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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

Collaborative Learning Excites TFHS Students

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – A chance conversation between multi-faceted Turners Falls high school teacher Brian Lamore and Jen Audley of the Community School Partnership brought music and physics together during a memorable event back in September.

At a professional development meeting, Lamore mentioned he would be starting a "wave" unit with his physics students. His plan was to have them demonstrate their understanding of wave concepts, rather than testing them on rote learning. To that end, Lamore had already purchased a number of glasses for use in sound wave demonstrations.

Audley was excited to tell him about an upcoming performance that had been arranged with Antenna Cloud Farm, an artists' retreat and summer festival space located on a former dairy farm in Gill. The farm provides musicians and artists with weeklong residencies in an inspirational setting as a site to develop a project or prepare a new work of art. These typically include a public performance, and some kind of community outreach event. Turners Falls High School was the lucky beneficiary of one of those outreach events, with a performance by artist-in-residence Cindertalk.

Following a joint presentation on the physics of sound and a brief performance with water-filled glasses, Lamore's students introduced the guest of honor, musician Jonny Rodgers, performing as Cindertalk, a name that refers to the sound made by live coals hidden within the ashes of morning fires.

The presenters had already captured the interest of fellow students with their visual presentation and discussion of how microphones work, how the amount of water in a glass changes its pitch, and techniques for tuning glasses. Their performance was rudimentary, but it brought back memories of my father

see LEARNING page A6



Water District Cuts Off Service **To Mill Buildings: "The Sprinkler** System Wouldn't Work, Anyway."

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS - Mike Brown, superintendent of the Turners Falls water district, told the Montague selectboard Monday night that his agency was shutting off the water to the abandoned Strathmore and Southworth factory buildings on Canal Road as of November 19. The shutoff will also apply to the Swift River hydroelectric plant, which continues to operate in one of the buildings in the Strathmore complex.

The Strathmore Mill, a complex of ten buildings, was taken over by the town for back taxes nearly a decade ago. It is now the subject of a design study to create "bid ready specifications" for a nearly total demolition. The adjacent Southworth paper mill closed abruptly in August 2017, and its parent company is effectively bankrupt. Last month a state superior court ordered Southworth to secure

ERVING SELECTBOARD Library Clearing Final Hurdles, Bid Due Soon

By KATIE NOLAN

ERVING - On Monday, the Erving selectboard, in their role as water commissioners, approved a special permit for the construction of a proposed new library in the town's groundwater protection district.

The commissioners made their approval conditional on an impact statement stating that the project will not adversely impact the quality or quantity of groundwater available in the district, a spill prevention response plan for construction, and calculations regarding potential overflow from a drainage depression that will receive



Southworth Paper closed in 2017, joining the adjacent Strathmore complex in vacancy.

the building, remove hazardous materials, and fix the sprinkler system, but the company has not responded to that court order.

Brown told the board that the sprinkler system at Southworth was currently leaking 3,000 gallons of water per day. None of the Strath-

more or Southworth buildings are heated, he explained, so the water pipes will freeze in the winter, and most of the sprinklers do not currently operate.

"The fire chief knows that the systems are going to be down," said

see WATER page A5

GILL SELECTBOARD Riverside Squirms Over Sewer Rate Hike

By GEORGE BRACE

Impending sewer rate increases for the Riverside district continued to be a major topic for the Gill selectboard at their meeting Monday night. A small group of residents from the district were in attendance to ask questions and discuss concerns. Administrative assistant Ray Purington presented potential billing scenarios, and the board decided to look at December 12 as a tentative date for a special town meeting to adopt a new rate.

Over 100 Riverside residents receive sewer services from the town of Montague, and will be impacted by that town's recently approved 71% rate hike, with a similar hike expected next year.



Noah Decker gives a tour of Decker Machine Works, a precision machining company in Greenfield, to Turners Falls High School physics students earlier this month.

runoff from the library's roof.

Briony Angus of Tighe & Bond, the town's consultant, presented the technical review of the special permit application, landscape plan, site plan review drawings, and drainage report with a focus on any potential impacts to groundwater and storm drainage.

Angus said that there "were no real concerns" with the project, and that comments from his firm were mostly "administrative." However, Angus recommended that the commissioners request the calculations showing that the open, graded drainage depression will not overflow and erode the slope below it.

Chris Garcia of project engineers Garcia, Galuska,

see **ERVING** page A4

Purington presented four budget scenarios for consideration: no change - said to be "not an option" - and rate increases of 65%, 70%, and 125%. The biggest change in Gill's projected sewer budget is the hike in disposal fees, but two other factors were also discussed: lowering the amount budgeted for building a sewer reserve fund, and adding 9% to the budget to address a sudden increase in unpaid bills in 2017.

Purington suggested that the town may want to reduce the reserve amount in light of the big increase due to disposal costs. Over the previous six years, he said,

see GILL page A6

Filmmaker Starts Important **Conversation About Breasts** The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By DINA STANDER

GREENFIELD – I met up with Meagan Murphy, the lively and savvy producer and director of the documentary The Breast Archives, at a local coffee shop on a sunny fall day. We dove head first into an unselfconscious and far-ranging conversation about breasts.

Right away, I wished I was Oprah, having one of those deeply intimate chats that millions of American women will watch, relate to, and learn something special from. That's because Meagan Murphy has that much energy and passion for the way her film helps women connect with their stories of their own bodies, their spirituality and sexuality, and their health.

I was sent out to catch up with Ms. Murphy because the local non-profit Cancer Connection has teamed up with Green River Yoga for a benefit screening of The Breast Archives on Sunday, November 11

(see details below). The first good news she shared with me is that the documentary has been picked up by First Run Features, an independent film distribution company based in New York City.

With years of public television production experience under her belt, Murphy got right to the point while I sat scribbling.

My notebook is filled with her flashes of insight about the way women internalize feelings about their breasts, feelings which are rooted in how breasts grow "on their own" during puberty, and how then "suddenly society sees and relates to you differently."

As I sat nodding in solidarity, it became clear that this universal experience is exactly the point this film is making. At least 85% of women say they are dissatisfied or ambivalent about their breasts, a statistic that has documented health implications, and which Murphy

see **BREASTS** page A8

By MATT ROBINSON

This week marked the end of the regular fall season in high school sports, but several Franklin Tech and Turners Falls teams play on into the playoffs. Two of those teams,

the Turners' volleyball and football squads, won their conferences on Championship Friday when they beat top conference contenders.

Also this week, the Franklin Tech boys' soccer team swept their opponents, taking the Tri-County Crown in the process.

The end of the regular season can be emotional, especially for those seniors who may never play the sport again. So with the postseason still in front of us, I'd like to acknowledge some of the accomplishments that teams and individuals have reached so far this year.

Congrats to the Turners Falls field hockey team for qualifying for the playoffs and finishing the regular season with a record of 11-6-1. Also a special shout out to Cassidhe Wozniak, who reached two milestones this season: she not only surpassed the 100-point mark with 121, but she also passed the hundred-goal threshold with 102.

Congratulations to the TFHS football team, who won the Intercounty North title in spectacular fashion on Friday, and now prepare to win a home playoff game against Hoosac Valley.

Another student athlete who see SPORTS page A7



Stepping up: Turners running back Wyatt Keith goes into the end zone for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter as the Thunder clinches the IC North title with a 39-30 victory over the Easthampton Eagles on Senior Night at TFHS.

ILLUSTRATION

NINA ROSSI

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Revelation

We left off last week on the idea that recent mobilization against refugees may not be reaction so much as rehearsal for future cruelty.

What a week it's been.

A Florida man was arrested Friday for sending bombs to a number of prominent critics of the president. "He was insane for a long time," the president argued, overlooking the man's MAGA hat and his van plastered with worshipful decals.

On Saturday a Pennsylvania man, furious at what he perceived to be an international Jewish conspiracy to aid migration, burst into a synagogue with an AR-15 and three Glock .357s and murdered eleven congregants, mostly elderly.

"Trump is a globalist, not a nationalist," he complained two days before the attack.

On Sunday, Brazilians elected Jair Bolsonaro president. A descendant of Germans and Italians, he was an Army captain during the last years of the military dictatorship, and is understood to be nostalgic for its rule. He has called African refugees in Brazil "the scum of humanity" and declared that they should be dealt with "by the army," and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Bolsonaro endorses torture, has said Afro-Brazilians are "not even good for procreation," and warns his opponents: "These red marginals will be banished from our homeland." During the election, police raided universities and seized books about fascism, claiming they were in violation of electoral laws.

The new president of the world's fifth-most-populous country has also promised to abolish indigenous reservations in the Amazon rainforest in order to clear the way for minforest is within his nation's borders, and the rate of its deforestation had

plummeted over the last 15 years due to the country's compliance with the Paris climate accords.

A group of Brazilian scientists, modeling what unregulated landuse change will look like based on markets for commodities like beef and soy, believe that Bolsonaro's policies will result in an extra 13 gigatons of CO₂ remaining in the atmosphere between 2021 and 2030.

Every year, they predict, a section of forest larger than Maryland will fall.

On Monday, Trump announced he would send 5,200 troops to the Mexican border. The spectacle of Honduran refugees crossing from Guatemala into Mexico inspired him to name next week's US midterms "the election of the caravan," and he continues to furiously squish political eggs into that basket.

"Donald Trump thinks unarmed people who are fleeing horrors and are still 1,000 miles away are a national security threat a week before election day," says Will Fisher, a former Marine with VoteVets. "It's a political ploy to blow upon the embers of racism and nativism."

On Tuesday the incoming executive director of the Massachusetts Police Association, Arlington lieutenant Rick Pedrini, was placed on paid leave in his own department after the public discovered his editorials in the new issue of his organization's magazine, The Sentinel.

Pedrini compared Central American migration to the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, and called for a proportionate response. "We shot at them. Hell, we didn't even suspend posse comitatus," he wrote.

At home, Pedrini bemoaned the "social justice warriors" restraining ing and logging. Most of the rain- his fellow police with "feel-good BS" such as deescalation, stigma reduction, restorative justice, and



Chris and Dan Kramer, behind the scenes at Element Brewery in Millers Falls. The establishment is the state's smallest distillery, making small batches of whiskey, vodka, gin, bourbon, and rum, available only at the 16 Bridge Street location.



A Universal Approach

I propose that the federal government pay every US citizen a basic income in return for their service in the National Guard, through something like an auxiliary – kids could be "Scouts," and get paid, say \$1,000 per year.

Aliens, legal and illegal, would be a part and would be paid, and would be granted citizenship after 5 years of service.

The services performed by each person (adults could be "Eagle Scouts," maybe?) could be whatever each wishes to contribute: parenting, soldiering, truck driving, picking up

even "police legitimacy."

"Let's meet violence with violence and get the job done," Pedrini wrote. He went on to complain about Black Lives Matter, antifascists, Elizabeth Warren, bike lanes, and the "criminal class," topping it all off with his wish that Statue of Liberty protester Therese Patricia Okoumou had fallen off "and land[ed] on Kaepernick."

roadside trash, teaching, therapy.

Many people volunteer, and in so doing are compensated mainly by the sense of satisfaction in doing something for another. Volunteers drive me to physical therapy, for which I am grateful. Wouldn't people be so much more *able* to help if there were a Universal Basic Income?

A UBI could eliminate or replace some "welfare" programs, such as HIP, thereby nullifying the argument that "welfare means getting something for nothing." It will also foster patriotism, community, and self-esteem, as well as a good reputation.

There used to be a "poor house" here in Wendell, where the aging

could go, and townsfolk would care for them. Now, in response to the desire and need for seniors to "age in place," an organization called Village Neighbors is launching a program to provide services for "immediate needs." (Montague Reporter, October 18, 2018)

I believe strong communities are our best national defense, and that only by living by "One for All and All for One" will we continue to thrive as one country, united, under the Creator, with liberty and justice for all.

> John Ingress Wendell

Recognized Letter ...

I was surprised when I read Ed Gregory's letter in this week's paper (October 25, Page A3: "Believe It"), because on October 3 my brother posted a very similar article on his Facebook page but did not claim to be the author.

A little online research led me to many citations, including one on Snopes.com: "During the 1980s Reese wrote the first version of an editorial opining that 545 people (i.e., the President of the United States, plus all the members of Congress and the Supreme Court) 'are directly, legally, morally and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country,' and he has amended, updated, and republished that piece several times since then."

What's happening right now is not complicated, and it's not good.

Let's Talk About Yemen, Too

Since his sudden disappearance on October 2, the US media has focused on the grisly torture and murder of US-based Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

This man was by all reports not a simple "dissident," but was for many years close to the ruling elite of his homeland. Did he know too much? Not only about the democratic charade of the current leadership there, but perhaps also about past involvement in international crimes?

This we do not know. But we do know that the image of positive reform in his country has been shattered. And that the US is not only profiting from multibillion-dollar sales of weapons to Saudi Arabia, but is deeply complicit in the devastating war on one of the poorest countries in the world - Yemen.

Let's talk and hear more about that. According to the head of United Nations aid, half of all Yemenis could soon face famine, in an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe "much bigger than anything any professional in this field has seen during their working lives." Recent analysis estimates that 14 million Yemenis are facing famine.

The war in Yemen may seem complicated and far away, and yet our tax dollars are right there: targeting bombs and explosives made in the US, and supporting what must be considered as war crimes,

most recently the murder of 40 schoolchildren by a direct hit on their school bus.

Decades ago, when our country was involved in a vicious war in Vietnam, we at least got to see images of the fighting, and a sense of the damages wrought on a poor, distant people. As well as some coverage on those who opposed that conflict.

We urge an end to US involvement in the war on the people of Yemen, and a halt to arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

> Anna Gyorgy, Wendell **Traprock Center for Peace and Justice**

It started exactly as Gregory's does: "This is about as clear and easy to understand as it can be."

What my brother quoted was described as being the last column written for the Orlando Sentinel by Charley Reese, who retired a long time ago after 49 years as a journalist.

Maggie Sadoway Turners Falls

... An Editor Replies:

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. Indeed, of the 396 words of the letter in question, 240 were from Reese's 1984 column, and 322 were in a version of it we found cited as an uncredited email forward.

We haven't had a clear policy requiring that Letters be either original or properly credited content, so we've made one. Sometimes political campaigns ask supporters to copy

and paste stock letters to their local papers, and even in that case, we'd prefer to hear your own thoughts.

We talked with Ed about his letter, and we understand how it happened. He offers his apologies, and adds that he regrets not citing the original author. We're happy to move on!

> Mike Jackson, **Managing Editor**

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Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Hi! I'm filling in for Don this week, so bear with me...

Drivers should be aware that the bridge on Nash's Mill Road in Greenfield – the one by the Green River Swimming & Recreation Area – is **closed for repair until 2020,** according to MassDOT.

