

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 43

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Some Laud, Some Pan Baker’s Sudden Vape Ban

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Local reaction to Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker’s four-month ban on the sale of vaping products and equipment, following national publicity about mysterious deaths attributed to the practice, was extremely positive among public health officials, but rather guarded among businesses, including cannabis retailers, who sell affected products.

The state ban, the first in the nation, comes in the wake of what a September 19 statement of the national Center for Disease Control (CDC) describes as a “multistate outbreak of lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use.” The

CDC reported 530 cases of lung injury in patients who “have a history of e-cigarette product use, or vaping,” including seven deaths.

Baker’s Tuesday announcement declared a “public health emergency” based on “reports of serious lung illness, particularly among young people.” The governor’s official declaration said that 60 cases of lung injury “potentially related to vaping” have been reported to the state Department of Public Health since the agency made “unexplained vaping-associated pulmonary disease” a reportable condition.

Support for the ban was particularly strong among public health officials and youth workers we spoke with.

see VAPE BAN page A2

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town to Calm Main Street with Curbs, Sells Ste. Anne’s Rectory Back to Ancil

By MIKE JACKSON

The applause at the end of Monday night’s selectboard meeting lasted longer than usual, led by a contingent in



A detail from a planning department illustration of proposed curb extensions, bicycle lanes, and signage south of the common.

the bleachers who had journeyed from Montague Center to hear the town’s plan for persuading drivers to respect Main Street’s posted 25-mile-an-hour speed limit.

As the presentation began, the Center people’s skepticism was palpable, but town planner Walter Ramsey, highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, and police chief Chris Williams won them over with a scheme to dramatically narrow the roadway using a combination of bike lanes and curb extensions.

Julie Kumble of Main Street read a prepared statement on behalf of the residents. “Many of us have had direct experience with speeding vehicles either damaging property, or nearly hitting pedestrians or bicyclists,” she said. “It’s a solvable problem, and we look to you to prevent additional property damage, or loss of life.”

Williams relayed police statistics on automobile

see MONTAGUE page A5

Leverett Farmer Calls for Sit-In to Protest Eversource Plan to Demolish Greenhouse

By SARAH ROBERTSON

LEVERETT – The owner of a farm on North Leverett Road is organizing a sit-in inside her greenhouse this Friday to prevent the utility company Eversource from forcibly dismantling the structure over an ongoing land use dispute.

“It has been relentless and horrible,” said Leesa Crocker, owner of EIEIO Farm. “By the time I found out what was happening, it was already a complete shitshow.”

Crocker said she received a call from the utility company last week threatening to dismantle the 80-foot greenhouse that she uses for planting and storage, and bill her for the work. The greenhouse sits entirely on Eversource property, but Crocker says she has used the land and greenhouse for decades without issue.

Eversource spokesperson Reid Lamberty disputed Crocker’s account.

“Our repeated attempts to reach her and work things out have fallen on deaf ears,” Lamberty told the Reporter on Wednesday. “She has



Leesa Crocker’s greenhouse has long sat on a parcel of land owned by the power company. The driveway to Plainview Cemetery also crosses the property.

not been willing to work with us and we are left with no choice but to end our agreement with her and maintain the safety of our property.”

According to Lamberty, the company signed an agreement with Crocker in 2016 granting her the right to use the 1.5-acre parcel abutting her farm beneath the power lines. However, Crocker allegedly broke terms of the contract by park-

ing vehicles and farm equipment on Eversource property, and keeping an 80-foot greenhouse and other materials there.

“On several occasions, we have had to send our crews to clean up stockpiled materials,” Lamberty said. “We have also recently inspected the greenhouse that sits on our property and deemed it to be

see GREENHOUSE page A7

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – This week the defending World Champions, the Boston Red Sox, were officially eliminated from the play-

offs, and the Patriots cut Antonio Brown. Closer to home, the Turners Falls volleyball team traded sweeps, the Turners Falls field hockey team went 1 and 1, the Great Falls football team routed Mahar, the War-

rriors came out to play, and the Franks never stopped trying.

Also this week, Triple E forced adjustments, the cheer squad went gold, and the Powertown golf team got back in the swing of things.

Football

Chicopee 12 – FCTS 0

Mohawk 37 – Smith Vocational 6

GFMS 36 – Mahar 0

With all the mosquito- and tick-borne illnesses on the rise, it’s hard to tell kids to go out and play. As a result of the threat of Eastern equine encephalitis, local schools have had to adjust their start times. Instead of the usual Friday Night Lights, the Mohawk Co-ops have done 4 p.m. kickoffs in both of their games.

The Franklin Tech Eagles made no such adjustments in their game against Chicopee last Thursday. There were no mosquitoes out, as it was too cold: most of the fans were bundled up in hooded sweatshirts

see TFHS SPORTS page A4

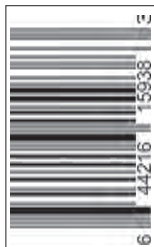


Mohawk Warriors Cam Lococo (left) and Liam Driscoll (right) take down running back Eric Leet as the Warriors defeat the Smith Vocational Vikings 37-6.

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THE BIG PICTURE

Thunberg Speech at UN: “How Dare You!”



Swedish high school student Greta Thunberg, who is leading a wave of student “climate strikes” last year, addressed world leaders in scathing terms at the United Nations’ Climate Action Summit on Monday. Here is a transcript of her speech in full. (We welcome your letters at editor@montaguereporter.org.)

NEW YORK CITY – “My message is that we’ll be watching you.

“This is all wrong. I shouldn’t be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope.

“How dare you!

“You have stolen my dreams, and my childhood, with your empty words. And yet I’m one of the lucky ones: People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

“For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you’re doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

“You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.

“The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5° [C], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

“Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warm-

ing hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO₂ out of the air with technologies that barely exist.

“So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us — we who have to live with the consequences.

“To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5° global temperature rise – the best odds given by the IPCC – the world had 420 gigatons of CO₂ left to emit back on January 1, 2018. Today, that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.

“How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just ‘business as usual’ and some technical solutions? With today’s emissions levels, that remaining CO₂ budget will be entirely gone within less than eight and a half years!

“There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

“You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.

“We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up.

“And change is coming, whether you like it or not.”

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by
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August 2002

Win, Place, or Show

Political polling before elections presents all sorts of problems: poll frontrunners' supporters may become complacent and stay at home; polling errors might change the narrative of how candidates are "performing" midrace, influencing the race; and randomly shifting poll performances may create feedback loops that elevate or weed out candidates before voters not exposed to polling data would actually have chosen to do so.

That said, we live in a country with an unpopular president, a two-party system, and an epic, crowded opposition primary, so polling seems to be one of the ever-driving news stories we have to live with.

This week's announcement by House Democrats that they will open impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump, over the possibility that he withheld aid to Ukraine for partisan gain, may or may not eventually affect the 2020 election. We've heard Trump supporters argue that it will help the president. Maybe it will!

But it's as good a time as any to wonder who may be running the executive branch come January 2021. (We'll stick to our past editorial policy of not making presidential endorsements.)

Setting aside that it *could* be Trump again – or Pence, or heck, Mike Huckabee, or Ted Nugent – let's look at the Democrats. 27 candidates have declared thus far. Eight have withdrawn: Ojeda, Swalwell, Gravel, Hickenlooper, Inslee, Moulton, Gillibrand, and de Blasio. That leaves 19.

What do recent polls show? Obviously, the actual primary will be battled out state by state – one of countless bizarre anachronisms in the US political system – but for now, let's stick to major, national opinion polls. Six such sets were released between September 11 and 17, another eight between September 18 and 25.

Here's what we see:

Consolidation. There seems to be a concentration of support for fewer and fewer candidates. In the first batch, an average of 81% of respondents favored eight front-runners, and 62% favored the top three. In the more recent batch, both of those numbers climbed: an average of 86% favored the top eight, 67% the top three.

Three tiers. Eleven candidates appear to be pretty much out of the game, if you believe these polls. What makes a candidate stick it out – are they angling for book deals,

hoping to leverage a spot as someone's running-mate? Just bored?

Then there is a tier of candidates who clearly have some supporters out there: Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, Beto O'Rourke, Corey Booker, and Andrew Yang are all consistently polling with single-digit support. Harris and Buttigieg have a bit of an edge, averaging 5% or 6% as opposed to 2% or 3%.

And then there are **three clear frontrunners**: Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders.

Here's where the real horse-race stuff starts. Though Biden had consistently polled on top, both polls that came out on Wednesday gave Warren a slight lead for the first time. That's huge.

And Sanders has tended to be in the third-place spot – though in 5 of the 14 polls, he was more popular than Warren.

There's a lot of random noise in polls, and some are better than others, so it would be a waste of time to read any closer. The current narrative in news media more widely read than the *Montague Reporter* is this: Biden has been leading on name recognition, but has a shaky hold on his lead and may not have the stamina to maintain it; Sanders has a holdover base of support from 2016, but would *of course* never become the Democratic nominee; and Warren is gathering recognition, momentum, and support.

Is our own senator, Liz Warren, indeed becoming the opposition frontrunner in a time of ruling-party crisis? She just might be. But it's going to be a long ten months until the convention.

