to execute the annual agreement with the engineering firm Tighe and Bond for monitoring the former Sandy Lane landfill and the agreement with Clayton Davenport Trucking for the emergency embankment project on Millers Falls Road. Bergeron also gave a brief update on the Chapter 90 state aid for highway, bridge and sidewalk projects.

Director of parks and recreation John Dobosz and Tawnya Brunelle came before the board to announce a "unique event" at Unity Park - the dedication, November 24, of a placard honoring local boxer Sonya Lamonakis.

Lamonakis is the reigning world champion heavyweight female boxer. "This town is home to her," said Brunelle, who also noted that Lamonakis is primarily an "educator." The board passed a motion honoring Lamonakis, and Kuklewicz said he could speak at the event.

The board approved a temporary "host net metering customer agreement" for a 1.4-MW solar facility Kearsarge Solar plans to build at 131 Turnpike Road.

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority came to request that the board execute a contract with the authority for administration of the FY'18 Community Development Block Grants. The board approved the request, and approved contracts with social service agencies for specific programs funded under the grant.

At the end of the meeting, the board reaffirmed its October 29 vote to lower the interest rate on overdue FY'19 sewer bills to 7%. The next scheduled board meeting will be on November 19.



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The Case for Early Successional Habitat **GUEST EDITORIAL**

By RAY DIDONATO

WENDELL - In a perfect world, our slowgrowing forests would continue to grow; however, natural events such as storms and fires would yield new pockets of early successional landscape.

Early successional habitat can be characterized as grassland, open fields, agricultural land, and shrublands. It is created by storms, wildfire, and other natural occurrences, or through human activities like farming and timber harvest.

Unfortunately, our world is far from perfect. Massachusetts, along with other New England states, is seeing a sharp decline in early successional habitat.

According to Mass Audubon, land in Massachusetts is developed at a rate of 13 acres per day on average. Fifty-three percent of land is neither protected nor developed, and of this land, 54% lies within BioMap2 designation, meaning it is of high conservation value either due to important ecological features which are core habitat, or because this land contains or supports rare or

Audubon wrote that the "combination of conversion to development and reversion to forest results in a 25% decrease in cropland and pasture in most Atlas blocks." This means that natural occurrences, such as storm and fire, cannot replace early successional habitat at even close to the rate at which this habitat is decreased by human development and natural forest growth

Early successional habitat is extremely important to many species, including songbirds, owls, meadow species such as lark and bobwhite, and raptors such as the American Kestrel. In fact, 10 species of bird which use grassland, agriculture or open fields, and 10 species of bird which utilize shrublands, were listed as in need of "Urgent Conservation Action" in 2011, and are still threatened today.

And, to dispel the notion that early successional habitat is only valuable to sportsmen, only two of these species are considered game species.

One of the goals Mass Audubon calls for in its latest report, State of the Birds 2017 - a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of climate change on bird populations – is "Balancing the Need for threatened species, or both. Young and Old Forests," by protecting "forest In its report State of the Birds 2011, Mass cores" while also "establishing young forest open-

ings to restore declining bird populations."

Approximately 20 bird species inhabiting grasslands, agriculture, open fields, and young forests are considered either "highly vulnerable" or "likely vulnerable," and again, only two are game species. Moreover, there are species that rely on some combination of fields, young forest, and mature forest, such as the Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and American Redstart.

Saving one habitat at the expense of another does little to protect declining species such as these. We choose to alter habitats or impact species by the actions we take - for example, developing land or conserving land.

However, we also alter habitats and impact species by the actions we do not take.

By not curbing development, and by not carving out small pockets of early successional habitat in our public lands, we are making a choice not to create or protect early successional habitat, and in doing so, to further threaten the species that rely on this habitat for survival. Literally millions of years of adaptation are being threatened because humans want either to develop land, or to let all

Another Letter: Oaks and Wildlife

Tree seeds, collectively referred to as mast, are the most important food source for wildlife during the dormant season in the eastern forest. In the pre-colonial forest, the primary mast producing species/genera were American chestnut, oaks, and American beech, because these nuts could be eaten by almost all species of wildlife. Walnuts and hickories are also important, but these hard nuts can generally only be "cracked" by squirrels and other rodents.

The original eastern forest supported a tremendous abundance of wildlife, including the most abundant land bird that ever lived, the passenger pigeon. Today chestnut is gone, and beech seed production has been greatly reduced due to exotic pathogens. For many species, oaks are now the primary source of mast.

Oaks are difficult to regenerate. For many decades the eastern forest has been undergoing a process called *mesophication*, whereby fire-tolerant, sun-loving species – oaks – are being replaced by shade tolerant species, primarily maples.

Oaks thrived on disturbance: fire, grazing, and heavy cutting. Thus, the silvicultural prescriptions that regenerate new oak forests are often opposed by the public.

A key point for the Wendell State Forest is that it is possible to determine what tree species will be in the next forest by examining the current forest understory. If oak seedlings are not present in abundance before the timber harvest, they

will not be present in the next forest. The silvicultural guidelines for evaluating advance seedling regeneration are well established. The seedlings that are growing now will make up the next forest.

Oaks are declining more rapidly in New England than in other parts of the East, so I strongly recommend evaluating the regeneration before cutting any oak forest.

(General reference: Mc-Shea, W. J. and W. M. Healy, Eds. Oak Forest Ecosystems, Ecology and Management for Wildlife. 2002, Johns Hopkins University Press)

> Dr. William M. Healy Smithville, WV Forwarded by Leverett reader Brooke Thomas.

forest grow to what seems to them like a logical conclusion – an example of applying the human concept of completion to our ecosystems.

In a perfect world, we would not need to carve out small pockets of early successional habitat to create a place for these species to take refuge. But that's not the world we live in, and so we have just as much responsibility to the species which inhabit early successional and young forest habitat as to those which use mature forest.

I view it as a moral imperative to curb the continued human-induced decline of species which evolved over millions of years on this planet. While I have focused on bird species, which are in many ways a bellwether of human environmental impacts, many other species also rely on diverse habitats during their lifecycles.

To be clear, human development and over-consumption of fossil fuels are the key threats to our environment and species.

However, as we attempt to curtail the impacts of both, it is important not to forget species which rely on early successional habitat when making choices as to which habitats are important to foster on the 25.4% of land permanently protected in Massachusetts.

> Ray DiDonato lives in Wendell, and has been involved in some past land protection projects at the town level.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD As Town Plans to Build Broadband Hub, Keller Calls Again for a Cheaper Plan

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The night air was cool on October 31, and a pleasant breeze was blowing, but only one pair of trick or treaters came to the Wendell selectboard's meeting. They were cute, rather than threatening or ominous. They took candy from the basket on the table and left quietly. The remainder of the candy was left for board members and anyone still there when the meeting ended.

The moon rose late, long after the office building was empty.

With the effort to get real internet connections to Wendell households coalescing, the selectboard has started holding their meetings in two parts: as a regular selectboard, and as a municipal light plant (MLP). The MLP was first established as a formality, an early step in Wendell's joining WiredWest. Its members have been the selectboard. Until recently, it has been a placeholder with little work; that is changing.

At their prior meeting the board had met as MLP first, but on Halloween they began with their regular work.

Dog Hearing

Animal control officer Maggie Houghton arrived at 7:30 for a dog hearing, continued from the October 17 meeting, which the dog owner had failed to attend, claiming a baby sitter shortage.

Houghton waited 15 minutes, and the dog owner did not appear. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the dog owner had collected the registered letter that told her of this hearing.

Houghton speculated that trick or treating may have created a difficulty for the owner to attend this meeting. Board member Christine Heard said she thought a telephone call to the town office would have been courteous. The board took care of other business while they waited, then continued with the hearing.

According to Houghton, the dog in question had been picked up 15 or 16 times last year, and then was re-homed out of town to avoid more trouble. Six weeks later, the owner brought the dog home, then moved to Shutesbury. Then she moved back to Wendell. Houghton said she had picked up the dog once in July, then on August 4, and then on September 26, when she took the dog to a shelter. The dog is now licensed in Athol, but his actual home is not necessarily there. She described him as a good dog: not aggressive, but untrained and not under control. She suggested that the owner's fence is too low.

that changes at the state level made what the town can do with a nuisance dog unclear, and suggested consulting with town counsel.