To get across the Green River, you'll have to either go a mile south to the rotary, or several miles north to cross the covered bridge at the pumping station. Adjust your routes and departure times accordingly.

Certain *Montague Reporter* subscribers on the far end of Greenfield who've been enjoying complementary delivery by our carriers will likely find their delivery has reverted to the US Postal Service until the bridge job is done. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

This Saturday morning from 10 to 11 a.m., Greenfield Savings Bank invites you to put your creative talents to the test in their warm, climate-controlled community room. Enjoy a fun-filled hour of engagement while working with different media – **including Play-Dough** – to design a unique sculpture.

All necessary items will be provided for your use, and light refreshments will be provided by the bank. Thanks to a new grant from the US Forest Service, Franklin Land Trust (FLT) will be working with Greenfield and Montague to **plant over 1,000 trees in the next three years**. This grant will offer free trees to residents and businesses, replace dead or dying trees in neighborhoods and downtown streets, and provide trees to be planted on public lands.

Planting will begin in the spring of 2019. Public meetings will be held in both towns over the winter so that residents can learn more about the project and provide suggestions.

Both the Greenfield Tree Committee and Montague Tree Advisory Committee are seeking to build networks of volunteer tree stewards. To learn how you can get involved, see www.greenfieldtreecommittee. org (Greenfield) or email daviddetmold@gmail.com (Montague).

Looking for a new home or housing? The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, now headquartered up by the airport industrial park in Turners Falls, is hosting a free **Housing Search Workshop** on Tuesday, November 6, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Topics include: how to find an apartment, preparing your rental history; filling out applications, and more. Space is limited, so contact Melanie Gaier at FCRHRA to sign up: (413) 863-9781 x 149.

The Western Mass Recovery Learning Community (RLC) will be offering **free kickboxing classes** with Estelle Bonaceto at the Brick House Community Center, beginning November 6 and continuing every Tuesday, 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

This ongoing class will include trauma-sensitive kickboxing instruction for all bodies and abilities. Estelle focuses on creating a safe, supportive environment where participants go at their own pace. The aim is toward building resilience and a sense of personal power.

Classes are free and open to the public, and equipment will be provided. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

Next Thursday, November 8 at 2 p.m., the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls will host an informal panel **presentation by the Rainbow Elders group**, a LifePath program which helps us all understand diverse expressions of gender, sexuality, and relationships.

Four Rainbow Elders members will discuss their life experiences, while promoting understanding and



respect for diversity in our daily lives. The presentation will be followed by questions from the audience and a group discussion.

The public is invited to share coffee, cider, and donuts with this engaging, dynamic group. Come see the beauty of the Rainbow, and feel its warmth. Refreshments provided courtesy of the bank.

Hartman Deetz of the Mashpee Wampanoag nation will be guest speaker at the annual Beaver Moon Gathering on Saturday, November 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

His subject will be "Stolen Identities: **The Mashpee Wampanoag**, **Defined Out of Rightful Inheritance**." Last month, the US Department of Interior advised the tribe that it was revoking the Obama administration's recognition of ancenstral land taken into trust for the tribe.

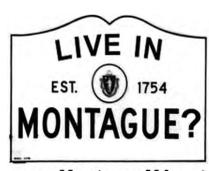
Doors open at noon. Donations are appreciated.

In case you're bored in Turners Falls, here's my tip for the week: Mystic Pinball has a brand new machine, **Total Nuclear Annihilation** (2017, Spooky Pinball LLC).

Two bucks gets you nine balls of play on this very engaging, retro-futurist machine, which features satisfying sound effects and shaking, amped-up techno, a reactor you must activate and then destroy, and an incredibly frenetic multi-ball mode.

I'm not a pinball *guy* or anything, but I strongly recommend this machine, especially if you're looking for a break from dealing with, you know, all the regular annihilation.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – When voters in the First Franklin legislative district enter the polling booths on November 6, they will be asked to approve a ballot question, Question 4, which calls on their representative in the state legislature to vote for a so-called single-payer healthcare system. "Single-payer" is the rather awkward term for a state or national health care system where the government, rather than insurance companies, reimburses doctors and hospitals for their services. The government, in turn, raises your taxes to pay for all this but, in theory, the elimination of the bu-

port for a left-wing brand of populism within the Democratic Party produced Bernie Sanders and "Medicare For All."

Is Single Payer a Magic Wand?

Now, virtually every candidate for any blue state office feels it necessary to pledge allegiance to single-payer healthcare. Candidates for the governors of Maryland and California are advocating for a single-payer system, and it is on the ballot here in Franklin County.

I was once one of those supporters of singlepayer who stood up and cheered every time the magic words were mentioned at a meeting. I am now a skeptic, in part because of the extreme claims made by single-payer supporters, and in part because of the negative impact I feel the movement for single-payer has had on the political culture of the left. Single-payer has encouraged a kind of magic wandism - the belief that there are simple solutions to complex policy problems: All we have to do is eliminate the insurance industry, and we can have universal coverage and cost controls with no pain. All we have to do is tax the top 2% of wealth holders and we can have "free college," whatever that means. And all of these ideas have shot to the top of the progressive agenda with very little debate or critical thinking. I strongly support guaranteed universal healthcare and a reduction in the absurd cost of college education, but these things will come at a cost. There will be obstacles and negative consequences that supporters of reform need to seriously address. There is, to use a cliché, no free lunch. For example, the notion that one can both finance universal coverage and implement cost controls by eliminating the insurance industry seems unrealistic to me. The "savings" from single-payer, even if they are as significant as some studies suggest, will not be channeled into a pot of money that can be directed toward the uninsured. They are in some ways a statistical artifact that could reduce costs to local government and private employers. I emphasize the word "could" because it is not at all clear that the single-payer

tax will in fact be less than current cost payments to doctors and hospitals.

Furthermore, a one-time reduction in state or national healthcare costs of, say, 5% is not at all the same as cost controls. True costs under a single-payer system are achieved by reducing annual reimbursement rates to doctors and hospitals. This might be a good idea, but it has proven to be enormously controversial in the past – one reason why Massachusetts abandoned rate setting in the 1980s.

But the biggest problem that the single-payer movement has ignored is this: a single-payer system takes perhaps the biggest fiscal problem the state and federal governments now face



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reaucracy associated with the insurance industry saves everyone money in the end.

The concept of single-payer, which is modeled on the Canadian healthcare system, swept across the political left in the early 1990s, propelled by doctors who hated the controls placed on them by insurance companies (so-called "managed care") and by growing support for guaranteed universal health coverage. A number of studies showed significant savings in healthcare costs, leading to the argument that we can have both universal coverage and cost controls with no pain.

The belief that single-payer was a magic wand that could solve the central problems of the healthcare system generated strong, emotional support for the policy on the political left. This was intensified by frustration: more moderate liberals, like the Clintons and Barack Obama, seemed to support single-payer in theory, but believed that the policy could not achieve legislative majorities. So we got the Massachusetts universal healthcare system, and "Obamacare," which essentially extended the existing patchwork of public/private health care to most of the uninsured.

But the dream of eliminating the insurance industry as the solution to our core national healthcare problems refused to die. The intense political opposition to Obamacare appeared to show that this more moderate effort was no more viable than single-payer. The widespread sup- how to fund healthcare benefits for recipients and public employees – and increases it massively. So when an actual single-payer bill starts to work its way through the legislature, even the liberals who have been told that the reform lowers costs suddenly get sticker shock.

This is largely why single-payer, on the verge of passing, abruptly crashed and burned in Vermont, one of the "bluest" states in the country. Estimates of the cost of single-payer in both Maryland and California show they would require massive increases in the state budget and taxes.

Perhaps these increases will be offset by lower costs to employers, local government, and citizens, but the jury is still out. Most single-payer proposals have studiously avoided real-world estimates of budget and tax impacts. The Democratic candidate for Governor of Maryland has said that, if elected, he will immediately appoint a commission to figure out how to pay for it. This is typical, and not terribly reassuring.

Reducing the role of the insurance industry and creating a more uniform healthcare system certainly has its virtues. Perhaps getting single-payer to the top of the Masschusetts healthcare agenda will force some realism – and serious debate – on the political left. I would hope so.

> Jeff Singleton is a reporter for the Montague Reporter. He lives in Turners Falls.

Turners Falls, MA 01376 tel: 413-863-4331 fax: 413-863-9426 www.pzinc.com

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending Oct. 26:

Grade 6 Cadence Wozniak

Grade 7 Trevor Brunette

Grade 8 Zoey Denbow

<u>Related Arts</u> Rene Benvenutty











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ERVING from page A1

DeSousa said that drainage swales were planned below the depression to conduct any overflow. However, he said, the depression was not expected to overflow, even in a 100year flood event.

Garcia agreed to send his firm's calculations to Tighe & Bond for review as soon as possible, to keep the project on schedule.

Ditches and Pipes

The next steps for the library project are approval of bid specifications, and advertising for bidders to construct the building to those specifications. In a joint meeting, the library building committee and selectboard questioned Garcia and architect Phil O'Brien of Johnson Roberts about the specifications.

Much of the discussion concerned the roof runoff drainage depression planned for the lawn area on the Northfield Road side of the building. Asked why the depression was planned, building committee co-chair Jacqueline Boyden said that it would cost less than underground pipes.

Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache wondered about the aesthetics of a large drainage depression, filled with riprap, visible from the roadway. Rupert Roy-Clark of the building committee replied that a larger area would result in less puddling of water. Bastarache suggested "aesthetically pleasing rock" rather than standard riprap.

Building committee member Debra Smith suggested moving the depression more to the middle of the lawn area, creating a more symmetrical look.

According to Boyden, the cost of moving the broadband connection from the current library building to the new one was not included in the base bid. Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said he would contact Massachusetts Broadband Institute and Comcast to find out about the process and costs for moving the broadband connection.

Garcia said that, although the committee had hoped to bury util-

Veterans' Resource and Job Fair

"National Hire a Veteran" month. with positions in manufacturing, selves to employers. healthcare, transportation, education, retail, food services and accommodation, and administrative and support services. Next Thursday, November 8, the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center is hosting a Veterans Resource and Job Fair. This event will take place at Greenfield Community College's main campus, One College Drive in Greenfield, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The job fair is free and open to the public. Veterans who preregister with MassHire FHCC will receive free coaching on how to pre-

ity connections in a conduit under Northfield Road, MassDOT repaved that road in 2017 and will not allow cutting into the roadway for five years. Instead, National Grid will require two overhead utility poles, one for electricity, and one for cable and telephone. Garcia said that the connections could be fed from the poles into underground conduits on the library property. In the future, if senior housing is constructed on adjoining town property, the system could be expanded.

Bid Almost Ready

The bid package includes the "base" tasks-the library construction itself - and three "alternate" items to be bid separately. One alternate item is installation of an emergency propane generator, estimated to cost in the range of \$78,000. Highway foreman Glenn McCrory and selectboard members questioned the cost, saying it seemed too high.

The second alternate bid item includes various electrical installations, including a sound system in the meeting room, replacing specialty electrical boxes with standard ones, and installing security cameras and camera wiring, a lightning protection system, and more expensive light fixtures. The cost estimate for these items was \$45,000.

Landscaping is the third alternate item. The base specifications include planting a lawn, seeding conservation mix in other disturbed areas, and mulching where needed. The alternate item provides for planting trees and shrubs, at an estimated cost of \$19,000.

Board members noted that the alternate section of the bid document was not complete. O'Brien said he would provide that section, along with a list of issues with the documents and their resolutions, this week, so the board can complete its review at its November 5 meeting.

Other Business

The selectboard approved the invitation to bid documents prepared

by Tighe & Bond for evaluation of the double-barreled siphon at the

GREENFIELD – November is pare for the job fair and apply for a job, including learning interview Many area businesses are hiring, techniques on how to present them-

town-owned wastewater treatment plant POTW#1. The job includes inspecting and cleaning a 2,000foot siphon, at an expected cost of over \$100,000, to be paid from the plant's retained earnings.

The board also approved invitation to bid documents for installation of new equipment at the plant's pump house, expected to cost approximately \$50,000, also from the same fund.

After no bids were received to build a dry storage shed for the highway department, McCrory asked the board to consider having the shed built by a highway employee. Administrative coordinator Smith was asked to check about the legality or other issues of building the shed this way.

The selectboard adopted a sidewalk snow clearing policy, implementing the sidewalk clearing bylaw "effective immediately."

The board granted a solicitation permit to Aaron Lempert of Insight Solar.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Historic Farmhouse **Nearly Demolished**

By ROB SKELTON

Members of the Leverett historical commission met with two-thirds of the selectboard Tuesday to hash out the demolition delay ordinance and to grant an easement to abutters of an obscure burial ground near the Amherst-Sunderland line. Absent selectwoman Julie Shively was reportedly in London.

Susan Mareneck, speaking for the commission, explained that the ordinance, passed in 2011, buys the town time to seek alternatives to demolition of historic buildings, such as finding a buyer, moving the building, or at least documenting the property.

"We heard there was a historic building in Leverett about to be demolished," Mareneck said, referring to Susan Todd's farmhouse at 257 Montague Road, where a new house has been built in the field. "We contacted the county building inspector Jim Hawkins, who said 'Uh, I forgot you have a demolition delay in your town, the only town in Franklin County to have one, and, sorry!"

Hawkins offered to re-classify the older house as an accessory building so that Todd could get a certificate of occupancy. She planned to move into her new structure November 1.

Todd is willing to give the house away, and Rich Carsten, a Dudleyville Road builder who owns a vacant lot on Rattlesnake Gutter Road, has lined up a possible buyer. Todd has been considerate, Mareneck said, and is willing to wait until spring if necessary. Meanwhile, she said, "we want to solve this so it doesn't happen again." To that end, the historical commission went to the planning board, with the idea of making the ordinance a bylaw. Predictably, selectboard chair Peter d'Errico noted, the planning board punted, urging Historical to send a letter to Hawkins, which is what the ordinance required in the first place, and which didn't work.

whose corner actually protrudes into Sunderland. The burials date from 1774 to 1857, and include numerous Cowls headstones a prominent family then and now. No deed to the Wiley cemetery has been found in the registry of deeds.

"It would seem that the town is the owner, and if that's true, the selectboard has authority" to grant easements, said Eva Gibavic from Historical.

To that end, abutters Lynn Olson and Mitch Mroz, whose driveway is on the cemetery property, have requested, as a "housekeeping" measure, for the selectboard to grant them an easement, which it did. Olson and Mroz thanked the board for its consideration; the board hoped they'd still be happy when they receive the bill for the filing costs.