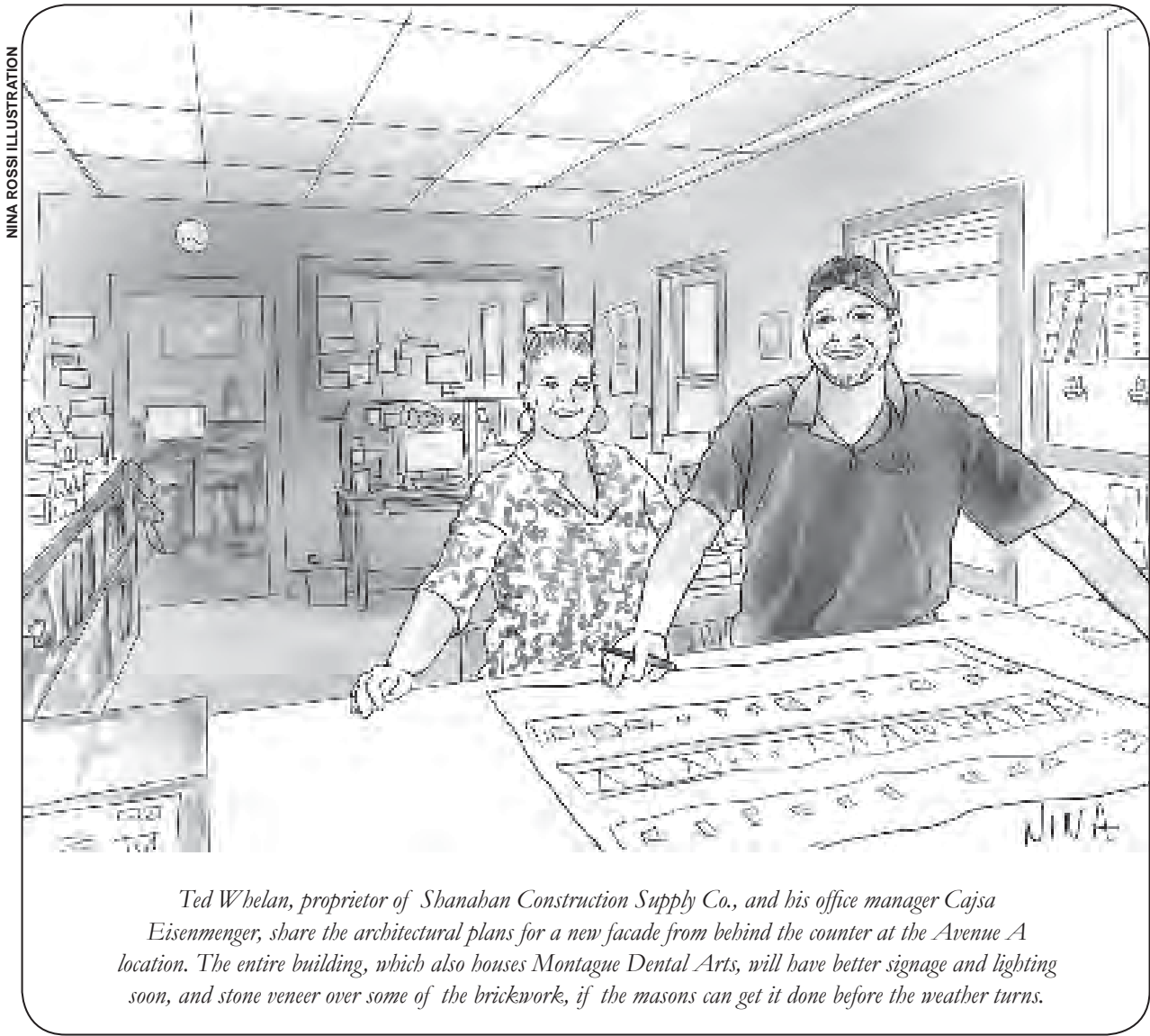
Biden's website touts seven official "Plans" so far. ("Joe's Plan for Rural America"; "Joe's Plan to Lead the Democratic World.")

Sanders' contains 27. ("Revitalizing Rural America"; "Responsible Foreign Policy"; "Medicare for All.")

And Warren? She's got 44 and counting up there. ("Investing in Rural America"; "Foreign Policy"; "Health Care Is A Basic Human Right"; "Empowering Workers Through Accountable Capitalism.")

This points to a fascinating dynamic in the race: a policy-driven progressive overtaking an old-guard moderate for the lead, while a social democrat stays in the game, pushing her forward on substantive policy issues.

We hate to admit it, but this horse race is actually pretty damn interesting. An awful lot of Americans want change, that's for sure.



Ted Whelan, proprietor of Shanahan Construction Supply Co., and his office manager Cajsa Eisenmenger, share the architectural plans for a new facade from behind the counter at the Avenue A location. The entire building, which also houses Montague Dental Arts, will have better signage and lighting soon, and stone veneer over some of the brickwork, if the masons can get it done before the weather turns.

VAPE BAN from page A1

"This is a public health crisis," said Kara McLaughlin, project director of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership. "We have been very successful in drastically cutting cigarette use among youth over the past two decades. In 2018 less than 10% of Franklin County and North Quabbin 10th and 12th graders reported regular use of cigarettes. For e-cigarettes, 30% reported regular use."

McLaughlin added that she had recently been informed by her 15-year-old nephew that new lines of clothing called "vaporwear" are marketed to teens as allowing them to, in her words, "conceal their vaping in class."

Kat Allen, co-chair of the Communities That Care Coalition of Franklin County and North Quabbin, said that the impact of the increase in vaping is "absolutely tragic," but that there is no "good research on the long-term effects" of the practice. Although e-cigarettes were marketed as a way to safely end nicotine addiction, "people are dying from them," Allen said. "We never saw anything like that from cigarettes."

Allen pointed to the fact that particulates inhaled with vaping devices are "ultra-fine" and may contain chemicals other than nicotine.

The *Reporter* also contacted businesses that sell vaping products the day after Baker's announcement of a public health emergency. All said they were complying with the ban, and were hesitant to criticize the governor.

Employees at the Enthusiast, a store in Greenfield that claims to sell "everything you need to customize your vaping experience," were quietly removing vaping products and accessories from the shelves on Wednesday. But this left many items for sale, including creative "heady glass" pipes and "hoo-kahs" for cannabis smoking but not defined as vaping accessories.

When asked about their reaction to the governor's announcement, employees directed this reporter to the shop's parent company, Sandri Energy LLC, which did not respond to request for comment as of press time.

Seth Rutherford, co-owner of 253 Pharmacy, a newly opened cannabis growing, manufacturing, and recreational retail facility at the entrance to the Turners Falls airport industrial park, said he was "very surprised" by the governor's announcement, but had immediately moved all vaping products out of the business's sale area into a "secure room."

Rutherford estimated that 15% of 253 Pharmacy's sales since the retail store opened in early September have been vaping products.

Rutherford shared flyers advertising vaping products formerly sold at the retail store. One company, called "Sira Naturals," states that its products "contain only cannabis terpenes and full-spectrum EHO oil or Hash Rosin. We have never used PG, VG, or additional thinning/cutting agents. All cannabis products sold for consumption are tested by third-party, state-certified labs in compliance with strict testing guidelines. In accordance with Massachusetts law, all products must pass testing to confirm no contaminants, residual solvents, or heavy metals are present before being sold."

Nationally, some representatives of the vaping industry have been openly critical of Baker's policy, arguing that it will simply encourage nicotine users to turn back to cigarettes.

Boston's WCVB-TV reported that an organization called the American Vaping Association termed the ban "unconstitutional" and "absurd," and threatened to challenge it in court. The organization claimed that during the course of the four-month ban, "150,000 people across the United States will die from smoking cigarettes."

Rutherford and others in the industry expressed some confusion about what specific products the emergency ban bans. "We are waiting from guidance from the Cannabis Control Commission," the agency that has been regulating the legal sale of cannabis in Massachusetts, he told the *Reporter*. The governor's official announcement of the ban did not actually contain a definition of vaping.

Linda Richter, a policy analyst at the New York-based nonprofit Center on Addiction, explains the technology: "Generally a vaping device consists of a mouthpiece, a battery, a cartridge for containing the e-liquid or e-juice, and a heating component for the device that is powered by a battery."

"When the device is used, the battery heats up the heating component, which turns the contents of the e-liquid into an aerosol that is inhaled into the lungs and then exhaled. The e-liquid in vaporizer products usually contains a propylene glycol or vegetable glycerin-based liquid with nicotine, flavoring and other chemicals and metals, but not tobacco. Some people use these devices to vape THC, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's mind-altering effects, or even synthetic drugs like flakka, instead of nicotine."

The Center for Disease Control points to "clinical similarities" among the recent nationwide outbreak of lung injury. "Most patients have reported a history of using e-cigarette products containing THC," the CDC writes. "Many patients have reported using THC and nicotine. Some have reported the use of e-cigarette products containing only nicotine."

Though the CDC states that "the suspected cause is a chemical exposure," the agency has so far been unable to pinpoint any one "product, substance, or additive" tying the cases together.



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Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

This weekend is the 23rd annual **Source to Sea Cleanup** of the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Wouldn't it be great if the Connecticut River Conservancy could stop having to do this every year?

Some things you can do to prevent trash from getting into our rivers can be found here: www.ctriver.org/our-work/source-to-sea-clean-up/takeaction.

The **Kiddleidoscope** program continues each Friday at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Meet in the Great Hall. For ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends welcome.

The theme for this Friday, September 27 is **Moose**.

Readers can support the Friends of Hillcrest by **donating their empty bottles and cans** this weekend! Drop them off this Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon around the circle at Hillcrest Elementary, 30 Griswold Street in

Turners Falls.

Please provide only bottles and cans from beverages that were carbonated, and had a deposit collected when purchased. Thanks!

Montague Parks and Recreation is hosting a **Scarecrow Stuffing Party** on Saturday, September 28 from 12 to 2 p.m. at Unity Park (rain date September 29). The fee is \$5 per scarecrow, or \$3 if you bring your own clothes. They are also accepting donations of long-sleeved shirts and long pants at the Rec office.

Wellness Within Reach, at 10 Old Sunderland Road in Montague Center, is having a Grand Opening this Saturday, September 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. Learn how Peter Howe, creator of Wellness Within Reach, addresses issues such as Lyme, chronic health issues, pain relief, energy clearing, emotional baggage, and much more. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Learn all about the programs at the **Green River House** and **Quabbin House** on Saturday, September 28 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Clinical and Support Options

(CSO) is a mid-sized nonprofit agency, providing a full range of mental health, substance use, crisis, family support, and community-based services. CSO's local Green River House uses the power of meaningful work and connection to the community to transform the lives of adults with mental health disorders.

The Clubhouses also provide rehabilitative vocational, social, and recreational programming. Club members can engage in various work units and receive assistance with resumes, job searches, and building interview skills. Structured activities are ongoing during evening and weekend "drop in" social times.

Stop by GSB's community room to learn more from the staff, who will make handouts available – perhaps you could throw someone you know a lifeline! This event has an open house structure, with light refreshments courtesy of GSB.