As court could be expensive for both the town and the owner, the board asked Aldrich to first draft a letter with that warning, and have a town constable deliver it by hand. Selectboard member Dan Keller, a constable himself, suggested using the town's head constable, Anne Diemand.

Houghton said the household also has a dog still too young to get a license, or even a learner's permit, and the letter should remind the owner to get that dog vaccinated and licensed when it is old enough.

Selectboard member Laurie Di-Donato recommended making an effort to find out where the dog actually lives.

Logging Controversy

The board's previous meeting had included a long discussion with concerned citizens, DCR commissioner Leo Roy, and DCR head of resource management Peter Church about two logging projects in the Wendell state forest, one near Wickett Pond and the other one beside Brook Road abutting Montague Road.

DCR's explanation was that the Brook Road cutting was red pines planted in the 1930s, mostly diseased and dying, and that the other larger project was part of a plan to diversify state forests by cutting some trees in even-aged stands at intervals throughout the state.

The \$38,000 made through sale of the timber, though a serious contribution to many people's personal budget, is not really significant in the state budget, and the town's share is a small contribution to its money issues.

DCR's reason for thinning the 110-year-old oaks is to open up that section of state forest to new growth. Roy acknowledged that older, larger trees sequester more carbon than the younger trees that will fill in after the cutting, but said that there are many stands of the same age statewide, and that DCR's approach is to remove some at intervals so that they will not all grow old and die at the same time. "We are environmentalists," he said. At that meeting, citizens objected that new clearings would invite invasive species – specifically glossy buckthorn - and that the marked trees left too small a buffer between the tree cutting operation and vernal pools. Those citizen objections are in a letter that selectboard members forwarded to Mr. Roy.

Alistair MacMartin and Al McIntire described the next step in the town's internet effort: preparing for and placing the concrete hut that will hold the central connections.

Stakes are in place behind the office building, marking one 16foot side of its perimeter. The hut is 9 feet by 16 feet, and will need a foundation a foot wider on each side, with 6 inches of gravel and 6 inches of stone. The plan was to dig a trench across the parking lot to hold both electric wires and fiber, but that can wait until spring. The foundation work will cost less than \$10,000, so it does not need to go out to bid.

The \$40,000 hut can be placed any time after its foundation is in place. Aldrich said that National Grid's fee for installing electrical service to the hut will be \$1,019.84.

Keller said he has been cautious about Wendell taking on more debt for the effort, and has spoken with people who have found a way to work around the town's lack of service. Taxes are high, and if they get higher, some may not be able to stay in town. He gave board members and others in the room a letter that stated his concerns.

He said that Matrix, a private company, has a proposal in which the town provides the hut and pays for make-ready work, and Matrix builds and maintains the system. Homeowners would pay a connection fee and a monthly fee. A Matrix representative was scheduled to present this plan at the November 8 broadband committee meeting.

MacMartin said that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute does not like Matrix, and prefers to support Comcast and other large companies that have longer track records, but which also have ignored smaller towns with spread-out populations as they are less profitable.

WiredWest presented a new contract for running the network, which Keller said was still vague. They increased the annual membership dues to \$3,000, and want a regular representative from Wendell.

Both MacMartin and McIntire said Ray DiDonato is already doing the work of an MLP manager, and is very qualified. The selectboard recommends DiDonato, but will wait for the broadband committee's input at the November 8 meeting.

system that will give each official a town email address that will automatically receive any email sent to their board or committee.

The town will use an outside server. Golrick said there is still money in the IT budget, which will be close to enough to pay for the change, and that he hopes to have the new addresses working December 1.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley asked the selectboard to approve revisions she has made in the town's personnel policy. Questions remain about benefits for retirees and spouses of deceased town workers.

Aldrich said she is employed by New Salem, and her benefits are determined by New Salem; Wendell in effect borrows her and pays New Salem. Fire chief Joe Cuneo, also shared with New Salem, has a contract with each town.

Fin com chair Doug Tanner is hoping to find ways departments can share equipment and expertise with other towns. The road crew has resisted efforts to share their equipment, because many operations are needed at the same time by every town, and the equipment is needed immediately. Borrowed tools and equipment have sometimes been returned damaged.

Mahar High School invited Wendell to send a selectboard member to its regular Veterans' Day memorial recognition and celebration, November 9 at 8:15 or 1:15. Keller said that he normally goes with former selectboard member and Navy veteran Ted Lewis, that the ceremony is impressive, and that the guests are treated royally. Still, he was willing to pass the honor on this year. When she asked, DiDonato was told the invitation was not just for veterans.

Aldrich reported that Wendell's Chapter 90 local aid, including supplemental aid, was \$226,421.

With an increased emphasis on early voting, town clerk Gretchen Smith asked about electioneering during the early voting weeks within 150 feet of the voting site, which is prohibited on election day. No problem has come up yet, so it's a

For the convenience and quality of life of downtown residents, parking will be allowed by permit this winter in marked areas of L Street and Prospect Street.

20 Permits Available by Lottery (\$25)

Apply by Tuesday, November 27

Additional information and applications available at Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, or *www.montague-ma.gov*.

Board members considered their possible next action, which by law can be a court order. Aldrich said

Municipal Light Plant

Broadband committee members

Other Business

The board heard an update on the change of servers and email addresses for town officials from Wendell's IT consultant, Peter Golrick. Tech committee member Robert Heller came also.

Until now, town officials have had to use their personal email addresses for both personal and official business. Golrick is creating a

good time to establish guidelines.

Town and Swift River School custodian Larry Ramsdell, in preparing to retire, has suggested that a new operator be given an annual salary of \$600 for overseeing the water system that serves the town buildings. He has assumed that job as part of his town work, and he is training the new Swift River School custodian to be a water system operator.

Mice have invaded the town hall and have infiltrated the kitchen. Good Neighbors worker Ed Hebert has caught 20 in traps.





PADDLERS from page A1 public access points."

The river access project is funded by state and federal money channeled through the state's "MassTrails" program, an interagency initiative that includes the Governor's Office, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. These are "matching grants," so applicants must provide a minimum of 20% to cover project costs.

In 2018 the program awarded grants for 75 projects around the state. These ranged from \$16,900 to the Colrain Sno-Drifters to purchase an "eco-friendly" snowmobile trail grooming machine, to \$52,000 to the Franklin Regional

Council of Governments to fund improvements to the Mahican-Mohawk hiking trail, to \$100,000 for improvements to a portion of the Mass Central Bike Trail in Northampton.

The Millers River access project is part of broader efforts by the town of Montague to revitalize Millers Falls. A "streetscape" improvement project, first planned in 2003 with \$1 million from the state, was completed in 2006 after numerous delays. It reconfigured parking in the village, creating a number of bump-outs with trees.

A long-awaited plan to rehabilitate the Powers Block, long considered an eyesore in the heart of the village, has been completed by Obear Construction. In April of this year the town received a grant,

through its new "tree committee," to plant 32 trees in the village center.

The village now hosts an annual sidewalk art event in the late summer, and last Monday, town cultural coordinator Suzanne LoManto said she will be applying for a state grant to create a community-based "creative place-making plan" for the village.

Many of the projects now picking up speed have been a long time in coming. The idea for a paddlers access point was initiated by a "lifelong citizen of Millers Falls," in the words of the grant proposal, and approved by the town conservation commission in 2011.

According to Ramsey, the town will have two years to complete the project.

VOTERS from page A1

People just want to vote, they're just passionate right now."

Montague saw a 52% turnout in both 2010 and 2014, and 71% in 2016. This week, turnout was 61% - ranging from 48% in Precinct 5, itself a recent record, to 72% in Precinct 1.

Bourbeau said she thought the turnout was motivated by the ballot questions, "but also, the climate of our country is really motivating people. People are finally getting it."

Team Sports

Though the five towns tended to skew toward Democratic candidates to a greater or lesser extent, the distribution of political affiliation along party lines shows through in an examination of Tuesday's results.