Other Business

Presumptive state rep Natalie Blais (pronounced "Blay"), from Sunderland but originally northeastern Vermont, came to schmooze the board with two of her kids in tow. It was a lovefest with pledges of mutual support and "We've got your back." D'Errico made a couple of speeches until fellow selectman Tom Hankinson told him to stop.

Two young guys from a solar start-up with a project planned for the Zak property in the Long Plain area brought an illegible map to the meeting hoping to negotiate a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement in order to attract investors.

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Veterans will have first opportunity to meet the employers and vendors at 10 a.m. The Job Fair is open to the general public at 11 a.m.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet with up to 30 employers from Franklin and Hampshire counties and the North Quabbin region. Job seekers are encouraged to dress appropriately for a job interview, and to bring a resume.

For more information about the Job Fair and to preregister, contact Michael Anderson at (413) 774-4361 or michaelanderson@ masshirefhcareers.org.

Biomass Film Screening

WENDELL - A group of Wendell residents concerned about the logging in Wendell State Forest will be hosting the award winning documentary "Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?" this Friday. The film shows the impacts of the US biomass power industry on communities, forests, and the climate, focusing on stories from New England and around the country.

One of the featured scientists will be Dr. Mary Booth, director of the nonprofit Partnership for Policy Integrity based in Pelham, MA (www.pfpi.net). Dr. Booth will be at the screening and available for questions.

Screens Friday, November 2, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library, 7 Depot Road, Wendell.

Historical and Select plan to "lean on" the planning board so that a bylaw can be introduced next spring at town meeting.

The Todd farmhouse, bearing the name Dickinson, stands next to another farmhouse (name Boutwell) on the 1871 county map.

Graveyard Easement

Mareneck also took the floor to describe the 0.7-acre Wiley cemetery, located between 562 Montague Road, Amherst and 2 Long Plain Road, Leverett,

The selectmen encouraged them but noted the proposed payments were very low, and later were critical that the permits already pulled have yet to be paid for (\$200).

Complaints about the gravel pit noise near Bull Hill have been resolved, according to a letter sent to the selectboard by pit owner Craig Warner and resident Paul Roud.

A hidden driveway used by Betsy Carlisle at the two-way stop sign near the Leverett Pond could use more signage, and the board authorized the road boss, with the police chief's assent, to install a warning sign.

A recall of low-volume powerflush toilets due to their explosive nature has the Leverett Town Hall commode slated for replacement, according to town clerk Lisa Stratford.

The Montague minister/sawyer Verne Williams has delivered some of the bridge decking lumber he was paid for five years ago, slated for the repair of the Mill Yard Road bridge next year.







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WATER from page A1

Brown. "Which nine of them are down, anyway."

Brown told the *Reporter* that the decision to shut off the water was not made in consultation with the town of Montague, but he had been in frequent communication with town and fire department officials. No one on the selectboard questioned the water district's decision, and the board did not take a vote on the matter.

Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman, who has led the effort to obtain the superior court order on the basis that the Southworth building is a fire hazard, confirmed that he had discussed the water district's shutoff decision with Brown. "The thing people need to understand is that if there is a fire, the sprinkler system wouldn't work anyway," Zellman said.

Zellman said the court had recently given him the authority to change the locks on the factory, so "anyone who wants to go in there has to come to me." He said that valuable equipment and tools remain in the building, along with a half-consumed cup of coffee on a desk. "It's as if [the factory] was frozen in time," he said.

One Wheel Still Turning

Brown told the selectboard that he had been in discussions with Wayne Roberts, regional operator of Swift River Hydro, the company that operates a small electricity-generating facility in one of the Strathmore buildings. Brown said the company is trying to come up with "some ideas to cool their turbines" without town water. "They're looking at using canal water," he said. "They've done that in the past."

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis pointed out that the use of canal water would require negotiations with FirstLight, the larger power company which owns the canal. Ellis said he had spoken to Mr. Roberts that evening, and that "he seemed very level headed about it."

Swift River Hydro's facility in Turners Falls was purchased in 2016 by a company called Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, headquartered in Morristown, New Jersey. In August of this year Eagle Creek, which owns 76 hydro electric facilities generating 240 megawatts of power, entered into a purchase and sale agreement with a Canadian company called Ontario Power Generation.

A spokesperson at Eagle Creek said the sale has not been finalized, and would not comment on its prospects.

In a related development, Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which is overseeing the Strathmore demolition design, said the project has encountered some "unknown issues" involving the "integrity of Swift River Hydro."

Hunter did not elaborate on these issues. Many of the structures in the complex are attached, creating potential problems under a partial demolition. Hunter said he may request an extension of the demolition design project to address these problems.

Downtown Winter Parking Experiment Approved

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey presented a "pilot" proposal to the selectboard Monday night to allow residents limited on-street parking privileges in downtown Turners Falls.

Until now, parking has not been allowed on Montague's streets between 1 and 5 a.m. from December through March. The proposed bylaw will allow overnight parking, by permit, in two specific locations: the south side of L Street between Fifth and Seventh, and the north side of Prospect Street between L and Central. Only 26 permits will be issued.

Ramsey said the proposal aims to create more downtown parking spaces during the winter. He said the existing municipal lots are "heavily used" during the months of the ban. "There is a shortage of supply," he said, "because, as we all know, the downtown was built well before the advent of the automobile."

Ramsey argued that the winter shortage did not justify the expense

November 15, and the lottery will take place November 19.

According to Ramsey, the town has not "finalized all the ground rules" for the system, "but there will be ground rules and expectations, both from [vehicle owners] and from the town. They're going to be plowed in, and they just can't be throwing their snow back into the road."

Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron said he had purchased new signs for the municipal lots stating that they would not be plowed on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays. "There was an issue last year that they did not know this," he said.

The new regulations for on-street parking will be posted on the town website.

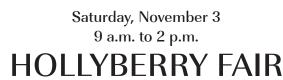
Taxes Going Up

The board began the Monday meeting with a lengthy tax classification hearing, which focused on the difference between residential tax rates and the rates for commercial, industrial, and personal property (CIP). Since the early 1980s, Monthe selectboard and finance committee had opted, as in past years, to tax to the "levy limit," in order to fund the 2019 budget but also to build up various reserve funds targeted to future capital needs. The levy limit is the amount of total property tax revenue allowed under the state law known as Proposition 2.5.

"I was hoping we would somehow have a magic bullet and decrease taxes this year, given the sewer rate increases," said selectboard member Michael Nelson. "But obviously that was just an imaginary pipe dream."

Town treasurer/collector Eileen Seymour came before the board with a proposal to reduce the interest rate on overdue sewer bills from 14% to 7%, in light of the large sewer rate increase voted by the board the previous week. Seymour explained that the reduction would only apply to FY'19 bills, and would cease after a year, when the sewer bill is attached to a residential property tax bill.

The board approved the proposal, which will be voted on a second time next week because it was a late ad-



Trinitarian Church, 147 Main Street, Northfield

20 juried crafters, Thanksgiving pies and bake sale, candy, brunch all day, handmade gifts, raffles, deluxe Christmas fleas. First 50 shoppers get coupon for free coffee. (413) 834-2469.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK (PART-TIME)

The Town of Gill is accepting applications for an **Administrative Clerk**. The position is part-time, averaging 15 hours per week, with a rate of \$17.45/hour. Attendance at some evening meetings is required.

The Administrative Clerk provides support and assistance to the Town Administrative Assistant, Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Conservation Commission, and other Town Boards and Departments as directed by the Town Administrative Assistant. Requires excellent writing ability, and ability to work independently. Municipal experience & zoning knowledge a plus!

A partial list of responsibilities includes: compile Annual Town Reports; attend evening meetings of the ZBA and Planning Board and take and transcribe meeting minutes; prepare and collate handouts for meetings; provide customer service in person and on the telephone and respond to inquiries regarding town services; organize and file all records for Board of Health, ZBA, Planning Board; update information on town website; and prepare articles for the newsletter and local newspapers.

A complete job description and application form are available at Town Hall and online at *www.gillmass.org/jobs*. Letter of interest, application, & résumé required. Send to Ray Purington at *administrator@gillmass.org* or 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The Town of Gill is an equal opportunity, non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer.

"We anticipate that within two weeks, we will hear back from Civil Service with a ranked-order list," said Ellis. The Montague chief remains under the state civil service system. Ellis did not say whether the board would be bound by the list's rankings.

Emergency Wood

Ellis updated the board on the progress of the proposal for a town wood bank. The creation of the tree committee, the wood bank would provide emergency wood at no cost as fuel to income-qualified citizens. Volunteers from the UMass-Amherst forestry program would process the wood, and the Council on Aging would process applications. The wood will be stored off Sandy Lane.

Ellis said the tree committee had recently held an "on site meeting" to organize the bank. The committee had hoped to distribute wood by the end of this winter, but the need to process and season it will delay distribution until next year.

Ellis said, however, that the "energy" displayed at the first meeting "is going to result in the program we

with Northeast Roof Consultants to evaluate the roofs of the Shea Theater and town hall annex roof.

He also announced that Montague had been awarded a \$17,900 state Recreational Trails grant to construct a trail and "paddlers' access" to the Millers River in Millers Falls. The trail will be right below a railroad bridge to Erving, near a "twisted gate" on Newton Street.

Cynthia Oldham of the Montague Culture Council came before the selectboard to disclose a "financial interest" in a matter coming before the council, and request the board allow her to participate in the matter as a non-elected municipal employee under the state conflict of interest law. Oldham said she had applied to be paid \$300 for a project to be displayed at the Discovery Center.

The board voted to exempt Oldham from the restrictions of the state law, Chapter 268a Section 19, after she agreed not to participate in evaluating or approving her own grant.

Library director Linda Hickman asked the board to approve the position of "substitute library assistant"

1.5

of building more parking lots, and said the town might consider a more ambitious permit program. "This is a good experiment," he said. "It gets us heading in the right direction." Ramsey said that during the pilot, the DPW will be keeping track of the policy's additional costs.

The permits would cost \$25 each. In Ramsey's original motion they would be made available on a firstcome, first-served basis, but selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz proposed an amendment that they would be issued by a lottery. The board approved the proposal as amended. Residents are required to apply by tague has opted for a "split tax rate," whereby property in the CIP class is taxed at a higher rate than residential. This takes some of the tax burden off of homeowners, but raises it for local businesses.

After a brief hearing, during which few in the small audience opted to speak, the board voted for a shift of 1.3. This produces a residential rate of \$17.13 per \$1,000. While this rate is only 4 cents higher than last year, the assessors' office estimates that due to increases in residential values, property tax for the average singlefamily home will increase by \$133. Steve Ellis pointed out that both dition to the agenda. Kuklewicz, participating in the meeting by telephone, urged any sewer users facing problems paying their bills to work out a payment plan with the treasurer/collector's office.

Three Seek Chief's Desk

Ellis announced that three candidates had participated in the assessment center evaluation, a key part of the process for choosing Montague's new police chief. The candidates are acting chief Chris Williams, lieutenant Christopher Bonnett, who is on administrative leave, and sergeant James Deery.

were all hoping for."

Other Business

Ramsey requested the board execute a \$12,500 state technical assistance grant for an energy-efficiency evaluation of the new public works building, projected to be completed in 2020. The "peer review," as it is called, will evaluate the costs and benefits of various energy efficiency proposals.

The board approved the request, and executed a \$315,000 contract for owner's project management services for the facility's construction. They also executed a \$1,680 contract to allow qualified individuals to fill in for regular library employees. She also asked that Judith Ketchum be appointed to the new position, designed to give the staff more flexibility. The board approved both requests.

The board voted to cancel its meeting scheduled for November 12, and Ellis proposed an executive session to discuss collective bargaining on November 19. They retired to a non-public executive session to discuss "potential litigation" concerning the Southworth Company (see article, page A1).

The next scheduled meeting will be on November 5.





LEARNING from page A1 teaching me to make a glass sing, and using water-filled pop bottles to make music.

Rodgers' performance was not rudimentary. His presence on stage included about two dozen perfectly-tuned wine glasses, a guitar, computer, keyboard, and other technology, and an impressive vocal performance.

Rodgers spoke to students about his musical journey, and the difficulties he faced growing up. He recalled the times in his youth when lots of people were telling him what to do or believe. Rodgers let the students know "it took a while to figure out" what he believed in.

Complexity of Sounds

Rodgers' performance began with a mesmerizing number that started with the glasses, and moved to keyboard and guitar. It was hard to believe there was only one person on stage because there was a lot of looping and sampling. Rodgers was constantly fussing with the laptop, tapping foot pedals, fine-tuning the keyboard and guitar bits.

When he finally added the vocals, he was singing to a rapt audience – no easy feat when you're playing for high school students who have never heard of you. Rodgers thanked the students for their respectful listening, especially while he was playing the glasses and recording for looping. He talked to them about what the impact of outside noises would do to the aggregate performance.

I enjoyed the way Rodgers interacted with the students. He took the time before each song to talk about where his head was at when he wrote it. One song that seemed to resonate with students was "Don't be Afraid to be Small," but I suspect that Rodgers' frank discussion about "possibilities for change" and "strength in numbers" was a key factor in their deeper listening.

Rodgers also talked to students about the themes of social justice issues that recur in his music. Before a song about Syrian refugees, he talked about the 10-year war that has afflicted their country, and told students he thought about them a lot. Rodgers reminded them that Syrian refugees "are people like you and me."

The performance took place in the auditorium at Turners Falls High School with an audience of about 220 students and faculty attending. Following the performance, music students and teacher Kayla Dedischew had the opportunity to play with Rodgers. In addition, there was a group of film students doing a threecamera shoot to record the event (hopefully to be aired on Montague Community Television soon). You may also see Rodgers perform online at cindertalk.com. I spoke with Korey Martineau, one of the film students, who had researched Cindertalk on YouTube before the event. He hadn't particularly enjoyed the video, but was impressed with the live performance. Gill student Aly Murphy was a member of the behind-the-scenes team - directing the film crew, lighting and other aspects of the show along with faculty member Jonathan Chappell.

GILL from page A1

9.7% of sewer bills went unpaid, but in 2017 that jumped to 17.9%. He said he was unsure of the reason for this, but that his best guess was that it was because the rate had also increased last year.

"Boy, Are We Stuck!"

The reasons behind Montague's rate hike were discussed, but much of the discussion focused on issues within Gill's control.

The district's "inflow and infiltration" (I&I) problem was discussed at length. For years, the amount of sewer water leaving the district for treatment in Montague is greater than the amount of clean water pumped into the district from Greenfield, resulting in Montague charging Gill for treating "extra" water from unknown sources. Customers in Riverside, meanwhile, are charged for sewer services based on the amount of clean water coming in to homes and businesses, because inflow is metered, while outflow is not.