Greenfield Savings Bank is also getting ready for **Fire Prevention Month** with fire safety demonstrations, **fire trucks**, food, and fun for the whole family from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, September 28. They will have free fire helmets for kids.

An interactive workshop, **"Becoming a Dementia Friend,"** will take place on Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wendell Senior Center.

Basic information will be provided about dementia, what its effects are, and how it differs from normal aging, as well as some skills to help communication with those with dementia, and ways to become more comfortable including folks with dementia in our social life.

Gill-Montague students get a **half day off** on October 2. They can explore our beloved New England fall foliage at the welcome desk at the Great Falls Discovery Center, and play a game of leaf peeping B-I-N-G-O on the bike path from 1 to 4 p.m. For ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult.

On Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m., Larri Cochran, a master gardener, pollinator advocate, and photographer, will give a talk entitled "Fall Gardening for Pollinators: **Helping Bees and Butterflies Survive Winter.**" She will discuss how to put your garden to bed in a way that creates winter homes for pollinators, and ensures they have

food in the spring.

This free talk, offered by Greening Greenfield's "Planting for Pollinators" campaign, will be held at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield. The talk will be followed by questions, and refreshments will be served.

Planting for Pollinators is dedicated to education and the restoration of healthy habitats and people. For more information on neonicotinoids, where to find clean plants, and more, go to greening-greenfieldma.org.

Looking ahead...

Reminder: The League of Women Voters of Franklin County (LWVFC) is hosting its third annual **Civics Trivia Night** on Friday, October 4 at the Greenfield Elks Lodge, 3-5 Church Street. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the trivia game starting at 7:30. Questions will feature a variety of civics-related topics, from political movies to current affairs, and more.

This year's Quizmasters are state senator Jo Comerford and Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández, president of Greenfield Community College. There will be cash prizes and complimentary snacks, and the evening will close with a gift basket raffle. Admission is \$10 per person, with teams of up to 8 people allowed. A cash bar will be available.

The LWVFC is a non-partisan grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. For more information you can visit them online at lwvma-franklincounty.org.

LWVFC is also benefiting from a **Soup and Games Night** on Monday, October 7, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at Hope and Olive Restaurant, 44 Hope Street, Greenfield. Soup and Games is offered by Hope and Olive to area non-profits to raise funds for their work.

Bring a favorite game, and come with friends or meet new ones as you enjoy free soups and bread provided by area restaurants. Enjoy the restaurant's cash bar, and purchase cookies and other desserts provided by League members. Participate in the gift raffle at the end of the evening. It's a fun time to relax and enjoy yourself while supporting a worthy cause.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Bridging Two Communities

LEVERETT – Kentuckians from Letcher County, KY will visit Leverett the weekend of October 11 to October 13 to continue the bridging project that brought them together as Hands Across the Hills in October 2017. The Kentuckians will stay in Leverett homes and participate in dialogues facilitated by Dr. Paula Green.

On Sunday, October 13 the public is invited to the Leverett Elementary School, from 3 to 5 p.m., to meet the Kentucky group and hear stories of the deep connections and rich learnings about "others" that have evolved as the two groups have come to know each other over two years.

In 2017 Hands Across the Hills reached out to rural Letcher Coun-

ty, KY, inviting them to meet in dialogue to learn about each other's histories and lives. Their visit in October 2017 gave hope that we all could see beyond stereotypes, and care about each other's well-being.

In Spring 2018 the Kentuckians reciprocated, inviting Hands Across the Hills of Leverett to Whitesburg, KY and sharing their coal mining history and current challenges.

Hands Across the Hills formed in response to the 2016 election. Members of the Leverett Alliance wanted to bridge to a community different from Leverett's in order to better understand another community's history, outlook and needs.

See handsacrossthehills.org for more information.



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local gossip, news & business listings

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turnersfallsriverculture.org

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TFHS SPORTS from A1

and coats. The game began at 7 p.m.

Chicopee is a city school. They have the numbers and the size, and probably thought they would march right over any team from Franklin County. But as one of the fans said, "These kids never give up." It was true in the Mohawk game, and even more evident in the Chicopee game.

Time after time, the Franks banged and hit, forcing Chic to earn every single yard. Throughout the game the Pacers were forced to orchestrate long, arduous drives, while Tech forced fourth down after fourth down.

Each drive ended the same way: Tech always stopped them on fourth down, and the Pacers were forced to give up the rock. Facing yet another fourth down, Chicopee completed a pass and scored the only points of the first half. They attempted the 2-PAT but Franklin stuffed it, and Chic held a 6-0 lead at the half.

The Franklin D didn't let up in the second half, either. They bent but didn't break, forcing Chicopee to continually and painfully drive down the field only to give up the ball without scoring.

The Pacers finally scored again with 8 minutes left in the game. They were forced to use fourth downs twice just to keep the drive alive. On fourth and goal from inside the 10, Chicopee ran a passing play, and scored six more points. The Frank short-yardage defense again stepped up and stopped the extra point attempt.

But the Tech Offense was unable to answer, and the Chicopee Pacers came out of it with a very physical, hard-fought 12-0 win.

Franklin Tech plays its first league game this Friday at home against the Monument Mountain Spartans.

Last Friday, September 20, at 4 in the afternoon, the Mohawk Co-op Warriors hosted the Smith Vocational Vikings. Unlike the Tech-Chicopee game, it was hot and sunny up on the Trail – so hot and sunny that fans were congregating in shaded areas, and players were losing the ball in the sun. But Mohawk was able to fight through the heat to soundly defeat the visiting Vikings, 37-6.

I was a little surprised by the lopsided score because I've seen the Vikings play. They defeated Franklin Tech last November, and Mohawk had played a pretty even game against Tech the previous week. But the Warriors attacked Smith's secondary, ran Evan Shippee down their throats, and on defense, stopped Voc in their tracks.

Mohawk scored its first touchdown two minutes and one second into the game, when Shawn Davenport completed a pass to Matthew Pollen to take the 7-0 lead. They scored their second passing TD – Davenport to Jaden Whiting – on their first drive of the second quarter.

Their third was set up by a Whiting interception and a personal foul. One play later, Whiting caught Davenport's third passing TD of the afternoon, and the Warriors led 20-0 at intermission.

The Coops went up 27-0 off a Davenport keeper at 3:30 of the third. Smith finally answered with 11.3 seconds left in the quarter, but their 2-PAT attempt was intercepted by Levin Prondecki, and going into the fourth, the Warriors held a 27-6 lead. Davenport ran in another touchdown with 9:43 left to put the Mohawks up 34-6, and they put the cherry on the sundae with a late-game field goal to take the contest 37-6.

The Warriors play their first road



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Jaden Whiting crosses into the end zone for a touchdown as the Mohawk Warriors rout the Smith Voke Vikings 37-6.

game of the season when they travel to St. Joe's Field in Palmer to take on the Pathfinder Pioneers, this Friday at 7 p.m. (If we've had a first frost!)

On Tuesday, the Great Falls Middle School defeated Mahar 36-0 at Turners Falls High School. Not much to say about this one, but it was nice to see Turners Falls play football.

A quick side note: the Mohawk Warrior **cheer squad** is made up of Turners Falls girls! During the Smith game, instead of their traditional blue-and-white accessories, the ladies donned blue-and-gold tiaras, and waved blue-and-gold pompoms.

Golf

TFHS 17 – Mohawk 7
FCTS 20.5 – TFHS 3.5
Monson 24 – TFHS 0
Easthampton 16.5 – TFHS 7.5
Ware 17.5 – TFHS 6.5

Following a week's rest, the Turners Falls golf team played five matches between Tuesday September 17 and Tuesday the 24th.

Two weeks ago I erroneously reported that St. Mary Parish beat Turners at Thomas Memorial, but I was wrong. In fact, not only did they defeat Mary 13.5-10.5 on September 10, but they also won their next home match against Mohawk the following Tuesday, 17-7.

I would like to attribute these victories to home-turf advantage, but the September 17 Mohawk game was a tri-match. The Franklin Eagles were in the mix as well, and defeated both squads: they beat Turners 20.5-3.5, and Mohawk 21-3.

Last Thursday, the Turners team took their 2-3 record down to the Quaboag Country Club to play Monson. The Mustangs shut them out 24-0. On Friday, the Easthampton Eagles came to Thomas' and beat Turners 16.5 to 7.5.

I don't make it to many golf games, mostly because of the tee time. But on Tuesday, I watched as the Blue Thunder braved the rain and completed their home match against the Ware Indians.

Brian Poirier led Blue with a 43 which earned him two points. Joey Mosca was the second-best golfer for Powertown with 45 strokes,

and Aiden Bailey gave Turners 2.5 points with his 48.

Jeremy Kovalsick shot a 63, which gave Blue another point, and Joe Kochan (49) and Vinnie Carme (62) each earned half a point.

This Thursday, the golf team hosts Smith Academy, and next Tuesday they travel to the Tekoa Country Club for a rematch with Saint Mary Parish.

Volleyball

Chicopee 3 – TFHS 0
TFHS 3 – Mahar 0

The Turners volleyball team traded sweeps this week, dropping an away game to Chicopee 3-0 and besting Mahar 3-0 at home.

The team went down to Chicopee to take on the Pacers on September 18. This was a difficult matchup for Lady Blue. Although they were able to keep pace with the Pacers, they had difficulty with Chic's fastball. In the three matches played, Chicopee's Tananya Reynoso served an incredible 10 aces, while her teammate Jasmine Leyda made 11 kill shots.

Blue was able to score 18 points in the first match to Chicopee's 25. Powertown forced the Pacers to score extra points in the second, with Chicopee holding on to win 27-25. In the final match, Thunder scored a respectable 19 points, but it wasn't enough, and Chicopee swept Blue 3-0.

On Monday, the Mahar Regional Lady Senators came to town. This game was the polar opposite of the Chicopee game: Mahar had no aces at all, while Powertown had a combined 17.

Mahar, who needed a win to stay in contention for a league title, came out flat, losing the first two matches 25-12, 25-13. The Senators finally warmed up in the third contest, but it was too late, as Blue won it 25-22.

The volleyball team travels up to Northfield to take on Pioneer this Wednesday, and then host the West Springfield Terriers on Friday.