(As Deb Bourbeau points out, the results are unofficial. "I have provisionals that I have to go through," Bourbeau explains, "and we're still waiting for people who are out of the country - military and citizens who live abroad. They have ten days to get their ballots in. Not that it makes a big difference, but it changes our

According to these unofficial re-

numbers slightly.")

sults, Leverett is most enthusiastic, across the board, for Democratic candidates, followed by Wendell, Montague, Gill, and Erving, in that order. Percentages of votes cast for Warren, Gonzalez, attorney general Maura Healey, secretary of state Bill Galvin, treasurer Deborah Goldberg, auditor Suzanne Bump, governor's councillor Mary Hurley, and US representative Jim McGovern all followed this exact pattern, as did the degree of enthusiasm each town showed toward Question 2, which will establish a commission aimed at regulating campaign finance by ending legal corporate personhood.

Towns turned out in reverse order - Erving, Gill, Montague, Wendell, and Leverett - for all seven Republicans on the ballot, even in races with third- or fourth-party candidates.

And the pattern was only somewhat broken on Question 1 - in which Wendell's 65% Yes votes surpassed Leverett's (and that of every town in the state) - and Question 3, for which Gill and Montague switched places.

Wendell proved itself the most likely to support third-party candidates, including not only all three Green-Rainbow candidates for state office, but also Shiva Ayyadurai, whose challenge to senator Warren most analysts saw as coming from the far, or even alternative, right.

A similar ideological sorting is apparent in the results from among Montague's six precincts. (The Ayyadurai campaign made its strongest overall showing in Precinct 2, Millers Falls, adjacent to Wendell.)

Precincts 1 and 5 were most likely to cast Yes votes on every ballot question, including a local non-binding referendum Question 4 indicating support of singlepayer healthcare. Precincts 2 and 3 were most likely to cast No votes on every question.

The rate of Republican voting within Montague was highest in Precinct 3, the northern part of Turners Falls' Hill neighborhood, in every race. For four of the seven Republican candidates on the ballot, the pattern was exactly 3-2-4-6-1-5; the other three received slight variations of that.

3-2-4-6-1-5 was also the ranking for No on Questions 3 and 4. For Questions 1 and 2, the No order was 3-2-6-4-1-5.

Old Cranks

The Montague Reporter has not received any reports of irregularity or vote suppression at the polls on Tuesday, but Montague's old, handcranked voting machines were reported to cause trouble at Precinct 5 and especially Precinct 6, which runs from the Patch neighborhood of Turners Falls southward to Montague City. Precinct 6 also was the last to turn in their counted ballots. An election worker delivered the package to town hall at 12:56 a.m. on Wednesday, just shy of five hours after polls closed. "They've been jamming a lot," Bourbeau acknowledged of the vintage boxes. If a voter pulls back on the paper as it is being fed into the machine, the teeth will seize up, and

LEGAL AD – TOWN OF MONTAGUE

FY'19 Community Development Block Grant **Request for Proposals for Social Service Programs**

The Town of Montague requests proposals for public social service programs that will meet the needs of Montague residents for inclusion in its FY'19 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. All proposed programs must address needs identified by the Town's Community Development Strategy and the MA Department of Community Development.

The Town will accept and open all proposals received at (Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA on November 29, 2018 at 2 p.m.). Postmarks will not be considered. Proposals submitted by fax or email will not be considered. Five (5) copies of the proposal are required. The envelope containing the proposal shall be marked "TOWN OF MONTAGUE - FY2019 PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL".

For a copy of the RFP, please contact Bruce Hunter, HRA, by phone at (413) 863-9781 x133 or email: bhunter@fcrhra.org. For additional information, please contact Steven Ellis, Town Administrator, at (413) 863-3200 x110 or email: townadmin@montague-ma.gov.

Town of Montague Selectboard

MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Repeal and Replacement of Montague Zoning Bylaws and Map

The Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing pursuant to G.L. c 40A s.5 on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall Second Floor Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Montague Zoning Bylaws and Map. The Proposed petition is to see if the town will vote to repeal the existing Zoning Bylaws and Official Zoning Map and to replace them with new Zoning Bylaws and Official Zoning Map, as presented in the bylaw draft dated 9/26/2018 and the draft Zoning Map dated 10/24/2018. The bylaws have been reorganized and changes are proposed to each section and several new sections are proposed. Full text of the proposed amendment is available for review at *www.montague-ma.gov* and at the Town Clerk's office during office hours M-Th. Questions

and comments can be directed to the Planning and Conservation Department.

Ron Sicard, Planning Board Chairman

the box must be unlocked and the mechanism disassembled.

"We had to empty the ballot boxes in Precincts 1 and 2, because they have the smaller, older boxes," Bourbeau added.

Hodsdon Mayo said she felt Gill's AccuVote machine, though already "almost obsolete," has been a good investment. "When I got that one unit - since we're just one precinct – they gave us a rebuild, so it was very cheap," she said.

While Gill still uses handcranked machines during its annual town elections in the spring, during national elections, "we usually feel the pressure of getting our count in," Hodsdon Mayo said. "The AccuVote saves us all that time. You either pay for the time of that election worker, sitting here and counting 'til they get it done, or you pay for that unit."

Leverett's Stratford gave Montague the opposite advice. "We use paper – the good old-fashioned wooden ballot box - and it's handcounted," she said, adding that Leverett's machine did have to be emptied twice during voting because it had gotten stuffed too full of ballots. "I think in Leverett, the trend is that paper is safer than ever," Stratford said, "and people are really happy to have results that can be looked back on. I always feel bad asking people to come in at 8 o'clock and count until whenever. But if that's what it takes, if that's what people want to use, then it takes a village to count." Stratford said Leverett's final tally was completed by 11 p.m. on Tuesday.







Don LaPierre, a poll station worker at Montague's Precinct 5, with one of the town's traditional hand-cranked ballot boxes. The box's counter reached 432.





PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



BAKERS from page A1

breakfast and lunch, caters events, and makes cakes, bread, and pastries to fill its display case or for customer pickup.

"We were being told businesses could take up to five years to sell," Laura says.

"We hadn't even announced it, and I had people asking me if they should cancel their wedding orders," Josh recalls.

A number of offers came in, but the Puchalskis say they focused on ensuring 2nd Street continues in a similar state, for the sake of their customers – and staff. "We took the time to find somebody who was going to keep it up," says Josh.

"It was more important that we were going to find the right person that could carry it on... A lot of people that looked at it, we talked out of it, because they were not going to be ented; she's a good cake decorator.

certain other aspects. Or they were thinking of not doing the lunch! One person wanted to change the coffee. I said, right now, before even you've opened your doors, you've lost a third of your customers."

Orders for Thanksgiving pies the bakery makes 250 - can be madeup until November 17. Speas, who had not responded as of press time to a request for comment, plans to start December 1.

"As far as I know, she's not interested in changing anything right away," says Laura. "The staff is staying - which was really important to us, so no one's out of a job. Her mom's coming in to help her out, so there's some family business aspect, which is really awesome - it's a lot like what we're doing.

"And she's very creative, very tal-

The WriteAngles writers' conference will be held on Saturday, November 17 at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, with speakers Edie Meidav and Andrea Hairston, and panel discussions with authors, handson workshops, pre-arranged meetings with literary agents, a legal clinic and networking opportunities. Cost: \$110 in advance for general public, and \$90 for full-time students and age 65 and up. Conference fee includes free parking, continental breakfast and buffet luncheon. For more information and to register, please visit writeanglesconference.com.

Old Flame brings psychedelic indie rock to the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, November 17 to benefit the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse. The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offering a lively night out for music, fun and dance; always in support of a good cause. Come experience the Valley's only Dessert-O-Rama in an affordable, familyfriendly venue. Cost: \$6 to \$15. Open mic begins at 7:30 p.m. For open mic sign-up, directions, and further information, please visit ww.wendellfullmoon.org.

able to handle the cake decorating, or A lot of the buyers we were talking to did not have the cake decorating skills, and we've found it's the most difficult to hire position, because it's such a specialized skill. So, to find an owner who already possesses this skill is primo."

> According to Laura Puchalski, under the arrangement all parties have agreed to, the building's new owners will give Speas a five-year lease for the bakery, with an option to renew for another five years.

New Horizons

After the deal is settled, the Turners Falls natives say they plan to head to Maine to start a new bakery.

"Right now I'm overseeing the wedding cakes, the catering, the daily baking schedules, taxes, bookkeeping, payroll," Laura says. "It's a lot of different hats to wear, and I'm looking forward to scaling it down a little!"