Board member John Ward said Gill is actually using less clean water as a district, which is positive from a conservation standpoint, but outflow continues to increase. Ward said the town has been told by contractors in the past that it would cost more money to investigate and fix than would be saved by doing so, but he wondered whether that equation may have changed due to the size of Montague's rate increase.

At the same time, he pointed out the difficulty in paying for a study or solution, which would need to be funded by an additional rate

increase on top of the one needed to cover Montague's expected increase in charges.

Board member Randy Crochier reported that limited testing of the sewer system with smoke and cameras had come up with nothing.

The illegal pumping of water from sump pumps into house drains is believed to be one of the sources of the I&I, along with cracks in piping where groundwater gets in, and leaks from storm drains into the sewer. If residents are pumping rainwater from their basements into the sewer they are not being billed for it, which results in all other residents subsidizing their sewer use.

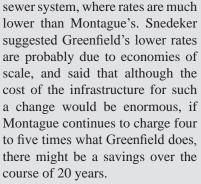
Inspections were discussed, but many felt they may be too aggressive or invasive. Chair Greg Snedeker said he hoped the community could find a solution to the problem without creating an "us versus them" attitude, but said that at the same time, a 71 percent increase is a big increase, and the problem should be addressed.

As an initial step, the board decided to look into including a survey question related to sump pumps in customers' next water bills.

A resident of Riverside brought up the possibility of looking for grants to help with the overall problem of sewer service costs. Crochier pointed out that a difficulty in this is that Gill is actually a customer of Montague's sewer system, and most grants of this type are given to towns operating their own systems.

"Boy, are we stuck," the resident replied.

Another brought up the possibility of hooking into Greenfield's



No one knew if such a change might be possible, but the consensus was that it was worth looking into.

Ward reported on a recent meeting with Montague town administrator Steve Ellis and wastewater superintendent Bob MacDonald to discuss longer-term solutions. Ward said they talked about methane digesters, composting, and reducing the cost of trucking sludge. He added that, in part because Gill's selectmen are also sewer commissioners, it made sense to reach out and offer assistance in coming up with solutions to a difficult problem.

Other Business

Purington reported that initial work has been completed on the Gill elementary school well water treatment system. November 12 is the target date for hooking everything up and getting it running. If all goes according to plan, water will be flowing from the system on November 13, and testing can begin at that time.

The board approved a motion to submit Gill's municipal electricity aggregation plan to the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for approval. Purington said the Department of Energy Resources

schooling in Montague.

TFHS is one of three schools where you might find Donna DuSell of FHCC. She is often called the "Jobs Lady" by her students. DuSell sees students one-on-one or through group events; individual students looking for jobs, career counseling, or non-college alternatives might be referred to her by a counselor or teacher. FHCC also contracts caseworkers from the Community Action Youth Program.

DuSell brings in guest speakers from time to time, arranges job shadows, teaches resume writing, and works with others to arrange events such as job fairs. Her position is there to support the school in general, and she will meet with any student in the 9-12 cohort who wants assistance.

(DOER) had reviewed the plan last week and said it looked good.

Purington offered thanks and kudos to Vicky Jenkins for her work on the library restoration project. He said that a budget issue involving sheetrock came to a good resolution, and work is proceeding.

The selectboard approved a renewal of the town's loan for the purchase of the Mariamante property, at a 2.5% rate.

Community development block grant money is available to lowincome Gill residents for home rehabilitation. Gill, Bernardston, and Rowe receive the grant money jointly. There will be a public meeting in the Bernardston town hall on November 7 at 7:45 p.m. to discuss altering eligibility requirements to include a potential project in that town.

The selectboard approved the use of the town hall for a meeting of the Gill care group on November 9 at 10 a.m. Purington said the informal group, which works on a "neighbors helping neighbors" theme, was an offshoot of community-building discussions in the 225th anniversary committee. The group usually meets at the library, which is closed for renovations.

Terri Rice was approved to the Gill historical commission, and Kory Ryan was approved as firefighter, contingent on medical evaluation.

The board declared the town's 2008 Crown Victoria police cruiser as surplus, stipulating that if was not sold in 60 days it would be donated to the fire department for Jaws of Life practice.



er shell of the speakers were designed and created using the 3D printer.

The focus of the maker lab is mostly electronics, while the "Design and Build" class, taught by Jonathan Chappell, has a different emphasis. Students learn the basics of electricity and engineering, and are usually challenged to create an invention.

They also use the woodworking shop to design and build sets for school plays and musicals. For last year's production of Dorothy in Wonderland, students built a five-foot-tall table and chairs, which was a good engineering challenge for them.

Whenever possible, Lamore likes to offer students the opportunity to be out in the real world, to add relevance to what they are learning in the classroom. Recently, his physics class took a trip to Decker Machine Works, an ultra-precision machining company in Greenfield. Lamore's class has been studying light, and saw firsthand how high-intensity lights were used to inspect the manufactured pieces. Lamore also organized a field trip for interested students to attend the "Women in Engineering & Computing" career day at UMass. Eleven students took the opportunity to take part in hands-on activities and hear a number of speakers. Hosted by women engineers from Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon, the UMass engineering department, and others, there was also a panel discussion on the challenges for women studying in a male-dominated field. These are just a few examples of the diversity of challenges and experiences offered to students in the Gill-Montague district through collaborations between the school and the larger community. This is an encouraging trend, and one that many - particularly those involved in the Powertown in the 21st Century study - hope will continue to expand in scope.



Murphy told me there were about 10 students involved in the set, sound, video and lighting work around the performance.

Growing Collaborations

It was great to see multiple disciplines coming together to produce a memorable event for the school community, but also to look at it from a broader perspective of education iniTurners students attended a Women in Engineering and Computing career day.

tiatives, cooperative learning, and partnerships.

I spoke with Principal Annie Leonard about the event, and also the ways the district has been working to expand authentic learning through community engagement.

This particular project came about when Michi Wiancko of Antenna Cloud Farm talked with Jen Audley about organizing community events for their resident artists outside of the farm-based performances. In her role as the manager of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership - a coalition of schools, organizations, volunteers, youth, and adults in the district - Audley was able to facilitate some local events, including the Cindertalk performance.

Leonard, Lamore, and Audley are all members of the "Powertown in the 21st Century" team, alongside a host of others. An eighteen-month grant from the Barr Foundation in Boston is being used to support the planning and redesign of the Turners Falls High School toward competency-based education - "an educational experience designed to enable students to acquire content knowledge, creative know-how, habits of success, and wayfinding abilities essential to improved life chances."

The project, which seeks to build on existing partnerships, is being facilitated by the Collaborative for Educational Services. For detailed information about the project and partners, I recommend a visit to powertown.org.

Working with the Career Center

Leonard says she is excited about the opportunities for growth for students and staff, but was also clear that some of this work has been going on for years. One of the school's longstanding partners is the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center (FHCC), whose work in the district has been ongoing for many years.

The Career Center uses a combination of state and federal funds; one grant from the US Department of Labor has been extended another year. The "Summer Jobs & Beyond" program benefits students living or

DuSell also helps with the "School to Careers" elective class taught by Lamore. The class focuses on job readiness and career exploration. Some of their goals include exploring opportunities for students to experience competency-based learning; finding synergy between disciplines; offering a variety of choices for students to pursue learning; and providing experiences that add relevance to what students are learning.

Together, they help students hone their awareness of professional behavior, develop their resumes, and find internships and jobs.

Hands-On Learning

Lamore also teaches in the school's maker lab, where students have access to the carpentry shop, 3D printing, drafting software, and more. Students learn the basics of how electronics work, build circuits, and program microcontrollers.

Toward the end of the class, interested students can move on to design their own project. Last year a student designed and built Bluetooth speakers using a combination of modular and scavenged components. The out-



SPORTS from page A1

earned some banner-worthy praise is Pioneer's Wyatt Keith. Mr. Keith also hit a milestone this season, rushing for 1,014 yards (and counting). This puts him in pretty good company with Turners' other thousand-yard rushers

Congratulations to the Franklin Tech golf team. They finished an incredible 13-2, a half game behind McCann Tech in the Bi-County West, only because they played one fewer game.

Another team that rocked this year is the Turners Falls volleyball team. The Blue Ladies finished their regular season by beating six straight Northern Conference opponents and winning the NC title with a record of 16-4.

Congratulations to the Franklin Tech soccer team which won the Tri-County Conference and after starting out 0–1, finished the season with a record of 17–2, and will pay their next game against Monument Mountain.

And last but not least, congratulations to the Boston Red Sox, who won the World Series in five games!

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Athol 1 TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0

- TFHS 3 Mahar 1

The volleyball team got into playoff shape this week and finished the regular season strong, beating second place Mahar in the last game of the regular season to earn a conference championship.

On October 22, the Lady Thunder traveled to Athol to take on the Red Raiders. Although Red was down in the standings and eliminated from the playoffs, it was their last home game of the year and they were determined not to get swept. In homage to their never-say-die attitude, the Raiders played tough, and managed to win a match.

The team celebrated Senior Night on October 24, and Powertown was intent on not looking past the Pioneer Panthers to their title fight two days later. After Hannah Welles and Sarah Waldron took their bows, the Blue Ladies got to work. Turners seemed to take the Pioneer game in stride, and not take themselves too seriously.

In the first match, Turners earned points on smart serves and devastating kill shots. Waldron set the mood early with an ace on her first serve. Dabnev Rollins and Taylor Mur-

Blue aces and kill shots gave Powertown an insurmountable 22-7 lead en route to a 25-12 victory.

Pioneer fought back in the third, and after some long volleys and lucky breaks, the Panthers led 11-7. But aces from Murphy, Waldron, Dabney Rollins and Wells and long volleys orchestrated by Mercedes Morales propelled Powertown to a convincing 25-15 win in the game's final match. Blue walked out of the gym with a convincing 3-0 win, and a date with the Mahar Senators for the Northern Conference crown.

Turners came into last Friday's game against Mahar with a 15-4 record, undefeated in the Northern Conference at 9-0. The Senators were also 15-4, and 8-1 in the NC; their only conference loss was against Turners, in an earlier 3-2 grueling nail-biter.

Mahar came out swinging in the best-of-5 game, winning the first match 25-17. But the Blue Ladies found their footing in the second match, forcing it into overtime before stealing it 28-26 to knot the game 1-1. With the momentum squarely in their court, Blue went on a tear, and won the next two matches by identical scores of 25-12.

With the victory, Turners Falls earned the Northern Conference Championship outright. The Blue Ladies earned a break in the first round of playoffs, and will re-lace their sneakers on Monday, November 5 for a home game against Lenox.

Field Hockey

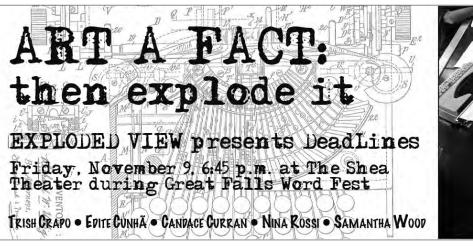
Smith Academy 1 – TFHS 0 Frontier 6 – TFHS 0

On Thursday, October 25, the Turners field hockey team traveled to Hatfield and dropped their final game of the regular season, 1-0. Lady Thunder managed 11 shots on goal but were unable to send any into the net. Goalkeeper Haleigh Greene kicked away 17 shots, but Smith won on a second-half put-in.

The loss gave Powertown an 11-6-1 record, and set up a travel game in the first round of the playoffs.

The team trekked to South Deerfield on Halloween to take on the 10–5–3 Frontier Red Hawks in the first round of the playoffs. Turners came into Wednesday's game ranked sixth in D-II West, and Frontier was seeded third.

Turners kept the ball in the Red zone for the first 10 minutes, using aggressive stick play. But the Birds still managed to score. At 25:30, Red cleared the ball out of their end and ran on a 4-on-3 fast break to get their first goal.





Turners quarterback Kyle Dodge passes to receiver Jaden Whiting during the second quarter as the Thunder persevered over the Easthampton Eagles last Friday night.

After the second goal, Turners' defense switched, positioning a lot of bodies between Hawk attackers and the goal. This wall worked pretty well, but it kept the ball primarily in Turners' end, and Frontier was able to pump another one in.

After that, aggressive play inside the circle by Turners led to several corner shots. Because the half cannot end on a defensive foul, Red got two shots after the horn blasted. They went on to score three secondhalf goals to take the contest 6-0.

There were some tears and long last hugs after the game, but the Ladies kept their heads up, even in defeat. Coach Becky Dame never stopped smiling as she watched her girls play the last game of 2018. "We had a good season," she said afterward. "This gave us a taste of the tournament."

With Wozniak the only graduat-

middle gave the Eagles the ball on the 45. Turners forced a fourth down on their own 34, but a QB sneak kept the Birds' drive alive, and three plays and a 2-PAT later, Eastie had an 8-6 lead.

Turners was unable to move the ball on their next possession, and were forced to give up the rock. But these two teams were playing for the title, and the Blue D came up big. A quick pick by Andy Craver gave them the ball near midfield. Turners drove deep into enemy territory, and John Torres pounded to the 1-yard line, where Keith simply ran it in.

Tyler Lavin added the extra point, and Blue retook the lead 13-8.

But Hamp's pretty good in their own right, and 42 seconds later, they wrestled it back, 16-13.

With their bubble burst, Powertown could have just lied down and died. After all, even with a loss,



24 with 4:24 left.

But the Eagles wouldn't say die. They landed another roundhouse 18 seconds later and shortened the lead to 33-30. Powertown then ground down the clock as they marched downfield. With 48 seconds left, Keith delivered the knockout punch, scoring his fifth touchdown of the night and giving Turners Falls the 39-30 victory and the ICN Championship.

Craver, Whiting, and Jake Wallace all made interceptions for the Blue D. Offensively, Keith rushed for 206 yards and scored five touchdowns for 30 points. Torres gained 24 yards, Craver had 17, and Dodge added two on the ground.

In the air, Dodge was 7 for 16 for 93 yards, with an interception and a TD. Whiting caught four passes for 56 yards, Craver had two receptions for 28 yards and a TD, and Wallace had one catch for 9 yards.

Soccer

FCTS 2 – Commerce 1 FCTS 3 – Smith Vikings 1 FCTS 4 - HCSS 2

FCTS 1 – Duggan 0

This week the Franklin Tech Eagles mopped up the Tri-County Conference, beating three TCC teams on their way to a 4-0 week.

Tech hosted the Red Raiders of Commerce High School on October 23. Tech managed 12 kicks on goal, with two getting through, to defeat them 2-1. Eddie Oyalle and Ruben Galvez scored the goals for the Eagles, assisted by Jovanni Ruggiano and Ryan Campbell. In goal, Grayson Funk made seven saves.