Field Hockey

Smith Academy 2 – TFHS 1
TFHS 6 – FCTS 0

Powertown Field Hockey also went 1 and 1 this week, though they outscored their opponents 7-2. The

first game was against a powerhouse called Smith Academy, and the second was against their cross-town rivals, the Franklin Tech Eagles.

Blue Thunder traveled down the river on September 18 to Hatfield to play the undefeated Smith Academy Purple Falcons. Smith was 4-0 coming into the game, and three of those four victories were shutouts. So Turners had their work cut out for them.

As in most games this season, Powertown played tough defense. "Defensively we did very well, and Haleigh Greene made some great saves," coach Becky Zukowski told me after the game. "The girls were very aggressive."

But while Blue kept the Birds out of the net, their offense couldn't move the ball up the field. In fact, Smith's goaltender only blocked one shot in the entire game, while Greene was forced to deflect 18.

Although the ball was consistently in the Blue zone, neither team could score for most of the first half. With 4:18 left on the clock, Blue forced the ball into Falcon's territory. Paige Sulda passed it to Brynn Tela, who shot it home, and Blue took a 1-0 lead. But the Falcons weren't about to let Turners spoil their perfect record. They tied it up in the second half, and then scored the game winner, beating Powertown 2-1.

On Tuesday, the Franklin Tech Eagles crossed Millers Falls Road to challenge Turners. "Tech always has a tough time on our field," an observer told me on the sidelines. "Our turf is too long!"

It may have been the turf, but for whatever reason, Turners kept scoring, and the Franks just couldn't answer. Blue scored two goals in the first half and added four more in the second. Tela scored two in this game, and Kaylin Voudren, Lindsay Davenport, Kendra Campbell, and Sulda added goals of their own, with Olivia Whittier and Davenport adding assists and Greene made two saves in the net.

The Lady Thunder hosts Palmer this Wednesday, and Athol on Friday.

Next week:
Soccer, anyone?



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Disagreement Over Veterans’ Memorial Maintenance Continues

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Former selectboard member Ted Lewis and former highway commission chair Harry Williston scheduled time with the Wendell selectboard at their September 18 meeting to bring up their dissatisfaction with the plan for improving the appearance of the veterans’ memorial on Wendell’s north common.

The memorial has four millstones: one with a plaque for World War I veterans, one with a plaque for World War II, one for the Korean and Vietnam wars, and one still blank. They are set off from the rest of the common with a traprock gravel apron, which looked good when it was new, but is becoming overgrown with crabgrass and other weeds. Pulling those weeds now would be difficult, painful hands-and-knees work that would have to be repeated several times a summer.

Lewis and Williston had come with resident Paul Richard to the September 4 meeting and suggested having the highway crew remove the stones, scrape the earth down several inches, and install a 20-foot-square concrete slab. Neither the selectboard members nor the members of the “pollinator-friendly” group who were at that same meeting liked the slab idea.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested replacing the traprock with lawn, which could be mowed more closely than the rest of the common, and Sylvia Wetherby of the pollinator group suggested that the area be seeded with a low-growing plant like thyme.

At the September 18 meeting, Williston and Lewis said they disliked the idea of thyme or closely-mowed grass. They argued that a mower would not fit between the millstones and that a volunteer effort would be bound to break down. A volunteer effort to raise and lower the American flag each day at the memorial worked well for the summer of 2017, but the woman who coordinated the volunteers said one year of that was plenty, and did not offer to coordinate another year.

Williston and Lewis said they wanted something that would tie the memorial stones and flagpole together, and make the memorial area visually distinct from the rest of the common. They said grass would not do that, but that a concrete apron would set the area off, and would not require intense maintenance.

Lewis noted that money for honoring veterans always came from private donations, and said the town should pay some.

Shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that New Salem’s memorial is bordered with wood chips.

Keller said he would see what Erving and Montague, bigger towns with larger budgets, have done. Selectboard member Christine Heard said she would look at Warwick’s and Shutesbury’s memorials.

Keller suggested an area smaller than the 20-foot slab proposed September 4, a sidewalk or a smaller apron, with flagstones inlaid.

Lewis pointed out that it costs the same to deliver one yard and four yards of concrete.

Keller asked the two men to make some drawings, find out what they would cost, and bring that information to the finance committee.

Dead Or Dying Trees

Tree warden Corrine Baker came in with requests to replace the crabapples on the west edge of the north common. She said they are dead or dying, and are about 20 years old, which is the life expectancy of a crabapple. She suggested replacing them with a native, pollinator-friendly understory tree such as flowering dogwood.

Keller suggested not taking them all down at once.

Baker reported that the sugar maples on the east side of the north common have suffered from road salt, root compression, and recent years’ low snowfall. One is dead or nearly so, and others are unhealthy. She suggested taking the dead one down, and putting in stones for the parking that happens there already.

Keller said that idea might not go well with the historic nature of the common.

Baker also said she wants to hire Dave Hawking to make a town-wide tree assessment, which would divide roadside trees into three classes: those in immediate danger of falling onto the road; those that might fall down within five years; and those that pose no risk. The assessment would cost \$2,000.

Keller told her to talk with the finance committee, with the idea of having a budget item put on the next annual town meeting warrant.

Too Few Flushes

Keller relayed a comment by town engineer Jim Slavas that the town septic system – serving the town hall, police station, senior center, library, and office building – is suffering from the low amount of wastewater it receives.

None of those buildings is occupied full time at full capacity, but the state-required design called for a leach field large enough for four fully-occupied buildings, with laundry, dishwashers, and teenagers taking showers.

A two-thirds vote at town meeting could authorize connecting a building that is owned not by the town but by a nonprofit organization, such as the meetinghouse, to the septic system. The change would bring in more regulation. Like the town-owned buildings, the meetinghouse is not occupied full time.

High-Speed Internet

Acting as the town’s Municipal Light Plant (MLP), the selectboard members continued discussing whether to have an elected or an appointed MLP board. Heard said it would be food for thought for the next broadband committee meeting.

Verizon is nearly done with make-ready work, and construction on the fiber-optic system should start in November. Selectboard members agreed that broadband legal bills should be paid from the broadband construction account.

Other Business

Assessors Anna Seeger, Luke

Special Town Meeting Will Consider Big-Money Articles

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – A special Montague town meeting, to be held next Wednesday, October 2 at Turners Falls High School at 6:30 p.m., could be spending a lot of money on items ranging from a new street sweeper, leaks in the Millers Falls sewer system, and late bills from the town of Erving for processing Millers Falls’ sewage. The meeting will also consider a portion of a very large tax agreement between Montague and the FirstLight Power company.

The Montague finance committee, which is the fiscal arm of town meeting, discussed and approved all the money articles at its September 11 meeting.

The **first six articles** on the warrant fund collective bargaining agreements with town employee unions, as well as the salaries of full-time elected officials and other non-union employees who are affected by these agreements. The total appropriation voted exceeds \$74,000. However, this amount did not include the cost of the contract with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, which was not available before the finance committee meeting.

Article 7 would appropriate \$12,500 for purchasing and installing cable-related equipment for Montague’s local access television station, MCTV. This is essentially a “pass through” of funds received by the town from Comcast to pay capital costs for local access.

Article 8 appropriates \$1,821 for paying “prior year bills” for the tree warden, highway department, and police.

One of the larger money articles on warrant, **Article 9**, would appropriate \$158,002 from the Water Pollution Control Facility’s retained earnings account – the WPCF’s version of free cash – to pay “prior year bills.” A background information sheet issued by town hall explains that “it was discovered” at the end of the previous fiscal year that the town of Erving, which treats sewage from the village of Millers Falls, had only billed Montague for one-quarter of FY’19. However, according to town administrator Steve Ellis, sewer user fees were collected from the residents of Millers Falls for the entire fiscal year, so the WPCF’s retained earnings account includes this sum.

Article 10, another large appropriation related to the Millers Falls sewer system, would allocate \$100,000 to “remediate inflow and infiltration” caused by cracks and inflow from storm

drains into the sewer. Last winter and spring, groundwater flowing into the system significantly increased the volume sent to the Erving treatment plant, raising costs and exceeding Montague’s contracted treatment limit. The funds will repair the sources of infiltration, which have been identified in a recent study.

Article 11 would appropriate another \$100,000 from free cash for “repairing or replacing” the roof of the Unity Park fieldhouse. The article also authorizes the selectboard to apply for and accept any grants, gifts, or reimbursements. “Deterioration of the [roof’s] shingles has accelerated in the past eighteen months and leaks are increasing,” according to town hall background information. “Multiple quotes” have produced a projected cost of \$80,000 to \$90,000, “plus contingency.”

Article 12, which appropriates \$268,670 for “purchasing and equipping a new or used street sweeper,” not surprisingly generated the most discussion at the fin com meeting. The final motions state that \$243,670 of this will come from free cash – balances from the previous fiscal year, certified by the state for local spending – and \$25,000 will come from an appropriation from the May annual town meeting (the DPW’s “discretionary fund”).

The information sheet says that Montague has two sweepers, which are in “constant use” during the spring months and used “more sporadically in the spring and fall. “The town of Montague has 109 miles of road, and we probably sweep 93% of that,” highway superintendent Tom Bergeron told the fin com. The current sweepers were purchased in 1997 and 2010, so “based on a 20-year life expectancy,” now is the time to replace the older vehicle.

Bergeron said the company he planned to purchase the Elgin Sweeper from, C.N. Wood in Whately, had sold 18 of the model to the city of Holyoke, so “they can’t be that bad.”

The original plan was to place the sweeper on the regular town meeting warrant next spring, but Bergeron told the fin com that would mean a new sweeper would not be ready for next spring. “Every time we use [the older sweeper], we have to fix it, and they are not inexpensive to fix,” he said. Ellis said the capital improvements committee had recommended purchasing a used demo sweeper, which would need some refurbishing prior to use.

The fin com discussion addressed the proposal to purchase

the vehicle outright, rather than lease it for a smaller annual payment but pay more interest. Fred Bowman expressed concern about using such a large amount of free cash reserves on one item. “If we lease it, it frees up that cash for something else,” he said.

“The town has a larger free cash level this year than would be typical,” Ellis said.