Laura reports that the couple is "actively working with a realtor on the Midcoast, looking for a location. We haven't narrowed it down by town; it's important for us to find the perfect property to do what we want to do.... It's going to be probably a lot like this, but with the ocean and some tourism. We're looking everywhere from Bath up to Bar Harbor."

The vision is to have a simpler version of the bakery-cafe model, adding some "specialized products" that incorporate the heirloom, hydroponic fruits and vegetables that Josh grows.

"We've gotten people from a lot of surrounding towns to come to



Turners Falls," Laura says. "And that's been fantastic. But we're looking for that really big summertime punch, and maybe getting to have a day off a week, or some time off in the winter."

"We were ready to move out of here a year ago if we wanted to," Josh Puchalski says. "But we were doing well, and we had the leeway to go that way. I think it will make a big difference."

As a final request, the owners ask that customers use their gift cards, if they can, before the sale goes through.

"[Speas] isn't necessarily going to want to say no to people coming in with gift cards," Laura explains, "but that's our debt that we'd like to pay off. It's the right thing to do, and it gives people a chance

to come in and say bye. We'd like to see everyone!"



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Artist: Christine Pellerin



Art and Math: *Processes of Beholding*

By NINA ROSSI

AMHERST - I recently attended a discussion on art and mathematics at the University Museum of Contemporary Art, the new name for the galleries at UMass-Amherst's Fine Arts Center. The discussion, "The Intersection of Math and Art," was between two math professors: Dan Rockmore, who teaches at Dartmouth, and Pau Atela, teaching at Smith College. They sat in front of a small audience to discuss the exhibits each had arranged at the museum. These exhibits, Rockmore's The Concinnitas Portfolio and Atela's (Re)Creations and MathStudio, are on view until December 9.

Atela teaches his students in a creative studio space at Smith, where he focuses on intersections of math and art through the design and creation of three-dimensional mathematical models. This Math-Studio is recreated in a gallery space at UCMA. In another room are Atela's drawings, paintings, and

a video, showing some of his artistic explorations and discoveries during the past ten years.

Rockmore's exhibit features the Concinnitas Portfolio, ten equations chosen and transcribed by award-winning mathematicians and physicists for qualities of beauty. This portfolio takes its name from a word used by Renaissance scholar Leon Battista Alberti (1404-1472) describing the form of beauty derived from harmony in numbers and proportion. It is printed by Parasol Press, and accompanied by essays describing the selections.

I am a math voyeur, taking journeys into the visual delights of math via my discovery of fractals in the '80s (thanks to a chance encounter with James Gleick's classic book Chaos: The Making of a New Science), and sacred geometry, the golden rectangle, and phyllotaxis while studying the history of science at college in the '90s.

However, the numbers and equations behind the eye candy remain elusive to me, and Algebra I was something I barely grasped before dropping out of high school. I learned trigonometry during a fiber-optics training program, then promptly forgot it, and wasn't able to relearn it when I realized it might be useful at the dog cart factory. Oh well - more algebra under the bridge.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - November: the dark, heavy month of falling leaves and rain.

We've changed the time, as Mother Nature's clocks can't be fooled any longer. In the evening it was already dark at 6:30 just a few short days ago, and it is even darker now when the clock reads 5:30. The cat alarm in the morning has been going off at six; here's hoping she won't begin nudging us awake any earlier.

While we've endured considerable pounding rain, with the southerly air flow we've also enjoyed the mild temperatures we thought were gone for the season. This is a happy event, as we just received two trees from the Arbor Day foundation; one a Norway spruce, and the other a purple lilac. This time is actually good still for planting, because the ground has not yet frozen hard so the digging will be easy and the young, bare-rooted trees will have time to stretch their legs before it does. We'll set the evergreen in at the back of the yard where it borders the bike path, and the lilac we'll plant near the small "Buddha garden" for the amusement of the smiling Buddha I received last year for my birthday. He looks upon all things, good or bad, with a smile that can only be called indulgent. We love these random statues we have set around the yard as they have gradually been acquired: the St Francis found at a tag sale; the metal, life-sized heron bought for

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION Thankfulness

Ken's birthday; a large owl; an Easter Island statue and the smaller figures of a rooster, a cat, a skunk; and perhaps best of all, a granite hitching post. They have all put our own stamp on the place and continue to entertain us as well as visiting small persons and grown-ups.

A developing sense of space is a great balm, one sought by many migrating peoples, often in vain. Much as we are disheartened by the shape of the world and our country's part in it, there is a developing sense of shift. Following the shooting at the Parkland school, the students have stepped forward, energizing the registration of voters and using social media to rally youth across the country. It was astonishing to hear one young woman reporting proudly that she will be the first in her family to vote.

We also noted on recent news that some ten thousand Latinos have never gone to the polls, yet plan to do so now. We grasp at the sense of encouragement in the winds of change.



The gallery where Smith College professor Pau Atela has recreated the MathStudio, in which he and students design and create 3D models of mathematical concepts.

Nevertheless, there's this strange

see **BEHOLDING** page B4

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE - This week in sports, the MIAA playoffs were in full stride, as the Franklin Tech soccer team and the Turners Falls volleyball and football teams all competed in postseason games.

All three played Berkshire clubs in the first round, with only the volleyball team advancing. They played Frontier in Northfield on Wednesday, and were eliminated.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Lenox 2 Frontier 3 – TFHS 0

The Lenox Volleyball Millionaires came to town on Monday to challenge Powertown in the first round of the MIAA D-III playoffs.

From the very first serve, the gym was rocking and the fans were energized. It was initiated by the Lenox crowd who began chanting and stamping their feet. Their enthusiasm was matched by the home crowd, and the noise didn't let up until 10 minutes after the fifth match ended. It was the loudest I had seen in the gym since the girls' basketball game against Putnam last February.

The first match in Monday's game was a harbinger of things to come. The close-fought contest was only won after a very long volley by both teams ended with Turners taking a 22-21 lead. But the Millionaires wouldn't go away, and tied it back up at 23.

A Blue ace and another long volley, which ended when the ball bounced against the ceiling and dropped

see TFHS SPORTS page B2



Turners' Dabney Rollins spikes the ball past Lenox defenders during the Western Mass D-III quarterfinal Monday night. Mercedes Morales, at right, made 17 assists.

The difficulty is that while we may affect change to a more grounded, positive State and a more politically balanced representation in Congress, the rifts in the nation which placed Trump in the White House have grown even larger. The desire to restore our "moral compass" may result in more extremist factions and backlash.

Nonetheless, it is time for change, for moderation in our views towards the rest of the world, and towards our fellow man. Above all, democracy is meant to involve everyone, every voice; we hope the rolls of voters will continue to enlarge until see GARDENER'S page B3

Beaver Moon Gathering Features Mashpee Wampanoag Speaker

TURNERS FALLS – Hartman Deetz of the Mashpee Wampanoag nation will be guest speaker at the annual Beaver Moon Gathering this Saturday, November 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. His subject will be "Stolen Identities: The Mashpee Wampanoag, Defined Out of Rightful Inheritance."

Deetz has worked in cultural education and preservation for over 20 years: with the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project, Plimoth Plantation Museum, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Museum, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Education Dept, Mashpee Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and Decolonize Academy, as well as speaking at various colleges, museums, historic societies, panels and conferences.

Deetz has also been active around

Native American rights and environmentalism since 1988, with groups such as the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, 1994 Walk for Justice, Mashpee Coalition for Native Action, The Longest Walk 2 San Francisco to D.C., Idle No More SF Bay, NoDAPL, Indigenous People Organizing for Change, the Sunflower Alliance, and No Bayou Bridge Pipeline.

The raffle of items donated by vendors at the August Pocumtuck Homelands Festival will continue and the drawing will take place at the end of the event. Items are pictured at www. nolumbekaproject.org.

The free event is co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, DCR, and the New England Peace Pagoda. Doors open at noon, and donations are appreciated.



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We are very social and love bunny companions. When happy, we do a cute frolicking behavior known as a "binky." Bunnies need to stay together with their friends. We can also live in harmony with other well-mannered pets. We will be your best friend our whole lives of 8 to 10 years.

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"BABBIT"

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 12 THROUGH 16

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

WENDELL

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

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities,

TFHS SPORTS from page B1 in Lenox's end, gave Powertown the match 25-23.

There was a little comedic relief in the second match when the ball again hit the ceiling, then bounced around until it rested in the rafters. It never came back down.