Then on October 25, Tech went to Northampton and defeated the Smith Voc Vikings 3-1. Ruggiano, Campbell, and Galvez scored goals, with Ruggiano, Garrett Cole and Will Turn giving assists. Funk's nine saves preserved the 3-1 victory.

phy followed suit, and even with a rotation infraction giving the Cats a point, Turners shot out to a 21-6 lead before coasting to a 25-10 first match win.

The second match was more of the same, with the Pioneers struggling to match volleys, but more

Turners continued to play scrappy, frustrating the Hawks' passing game, but again Frontier got the ball in front of their own goal, and scored on a fast break.



League champs: the Turners Falls volleyball team, shown here on Senior Night, clinched the Northern League title with a 3-1 victory over the Mahar Senators in Orange.

ing senior, Dame should have plenty of players returning next year, with hunger for another playoff run.

Football

TFHS 39 – Easthampton 30

On October 26, Championship Friday, the top two teams in the Intercounty North went head to head for the Conference Belt. Easthampton was hoping to knock off Powertown for a slice of the ICN pie, but Powertown wouldn't share.

It was a very exciting game. Turners scored first, then came from behind three times to turn a 3point squeaker into a 39-30 victory. The two heavyweights kept hitting each other with roundhouses, juggling the lead until Powertown scored a knockout with 48 seconds left in the final round.

Turners scored on their opening drive as One-One, Wyatt Keith, broke one into the end zone for a 38-yard TD. The PAT went wide left, and 114 seconds into the game, Blue led 6-0.

It wouldn't stay that way for long. A monster return right up the

they would retain a piece of the ICN crown. But Turners Falls proved to be too good, and too hungry. 33 seconds later, Keith broke a 64-yard run to take back the lead, 20-16.

The Eagles clawed and pecked, matching Turners' blow for blow for most of the rest of the half. Late in the second quarter, an interference call gave East a first-and-goal from inside the Blue 10. They scored two plays later, for a 24-20 halftime lead.

Both defenses took control in the second half, and the third quarter was scoreless.

But in the fourth, Turners pulled back in front. They started their scoring drive on their own 13. Several runs by Keith and a completion to Jaden Whiting helped Powertown move the ball to the 17, and QB Kyle Dodge found Craver in the end zone. The PAT was blocked, and with 6:34 left in the game, Turners had nosed out to a slim 26-24 lead. Easthampton got the ball back. but the Blue D stopped them on downs. Keith then had another breakaway to extend the lead, and a Lavin PAT put Turners ahead 33-

Last Friday, October 26, in their last home game of the season, the Franks defeated the Hampden Charter School of Sciences Wolves 4-2 to preserve their spot at the top of the TCC. The Science Wolves only managed six shots on goal, but two went in. On the other side of the field, Ruggiano lit up, punting three balls into the net. That gives Jovanni 22 goals and six assists on the season, and 48 career goals and 14 assists for 62 career points. Campbell scored the Birds' other goal. Giving assists were Galvez, Tony Barilone and Jake Burnett. Funk (three saves) and Matt Regnier (one) shared time in goal for the Franks.

On Monday, the Eagles went down to Springfield and shut out Duggan Academy 1-0. It was their third straight win over TCC opponents, to extend their winning streak to four games, and their record to 17-2.

Tech drew the 14th seed in the D-II West playoffs, and will travel to the Berkshires to chal-

lenge Monument Mountain in the first round.



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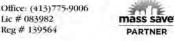


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BREASTS from page A1

suggests reflects the influences of "patriarchy, misogyny, power imbalance, and exploitation women inadvertently reinforce in themselves through identity issues."

Think about this for a moment: the brassiere is a rite of passage towards beauty and adulthood. A girl's first breast restraint is called a "training bra." A girl is encouraged to train for restraint – and whatever else society lobs her way - while she "develops."

What if, instead, we could have a conversation about how to care well for this lovely aspect of femaleness? The Breast Archives is all about encouraging this conversation.

When I asked how the seed for this film got nurtured, Murphy told me about a trip she took to Egypt, where she had a moment of inspiration while seeing hieroglyphs depicting topless women chiseled 200 feet high, their breasts shining in the desert sun. She found herself wondering, "Who were these women? What was their culture that honored breasts this way?"

Murphy could not shake the new sense that breasts contain an ancient wisdom. This idea staved with her, and so she started asking other women about their experience of their own breasts. They responded so enthusiastically to these conversations that Murphy found a camera woman, created a safe space, and began filming.

Her queries range from earliest memories of breasts, through all of the ways breasts have resonated in the lives of her subjects, women

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Meagan Murphy, director and producer of The Breast Archives.

who have expressed finding healing, self-awareness, and a sense of release from engaging in the project. Murphy said she believes it can be cathartic and important for women to come and see these conversations about breasts.

An online summary at thebreastarchives.org describes the film as a candid revelation of nine women's "memories of the pubescent passage and the delights of first intimacies, experiences of shame, sexual tension, anxiety about breast cancer, and the influence of media, religion, and culture on their self-worth and development."

There is a natural bridge between The Breast Archives and the Cancer Connection, a local organization that Murphy describes as being "a tremendous resource of caring and wonderful people." Based in Northampton, the organization provides free services helping those with cancer and their families sort out priorities, medical questions, work, family and legal issues during the complicated

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time after a diagnosis.

She goes on to advocate that "breast cancer awareness needs to go deeper than pink. The Breast Archives is about creating community between women." With this in mind, Murphy is launching a Kickstarter campaign and developing a "Gal Pal Kit" that can be used to facilitate a "breast party with your closest friends and sisters." The kit contains breast balm and a tailored set of conversation cards.

Our tea cups forgotten on the table, Ms. Murphy looked over my shoulder into the distance, tilting her head, smiling and taking a deep breath. It was time for us to wrap up what had become a delightfully broad ramble across the fields of sociology, spirituality, medicine, folklore and filmmaking, as we explored women's practical and sacred knowledge.

"Breasts are a unique portal to examining our lives as women," Murphy reflected. "It can be such a gift to poke around this taboo topic. It matters that our stories be heard, and given the respect they deserve and merit."

You can hear all the stories in The Breast Archives for yourself at the screening on Saturday, November 11 at 2 p.m. at Green River Yoga, 158 Main Street, Greenfield. Doors open at 1:30. Seating is limited, and advance purchase is suggested.

Tickets are \$20 (or more), with proceeds to benefit the Cancer Connection, and are available at World Eye Bookshop or greenriveryoga. com. For more information, call (413) 772-2050 or email info@greenriveryoga.com.

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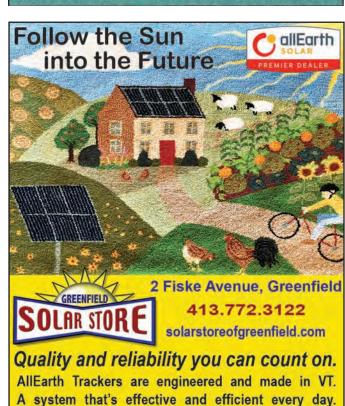
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Artist: Christine Pellerin

Skeleton Crew Theater trolls Trent, Burt, and Willyum Huggins lurk in the woods on Route 2 in Gill across from Barton Cove. The trolls are part of a larger display that is illuminated at night. The theater has been rebuilding this season after a fire.

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2018



A BRETON TOUSSAINT

By DAVID BRULE

C'HOAT, **KOST** AR BRITTANY – November First dawns grey, gloomy, and wet as the medieval Church would have it, on All Saints Day. That early Church was very politically sagacious in imposing a Christian day of atonement on the pagan ritual of Samhain. It's likely that St. Patrick and the Seven Saints of Brittany had something to do with that.

Regardless, out here in the far reaches of Brittany, the westernmost hinterland of continental Europe, we still observe Samhain in a way, with a little Christian element mixed in.

La Toussaint is a day, even several days, for the gathering of the clan; for the extended family, scattered to the four winds of France and beyond, to travel back home. Indeed, families all over Brittany know that this is the feast day to return to the family hearth, and to the tombs of the ancestors.

At this time of the year, it seems that the skies are typically dark, with swirling clouds driven across the landscape by the damp northwest wind off the North Atlantic and the Irish Sea – the Gwalarne. This Celtic land of Brittany is a place of dark legend and myth, where, according to the lore of the earliest peoples, the wandering souls of the dead drifted westward across the continent toward this region where the sun sets. Megalithic tombs dating back to 5,000 BC dot our landscape; standing stones called *menhirs* rise up from the fields and edges of woods, placed there by a vanished people that even predate the Celts. This is a place where the realm of the Dead and the Living is separated only by a thin border, where marshes and springs are passageways between the worlds.

vember First, our nonagenarian grandmother has been seated on her stool close to the fire. Not quite within the fireplace, but precariously close enough so that she can reach out over the glowing embers to maneuver her broad and flat cast iron pan, the galetière.

Her face glows with closeness of the heat and with the effort of her work. She has begun making stacks of wheat crêpes and buckwheat galettes for the family gathering. The clan that has been drawn home for this day will not be fed with just a little of the traditional Toussaint fare. They will require stacks and stacks of these flat cakes, to be served with sausages, eggs, cheese for the galettes, and butter, sugar, jam for the dessert crêpes.

Cousins, children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles and in-laws have come back, as they do every year at this time, when the family homestead draws them here.

The large granite fireplace dominates the humble room of the now-crowded cottage.

On the mantel piece the black and white 1918 photograph of the family patriarch, stern and proud Honoré Gwalarne looks out over the room, posed in his WWI uniform.

A Month of Variety at the Shea

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS - Here's a shout out for three upcoming events at the Shea Theater that promise to brighten a dreary November, for those willing to put aside their acorn-gathering for a few hours and come to downtown Turners Falls.

November 6: Nights of Grief and Mystery

You could stay glued to a screen watching the election results on next Tuesday, or you could catch an unusual and intriguing show that just happened to veer off course and land here at the Shea Theater. Stephen Jenkinson's "Nights of Grief and Mystery" comes to Western Mass between sold-out shows in New York City, LA, Boulder, Portland, Seattle, and beyond.

Jenkinson has taught at the Rowe Conference Center, and tour manager Matthew Stillman has friends in Montague, so when a date opened up for them after their NYC gig, someone suggested bringing the show to the Shea.

Thirty dollars in advance and forty at the door to see a show on a Tuesday night in Turners Falls is a lot, and normally I would give this a pass as not being in my budget. But with a hook as poetic as Jenkinson's, I will





Storyteller Stephen Jenkinson (left) shares the stage with Gregory Hoskins' band in 'Nights of Grief and Mystery."

be in the audience that night. Reads the description: "A storyteller. A band. An evening of mongrel sorrow, dappled by magic and wonder, fringed with regard for the gift of the tongue..."

And, since general anxiety is bound to be very high everywhere that night, I might as well go deeper, and experience what Stillman characterizes as "reportage form the front lines of the way things might really be."

What does that mean; what is it? "Part poetry, part lamentation, part book reading, part ribaldry, part concert, part lifting the mortal veil and learning the mysteries there... that's what's in store..."

Jenkinson and the Gregory Hoskins band are performing an improvisational few hours of words and music that they call a "Concert for Turbulent Times." The tour is linked with the latest book Jenkinson has published, Come Of Age: The Case for Elderhood in a Time of Trouble.

But all is not gloom always. Since early this morning of No-

Drafted into the French army in 1914, he was intended to be cannon fodder, sent up and out of the trenches in futile advances into No-Man's Land.

The upperclass French officers had nothing but distain for the peasantry, especially the rebellious and hot-blooded Bretons who barely spoke French. They communicated in Breton and in the Gallo patois. Besides, people like Honoré had an ancient reputation of distrust of the central Paris government. There had been a long and bloody Breton guerilla resistance against the Jacobin revolution of see WEST ALONG page B8



Observations on the Breton Day of the Dead.

Llama Lasagne will stage their second Shea happening.

"Well, here's what is becoming glaringly obvious,"

see VARIETY page B4

Sailing to Montreal part 3: dragging the rail

This concludes a tripartite saga wherein Wacker- full power, into reverse. We came off the rocks, and nagel tells the intriguing tale of a possibly too-long sailing cruise on the inland waters of the United States and Canada. Last week's installment left off with a bump.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

LAKE CHAMPLAIN - "Turn it off! Turn it off!" yelled Serge, leaping up onto the deck.

"Oh shit, man, we ran aground! Take the sail down!" I rushed to take the sail down - if we became immobilized, a sudden gust could capsize us.

As I stood on the cabin's roof taking the sail down, I happened to glance down at the water. Blocky BOUNDARY rocks making up the lake floor crowded the surface, nearly emerging from the water. Seaweed danced around them. They waved at me with the hypnotic undulations of snakes, as if they were enthusiastic about the possibility of growing through our ruined, sunken craft, and around our floating corpses.

"How did this happen?" wailed Emma.

"It happened because of a utopian ideal show of non-hierarchical command structure," Shayla responded.

In Chapman Piloting and Seamanship, it says: "The first instinctive act on going aground is to gun the engine into reverse in an effort to pull off; this may be the one thing that you should not do." Serge turned the engine back on and threw it, Serge steered us wide around the reef.

Someone later told us that the lake was low two feet lower than normal.

Recovery and Speed

While inland sailing is a floating omnibus of potential accidents and death, the most present and everyday danger is not external, like the one we'd just so narrowly avoided, but is actually on board. This forehead-level danger results in the constant beating that, like an initiation, new sailors must take in the head.

Nearly every day I would strike my skull moteored on a wooden molding or a door frame. The tiny passage in between the V-berth, the bathroom, and the main cabin was a zone of particular danger. "F---ing c--t f--f--- you b----," Emma said to the low wooden bulkhead one evening, after she hit her head for the last time of the day.

She subsequently announced that she would never, ever, agree to live on a boat.

The weather changed. Suddenly, steering the ship occupied all of our faculties, and we got our minds off of the recent neardestruction of our craft. The wind had picked up, and soon we were cruising south fast, both our mainsail and jib full of vergennes wind. We were headed for Willsboro other Creek Bay, an excellent anchorage on the

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

see SAILING page B5



Bronco needs to be the only pet in his new home.

Make no mistake: beneath this adorable, furry exterior lies a complete tyrant. A dog who wants to take over the world. A true terrier. If you're an experienced terrier person, you will have so much fun with this dog. If you're a normal person, he will ruin your life.

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"BRONCO"

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 5 THROUGH 9

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 ma-

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

NOVEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214 Montague Center (413) 367-2852 Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

The Slate Library in Gill is closed until mid-December for renovations. They received a grant from the Green Communities Competitive Grant Program in order to upgrade many of their building's systems.

ONGOING EVENTS EVERY TUESDAY

Leverett Library: Spanish Conversation Group, 4 to 5 p.m.; Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. Intermediate class, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Beginner class, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

2ND TUESDAYS

Dickinson Library: I'd Rather Be Reading Group, 7 p.m.