John Hanold estimated that leasing the sweeper would add \$20,000 to its cost. “I am a cautious person,” he said. “I tend to favor, and therefore prefer, to buy rather than lease.... If we can free up the money we might get in the future, this is an opportunity to do it... I recognize that this is going to be a surprise to town meeting, so that is something we are going to have to be ready for.” The committee unanimously approved the article.

Article 13 appropriates \$8,975 to restore the “lower skirt of the historic front porch awning” in front of the town hall. The appropriation will focus on remediating “substantial deterioration” in the steel frame which stabilizes the awning and repairing its “copper roof,” according to the information sheet.

Three articles will authorize the town’s board of assessors to enter into tax agreements with private companies. **Article 14** involves a 1-megawatt solar facility on Millers Falls Road across from Industrial Boulevard, and **Article 15** would be an agreement with Kearsarge Turners Falls for a 1.4-megawatt facility to be constructed behind the Park Villa Apartments on Turners Falls Road.

Perhaps the most unusual of the tax-related articles, **Article 16**, would allow the assessors to enter into an agreement with the FirstLight Power company for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The agreement would be based on an assessment of several parcels in question of \$125,000,000 which, according to the town, would represent a “substantial reduction,” but is “part of an agreement that the Assessors and the Selectboard believe is beneficial to the town.”

The **final article**, which is not a money article, would allow the town to receive an easement from the Turners Falls Fire District for construction, maintenance, and access to a “shared common driveway” to the south of the public safety complex on Turners Falls and Turnpike roads. The driveway will be shared by the fire department and the department of public works, to be located at the new highway facility.

arranged by the task.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said the permaculture maintenance group may want to build a log-and-wood-chip stairway on the north side of the permaculture plot, outside the comfrey perimeter. The slope there is steep, the regular town mower does not pass, and mugwort has grown tall and is spreading. The other board members felt that would not be a problem, especially if the permaculture people do the work.

Aldrich said that the holiday fair will be one day only, at the town hall, on Saturday, November 16.

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GREENHOUSE from page A1
deteriorating and unsafe.”

Crocker said complaints by the Leverett Cemetery Association in recent years prompted the increased scrutiny by the power company. The Plainview Cemetery’s dirt driveway has deeded right-of-way access beneath Eversource’s power lines, passing through the disputed parcel. Leverett’s two private cemetery associations merged about three years ago, and that is when complaints about her use of the property began, Crocker said.

“This has been simmering for quite a long time, particularly regarding access to the cemetery,” said selectboard chair Peter d’Errico. “There have been times when cemetery road was blocked, the fence was knocked down, and animals got into the cemetery.”

Crocker confirmed that part of her fence collapsed and at least one animal got loose about a decade ago, but says it has not happened since.

“My understanding is Eversource owns the parcel of land she has been occupying and they have asked her to vacate that property and revert it to its original condition,” said Donald Robinson, a member of the Cemetery Association. “Really the issue is between Eversource and the occupant of the property.”

According to Crocker, EIEIO Farm had a long-term verbal understanding with the company. In the past, Crocker said, she parked farm equipment along the shared right-of-way driveway, and would sometimes plow snow from the driveway to the cemetery.

Crocker said she felt coerced into signing the 2016 contract restricting her use of the land, had been lied to, and excluded from meetings about the issue. “A year later they show up and want to revoke the contract because I parked vehicles on Eversource land,” she said.

“The Cemetery Association basically wants the entryway to the cemetery to be in an acceptable condition,” said Robinson, who became involved in managing Plainview Cemetery after the two associations merged. “Unfortunately over the years it has been a problem.”

“We have received several complaints from members of the Leverett Cemetery Association and a Select Board Member, who asked that we do something about the maintenance of the property,” Lamberty wrote.

Crocker maintains that she has not misused the property or caused any egregious safety hazards. In addition to the greenhouse, Crocker’s cow pastures, fencing, and irrigation system run beneath the power lines. If the utility company decides to force her off the shared land, Crocker says, it would jeopardize her farm’s operations. She



The power company’s involvement increased after complaints from the Leverett Cemetery Association about maintenance of the long-shared 1.5-acre parcel, and concerns over access to the cemetery.

uses the greenhouse to grow food and store hay and farm equipment in the wintertime.

“They could totally mess up everything. They could literally just say, ‘get everything off’ our property,” Crocker said. “I can’t even fathom what this could boil down to.” She said she got a phone call from Eversource less than two weeks ago threatening to take down the greenhouse on the 27th if she didn’t do it herself.

“We are not removing Ms. Crocker’s greenhouse on September 27th, although we maintain that it remains a safety issue, and it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of our property,” Lamberty said. “After months of trying to work with Ms. Crocker and resolve these issues, we provided her with a notice of our intent to end our agreement. We have also allowed her ample time to relocate her items onto her land.”

Crocker told the *Reporter* she never received the notice of intent.

Writing letters to Eversource, the Leverett Cemetery Association, neighbors, and friends, Crocker is making known her plans to stand her ground and gathering support for the ceremonial sit-in on Friday.

“I want to continue to grow in a working and sustainable relationship within my community, of which Eversource has been a member spanning nearly four decades,” Crocker wrote to Eversource CEO Jim Judge. “The complaints and grievances of the Cemetery Association are having a disproportionate impact on my life and livelihood. I have done everything in my power to reach compromise but this latest action on their behalf threatens my very existence here.”

On Wednesday afternoon she canvassed the neighborhood asking for support.

“I would respectfully request that in the service of burying our dead, we do not destroy the livelihoods of the living,” Crocker wrote in a letter to the community. “Leverett is about Community, and is a Right to Farm

Community and this corporation is determined to ruin my livelihood as a farmer.”

In a Town This Small

The farm on North Leverett Road predates Plainview Cemetery and the power company. Crocker’s farmhouse was built around 1780, while the first Plainview burial plot was dug in 1871, according to a sign at the cemetery. Eversource erected the power line in 1966, and acquired easements on the farm property in 1946, 1967, 1968 and 1969, according to Lamberty.

Crocker bought the 30-acre farm in 1982, and now raises produce and grass-fed meat cows, pigs, and chickens. She said she followed some of the property’s original fence lines when building her pastures.

Leverett’s two private cemetery associations merged in 2016, forming the Leverett Cemetery Association. According to Robinson, the partnership brought more economic stability to the private body that maintains and sells grave plots in town.

“In a town this small, it didn’t make a lot of sense to have two associations,” Robinson said.

Of the 10 cemeteries in town, only the East Leverett and Plainview cemeteries are accepting new plots, according to the town website.

Crocker said the Cemetery Association has never approached her directly about the aesthetic and right-of-way issues, and instead brought their complaints straight to Eversource. The one time Crocker met Robinson face-to-face was when she showed up uninvited to a Cemetery Association meeting.

“The only factor in it, as far as Cemetery Association is concerned, is the fact they have a right of way over it,” Robinson said. “They have no other way to have access to that cemetery.”

If the issue remains unresolved, Crocker plans to take up the issue at the next Leverett selectboard meeting on Tuesday, October 1.

“The town has not really been involved in it as a municipal entity,” d’Errico said. He added that Leverett officials have considered taking on some cemetery maintenance responsibilities, but have yet to act on those ideas.

“Unfortunately, we frequently struggle with people dumping on our property, and we deal with it immediately,” Lamberty said. “When a licensee, like Ms. Crocker, is the source of the dumping, it is particularly problematic.”

A Facebook event page titled “Defend EIEIO Farm from Eversource Goon Squad” indicated that 19 people were either “Going” or “Interested” in the event as of press time.



LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on October 7, 2019 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by **Mike Williams** for construction of a carport at 42 Cushman Road.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at masspublicnotices.org.

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The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at masspublicnotices.org.

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was September 24, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Fire on L Street

Fire once again came knocking in downtown Turners Falls, as an old wood frame two-family house at 62 L Street was the scene of a smoldering blaze that gutted the second floor. One tenant was home when the fire broke out, but was sleeping at the time. Dave Perry, 54, said he woke to smell smoke, and left the building wearing only pajama bottoms, his white hair disheveled.

The downstairs tenants were not home. Ed Lego, 76, was in Franklin Medical Center with pneumonia, and his wife Linda, 59, was visiting him at the time the fire broke out. Their three parakeets were rescued, one by one, and seemed happy to see daylight, fluttering in their cages as firefighters carried them to safety.

A young firefighter also emerged from the building with their black and white cat, alive, and delivered it to Perry’s care.

Turners Falls fire chief Ray Godin said the cause of the fire was inappropriate use of extension cords. “No question about it. There were too many appliances attached to extension cords,” he said.

Sheffield Elementary
Test Improvements

According to Sheffield School principal Elizabeth Musgrave, MCAS test scores for all grades tested showed improvement last year. Musgrave said student improvements were seen in every subject, many dramatically above targets for annual yearly progress.

In English Language Arts, scores for grade 4 showed a gain of almost 20%, and in math the gain was 12%. In grade 3, 22% of students showed advanced performance levels, indicating they are working above proficiency. Improvements were seen across the entire school, including special ed-

ucation and low income students.

Sheffield became a newly configured grade 1-5 elementary school last year with the consolidation of students and teachers from Montague Center School, and the first and second grades from Hillcrest. Teachers, parents, and the community have pulled together within this new consolidated school with a little over 300 students.

The result, said Musgrave, is that students are energized and teachers are working hard, all working towards the goal of the best possible education.

Thirty-Six Show Up to
Erving Gas Station Hearing

There seemed to be some confusion as to the actual purpose of the public hearing before the Erving planning board regarding proposed changes to the town’s zoning bylaws.

The town is considering allowing construction of a gas station within the aquifer protection zone, which would require a zoning change. A number of individuals attending the hearing expected they would be able to present evidence for or against the proposed change.

However, Jacquie Boyden, acting chairperson of the board, stated that the hearing was not for the purpose of arguing pro and con. Rather, said Boyden, the limited scope of the hearing was “to inform; make recommendations; get comments; and to clarify the issues.”

The proper venue for argument and evidence, Boyden said, will be at the special town meeting on zoning changes to be held on October 5, also at the Erving Elementary school.