This match was a game of streaks, with both teams putting together multiple-point rallies. But Lenox had the last one, and won the match 25-14 to knot the game at one each.

The third match was won at the net. Blocks and counter-blocks followed by easy tips accounted for many of the points, with Turners holding off to win it 25-19. But they failed to put Lenox away in the fourth match as Blue's best efforts resulted in bad bounces, and Lenox's 25-19 victory tied the game at two.

Then came the fifth, and final, match. The winner of this 15-point match would play on, and the loser would go home.

Lenox scored the first 3 points, but it didn't dissuade the Blue Ladies. A kill followed by an ace put them right back into the match. Neither team would concede, and they matched points up to a 13-13 score.

But the final two points were scored by Turners. The Blue faithful exploded while the Lenox fans continued their clapping, congratulating their ladies for a wonderful season.

In Monday's game, Dabney Rollins had 4 aces, 9 kills, and 2 blocks. Taylor Murphy had 5 aces, 6 kills, 4 blocks and 4 digs. Hailey Bogusz had 2 aces, 9 kills and 4 digs; Sarah Waldron had an ace, 4 kills and 5 digs; and Mercedes Morales had an ace, 3 kills, and 5 digs, as well as 17 assists.

The win advanced Powertown in the playoffs, and on Wednesday, they went up to Northfield for a semifinal game against the Frontier Red Hawks at the neutral site of Pioneer Regional.

I got to Wednesday's matchup early, so I got a chance to meet the Pioneer soccer team. They're still alive in the playoffs, and they invited me to their game on Thursday. It's nice to hear that many of those kids root for Turners Football, and plan to spend Turkey Day in Greenfield.

The Turners Falls volleyball team lost the D-III West semifinal game in 25-12, 7, 16.

The team that beat them, the Red

never played at this level before, as only a couple of starters returned from last year's playoff contender. And they may have been a little too eager. Turners gave a few points away on faults, not because it hit the net, but because the ball was whacked so hard that it cleared everything.

But Turners worked on and fought for every point, even when it was the last match point. When Frontier pulled ahead in the third match, both teams put in reserves so that next year, more girls will have a playoff game under their belts.

The crowd stayed in the game cheering and yelling encouragement until the very last point, and of course, they continued to clap even after the last hit.

More on Volleyball later, but my deadline was 10 minutes ago!

Soccer

Monument Mountain 7 – FCTS 1

The Franklin Tech Eagles traveled to Great Barrington last Friday to play the Spartans of Monument Mountain in the D-III West playoffs. The MIAA moved Tech up a division for the postseason, which means that instead of being the best in D-IV, they were seeded last in D-III.

Sometimes you have to make decisions when it comes to the postseason. I would have liked to see the Franks battle the Spartans, but I stayed home instead and watched the Thunder-Hurricane game. So, rather than dwell on their final game, which they lost 7-1, I want to speak about the graduating seniors and the wonderful season they had.

I will say this about Friday's game: for the last time in his high school career, Jovanni Ruggiano kicked in a goal. That gives him 24 goals and 6 assists this season, for a career total of 50 goals and 14 assists, totaling 64 career points. Ruggiano will be back in Thunder Blue this winter to play basketball, and then tennis in the spring.

Defensively, in Friday's game, Grayson Funk made 13 saves. That gives him 98 saves for the season, and 457 lifetime. Funk also wrestles and throws the discus for Franklin Tech.

The other seniors on the soccer team attend Turners High. Ryan Campbell scored 11 goals and gave 7 assists this year, and although he played football last year, he still amassed 20 career goals and 10 assists for 30 all-time points. Campbell plays baseball for swimming and tennis, finished with a goal and two assists.

Football

Hoosac Valley 12 – TFHS 6

On Friday, November 2, the Hoosac Valley Hurricanes beat Powertown 12-6 in the first round of the playoffs at Turners High School.

I spoke to some of my sources before Friday's game, and their consensus was that Hoosac ran about five different plays, all between the tackles. If Turners could stop them up the middle, the Valley Boys would be forced out of their comfort zone.

Also, because it had been threatening rain all evening, the general thought was that if the rain held off, Turners' passing game would give them the advantage.

Turners did stop the Hurricanes' bread-and-butter running game, but mistakes would doom them.

The first gaffe came at the end of the first quarter. The Blue D forced a punt, but the return was misplayed, and Hoosac got the ball on Turners' 3-yard line. The visitors pounded it into the end zone to go up 6-0, but the Powertown defense held tough and stopped the 2-PAT.

Powertown continued to play gritty in the first half, but dropped passes, penalties and turnovers stalled every drive. On the other side of the ball, the Blue D continued to hit Hoosac, stopping their running game in its tracks. The game went into halftime with the score still 6-0.

Another Blue fumble in the second half gave Hoosac the ball deep in Turners' territory. Again, Blue stopped the inside game, but a completion and a pitch moved the ball into the end zone to put the Hurricanes up by two scores. The Blue D again won the 2-PAT battle, stacking up the Hoosac runner, and the game remained 12-0.

The outcome was never certain. Turners scored 17 seconds later, when Tyler Lavin ran a Kyle Dodge completion 58 yards into the end zone. The PAT kick was short and the margin remained 12-6.

Turners continued to outplay Hoosac, but flags and three more turnovers, including an interception on Turners' last drive, doomed their playoff hopes.

Dodge finished with 130 yards in the air. Lavin had one reception for 58 yards and a TD. Wyatt Keith caught two passes for 30 yards, Jake Wallace caught three for 29, and Jaden Whiting made two

Monday 11/12 8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot clinic (by appt.) 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 11/13 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. SHINE Presentation Wednesday 11/14 9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 9 to 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Check 11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting 12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 11/15 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Friday 11/16 No PM Programs Saturday 11/17 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday Bazaar

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.

schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic. **Monday 11/12** 8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt 10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance 11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch 12:30 p.m. Downton Abbey 1:30 p.m. Bridge Club Tuesday 11/13 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 9:30 a.m. COA Meeting 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch Wednesday 11/14 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks 6 p.m. Pitch Game

Thursday 11/15

8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:30 p.m. Holiday Crafters **Friday 11/16**

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich

Hawks of Frontier, are the reigning state champions. But coach Kelly Liimatainen offers no excuses for the loss. And the fact that her team made it this far doesn't surprise her at all.

With the mass exodus of graduates from last year's team, many thought this would just be a rebuilding year. But, as former coach Debby Loomer will tell you, last year's team was not a flash in the pan, and 2018's is a continuation of that storied tradition.

In attendance at the game were several volleyball alumnae from both schools, cheering on their nieces and granddaughters.

One of the reasons that Frontier is so good is that they adjust so well. In the first match, they got points off powerful spikes and aces. Blue adjusted by concentrating on digs.

After several successful digs, Frontier used soft touches right over Powertown's front line and into the gap. Frontier built a sizable lead this way, and Turners was forced to play catch-up ball.

Many of Turners' players had

Powertown, too.

Ruben Galvez had 8 goals and 14 assists this year for 17G, 18A, 35P in his career.

Jake Labelle has scored two goals, gave an assist, and made 12 saves in goal. Labelle also plays baseball for Turners. Eddie Oyalle finished with three goals and an assist, and Will Turn, who also competes in completions for 13 yards. On the ground, Keith gained 100 yards, and John Torres added 7.

This Friday, November 9, Turners travels west to play Mount Greylock, simply for pride.

Next week: Greylock. Just Greylock. And maybe Pioneer Soccer...





Turners' Wyatt Keith leads a trail of Hoosac Valley defenders during the WMass D-VIII semifinal at TFHS.

Hadley, MA. 01035

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Franklin: 773-9497

every voice is heard, because it *does* matter.

Soon it will be Thanksgiving again. This is a holiday marred by inaccurate historical information, yet it is always timely to be reminded of everything we have to be thankful for and to think of what may be done for those less fortunate. This year we will be volunteering to help prepare and serve the dinner the Salvation Army provides that day. Later, the following week we will welcome family for another gathering to share food and be thankful.

There is much to be thankful for.

We are fortunate in health, hearth, home, and family and friends. We are lucky because we don't have to worry about paying our bills, or having enough to eat. So what better time of year to give back even in the smallest measure of time and attention and caring.