3RD TUESDAYS

Dickinson Library: Genealogy Group, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Wendell Free Library: Sylvia's Awesome Play Group, a sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m. (Not on school vacations.) Healthy Bones and Balance Class w/ Marianne Vinal. Geared to older Wendell residents. Tea afterward. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: Story Time with Karen. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Homeschool Science. Handson STEM activities for homeschoolers of all ages and their caregivers. Pre-registration required. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Dickinson Library: Knit With Us. All skill levels welcome. Facilitated by Kathy O'Shea. 6 to 8 p.m.

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348 Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591 Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220 Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559 Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

Mark: Office Hours, 1 to 4 p.m. **EVERY FRIDAY**

Wendell Free Library: Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper. Mixed level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

Dickinson Library: Story Hour. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday Afterschool. Variety of activities for kids after school is out. 2 to 3 p.m.

1ST FRIDAYS

Carnegie Library: Mystery Activity. Some possibilities are crafts, science experiments, tech-tools. For ages 8+ and teen. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

Wendell Free Library: Adult Strength Training with Rosie Heidkamp, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. AA Open Meeting, 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: Advanced Tai Chi, 10 a.m. Beginning Tai Chi, 11 a.m.

1ST SATURDAYS

Carnegie Library: Book Sale. Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS

Dickinson Library: Food Pantry, 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

Wendell Free Library: Sunday Morning Yoga will be taught at an advanced beginner/intermediate level. November's teacher is Jackie Howard. 10 a.m. \$ AA Open Meeting, 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

To apply for a show at these venues, find applications on their websites.

Leverett Library: Exhibit by Friends of the Leverett Crafts and Arts. Reception Sunday, November 18, 3 to 4 p.m. Through December.

Norris does a book talk about her memoir Too White: A Journey into the Racial Divide. Book signing to follow. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Dickinson Library: Friday Afterschool, Constellation Luminaries. For third to fifth graders. Please pre-register. 2:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Dickinson Library: Telescope 101. Two astronomers from the Aldrich Astronomical Society will show us how to use the library's new telescope, teach us the technique of "star hopping," and, weather permitting, take us outside for a tour of the November sky. Space-themed door prizes for children. Free and familyfriendly. 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Wendell Free Library: Science Fiction/Horror Movie Night: Michael Crichton's Timeline. Group of archaeologists travel back to medieval times. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Dickinson Library: Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry. This month is Shakespeare's Macbeth. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Leverett Library: Andrew Forsthoefel, author of Walking to Listen: 4,000 Miles across America, One Story at a Time, will do a book talk. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Dickinson Library: Friday Afterschool. Movie: Incredibles 2. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Carnegie Library: Woodland Magical Creatures. Children of all ages and caregivers are invited to enter our magical realm and build their very own fairy houses, using natural and recycled materials. Snacks will be provided. Costumes encouraged but not required, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

chine when the center is not open. **M**, **W**, **F**: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise **T, W, Th:** 12 p.m. Lunch Monday 11/5 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 11/6 CLOSED (Polling Station) Wednesday 11/7 9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach 9 to 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic 12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 11/8 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Friday 11/9 1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Wednesday 10 a.m.: Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Friday 12 p.m.: Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

(413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 11/5

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 p.m. Bridge Club Tuesday 11/6 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretching & Balance 11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch Wednesday 11/7 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 11/8

8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:30 p.m. Holiday Crafters Friday 11/9 Observing Veterans Day -

Senior Center will be CLOSED.

1ST WEDNESDAYS

Dickinson Library: Wednesday Morning Book Group. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

2ND WEDNESDAYS

Dickinson Library: Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry. 3 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Branch: Music & Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Leverett Library: Strength Training for 40+ with Kathy Sward. Register at the library: (413) 548-9220. 3 to 4 p.m.

1ST THURSDAYS

Carnegie Library: Genealogy Gathering. Informal discussion of local family research led by Sarah Campbell. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: Environment Awareness Group. Topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS

EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Dickinson Library: Environmental Discussion Group. This month, reading All Over Creation by Ruth Ozeki. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Dickinson Library: Friday Afterschool. LEGOs. 2 to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Leverett Library: Susie Chang workshop, Tarot for Uncertain Times. Copies of her book Tarot Correspondences will be available. 3 to 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Leverett Library: Ukulele Strumalong with Julie Stepanek. 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Dickinson Library: Wednesday Morning Book Group. Selection this month is Last Orders by Graham Swift. 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Dickinson Library: Rep. Paul Leverett Library: Author Kelly

Dickinson Library: Amandla Chorus, a local gem led by the amazing Eveline MacDougal, sings "for justice, freedom, and peace - songs new and old, some from around the world and others written right here." Community singing upstairs in the beautiful tall-ceilinged Children's Room. 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Leverett Library: Stephanie Woodard will discuss her new book, American Apartheid: The Native American Struggle for Self-Determination and Inclusion. Not recommended for children. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Dickinson Library: Friday Afterschool. Make a Map. 2 to 3 p.m.

Leverett Library: Monthly Movie Night. TBA: call ahead for details. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Holiday Craft Fair. Held at the town hall. 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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B3

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

The latest from MCTV this week is the October 14 presentation, "Naming the Land: History of the Pioneer Valley Association," at the Great Falls Discovery Center. In this talk, Mike Jackson helps us understand the history of the phrase "Pioneer Valley," and the reasons it was coined in the 1930s.

Catch it on MontagueTV.org, and on your local TV channel, channel 17. Find the next air time for this

program by looking through our TV schedule at montaguetv.org/p/55/ TV-Schedule.

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

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

Fresh This Weekend: **CiderDays Are Here Again!**

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY CiderDays, the annual community celebration of "all things apple" in Franklin County, marks its 24th year with tours, cider making and tastings, workshops and much more.

Orchards and venues countywide, from Ashfield, Deerfield, and Colrain to New Salem, welcome visitors for a variety of workshops and tasting events. Cider aficionados have a full weekend to sip and schmooze, and the apple-curious can learn all about the cider revival that's been shaking the fruit loose around here for a while.

In Turners Falls, you may notice the gigantic white tent in Unity Park, where a "cider salon" is to be held on Saturday evening. (As of press time, very few tickets are left, to the second seating only!) Events that are bringing folks here to Franklin County include workshops on cider making and apple growing, from opportunities to learn a hands-on craft to historical talks.

Take a culinary perspective with cider and cheese tastings, culinary demonstrations, or apple-themed meals at local eateries. Orchard tours are available, as well as other family-friendly events like a pumpkin smash, orchard ride, and apple festival are being held this weekend.

Organized by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce with support from a local, regional, and national sponsors, including Yankee magazine and Fedco Seeds, the event is "appealing" to a wide variety of folks who travel from near and far.

For details, tickets, and schedules, see ciderdays.org.

TV REVIEW God Friended Me (CBS)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – These days, people seem to be making remakes of TV shows from the '80s and revivals of other TV shows. I think a revival of a TV show is just an un-

who is about to kill himself. The atheist ends up saving his life. That act of heroism ends up being a good thing in more than one way later.

Then God directs Miles to a woman named Cara Bloom, a writer who's suffering from a case of

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Pokemon Go; Car Light Mystery; Railroad Spikes; Hit-And-Runs; Animal Control; BB Holes

Monday, 10/22

9:31 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer re: an ongoing issue where someone has been throwing food on his vehicle while he is at work. Most recent occurrence was this morning between 5 and 8 a.m. Officer left voicemail advising of options.

3:24 p.m. 911 caller complaining of a homeless man living in a truck at Peskeomskut Park. Caller requesting that an officer assist in the removal of the man. Caller could not offer any other descriptors at this time; could be intoxicated. Officer advised; spoke to caller and advised him of options. 4:24 p.m. Greenfield PD advising of open 911 call in area of Bulkley Street. Officer confirmed misdial. GPD advised.

Grove Street complaining of two dogs barking for the past half hour. Call left for animal con- ficers would be aware of trol officer.

Tuesday, 10/23

12:56 a.m. GPD received open 911 call from cell phone mapping to Industrial Boulevard. Machinery could be heard in background. Upon callback, male party answered and stated that he pocketdialed 911 by accident. He is currently at work, and machinery could be heard in the background. States that there is currently no problem and was cooperative with giving information.

5:51 a.m. Officer checking on vehicle parked at Railroad Salvage. Parties were playing Pokemon Go. Moved along.

[Records from 6 a.m. Tuesday to 6 a.m. Wednesday not provided upon request.]

so if they drove by and saw her light on, they could tell her so she could shut it off so it wouldn't drain her battery. Advised caller this would be logged; advised to keep an eye on her vehicle and call back if she sees anyone around it or notices something out of place. Property in question has surveillance cameras in the parking lot. Advised caller to talk to her landlord to see if anyone is seen on surveillance cameras at her vehicle during the times in question and if so to call back. Officer advised.

2:17 p.m. Caller complaining of ongoing motor vehicle violations on Greenfield Road near Randall Road; requesting extra patrols. Caller is aware of the extra traffic enforcement in that area and the speed board sign but advises the violations 6:05 p.m. Caller from are still occurring when officers are not there. Advised caller her complaint would be logged so ofcontinuing issues. Caller inquired about extra speed limit signs along Greenfield Road; referred to DPW.

> 4:30 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant states that there are a few people on the railroad tracks pulling up railroad spikes. Report taken. 5:21 p.m. Caller states that she may have had her bank account tampered with after giving out some personal information to someone claiming to be from Xfinity. Advised of options.

6:08 p.m. Caller from Grove Street states that the neighbors' two dogs have been outside barking non-stop for over two hours. This is an ongoing complaint in this neighborhood. Made contact with owner; dogs have been brought inside.

Thursday, 10/25

8:38 a.m. Walk-in reporting that she was tailgated by a small black Honda car down Millers Falls Road and then onto Industrial Boulevard. The vehicle pulled into the tech school. School resource officer advised; he will try to identify vehicle operator and advise them of the

complaint. 11 a.m. Caller states that somebody bumped into his car at the Route 47/63 crossover. When he got out to exchange information, the vehicle sped off. Very minor damage to caller's vehicle; just wants incident on record.

12:25 p.m. 911 misdial received. Spoke to male party on callback who stated that he pressed the wrong button on his phone. Confirmed misdial.

5:36 p.m. 911 caller from Cumberland Farms requesting that an officer get the charger for his SCRAM (continuous alcohol monitoring) unit from his sister's house. Caller stated that he was not allowed to return. Officer retrieved charger and is delivering it to the caller. 7:12 p.m. Party into lobby to speak to an officer regarding her daughter and a restraining order she has in place against an ex who is in prison at this time. Officer spoke to caller and gleaned that her daughter's ex-boyfriend threatened her current boyfriend through a stranger at the movie theater in Greenfield today. The stranger is an ex-con who knows the ex-boyfriend from prison. Officer told caller to call back if any other threats are made. Advised

of options. 9:58 p.m. Caller from Second Street complaining of back right apartment playing loud music, drinking heavily, and yelling off the back porch. Responding officer advised he could not hear any excessive noise from outside of the apartment; later spoke with a male who advised that he had been recording music with friends but they are done for the night and are sorry for the noise.

Friday, 10/26

12:46 a.m. 911 caller reporting he has come upon a two-car collision, determined to be at Turners Falls and Hatchery Roads. All occupants out; reporting no injuries, smoke, or flames. Positive airbag deployment in both vehicles and fluids leaking. Citation issued to one operator. Officer advises stop sign at end of Plains Road was casualty in this collision. Message left for DPW. MedCare clear with refusals. Rau's has both vehicles.

8:34 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that there is a large dead skunk in the road in front of her home. ACO notified and responding.

11:55 a.m. Caller from Franklin Street states that residence had been shot up with a BB gun. There are holes all over the outside of the home. Report taken.

3:02 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reporting that a pitbull showed signs of aggression to her niece as she walked home from school today. Officer spoke with dog's owner, who stated that the dog was on a lead the entire time and did not show signs of aggression to the children walking past the yard. Call printed and left for ACO. Saturday, 10/27

2:38 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting that a single vehicle struck the bridge on Bridge Street. No apparent injuries/ smoke/fluids. First caller advised that a black Mercedes appeared to be chasing the vehicle that struck the bridge but left the area after the accident. Vehicle towed; family members found ride home.

5:48 p.m. Caller reporting that a dog is not being taken care of on K Street; provided contact info for landlord of building. Call placed to landlord, who is en route to MPD to speak to an officer regarding concerns for the dog and the eviction process. Unable to make contact with subject. Officers have dog and are transporting him to the kennel. Call left for ACO.

official 11th season of a show done several years after the show was originally on the air.

But I found something very original premiering on TV, a show that uses social media as part of the plot. The show's name is God Friended Me. God Friended Me premiered on CBS on September 30 at 8:30 p.m. But it went online for people to see before that, which is where I watched it.

The title of the show is interesting, not just due to the fact that it seems to be saying God is using social media, but also because of the introduction of a character, Miles, who we first meet while he's doing a podcast.

We learn that Miles is an atheist. which is unusual because his father is a reverend. So one could think he would have a little faith at least. Later in the episode, the reason behind his lack of faith is revealed.

Like the title says, someone named "God" "friended" Miles on Facebook, and that's how the story line gets started. God then appears to direct him to a man named John Dove,

writer's block at the moment. The reason behind that is revealed later in the episode, too. Because of her writer's block, and being friended by God, Cara decides to help Miles out with proving that God isn't behind the account.

While on the search for who's behind the God account, her past and his past are revealed to have intersected in a surprising way. Miles encourages Cara to face her past. She does, and that's when John Dove comes into play again.

By the end of the episode, you may wonder if all that happened was fate or just chance. Cara certainly mentions that she wonders whether it was. Some people, myself included, like that sort of element as part of a story. You might also like how Cara's writer's block is resolved.

Miles is also resolved to mend his past a bit, namely his relationship with his father. I won't say that Miles is no longer an atheist at this point, but he does start to wonder about things, and says so in his next podcast.

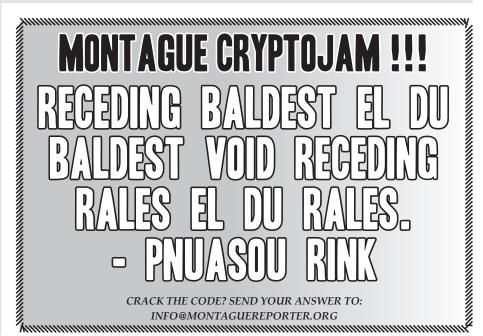
Wednesday, 10/24

8:51 a.m. Caller from Sam's Pools reporting threatening and harassing phone calls from a motorist who was behind one of the company's vehicles this morning. Motorist's complaint was that the company vehicle

was driving below the posted speed limit. Officer listened to message and spoke with suspect; advised of consequences if calls/threats continue. 10:37 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports that on three separate occasions, the interior light in her car has been on. Caller advises that her doors were locked each time. Caller initially thought she left the light on but now suspects someone picked the lock, turned on her light, and locked the door again. Caller declined to speak with an officer, just wanted MPD to know

7:59 a.m. Two-car accident at Route 63 and Lake Pleasant Road; no injuries. One vehicle towed. Report taken.

8:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 call received. Upon callback, female stated she was trying to reach the RMV. Confirmed misdial.





VARIETY from page B1

Jenkinson writes: "there is nothing inherently ennobling about aging. Nothing. There's no sign that anything lends old people steadiness or wisdom or magic from on high or from down below, just because they get old. If we don't train young people and middle aged people in elder hood we will have no elderhood....This is a plea and a plot for elders in training."

Jenkinson is a teacher, author, storyteller, spiritual activist, farmer living in British Columbia. He has founded the Orphan Wisdom School, described as "a learning house for the skills of deep living and making human culture." He holds master's degrees from Harvard University (theology) and the University of Toronto (social work).

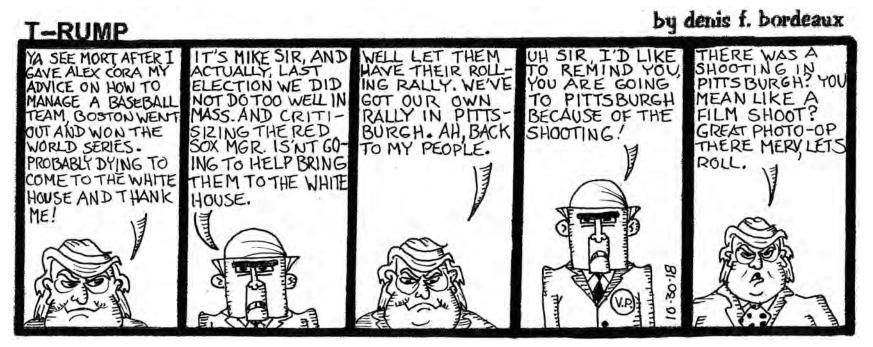
He has worked extensively with dying people and their families, is former program director in a major Canadian hospital, former assistant professor in a prominent Canadian medical school, consultant to palliative care and hospice organizations, and educator and advocate in the helping professions. He also sculpts, and builds traditional canoes.

Find out more on orphanwisdom.com, and watch a trailer of the show by searching YouTube for "Nights of Grief."

November 8 through 11: Great **Falls International Word Festival**

Now celebrating nine years in Franklin County, the Great Falls Word Festival is back at the Shea for a four-day, community-centered, genre-crossing, boundarybending, diverse and inclusive celebration of spoken word.

Organizer Paul Richmond has been named the Beat Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and has a reputation for producing innovative and inclusive spoken-word events. His Human Error Publishing Company has partnered with RiverCulture to pull together this year's bountiful word harvest.



The event will be concentrated entirely within the Shea Theater, instead of spread out in multiple venues as in past years. The lobby of the theater will have books for sale by participating writers, and coffeehouse-style refreshments available.

Shows are \$5 to \$10, or \$15 to \$20 for the four day festival badge. You may purchase tickets or badges online at gawfest.org, or at the Shea Theater.

The online schedule is being updated daily with new information, says Richmond, but the schedule in the sidebar on this page highlights many of the festival's offerings.

Audiences are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for Bars Against Hunger.

November 16: Llama Lasagne's "Glamourama Llama"

This Friday event promises hilarity and great music, with costumes, llama props, and "spit-spit-llamallama" all-ages mayhem.

Started as a bit of a joke in 2004, the collaborative event is comprised of musicians from local bands covering an annual theme, sort of like the Transperformance event at Look Park. This year, the theme is Fashion, so expect songs



Paul Richmond, local poet and organizer of the International Word Festival.

to cover the gamut from David Bowie's "Fashion" to "Take Back Your Mink" from Guys and Dolls.

Participants learn the songs on their own, then have one big dress rehearsal. Performers will include Peter Newland (Fat), Haley Morgan (Home Body), Lily Sexton (Mamma's Marmalade), and many more.

Llama Lasagne organizer Jay Metcalfe says most people are in four or five songs, and the idea is to get out of your comfort zone and try out a new genre. "We try

to recruit people," Metcalfe says. "It's a really cool combination of people, and older people learn how to stay relevant. We have some people from Show Circus School in Easthampton, some theater people and props artists... definitely a crew of people of all ages. "One show, we had a giant whale we brought in."

This is Llama's second show at the Shea; last year's Night of the Living Dead event raised between \$800 and \$1,000 for the theater. This year's beneficiary is the Franklin Area Survival Center. Metcalfe says that the Center will be running the refreshment stand and keeping all the proceeds, in addition to soliciting donations of non-perishable food items at the door.

Metcalfe says he hopes that people will come for a night of music, dancing, props, and antics, dressed in their best fashions, and vying for a chance to walk the runway at intermission time. Expect film crews, paparazzi, fashion judges as part of the fun. "All the details will be spilled over the next few weeks, but if you know llama, you know what you may be getting into! And we assure you, wow wow wow!"

Email Metcalfe at *llamalasagne* @gmail.com about details or to reserve your spot on the runway. Tickets are \$12 in advance, and \$15 at the door on November 16 at sheatheater.org.



Great Falls International Word Festival: Schedule



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Cameron Freeland works on all major brands of forestry, farm, and garden equipment at Shelburne Small Engine Repair on Mountain Road in Gill. He has owned the professional power equipment repair and service business – a fully insured, master licensed shop – since 2012, and he says he is happy to take a look at your equipment and fix it. (See ShelburneSmallEngine.com to find out more.)

Freelance photojournalist Joe R. Parzych dropped in on Freeland by surprise earlier this month, and found him repairing this Sabre lawn tractor for a customer.

Thursday, November 8 Main Stage:

6:45 p.m. The Mole. True (or not so true) five-minute stories, told without scripts or props. 8:30 p.m. Do it Now. With Jo Sallins, Tony Vacca, John Sheldon, and Paul Richmond.

Friday, November 9

Main Stage: 6:45 p.m. DeadLines, performance by Exploded View. 8:30 p.m. Poets of Resistance and International Poets. With David C. Johnson (Bristol, UK), Roger West (Soubès, FR), and Kate Rex (Soubès, FR). Downstairs:

6:45 p.m. Voices From Inside: prison women's writing group.

7:45 p.m. Slate Roof Press Poets read their work.

Saturday, November 10 Main Stage:

12 to 5 p.m. Readings from

writers associated with several publications and writing groups, including Naugatuck River Review, Meat for Tea, Straw Dog Writers, and The Cloud Saddle Writers. 6:45 and 8:30 p.m. Two rosters of poets.

Downstairs:

- 1 p.m. Open Mic
- 2 p.m. Some Of Us Poets
- 3 p.m. Open Mic

4 p.m. Selections from novelists Jan Mahar, Amy Laprade, Alan Harris and Wesley Blixt. 6:45 p.m. Open Mic

Sunday, November 11

Main Stage:

1 to 5 p.m. The Long Way Home. Many veterans never find their way back. And others can relate to never being able to go home again. In respect to those who have served or loved someone who has served, the theme of the Sunday's readings will be "The Long Way Home."

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SAILING from page B1

New York side, known for its remoteness and for the mountains that made the cove a world unto its own.

We tacked back and forth across the wide expanse of Lake Champlain, sails close-hauled. Little white triangles proliferated over the cobalt lake like Amanita bisporigera in a rainy forest. It was choppy, and occasionally the bow, coming down like a broad axe onto a watermelon, would explode a wave, showering us with spray. When we came about, three of us fought the wind to bring the jib around: one to release, two to haul and secure.

The *Muirgen* was flying, keeling over at a 45 degrees. We were nearly, as they say, "dragging the rail." Shayla lay on the couch in the cabin, sunburnt, seasick, and spaced-out.

I watched as the ornate brass inclinometer on the wall clanged and swung with the wind gusts as the boat tipped precipitously. Objects slid off surfaces in the cabin. I looked with apprehension at a chef's knife that sat on the table and pointed in Shayla's direction.

Objects And Their Place

Things disappearing overboard is a fact of life while sailing. While it is a bit depressing to lose one's favorite hat to Davey Jones, as I did last year, it also breeds an exemplary and positive feeling of non-attachment. Sailors do not experience the vexing and distracting hell of searching for one's missing things. If something is missing, you can simply assume it went overboard.

On this trip, I overboarded two items. They were a gasoline funnel, which we managed to recover, and a salt shaker, which we could not. The salt shaker was lost tragically, while I was on barbecue duty, as we cruised up the Otter Creek to the falls at Vergennes.

This loss, which did briefly wreck morale, led to an ecstatic gas station experience. The Small City Market's free condiment rack included not just salt and pepper, but also Texas Pete hot sauce, ketchup and mustard, BBO sauce, some sort of off-brand version of Saltine crackers, and, believe it or not, marinara sauce.

Captain Serge has a mania for or-

Y PHOTO

ganization and stowing because of the perpetual possibility of loss that is, inherently, a part of sailing. "I like a tidy ship," he explained. "It's really pleasing to me when things are properly stowed."

In the morning, the anchor would not be hoisted until every object and item was stowed in its proper place where it would be safe, stable, and could be easily found. When one of the crew was at the helm, the Captain would often entertain himself by stowing.

"He's always happy when he's stowing," mused Emma.

New York and Vermont

"Where's the captain?" I asked as we flew, at an aggressive angle, toward Schuyler Island, a waypoint on the journey to Willsboro Bay. I was clutching the tiller, somewhat desperately, with both hands. To keep the boat on the course we had set, I had to lean my entire body weight against it.

"He's asleep," said Emma, as if she'd known this for quite a while now.

Yes, this was a very special kind of desertion: a reverse mutiny. Serge was asleep in the V-berth, and we were now responsible for our craft. After all, he had been drinking a lot of beer since the accident at the reef earlier that day. He had also, we now realized, finished off the bottle of tequila we'd purchased in Rouses Point.

"We don't know how to tack," I said through clenched teeth. From the strain, the sun, and the wind, a thin cloud of desperation crossed my mind like the first trailing clouds of a front.

Emma, luckily, had a different outlook on the situation: "Yes, we do."

We entered Willsboro Bay two hours later, after avoiding the Schuyler Shoals, the bare and rocky Four Brothers islands, and the reef off the peninsula's point. Emma and I had become a great sailing team. After Shayla had also disappeared mysteriously into the V-berth, we'd pulled it all off ourselves: the tacking, the navigating, the knots.

Our journey continued, but now the helplessness of being merely passengers was passed. We were



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All OLP Info Sessions meet in the OLP classroom at GCC, room N102

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- Visit the OLP classroom and the indoor climbing wall.
- Learn how to tie the safest knot in all of rock climbing
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OLP has been training students to become working outdoor professionals since 1980. Our graduates are highly sought after throughout the outdoor recreation and adventure education fields in Massachusetts, New England, and across the United States. Our graduates can be found working in such dynamic outdoor industries as:

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Outdoor Equipment Retail **Rafting Companies** State and National Parks Cycle Touringand much more!

For More Information contact: Bob Tremblay at 413-775-1126 or email at TremblayB@gcc.mass.edu RSVP encouraged but not required!

Visit our website at: http://www.gcc.mass.edu/olp

Follow us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/outdoorleadershipprogram

Greenfield Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (413) 775-1812.

sailors now.

GREEN FIELD

sh.

In Essex, New York, we went ashore as usual on a quest for beer. It was the kind of town with art galleries, gift stores, and coffee shops, but no convenience store. "He looks sad," Emma said of the captain when we heard that the nearest place to buy beer was three miles away. We had failed to buy illegal "to-go" beers over the counter of a coffee shop.

Walking back to the dinghy empty-handed, a screeching commotion announced the arrival of the very same woman we'd propositioned for beer, as she dangerously lurched her white Ford Escalade into the too-small shoulder. I think that she'd intuited that our journey would succeed or fail based on the amount of beer on board. At 70 mph down the two-lane road to the gas station market, she told us briefly about her life and her love of wooden boats: "If I had a woody," she said, "I'd call it 'Mama's Morning Wood!""

After midnight in Vergennes, we spoke to two people, on a date, fishing with headlamps. They were trying to catch bowfish, a nocturnal catfish.

Between Two Poles

On our last day, we ran out of gas. We were in Shelburne Bay, probably a mile from our mooring. We tried to sail in, but failed; the wind was light, inconsistent, and against us. Perhaps we still had more to learn about sailing, or about the proper attitude for it.

Eventually we decided to anchor

agreed Emma.

And while the boat's primary purpose is this movement of from place to place, it at the same time accommodates the activities of home life as well - sleeping, cooking, barbecuing, and reading - in great, albeit cramped, comfort.

In his great book The City in History, Lewis Mumford postulates that "Human life swings between two poles: movement and settlement.... At every level of life one trades mobility for security, or in reverse, immobility for adventure."

Perhaps Mr. Mumford has never



Our correspondent, asea on a lake.

We cruised up the Otter Creek, the longest river in Vermont. A pontoon boat ran aground as it unwisely tried to pass us. The five people aboard barely seemed to notice as they continued drinking beers.

Past a trailer park, we saw a trailer home made of logs, like a log cabin. There were tiny wooden steamboats in Ferrisburgh. The wildlife was prolific and diverse: we saw kingfishers, turtles, ospreys that battled each other, and one otter. An osprey flies by carrying a fish larger than itself.

"Weird. We're just in the nature," said Serge.

at Red Rocks Park, and go ashore with a gas tank, to beg for gas.

Sailing is a fulfilling activity because of its shared experience of an overarching purpose: the processes and movement of the complex organism of the ship. "It's a teambased activity," said Serge.

"We are one solid organism,"

sailed. Having both – the adventure of movement and the comfort of settlement – is the joy of sailing.

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





Emma, not a big fan of accidentally hitting her head.







NOVEMBER 1, 2018



The Life and Death WEBSITE REVIEW Tracking the Trackers: Of the American Elm **Environmental Law Changes**

An American elm. Image from America Forestry (1910-1923) by the American Forestry Association.

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

B6

NORTHFIELD – Massachusetts' official tree is the American elm (Ulmus americana), also known as the water elm, soft elm, white elm, or Florida elm. It was mostly killed off by Dutch Elm disease (Ceratocystis ulmi) in the 1900s.