The proposed changes to Erving’s zoning bylaws would permit a gas station with aboveground fuel storage tanks to be constructed within the aquifer protection overlay district in Erving’side. A second revision would allow the construction of a fast food restaurant within the same district.



Crocker said she grows food in the 80-foot hoophouse, and uses it to store hay and equipment in the cold season.

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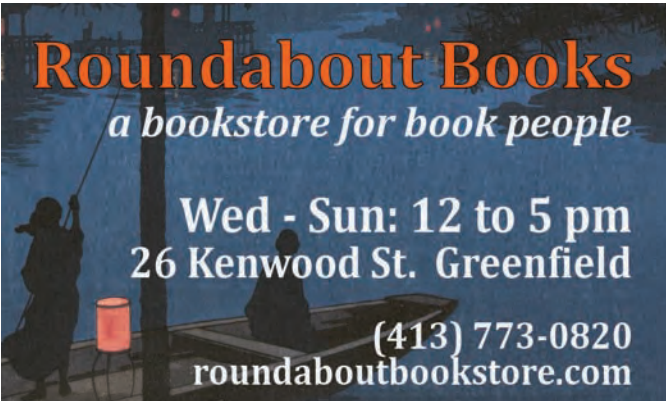


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Above: Turners Falls Pizza House glows in the night.

THEATER REVIEW

Stages of History: *The Revolutionists*

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – How do you write a play about the French Revolution? Should it be a drama, or would such seriousness be too hard to watch? Perhaps a comedy, or even a romantic comedy, about the tragic loves and deaths of royals and great artists and writers of the time? Maybe even a musical. What about puppets – or is that too much?

Opening this week at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, staged by the Silverthorne Theater Company, Lauren Gunderson’s *The Revolutionists* is both a play about the French Revolution and a play about a playwright trying to write a play during the French Revolution. The story revolves around four women of the time, thrust together while the worst of the revolution swirls around them and death threatens at every turn.

Central to the story is the radical feminist playwright of the time, Olympe de Gouges, played by Brianna Sloane, who struggles to make sense of the chaos and increasing violence of the revolution. De Gouges wants to continue to see herself as a creative person of the theater, not involved in the cruel world outside but still wanting her words and ideas to matter to that world.

Stepping into this playwright’s world are Marianne Angelles, a Haitian freedom fighter; the assassin

Charlotte Corday, who plotted and executed the death of the writer Jean-Paul Marat; and the infamous Marie Antoinette, former Queen of France.

American playwright Gunderson puts them together in the play and uses their voices to inspire reflection on the importance of art, culture, and the power of words for good or evil. Marat’s words were incendiary and inspired much of the violence in Paris in 1793 during what was called the Reign of Terror.

In many ways this play works very hard to put a shimmery glaze over the story of the French Revolution, finding a spot for modern theatrical devices of humor and hip

music, offering shiny lights and pretty colors, puffy dresses, ribbons, and pretty girls with murderous intent to distract from a story of a dark time in history. So it’s funny in many spots. It has themes of women’s liberation, a sisterhood that forms among women of different station who pledge to stand together as citizens of France. It looks at theater and culture, the importance of the creative arts in giving voice to the voiceless.

Four women play the parts of famous and infamous women of history. Sloane brings power and energy, youthful passion, to her role as the

see **THEATER** page B3



The four actresses of the play *The Revolutionists*, currently running in Greenfield, during a rehearsal. Left to right: Eileen Vandewalle (as Charlotte Corday), Kyle Boatwright (as Marianne Angelles), Brianna Sloane (as Olympe de Gouges), and Julie Nelson (as Marie Antoinette).



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – Little known fact: This whole parenting thing? I’ve been mainly winging it.

I feel there’s a difference between being a caregiver and straight-up, nose-to-the-grind parenting. Caring for my child, the nitty-gritty of the day-to-day caring, has come naturally to me. But parenting? I’ve mostly been navigating what feels right to me by looking at both the things other parents do that I don’t vibe with, as well as those things that do.

Use Your Words, Not Your Hands

Perhaps this is also the reason why I’ve gravitated to the three women who have become my mama best friends. When my child is with me, as opposed to with his dad, I spend nearly all of my time with these women and their kiddos. Together, we comprise a 14-person tribe – you can imagine what our fam dinners look like.

These mamas each possess different qualities of parenting that I deeply admire and respect. We learn from each other, and when we’re all together – which is frequently – we throw all our parenting ninja skills into the mix and effectively parent all the children. We reinforce that which we want our own children to learn by voicing it to the others, holding everyone to that expectation. Values such as sharing food and toys, using our voices and not our hands, taking deep breaths, and the good old “please” and “thank you.” We hold strong boundaries, helping them to communicate with each other, and advocate for themselves.

I trust any of these mamas and their husbands to parent my child.

And it’s perhaps because I spend so much time with our chosen family, as I love to call them, that I sometimes feel completely thrown off my game when I’m in the presence of parents whose parenting styles I don’t support and cannot stand behind.

I recently took my kid to a birthday party where I found myself in this exact situation. After the candles were blown, and everyone was getting their slice of cake, I had my back turned when I heard an adult say, “You guys can scoot down.”

This somehow caught my attention, and when I turned around I saw my kid holding his plate, standing in front of a couch occupied by three other kids. I understood what the “scooting down” comment referred to. One child, sitting on one end of the couch, was all spread out, taking up more space than he needed, reminding me of the countless times I’d seen a man sprawled with knees apart while riding the subway.

I understood that my kid wanted to sit on the couch, and that the

see **INDIE MAMA** page B4



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

WOOD DUCKS IN THE MIST

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER BEND – Sitting on an ancient rounded boulder in shallow water, I watch the river flowing by, barely moving this low-water late-summer’s end.

Fog typical of a classic September morn swirls and wreathes in a slight breeze every now and then. It exposes, then hides, secrets along the shore, or unseen wings sounding through the river-bound mist. The sun is somewhere on the other side of this low cloud, shining faintly. Pretty soon it’ll erase the curtain over the river.

Sometimes I sit here munching on a Macintosh apple or peeling a breakfast orange. Today, no fruit, just a little buzz from the first coffee.

Slowly, just a few dozen feet away, two forms emerge from the cloud bank. Wide-eyed, alert and tense, a wood duck couple venture out into the slight current, trying to figure me out, that human form perched stock-still on the river boulder.

I haven’t seen this couple for a while. I’m pretty sure they raised a family in the Beaver Hole marsh across the way or in one of my duck nesting boxes off in the trees.

These ducks, like my snowy owl, have always held a mystical fascination for me. Some of you may never have seen one, perhaps not even known that they secretly live not far from you, at nearby ponds or on a close-by river.

They are stunningly beautiful. Somewhat small and very trim, the male has a plumage of reds, russets, deep blues, streaks, spots, a colored bill, dapper crest. So beautiful they are that, like many 19th century birds, they were hunted close to extinction.

In my copy of T. Gilbert Pear-

son’s *Birds of America* (1917), he uses glowing descriptives such as “iridescent green and purple, lustrous violet and bronzy green, velvet-black glossed with purple and green, rich chestnut, purplish red, lake-red bill, crimson iris and lids...” He tells us that in the 1800s this duck was known by folk names such as the Summer Duck, or the Bride.

By the time back in the 1950s when I saw my first wood duck, it had become forbidden to shoot them, and various conservation groups were putting up nesting boxes on poles in the marshes and in bordering trees to encourage their comeback.

Just like this September morning, over the years the wood ducks have slipped in and out of my various bird adventures. These ducks arrived in our lives on a particular day back in 1957 that has left a lasting impression.

Around the time I was a ten-year-old, my younger sister Susan, my father and I oftentimes spent quiet Sunday afternoons in a rowboat in a snug pond at Barton’s Cove. This spot, a little inlet we called the Bear’s Den, we now know was a plunge hole created by an ancient waterfall over 15,000 years ago.

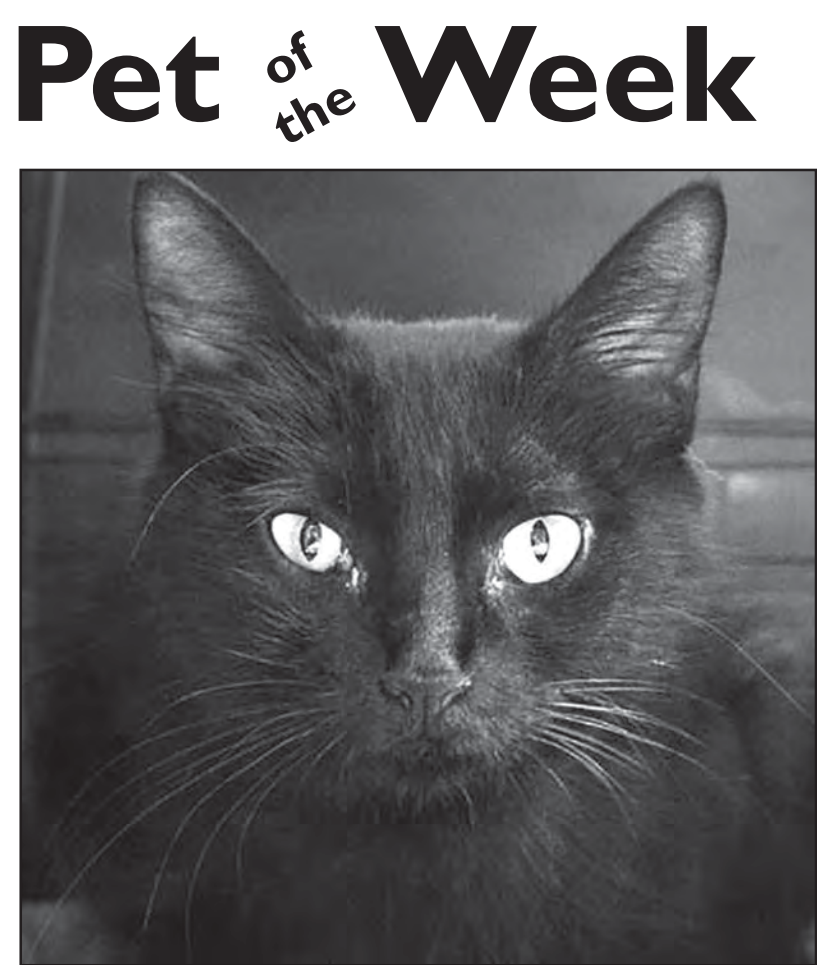
Out of the blue that day, a wood duck couple dropped down from the sky, before realizing the three of us were sitting there in the old wooden rowboat. Just as suddenly they bolted into the air, whistling in alarm, and were gone. But not before I got my first look at them through my father’s WWII Bausch & Lomb submarine-spotter binoculars, “liberated” when he mustered out of the Navy in 1945.