We are so fortunate in having a strong sense of place. The yard and garden demand much work and attention, but they also provide sanctuary from the harsh realities of today's world.

We wish, for all, some sense of place and of belonging, however small.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Daylight Savings has ended! Luckily, Montague TV is here to help you savor local festivities through the chilly, dark evenings ahead, with:

• Footage from the Third Annual Migration Festival, a night of music, food and dance at the Great Falls Discovery Center. This event was sponsored in partnership between Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM), the Guatemalan Art and Cultural Connection, the Massaschusetts Cultural Council, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Discovery Center.

Wondering how it all began? Lorna and Imre Kepes have a business buying Guatemalan artists' work and selling it throughout New England. (The Kepeses have stated that the artists' usual market is of a seasonal, tourist-driven nature.) After

they shared this art with immigrant families who are a part of MCSM programming, many of whom are of Mayan descent, mothers from a playgroup collaborated with Lorna on a plan to start the first Migration Festival with MCSM in 2016.

· Interviews from the Sustainability Fair at the Amherst Town Common, kicking off with a message from MassSave on ways to keep your home insulated and energy efficient (visit MassSave.org to learn more!).

Something going on you think others would like 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'd love to work with you!

REFLECTIONS Veterans Day in Greenfield

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Veterans Dav was originally called Armistice Day, and was later renamed Veterans Day in 1954. It was called Armistice Day after the armistice that went into effect with Germany at the end of World War I. The hundred-year anniversary of that is coming up this Veterans Day.

Since I could not interview vets

he feels this way because of Hitler.

Ronald Powers was the second veteran of World War II I talked to. He served in the Army. "I was there for 22 months," he said. His opinion of Veterans Day was this: "I think it's fantastic. It's about time they do more for veterans, that they recognize us. They recognize us more than they did, and it's about time."

Powers is friends with Bernie Schatz. "We have marched in the

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Police Dog Accused; Train Idles In Lake Pleasant; Warrant Arrests; Lawn Drivers; Late Night "Lunch" Break

Monday, 10/29

9:24 a.m. Report of moved from his home. Parflooding on Street. Drain believed to going for a walk. Caller be clogged with leaves. advised to take a nap. DPW advised.

port taken.

Chestnut Hill Road has animal ricocheted off the an ongoing complaint re: first motor vehicle. He is trespassers hunting on his home now. Officer advised; property; very dangerous, report taken. since he will be outside 7:18 p.m. Third caller adworking in the yard and vising that she is the one he can hear nearby gun- who hit the deer from shots. Advised of options. previous call; she is home 4:22 p.m. Walk-in report- now with her daughter. ing that his vehicle was Officer instructed caller to damaged by the K-9 dog go to MPD to have photos in the Third Street alley. taken of the damage to Damage photographed; her vehicle.

referred to an officer. 11:14 p.m. Caller from Sev- 6:38 a.m. Call from off-duty enth Street states that he is officer advising of female on the second floor porch in F.L. Roberts who he and heard something break believes has an active warfrom the back side of the rant. Dispatch confirmed first floor of the house; two active warrants. Offisounded like a window. Of- cers en route. A 40-year-old ficers cleared house and Turners Falls woman was spoke with homeowner. arrested on one default No signs of forced entry; warrant and one straight no one in house. Tuesday, 10/30

7:14 a.m. Caller from 12:02 p.m. Caller from Grand Avenue request- Montague Dental Arts ing assistance releasing states that two women a skunk from a trap. Call came in dressed as nuns placed to animal control asking for donations. officer. Services rendered. They were not specific as 9:16 a.m. 911 abandoned to where they were from call from Franklin Coun- or what the donation was ty Technical School. Con- for. Area checked; unable firmed with staff member to locate. that it was a misdial by a 3:19 p.m. Second of two student.

10:21 a.m. TFFD request- dog on Oakman Street; ing officer assistance with barking resumed after ofa suspicious camper in the ficer checked on animal. old Southworth parking Dog owner advises that lot. Investigated.

Millers Falls Road ad- record that the animal has vising that there is an use of a dog door from ongoing problem with her home into the backspeeding/reckless driving yard and can come and go around 2:30 p.m. when as it pleases. Dog owner school gets out. Today a also advises that the anivehicle sped out of Indus- mal is checked on at least 12:42 p.m. 911 misdial road in a field near East trial Boulevard and went once daily by her parents. from Judd Wire. Caller ad- Mineral and Cemetery off the road onto their Same was advised of how property, leaving big ruts to request these records. in the grass. Caller would Call left for ACO. like to work with police 3:52 p.m. Caller from firmed by officer. on solving this issue. Re- North Leverett Road re- 2:17 p.m. First of several ferred to school resource porting that an unknown reports of street flooding officer at Tech School.

questing to have son re-Bridge ty moved along for now;

6:39 p.m. Caller found an 2:42 p.m. Walk-in report- almost-dead deer on the ing hit and run that oc- side of Greenfield Road. curred earlier today in the Animal is not impeding Food City parking lot. Re- traffic at this time. Second caller advising that 4:07 p.m. Caller from East he struck the deer as the

Thursday, 11/1

warrant, and charged with resisting arrest.

calls regarding a barking she heard about the com-3:22 p.m. Caller from plaint and would like it on

motorist came into his yard half an hour ago and damaged his lawn and his shrubbery. Report taken. 8:10 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street complaining of a neighbor who has dumped bulky waste next to her dumpster that is located behind her home in the alley. Officer en route. Report taken.

8:46 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting K9 unit for search after attempted breaking and entering on Washington Street. Services rendered.

9:43 p.m. Caller advising that a hose is running next to the foundation of the post office in Montague Center. Caller tried to turn the water off, but he could not move the valve. Officer en route; MCFD dispatched via Shelburne Control. Unable to contact listed keyholders. Officer advises that a member of the Water Commission is on scene and will follow up on the matter tomorrow. Water is still leaking slowly outside of the building.

Friday, 11/2

12:11 a.m. Shelburne Control requesting MPD assist Erving officer; same has white pickup stopped on South Prospect Street. Officer attempted to make contact with vehicle in his town when vehicle drove away into Millers. Officer noted beer cans scattered where vehicle was. MPD officers en route. Upon investigation, no further police action needed. Driver sent on their way.

11:57 a.m. Caller complaining of diesel fumes coming from idling train near Lake Pleasant Road railroad crossing; advises this is the fourth occurrence in three days. Caller will also be contacting the selectboard.

vises he meant to dial 811 to get an outside line; no emergency. Misdial conon Turners Falls Road, Montague City Road, and East Main/Franklin streets from Friday into Saturday.

9:11 p.m. Caller reporting a female dressed all in black near the fountain at Peskeomskut Park who is screaming "I am unarmed, don't shoot!" at the top of her lungs. Officer made contact with female party. [Redacted.]

9:14 p.m. A 28-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday, 11/3

10:48 a.m. Caller from Old Stage Road requesting assistance locating her husband, who suffers from dementia. Officer located male on Main Street in front of the Village Store and transported him back to his residence.

12:20 p.m. First of several reports of poles, trees, and wires down on Park Street, Federal Street, Turnpike Road, Ripley Road, and Canal Street.

6:44 p.m. Caller from First Avenue complaining of small brown dog coming into his yard, acting aggressively toward children, and relieving itself in his yard. Caller was upset, referenced town leash law, and stated that if nothing was done he would have to kill the animal. Officer advised caller that ACO would follow up with owner of animal.

Sunday, 11/4

12:11 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle down by the fish lab. Party found to be fishing for carp.

7:39 p.m. Car vs. deer on Turners Falls Road. No injury to driver; deer is badly injured. No damage to vehicle. Deer dead upon officer's arrival.

Monday, 11/5

1:41 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle pulled off the roads. Involved male party was on lunch break from work, and female is his

from that war, getting a hold of some from World War II for this article seemed like a good idea. I decided to talk to them about the Veterans Day parade in Greenfield.

Through an individual named Chad – of the Building Bridges initiative, which holds lunches for vets at the Elks Club of Greenfield - I was able to find World War II vets to interview. I talked to two who were having lunch there at noon on October 11.

One was named Bernie Schatz. He served in the Navy during World War II, and was there for "about a year and a half." "I was on a carrier," he said. His opinion of Veterans Day? "I think it's great. I think they should have more for vets - I think they should have a Veterans Day parade every year.