In a February 2018 article on TheSpruce.com, David Beaulieu explains that Dutch elm disease is a fungus that grows in the sapwood of elms. First encountered in 1921 in the Netherlands, over the next few years elms across central and southern Europe succumbed. Cleveland, Ohio had the first case of Dutch elm disease in the US in 1930. According to Beaulieu, "this silent killer arrived in a shipment of logs from France. Dutch elm disease spread East quickly; within two years, American elm trees in New Jersey were falling prey to the deadly fungus." The fungus, besides being passed root to root, is also spread by two kinds of beetles. While other types of elms are fine, the American elm remains vulnerable and rare. Scientists have cultivated elms that are resistant to Dutch elm disease, at least for now, as the disease mutates. Find a list here: trees. umn.edu/elmid. American elms are majestic trees that could live to be over 300 years old, growing quickly when young, and maturing to a vase shape that can be up to 100' tall and 120' wide. One of the largest American elms on record was right here in the Connecticut River Valley. The "Hatfield Elm" had a circumference of 34 feet at a point three feet above the ground, according to the American Forestry Association.

to very rough above. Leaf veins are arranged in a characteristic herringbone pattern. Mature trees have dark gray bark with ridges separated by roughly diamond-shaped areas. Flowers develop in spring before the leaves unfold. Fruit is a wafer-like samara 1 cm. long that falls in May. It flowers March-May.

According to the US Forest Service, elms prefer sun. They grew in the wild from the east coast to the midwest, but were also used extensively as plantings and so many urban streets were lined with elms. The disease took them all, leading horticulturists to learn to plant a variety of trees in urban areas in case another epidemic occurs, so that some species may survive.

Besides looking nice on the side of

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

CAMBRIDGE - Harvard's Environmental Law Program is tracking rollbacks of environmental protections laws by the Trump administration. They also keep a page on their website, Environment.law. harvard.edu, that lists other sites that are tracking these changes, called "tracking the trackers." By following one or more of these tracking pages, you can see the effects of this administration on our environmental protection laws.

The effects of many federal laws on human and environmental health has been calculated by the Environmental Protection Agency. An example is Trump's Affordable Clean Energy Plan, enacted in Au-

gust 2018 and replacing Obama's Clean Power Plan, allowing more coal emissions. According to an article by Sylvie Tremblay on Sciencing.com, this change in the law will mean over 15,000 premature deaths by 2030, along with other negative health effects on thousands of people.

Each law that was put in place by the Environmental Protection Agency protected not just the environment, but people as well. Each unravelling and rollback of these protections means more profits for the fossil fuel industry, and less health and well-being for us and the planet. Using any one of the trackers listed on this page can help us see this bigger picture.

Meteor

Society

has a calendar

of all the meteor

showers for the

year. This month

we can expect the

Leonids to peak

from November 5

The Leonids'

parent object is

Comet 55P/Tem-

pel-Tuttle, which

through 30.

Back to School: Adjustments **For Success**

- Lisa McLoughlin, editor

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Psychology shows that kids want to be engaged in school, to feel like what they're doing matters for themselves and others, and that they matter. This is one part of learning: motivation. But then there's the practical part: supporting student success by teaching them how to organize their time and space.

The first task is to help your student prioritize school. School is their job, and homework is part of that job. Agree on that together. As a full-time job, school homework can't just be done whenever there happens to be time. Help your kid learn to keep track of their time: buy or make them a calendar, or figure out how to use the electronic one they may already have on their phone or computer.

Organization, planning, prioritizing - including saying "No" to other obligations that you may wish they had time for – is a key to success. Take your kid and their homework seriously. Offer resources and help if you can, but if you can't, at least give them the time they need to find some other sources.

As for space, there should be a well-lit, relatively quiet, designated place they can keep set up for homework, that doesn't need clearing off or a lot of prep before getting right to work.

Happy school year 2018-2019!

Leonid Meteors This Month! The American



left debris when it came near our sun, and whose trail we pass through this time of year. The comet won't return until 2031, but the American Meteor Society does not expect any spectacular debris until 2099. This year, and until 2030, they expect peaks of about 15 meteors per hour.

November 2018 Moon Calendar

Wednesday, November 7



The US Army Corps of Engineers describes the tree in detail:

Leaves are alternate, doubly serrate, elliptical to oblong-ovate, 8-14 cm. long, and nearly smooth the road and providing shade, the Forest Service says that American elms were used to make canoes by Native Americans.

The only elm wood available now is almost all from younger trees. It has a strong odor when green, and is hard to work. Current uses include boxes, baskets, furniture, hockey sticks, veneer, wood pulp, and papermaking. But perhaps the most important role of the American elm is its help in stabilizing forested floodplains.

The American Elm, Undead

Suki Casanave presents a hopeful analysis in "The Quest to Restore American Elms: Nearing the Finish Line" that describes how scientists at UMass-Amherst are growing elms from ones they find in the wild. According to the article, there are some large elms that have survived in New England, as close by as Northampton.

Christian Marks, a floodplain ecologist with the Nature Conservancy's Connecticut River Program, has spent more than a decade tackling floodplain restoration in the Northeast, with a special focus on the American elm, ac**New Moon** (and Samhaim, by astronomical distance at 6:18a.m)

Friday, November 23: **Full Moon**



Full Moon photo from Shutterstock under Creative Commons license.

ccording to the article. Apparently elms were a big part of the floodplain forest, which explains why the Army Corps was so interested in describing them in detail.

While historians seem obsessed with photos of shady pastoral streets featuring elms, scientists are working on replacing this species because of the hard work it does to help stabilize floodplains. At UMass, cross-pollinated saplings are grown from wild American elm material in a greenhouse and planted in the wild, after being tagged, protected, and mapped by GPS. Once they are about 1" in diameter, they are

injected with Dutch elm disease to see if they survive. Only about 1/3 do, but those disease-resistant ones will eventually cross-breed with one another in the wild and not need scientists' help any more to remain established.

So far volunteers have planted at more than 30 sites in the Connecticut River watershed.

The ash is also a floodplain tree, and since it's being attacked by the emerald ash borer, the scientists feel more urgency to restore elms to the floodplain forests. According to the University of New Hampshire Extension Service, these areas of floodplain forest filter pollutants from water, provide corridors for wildlife migration, have unique and rich plant habitats, and are vital in erosion control, and assisting in protecting rivers against catastrophic flooding. Overhanging trees help keep water cooler, which is beneficial for fish as well.

Agricultural clearing, development, dams, and invasive plants: all threaten floodplain forests, as does climate change. Elms are just one part of a larger ecosystem threatened by human activities. Humans are now making efforts to help.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pat* & *Tex LaMountain, A Beautiful Future.* A Beautiful Future features Kate O'Connor, Rico Spence, and Charlie Shew. \$. 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade. 7 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: Chocolat. Part of the "food season" series of movies. Live music before the movie with Jim *Eagan.* \$. 7 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Alexander, Stefan Christensen,* and *Matt Valentine.* Solo guitar explorations. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Seth Glier and Matt Nakoa. Singer-songwriters, folk-pop artists. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *CiderDays Schmooze.* Free schmoozing in the Wheelhouse. 8 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites.* 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: 7 *Mile Line.* Bluegrass. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Memorial Hall, Shelburne:

Chocolat. Part of the "food season" series of movies. Live music before the movie. Live music before the movie with *The Prestons.* \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Mammals* and *Sean Rowe*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: Mari Geti, Ruth Garbus, Otto B, and Huzzah! I Am So Glad I Love!. Experimental hip-hop, minimal pop, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Gluebag, Pine Taar, Golden Slugs,* and *Burden.* \$. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band.* 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Roots of Creation.* Award-winning, international reggae-rock sensation. With special guests Rhythm Incorporated. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kid Gulliver.* With *State of the Union.* 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-Op Straight Ahead Jazz*. Balcony in the afternoon. 12 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Thurston Moore, Wobbly,* and *Byron Coley.* New guitar explorations. Coley reads. \$. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Scales and Balance, The Makers.* \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: A Night of Grief and Mystery Concert. Orphan Wisdom production, with special guests Stephen Jenkinson and the Gregory Hoskins Band. See article, B1. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

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

Great Falls Discovery Center: The Departure (film). The Western Mass Recovery Learning Community presents this film and community conversation exploring how we can come together to offer meaningful support for people who are struggling. The film is about Ittetsu Nemoto, a former punk-turned-Buddhist-priest in Japan, who has made a career out of helping suicidal people find reasons to live. The film finds Nemoto at a crossroads, when his growing self-destructive tendencies lead him to confront what makes life worth living. 5:30 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Meditation series*. With the venerable Than Pamut-



Friday & Saturday, November 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. CHOCOLAT

Live music, starting at 7 p.m.: Friday: Jim Eagan, folk and folk blues; Saturday: The Prestons, folk-rock duo

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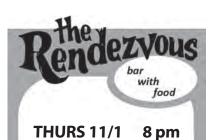
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Katie Clarke began performing music in the region in 2004, playing claw-hammer banjo and guitar and vocal harmonies with her supergroup the Boxcar Lillies. Larry Leblanc is a multi-instrumentalist on guitar, mandolin, dobro, banjo, and button accordion, and a singer of traditional folk, country and bluegrass. The duo perform at the Great Falls Coffeehouse at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Friday, November 9 at 7 p.m. Suggested donation of \$6 to \$12 supports programming at the Center.

EXHIBITS:

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

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro,

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Duck Stamps*. Top Massachusetts youth entries for the 2018 Junior Duck Stamp competition. Through December 22.

El-Live music, stan Friday: Jim Eagan, fr

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

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

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh Burnham School, Bernardston: What is Just? Paintings by Alice Thomas. Through November 9. Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Nukkua/To Sleep,* ink transfers by *Anja Schütz*. Through November 5.

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.

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to. Open to all. 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *One Eleven Heavy.* Featuring members of Wooden Wand and Royal Trux. More TBA. \$. 9 p.m.

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Falltown String Band

FRI 11/2 7 pm 1940s Hit Parade

FRI 11/2 9:30 pm 7 Mile Line (bluegrass)

SAT 11/3 9:30 pm Kid Gulliver w/State of the Union



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WEST ALONG from page B1

1789 well into the 1830s.

He endured all four years of the War, including Verdun, and came back home in 1918 to this cottage to live out his life.

Central to this yearly ritual is the visit to the family tomb in the churchyard.

So into the cemetery we go each year on this occasion, arms laden with a riot of colorful chrysanthemums to brighten the tombs of the Breton branch of our family.

No grass grows here, but rather there are neat rows of granite and marble slabs, their rectangular shapes lie flat on the earth, much like the burial stones of the ancient peoples here before Christianity. Tombs are scrubbed clean, washed and rinsed by all members of the family. Most tombs are already lined with those brilliant fall flowers, which lighten and brighten the dark stones. Yellow chrysanthemums to represent the sun dominate, but also there are pale to forceful blues, subdued autumnal russets, others white and rose.

But it's the sunny yellow lions' heads that throw their sunburst of color in defiance of dark November, and the finality of this place.

Families like ours thread along the gravel paths among the tombs, children learning and re-learning the names of their forebears, of family lore, the exploits and chagrins of each. Names of old neighbors and old heroes of the wars are read again and again, their memories evoked once more.

A visit later in the day, near dusk, with the sun far in the west on the edge of the horizon sending its last rays to flare up the colors of the flowers of each and every grave, reveals not a one has been overlooked or forgotten, from that of an early pastor of the 1800s to that of the humble grave digger himself, whom we met one day in the family kitchen. He himself is finally entombed after putting so many others down with the crumbling bones of their ancestors.

Dark thoughts, maybe, but part of the circular movement of seasons, the wheel of life that turns and figures in so many vestiges of this place: in the megalithic circles of stones, the legends and poems, with roots going back thousands of years.

Our familial ritual completed, we end the day sitting around the fireplace, savoring the bounty of crêpes and galettes made especially for us, on this day. Then come the roasted chestnuts, growing wild for the taking and gathered just down the lane. Our grandmother has been collecting them for weeks, knowing just where the best ones fall, as she has ever done since she was a little girl, gathering chestnuts with her own mother.

Ahead of us is an evening of chestnuts, homemade cider fermented in its bottles, amber and bubbly like fine champagne.

This is the time to renew stories of the old folks who inhabited this house, their tales of hard times and war, which we hope will come no more.

LOOKING BACK **10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was October 30, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Robin Sherman to Head FCRHRA

Robin Sherman, former town planner for the town of Montague has been chosen to become the new executive director of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

After an exhaustive search for an executive director that drew applicants from as far away as Baltimore and Chicago, the FCRHRA discovered the best candidate among the 40 resumes it received lived right next door.

"Robin's deep roots in local and regional issues, plus her understanding of the rural infrastructure here, will give her a distinct advantage in guiding the Authority's work," said interim executive director Joanie Bernstein.

Sherman will simultaneously oversee the Shelburne Housing Authority and FCRHRA's sister agency, the nonprofit Rural Development, Inc.

Sherman takes over leadership of the Authority and 36 employees from Paul Douglas, who served as executive director from 1987 until his recent retirement.

Gill Commission to Weigh **Remaining in GMRSD**

A joint meeting of the Gill selectboard and finance committee voted to create a Commission for Education in Gill. The new commission is charged with researching all possible configurations of public education in Gill.

According to administrative assistant Tracy Rogers, that research will include, but not be limited to, studying whether leaving the Gill-Montague Regional School District would be beneficial to the students of Gill, whether joining another district would be beneficial, whether to maintain the Gill Elementary School and tuition students to high school, or whether the town should tuition students K-12 to other schools.

Selectboard member Ann Banash, who proposed forming the commission, said the commission would present a draft report of its findings by March of next year, so public hearings could be held to explore these topics. A final report will be represented to the Gill annual town meeting in May 2009.

Selectboard member Lee Stevens noted the district agreement that joins Gill to the town of Montague for regional K-12 public education requires a one-year no-

tice if either town decides to leave the district. Banash confirmed this point, adding, "We'd have to give notice by July 1."

Hallowe'en in Lake Pleasant

On Saturday, village children in Lake Pleasant gathered for the annual Hallowe'en party in Rutter's Park off Broadway, sponsored by the Lake Pleasant Women's Association. They played pass the pumpkin, and pin the eye on the monster, and were rewarded with bags of goodies, and prizes for the best costumes.

On Friday they will walk the streets of the village after dark, like kids in every town across the land, knocking on doors, ringing doorbells, and threatening mild mischief unless residents drop candy.

How many of Lake Pleasant residents realize that in their village, people from around the country once came by the thousands to commune with spirits in grand convocations in the woods?

How many know that a man who styled himself as America's Premier Psychic once sought to communicate with the spirits of the dead on behalf of the living at Lake Pleasant Inn, scarcely a hundred feet from the park where last week's Hallowe'en party took place?

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