Another impression happened at the time of an icy spring blizzard

see **WEST ALONG** page B8



Wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*).



“MYSTERY”

My name may suggest I am a puzzle, but I am pretty easy to figure out. I’m a sweet, petite Southern girl from Georgia. I’m active and chatty, and enjoy chin scratches and naps in the afternoon sun.

I should be your only cat, or have a very slow introduction to your res-

ident kitty. I’m too bold and brassy for some cats. Not much about my past is known, so that part is a mystery, but I assure you, I am not.

Come meet me today! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



By **LESLIE BROWN**

MONTAGUE CITY – Despite a few days in the eighty-degree range, fall is here.

Maybe we’re experiencing September Song, the season of warm days and cool (often chilly) nights. “Indian summer” is upon us.

We returned briefly to the Rockland, Maine area to visit a 95-or-so year-old gentleman who had been my landlord during the lifetime of my late husband, and later just myself, and then still later, me and my new partner Ken.

Bill’s place in Owl’s Head is at the end of a winding road which turns into dirt at the site of his home, which he built years ago next to that of his brother, who gave it the name Weeks Road. He and his wife and the brother likewise lived there for many years as the only residents.

Now an elderly man himself, Bill lives there alone and recently put the acreage and the buildings on a private ocean cove up for sale, so as to assure that his sons would get their inheritance. And so they have.

Meanwhile, he continues on in this utterly unspoiled place, surrounded by McMansions and several new homes, on land he and his brother owned. The last survivor of that generation, Bill continues to rent his property from the new owner, and enjoys living tax-free. The new owner owns a precious piece of private cove no longer imaginable on the rocky coast of Maine, and which he will someday make his own.

Bill’s is the last undeveloped private spot in his neighborhood

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Down Memory Lane

of Owl’s Head, now a mere suburb of Rockland. Route One into town has changed immensely since our last trip there several years ago. The route is super-developed now, although the village of Owl’s Head seems quite unchanged: there’s still a post office and an off-and-on general store (now off), but a short drive out of town puts you on a mini-mall stretch of Tractor Supply, Days Inn, Walmart, and Hanaforads, to name a few.

We stayed at a motel in Rockport so as to be handy to visit Bill, and found that while his village of Owl’s Head was quite underdeveloped, Rockland itself had burgeoned into a semi-urban area similar to Hadley and Hatfield bordering the Route 9 stretch of mega-stores.

Our motel was, happily, both modest and relatively inexpensive, although all accommodations in the area demand a good *ka-ching* these days. Still, Rockport boasts a wonderful breakfast diner now, and the Rockland Café is still there on Main Street offering an unchanging menu of square meal breakfasts and entrées of fish and lobster such as you would expect in tourist land and at about the same old prices. It’s all relatively preserved the “way it was.”

Our three-day stay did not include a motel with a housekeeping unit, so we ate out often. It was not an inexpensive get-away, but a beautiful sentimental journey just the same.

One day we took a drive up to Lincolnville, the site of an unimaginably splendid piece of pasture and vineyard called Cellar Door, where you can sit at an oaken bar, sip some lovely wine, and choose the flavors you would like to purchase. We bought two expensive but beautiful etched glasses and a bottle of Queen’s Anne’s Lace on sale at ten dollars, and drove back

down to the shore for a fine meal of chowder and shrimp, all while breathing the fine ocean air mid-coast Maine can offer.

Tourists have made inroads into the heart of the mid-coast and further east. Camden is a slow, tough drive down a narrow main street with wall-to-wall stores and tourist attractions, but further east, Lincolnville is a charming small coastal town. Here the number of locals seems equal to that of tourists. The local ferry to Islesboro carries as many islanders as *touristas*. The further you drive into rural Maine, the more it resembles our local mountains and hill towns.

At home now, we come into early fall and buckle down to garden chores: digging potatoes, picking winter squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers, and harvesting the two pumpkins we grew just for fun. The asparagus bed is a mass of ferns underlaid with weeds.

A fellow gardener gave me two plants of a Polish vine similar to the sweet pea, which boasts beautiful purple flowers and is developing purple seed pods now for a new crop another year. The only other cultivated flowers left in the yard are the impatience and the geranium. We have yards of goldenrod, as well. The beach roses are done, as are the grapevines.

As the season winds down and after the harvests, it will be time to get the beds ready for winter. We hope to cover them all with cardboard for so-called “lasagna gardening” after ridding them of most of the weeds. Then come spring, we’ll remove the cardboard and should find legions of earthworms and soil free of weeds, ready for the spring planting.

At any rate, that’s the plan.

Enjoy the no-doubt beautiful fall season still to come, and Happy Gardening!

Impressionist Also Collects Faces



One of Jeff Wrench's portraits, which he made on top of a wallpaper sample.

GREENFIELD – Jeff Wrench is a self-taught painter who interprets people’s faces through intuitive color choices and bold brush marks. On Sunday, October 6 at 2 p.m. Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center will host a reception of Wrench’s latest work, and the artist will

solicit photos of attendees to later paint in his impressionistic, abstract style.

“I invite visitors to photograph themselves near one of my paintings and email it to me or post it on Instagram tagging me (@noisician),” Wrench said. “I will attempt to paint every face and post it on Instagram until the exhibit is over!”

Wrench moved from Connecticut to Northampton in 2017 to pursue his art and live a more minimalist lifestyle. His website describes his work as “a collision of colors, brush marks, scratches that meet on wallpaper and end up looking (more or less) like people.”

The new exhibit will feature portraits painted of attendees from a 2018 interactive art piece called “Exquisite Corpse” hosted at Hawks & Reed last year. Wrench partnered with Nina’s Nook owner and artist Nina Rossi to host the event, which solicited drawings and text from attendees to make collaborative images. Wrench is also the artist behind the painted utility boxes depicting Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, and Sojourner Truth in Amherst and Florence.

On October 6, Wrench will again ask attendees to share a photo of themselves so he can paint their portraits. “My handling of paint and use of ‘found’ surfaces like wallpaper or paint chips draw attention to the painting as an object, and maybe will reveal the beauty in easily overlooked things like these common materials,” Wrench said. “And what is more common – and beautiful – than the human face?”

To accompany the reception, Violet Walker will play a musical saw throughout the afternoon.

See Wrench’s work online at noisician.com and Instagram @noisician.

Senior Center Activities

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 4

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.

M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch

Monday 9/30

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 10/1

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday 10/2

9 to 11 a.m. Veterans Office Hours

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/3

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

10:30 to noon: Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Gentle Yoga

Friday 10/4

12 p.m. Pizza Party

1 p.m. Writing Group

at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 9/30

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch

Tuesday 10/1

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

1 to 3 p.m. Flu Clinic

Wednesday 10/2

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11 a.m. M3 Class

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/3

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

1 p.m. Computer Class

Friday 10/4

9 a.m. Quilters Workshop

9:15 a.m. Walkers

9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

LEVERETT

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

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

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

WENDELL

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

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Gill: (413) 863-5730



THEATER from page B1

playwright de Gouges. Her emotions run the range of delight, inspiration, panic, and fear. She pushes ahead, caught in the passion of an idea, then pulls back, afraid.

Kyle Boatwright has a kind of luminous energy that fills the stage. Tall, with a strong presence and warmth in her portrayal of the Haitian woman, Marianne Angelles, fighting for her people and yet living in fear of losing her husband. In one powerful scene she inspires great empathy from the Queen and the audience.

Eileen Vandewalle seems a sweet kind of ingénue, yet she offers up the murderous intentions of Charlotte Corday with real truth and conviction. Youth and beauty do not inhibit her from successfully playing an assassin whose intentions are pure.

Julie Nelson clearly enjoys playing Marie Antoinette with the fullest degree of humor and exaggeration. She does get most of the laughs as she prances around the stage in her overstuffed dress and gigantic wig adorned with ribbons and bows. While the character may be a bit farcical, Nelson’s portrayal is no less sincere when she lets down her guard and allows the Queen to be a real human being. She is, after all, a totally tragic figure, joined in marriage at a young age to become Queen of France and then to see it all end so horribly.

What is the role of the creative writer in a world gone mad? Can words alone really change minds

and hearts of people lost in a hell of their own making? These are the questions asked by the characters in this play.

And they are the questions all artists must ask when they find themselves in a world gone wrong: How to find the courage to speak out, and where is the line where self preservation stands above creative conviction? How much must one sacrifice, and how much is too much? Is one a coward if they hide from the danger? Is it not better to keep one’s head down, rather than lose it?

Or must the artists and writers of the world speak out to save the generations that follow – isn’t the sacrifice worth it, if one saves the world?

The Revolutionists, directed by Gina Kaufmann and produced by Rebecca Daniels and Carmela Lanza-Weil, continues the 2019 Silverthorne Theater Company season. Technical director John Iverson handles set, sound, and lighting design. Stage manager is Ezekiel Baskin; costume design is by Christina Beam, with mask design by Sloane; the dramaturge is Tatiana Godfrey; Boatwright is credited as composer; sound design is by Godfrey and Gina Kaufmann.

Performances of *The Revolutionists* continue with shows on September 26, 27, and 28, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase online at eventbrite.com. For more information go to silverthornetheater.org, or call (413) 768-7514.



Cast of *The Revolutionists*, currently playing in Greenfield: Eileen Vandewalle on the left, as the assassin Charlotte Corday explaining her dark intentions to Brianna Sloan (*Olympe de Gouges*), Julie Nelson (*Queen of France Marie Antoinette*) and Kyle Boatwright (*Haitian freedom fighter Marianne Angelles*).