"If it wasn't for the vets, they wouldn't have any of those things. Instead of trying to take stuff away from the vets, they oughta do more for some of them."

His opinion of World War II: "If we didn't have it, then where would we be? It was necessary." I was told Veterans Day parade for 12 years now," he said. "We plan on doing it again, as long I can."

I wish them both the very best luck with that. Now for my own opinion on Veterans Day, and war in general.

I think Veterans Day is something that should be around for a long time, especially with what some vets have dealt with when it comes to military service, which includes injuries that leave them unable to hold down a job.

I know Vietnam was a war that people probably wanted to forget. When it came to that one, vets weren't exactly honored for their service. Some vets, like one or two of them now, became active in protesting the war.

So Bernie's opinion of World War II was a little surprising to me. I am saying that knowing what kind of monster Hitler was, and that he had to be stopped. Hopefully, we will never have another war involving someone like Hitler.

It would be even better if we never have another World War again.

6:26 p.m. 911 caller reporting suspicious lights on in the back of Montague Machine. Determined to be an employee in the building.

11:21 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting MPD K-9 unit to assist tracking and locating male who fled on foot from officers. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 10/31

11:23 a.m. Caller states that a trash truck came in the wrong way on Turnpike Road and almost hit her vehicle. Officer made contact with truck driver and advised him of the complaint.

2:37 p.m. 911 caller re-

girlfriend.



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BEHOLDING from page B1

attraction, as if my brain wants to fill that void.

Interior Work

Pau Atela grew up in Mexico. He spent 1989 to 1991 as an instructor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and took a sabbatical in 1995 at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute at the University of California, Berkeley. His interests include dynamical systems, Hamiltonian mechanics, chaos, computer visualization in mathematics, and phyllotaxis.

For Atela, the intersection of art and math grew out of a very personal story.

"I never drew, and in an instant, that changed," he said. "I was introduced to an artist at a cafe in Barcelona. She asked, 'Do you draw?' I said, 'No,' and I felt all numb. Then I just said, 'Okay, I will,' and I drew a stick figure, and then a house – all very simple.

"She said, 'okay, how about drawing this?' And she showed me the space between her arm and body. I felt vibration all over: I was amazed! I saw lots of light. And then I spent two years just drawing, drawing, drawing."

Atela thinks about this as an imperative to do neurological work. "I was building new connections, and it was a strong effort," he recalled. "I see differently after that. I have been to a few art/math conferences, but I still needed to go outside that. I needed to stop thinking about, 'What is art?' My daughter says art is a state of mind. This proves to me that it is interior work."

I can certainly relate to the sudden desire to hurl oneself down a new path. In February 2013 I saw a Fender bass guitar hanging on the wall of a guitar museum exhibit, and suddenly knew I had to learn how to play that thing, having never been interested in playing an instrument before.

For both of us, the pursuit began with a moment of beholding: the possibilities of that vibrating space, for Atela, and the promise of vibration held by four metal strings, for me.

The Itch That Remains



based in Portland.

Rockmore had an interest in art, and when they got to talking, it turned out Feldman had an interest in math. An idea for this portfolio of beautiful equations had been kicking around in the publisher's mind for a while, but he didn't know how to solicit what he called "Nobel prize-winning mathematicians" to be contributors. Rockmore assured him that there were no Nobel prizes given for math, anyways, but that he did know many Field and Turing prize winners, and would be happy to make those connections happen.

gets completed or satisfied when it is right, and they are happy."

Atela shook his head. "Itch? Worry? No, I don't think so. The itch will remain, it is never done, you can stop thinking about it, but the itch - it is our human condition." Atela said he finds beauty in the symmetry of nature, and brought up an image on a screen from his laptop to show us. He found trees and sky reflected in water, and stood them up vertically to find that they created a tree on a much larger scale built of smaller trees and their reflections.

Rockmore noted that there is a



The Macdonald Equation, selected for the Cincinnatus Portfolio by physicist and mathematician Freeman Dyson. It describes the Tau-function, originally explored by the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. Exclamation marks are used in math as a shorthand for factorials: 4!, for example, means 4 times 3 times 2 times 1.

"So I became the wrangler for part where "you are obsessed with a The other speaker, Dan Rock- this project," said Rockmore. "I did problem, and once you see the solu-

the gallery. Large, luxuriously black prints with the "chalked" white equations written on them were perfectly mystifying to me.

Beautiful Symmetries

To the layperson, the equations chosen by Freeman Dyson and David Mumford were favorites, according to Rockmore. Dyson chose the MacDonald Equation - in his words, "the most beautiful thing that I ever discovered. It belongs to the theory of numbers, the most useless and ancient branch of mathematics. My friend Ian MacDonald had the joy of discovering it first, and I had the almost equal joy of discovering it second. Neither of us knew that the other was working on it. We had daughters in the same class at school, so we talked about our daughters and not about mathematics."

But viewers are drawn to it for the four exclamation points, "1!2!3!4!," on the bottom line.

Also popular, of course, is the "Omg(K)" in Mumford's *Thirteen??* equation. "A large part of what a mathematician does," Mumford writes of this equation, "may be described as exploring 'things' which they discover through reasoning, which become as real to them as the house they live in but which have no material existence at all."

I don't know what that means, but Thirteen?? is a delightful graphic, and on the number line of our lives, Thirteen?? feels really appropriate to that awkward peak of puberty: *Omg!*

kept having: he was somewhere with a giant pendulum near him, and he had to choose to go by it or not, like choosing life versus death.

"Many years later I thought about engaging with the pendulum myself. It is about engaging your entire being with the work, bringing your body into it, and it is mesmerizing."

The two presenters went on to discuss Jackson Pollock, and how the appearance of chance effect in Pollocks' work was created by a choreographed dance around the canvas as he threw the paint. "In the '70s," said Rockmore, "Julia sets and other fractals had a heyday, and chaos mathematics has been used to authenticate Pollock paintings as well: it is the path of a dance that we see in the drips. And Sol LeWitt's directions for his paintings, they have leeway built into them, so that it is not a machine-driven art. Like chaos theory, these effects arose from deterministic processes."

After hearing these two speak and seeing the exhibits, I reflected on the strange and beautiful symmetry of my own life. These days, I play music with two teachers from the old high school I failed to finish at. One is a math teacher, and one teaches art. I also visited the sculpture and printing studio of a retired mathematics professor over the weekend. I asked them all to share their perspectives on the intersection of math and art, and it gave rise to some interesting discussions.

There were many parallels to the remarks I heard at UMass about the beauty of equations and the use of golden proportions in design. Edwards, the retired professor, used number theory in many of his printed projects, including Thirty Incomplete Clarinets, a set of prints that disassembled the five parts of a clarinet in all 30 configurations. There's wonderful material within the overlap of Art and Math, even for the somewhat math-ignorant like myself. And it's okay if those curlicues do not unfurl their code for us, and we are left with pure moments of beholding. There can be beauty, either way.

more, holds degrees in computer science and mathematics, and specializes in complex systems in evolution. He has designed algorithms to detect art fraud, and is currently leading a team of graduate students exploring the use of artificial intelligence to craft narratives.

The Concinnitas Portfolio began, fittingly enough, with a chance encounter on a flight to the East Coast from Portland. Rockmore was able to upgrade his seating, thanks to mileage rewards, and found himself next to Bob Feldman of Parasol Press, a renowned publisher of fine art prints

know nine out of the ten mathematicians and physicists who became part of the portfolio, and oddly enough, almost all of them had already written pieces on beauty and math. I asked them questions, wrote the intro, tried to guide them all a little bit. You don't exactly need to edit a Field Prize winner."

Rockmore went on to talk about beauty in math. "In math, there is a drive for the simplest proof. We know it when we are working. I think it is a contentment thing. Like, there is an itch that irritates, a problem that bugs or worries them, and it

tion, it is over. The thinking process is the creative part. Once there is a formula, I see it and can write it down; then it is done, and I move on..." He described how when he was a child, he would see his physicist father's equations on blackboards and be fascinated with their beautiful and mysterious curlicues.

The two mathematicians talked about how, now that this code is cracked for them, they cannot "unsee" an equation and go back to beholding it in a graphic form. That was not a problem for most of us while viewing the Cincinnitas Portfolio in

Pao Atela delved into another personal story of how he became fascinated with working with a pendulum in his art. Several of his drawings were created by swinging a bottle of ink or dripping paint from a pendulum, transcribing its course of travel over a piece of paper as it gradually centers itself.

"Well, pendulum is one of the first things you lecture on as a teacher," said Atela. "But, my brother had a terrible accident. He survived for 12 vears afterwards, but was in a coma for 45 days. When he was coming out of it, he talked about a dream he

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Great Falls Word Festival. Programming begins at the Festival this night; see article this section for details or online at humanerrorpublishing.com. Purchase a button for all performances, sliding scale. \$. 6:45 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Drag Queen Bingo. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: One Eleven Heavy, feat. members of Wooden Wand and Royal Trux. With Fred Cracklin. \$. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Great Falls Word Festival. Exploded View, Voices on the Inside, more. See article this section for details on programming, or online at humanerrorpublishing.com. Purchase a button for all performances, sliding scale. \$. 6:45 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Katie Clark and Larry Leblanc. Part of the Friends of the Discovery Center fundraiser, the Great Falls Coffeehouse Series. Talented duo mix soulful originals by Clark with choice covers of bluegrass, folk, country, gospel and old-time music. Refreshments. Donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Dylan Brody in The Greatest Show Ever. Hollywood comedian presented by Silverthorne Theater with a full evening of comedy also called "Hilarious Stories and Poignant Meditations on the World We Share." \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: Simon White. Acoustic-style set. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Larry Allen Brown. 9:30 p.m.

Wheelhouse, Greenfield: Upper Wilds, TinVulva, and Hevvi Synthia. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Greenfield Community College: Geology Day at GCC. Gems, Rocks and Fossils sale, plus Jurassic Road Show, special talks on Meteorites, Fossils, and a tour of the Geo Path with Richard Little. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Great Falls Word Festival. See article this section for program details, or online at humanerrorpublishing.com. Purchase a button for all performances, sliding scale. \$. 12 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Geology Tour. Part of GCC Geology day, take this tour with Steve Winters. Walk will be on bike path and sidewalks, 60-90 minutes. 2:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Gumboots: The music of Paul Simon. Cover band tribute to Simon. \$. 7 p.m.

Wendell Library: Timeline. Part of the monthly Sci-Fi-Fantasy film series. Archeologists trapped in 14th century France try to make it back alive to the 21st century. Preceded by a short episode of Tales of Tomorrow. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Open Mic #28. Big town performance in a tiny village. Featured artist Tom Dews. Donation. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: Nathan Bowles Trio, PG Six, and Wednesday Knudsen. \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: The Shadow Twisters. Classic rock band with Sean Callaghan and J.T. McKenna. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Sedagive. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Shel-McCusker's Market, burne Falls: Celtic Sessions. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Great Falls Word Festival. See article this section for details, or online at humanerrorpublishing.com. Purchase a button for all performances, sliding scale. \$. 1 p.m.

Sloan Theater, GCC: Remembering Marilyn. GCC Chorus with a program of songs in memory of Marilyn Berthelette, beloved accompanist of the chorus and singing member who passed away in August. 3 p.m.

Rendezvous. Turners Falls:

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This mixed media piece by Nancy Baker of Greenfield, entitled "Black Throated Warbler," is part of the November members' show at the Shelburne Arts Cooperative in Shelburne Falls. The show "Just For Fun" has work by over 30 artists working in a wide variety of mediums and crafts. Stop by 26 Bridge Street every day after 11 a.m. to see. Closed on Tuesdays.

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: Inside Art V. Art by incarcerated men and women at the Franklin County jail. Through November 16.

Junior Duck Stamps. Top Massachusetts youth entries for the 2018 Junior Duck Stamp competition. Through December 22.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: Paul Hoffman,



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

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: STEAM-Y Art and Science. Group show of art inspired by and incorporating the sciences including vintage quack objects, demos. Through November 11.

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:

Photographs. Through November.

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

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: One Size Fits All. Banners and altered cabinet cards by Amy Johnquest. November 2 through December 31. Meet the artist: Saturday, December 1, 3 p.m. Also on view, Amanda Quinby's Leaves to Landscapes, abstracts in precious metal leaf. Reception November 10, 3 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: Just For Fun. Members' exhibit. Through November.

Smith College Greenhouse: Annual Chrysanthemum Show. November 3 through 18.

Traditional Quebecois Music Session. 3 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: Nathan Bowles Trio, more TBA. \$. 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Comedy with Jon Ross. In the Wheelhouse. 8 p.m.

Crabgrass Band

FRI 11/9 9:30 pm Larry Allen Brown

SAT 11/10 9:30 pm Sedagive





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LOOKING BACK **10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was November 6, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

"We Voted for Change"

Franklin County voters turned out in droves on Tuesday, joining 136 million other Americans who headed to the polls. The day ended with the election of a brand-new president, Barack Hussein Obama.

Forty-seven years old, the son of a white mother from Kansas and a black father from Kenya, Obama will take the nation's helm at a time when America is reeling from an economic meltdown on Wall Street and Main Street, with hundreds of thousands of workers joining the ranks of the unemployed and uninsured.

Obama's promises to end the war in Iraq, break America's dependence on foreign oil, make healthcare affordable for all Americans, and invest in education will require him to also live up to his promise to unite the country in order to achieve his goals.

Above all, he promised "Change." That is the one promise that seemed most to resonate with local voters interviewed at the polls Tuesday.

"There were 30 people standing in line at 7 a.m. when we opened the doors," said Jean Hebden, poll warden at the senior center in Precinct 5 in downtown Turners Falls. By the end of the day, 484 of the precinct's 769 voters had turned out, 63%. Hebden called that turnout "disappointing," since it did not top the mark set in her precinct in the previous presidential election.

Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau echoed that sentiment. "I expected to break a record with all the excitement leading up to the vote, the rise in registrations and the rise in absentee ballots," Bourbeau said. Townwide, 4,361 (74.3%) of Montague's 5,872 registered voters cast ballots on Tuesday, down from 81.6% who voted in the 2004 election.

In Precinct 5, Hector Torres, who moved to Turners from Greenfield one year ago, brought an interpreter with him to help translate the ballot into Spanish. But he needed no help to decide where he stood on the presidential race.

"I voted for Obama," Torres said. "We need a change in the country. And Palin... she's from Canada. What does she know about America?'

Torres voted against all the ballot questions: to abolish the state income tax, decriminalize marijuana, and ban dog racing in the state. Statewide, voters agreed with Torres on Question 1, defeating the measure to eliminate the income tax

by a 70% margin. But they parted company with Torres on decriminalizing marijuana (approved 65% to 35%) and banning dog racing (approved 56% to 44%).

Kasanda Polacek of Precinct 5 was among 965 Montague voters who backed the Republican ticket. 3,245 (77%) supported Obama/ Biden.

"I'm a registered Republican. I voted for McCain. I feel strongly he's the more experienced candidate," Polacek said. "I think we're faced with difficult issues: the war in Iraq, energy efficiency, the economy. I don't feel Obama has the experience, at least this time around."

Merl Gray and Amanda Odoerfer, with their baby on Amanda's shoulder, voted for Obama. On their way out of the senior center, Odoerfer said, "I find him charismatic." And Gray said he liked Obama's healthcare plan.

School, Town Officials Meet Again on Budget

Members of the selectboards and finance committees of Gill and Montague and the Gill-Montague school committee tried once again to resolve their differences on the '09 school budget and come to common ground, with the December 1 deadline for state takeover of the



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school district looming.

Ken Rocke, district superintendent, stated he had met with commissioner Mitchell Chester of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and that Chester expressed concern over the unintended budgetary consequences of school choice.

Rocke said he felt there was still a chance to show the state the district can resolve the crisis locally. He added that if there were a two- to three-year window in which GMRSD could maintain a reasonable budget, that would give the district an opportunity to explore

educational improvement through regional consolidation.

Montague fin com member Jeff Singleton suggested it might be better to let the state take control of the school district's finances, because unfunded state mandates and inadequate state aid are a big part of the school budget problem.

There was some agreement among those in the room that the state has to be more involved in solving the impasse between the schools and towns, but many expressed concern of what a state takeover of district finances would mean for the towns and schools.

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