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Fashion, Facebook, and Village Improvement

By MIKE SMITH

Last Friday the 20th through Sunday the 22nd, MCTV had the pleasure of recording Richie Richardson’s FAB Fashion Passion, a fashion show featuring designers from New York as well as from here in western Massachusetts. The Great Falls Discovery Center hosted the show, providing the perfect setting for this wonderful cultural event. The outfits were beautiful and speak for themselves – keep an eye on montaguenvetv.org and see the show for yourself!

We also recorded the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association Meeting which took place in Millers Falls on Thursday the 19th. Ideas from the group’s last meeting were discussed, and goals for the short and long term were decided. All communities rely on their people to help spur progress: see what interesting ideas

the folks in Millers Falls came up with, and it might get you thinking about how you can help your own neighborhood!

Another great way to stay up to date with our programming is to check out MCTV’s Facebook page. It’s a great way to leave us feedback, and to hear about our new or upcoming videos.

We’d also like to remind you that MCTV provides free training for camera operation and editing software. The best kind of learning is hands-on, and there’s no better place to do it than with us!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguenvetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Dry Hill Resident Allegedly Kills Neighbor’s Cat; Tinder Threat; Intoxicated Males; Hysterical Kid

Sunday, 9/15

5:11 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reporting that their neighbor just shot and killed their cat. Neighbor said that the cat was peeing on his door. Caller’s son-in-law requesting meeting with the chief; put through to voicemail. Officer advises units clear. No need for animal control officer at this time as this is a criminal matter.

7:16 p.m. Caller, a driver for New Fortune, reports that as he was delivering food to a Central Street address, the lights went out. Caller and male party went down to the basement and turned the breaker back on; when they returned upstairs, male stated they did not want the food anymore and told driver to leave. Caller stated he was fine with party not taking the food but wanted his credit card machine back. Caller stated that male went to use his cane on him; caller grabbed the cane, and male fell. Caller does not want an officer; has credit card machine back; just wanted to report this.

7:25 p.m. *[First part of call redacted.]* AMR called and stated that the male party from the previous call was assaulted. Advised AMR that the male party had an altercation with a food delivery guy and was no longer there. TFFA1 stated that they heard over the radio that male party was assaulted. Advised TFFA1 of same. TFFA1 requesting officer.

Monday, 9/16

5:37 a.m. Report of two loose horses in road at Turners Falls and Hatchery roads. Officer checked length of Turners Falls Road; nothing found. Clear. 6:29 a.m. Report of two horses in road between Rau’s and Swamp Road. Unable to locate.

10:18 a.m. Report of loud TV playing from neighbor’s residence on Highland Street; caller advises ongoing issue at all hours of day and night. Officer spoke with couple at residence; TV is loud because they are hard of hearing. Advised of some options that might resolve issue.

11:36 a.m. Multiple people reported drinking alcohol at picnic tables in Peskeomskut Park. No one drinking upon officer’s arrival; two people moved along from picnic tables.

5:52 p.m. Caller from Highland Street reporting that a grey Toyota Camry just hit a guardrail and was on their front lawn; vehicle has taken off and is headed toward Route 63. Caller states that there is heavy front end damage on passenger side and believes driver to be intoxicated. Shelburne Control contacted to notify Sunderland PD. MPD units out

with vehicle. *[Redacted.]*

Tuesday, 9/17

2:20 p.m. Walk-in reporting that lights on Greenfield side of General Pierce Bridge are malfunctioning; states that they only stay green for approximately five seconds before cycling back to red. GPD advised. 6:34 p.m. Caller reporting that around 4:30 today they were behind a vehicle on Turners Falls Road and saw a toddler standing up in the back seat. Referred to an officer.

6:50 p.m. Caller reporting that they just arrived home and saw a male with a black hat buy beer; reports that male is now drinking the beer in Peske Park. Officer did not observe male party drinking alcohol, but advised him to move along. 7:09 p.m. Caller reporting their neighbor is intoxicated and yelling down the stairs saying they are going to kick their butt. Second phone call reporting neighbor is yelling and screaming at neighbors and is intoxicated. Officer advises female party is inside with windows closed and lights turned off. Advised caller to call back if it starts again.

10:07 p.m. Caller reporting that they can hear a hysterical kid in a building between Fourth and Fifth streets; would like someone to check on kid. Officer advises youngster was missing their dad and acting out; had a talk with him; he is bed-bound for the evening.

Wednesday, 9/18

9:10 a.m. Caller reports hearing animal that sounds like it might be in distress in the woods along Migratory Way. Conferred with Environmental Police dispatch, who advised to leave it alone and let nature take its course.

12:18 p.m. Vehicle vs. pole on Federal Street. No injuries. Pole broken in half and leaning over road. Eversource en route. Road closed briefly.

7:24 p.m. Verbal disagreement between two males in Peske Park. Units off with other half in front

of Food City.

7:35 p.m. Caller reporting that he is receiving threatening phone calls from a female who believes that he is involved with her current boyfriend. Advised of options.

11:24 p.m. Party into station to report that his friend is receiving threats via the Tinder app. Officer spoke with party. Friend receiving messages resides in Atlanta. Advised caller to have friend contact his own PD.

Thursday, 9/19

7:52 a.m. Report of injured skunk that was struck by vehicle on Second Street. Skunk is currently in backyard off alley. ACO off this week; contacted Erving ACO, who is en route.

1:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Franklin County Technical School. School resource officer confirmed misdial from guidance office.

3:09 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reporting very loud music coming from neighboring property. Homeowner advised of complaint. He has turned the music down but advised officer that he plans on turning it back up.

4:30 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road states that a male who was going door to door asking about energy bills ran away when caller asked if he had a permit. Referred to an officer.

8:59 p.m. 911 caller reporting disturbance in progress in Third Street alleyway. Verbal argument settled by responding officers. Some items were broken, but they were the property of the person who broke them.

10:03 p.m. 911 caller states that her husband “got in her face” and they have been arguing. He states that she is “drunk again” and is not being truthful about what happened. Situation mediated for now.

[Logs from 6 a.m. Friday 9/20 to 6 a.m. Saturday 9/21 were not provided to us when we requested them.]

Saturday, 9/21

9:53 a.m. 911 caller requesting help because her son is trying to sell her garden tools. Peace restored.

4:18 p.m. Caller transferred from Greenfield PD reporting two intoxicated males shouting at each other by the fish ladder. Caller states they were fighting earlier. Officer spoke with both parties and advised them of options.

4:26 p.m. Report of suspicious activity on West Chestnut Hill Road; parties looking around and in windows of vacant property. Area checked; clear.

6:21 p.m. 911 caller from Bulkley Street believes they have a bobcat in their backyard; concerned for kids in neighborhood. Officer monitored area; didn’t see anything. Caller stated that the bobcat has since left the backyard and headed toward Turnpike Road. 6:59 p.m. Caller reporting male party wearing security uniform walking between Food City and Family Dollar; male is acting weird and possibly on drugs. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 9/22

12:04 a.m. Caller reporting multiple cars seen leaving path leading to railroad tracks on Ferry Road. Units advised and en route. Officers blocking path with cruisers. Parents taking involved parties home. Officer requesting MCFD with brush truck to wet down small party fire.

3:38 a.m. Caller reporting suspicious activity in area of pump buildings off Denton Street; can also see two parties on Bridge of Names; believes he was woken up by a small explosion of some kind. Call back reporting five individuals crossing Bridge of Names back toward post office; appeared to be under the influence of something. Area checked; nothing found.

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INDIE MAMA from page B1

other child was refusing to move his body. I slowly walked over, and looking at the child on the couch, I said with a smile, “Hey friend! Luca would love to sit with all of you, and if you scoot down a bit, he’ll be able to.”

The kid ignored me and continued to eat his cake. It was then that I noticed his mom was sitting in an adjacent couch, and I found it hard to believe that she wasn’t present to what was going on.

Her silence indicated that her child would be allowed to do as he wished. And my almost-four year-old couldn’t comprehend why he, too, couldn’t sit with the others. Eventually he sat on a corner on the other side of the couch, and dove into his cake.

Now, look – there are far more challenging things when it comes to parenting. And yet, I couldn’t shake off the anger I felt at the other mom. In that moment, although I found her child obnoxious, it was less his stubbornness and more her parenting style that got under my skin.

Raising a boy in 2019, I am doing my best to cultivate presence, gratitude, and ownership when I relate to him. I’m learning how import-

ant it is to teach him how to hear a “no,” as well as how to say it, while holding strong boundaries. I believe in screen time, but I also believe in choosing what he watches. Food is always shared, gratitude is often given, and appreciation is sprinkled throughout our day like one sprinkles out food for the chickens.

We are blessed with certain privileges, and I’m still figuring out how to exhibit and embody humbleness. From my mother, I learned how to have a conversation and connect with just about anyone, and growing up in NYC was the perfect laboratory to practice this skill. I aim to model this in all my interactions with folks, so that my child may pick up a thing or two when it comes to connecting and interacting with people with kindness.

I think about how I will engage with parents whose styles I don’t respect or agree with, because I know this won’t be the last time. The best I can do is practice forgiveness, and in the height of my anger, remember to do what I would tell my own kid: take a deep breath, drop into my heart, plant seeds of forgiveness and compassion, and most importantly, use my words and not my hands.



Writers’ Conference

SOUTH HADLEY – The Write-Angles writers’ conference will be held on Saturday, October 5 at Willits-Hallowell Center at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, with speaker Martin Espada, and panel discussions with authors, hands-on workshops, pre-arranged meetings with literary agents and

networking opportunities. The conference fee – \$110 in advance for the general public, and \$90 for full-time students and those age 65 and up – includes free parking, continental breakfast, and a buffet luncheon. For more information and to register, please visit writeanglesconference.com.

Mt. Grace Annual Meeting

BERNARDSTON – On Saturday, October 5, the public is invited to come celebrate Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust’s 33rd Annual Meeting at West Gate Farm. The celebration will be hosted by Will and Shalee Pratt on their recently protected farm at 80 Eden Trail, Bernardston from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The day will feature live entertainment, locally sourced lunch and drinks, landowner address, kids’ activities, tractor hay rides, a tour of the farm and more. Last winter, Mount

Grace protected the Pratt’s family farm, a 50-acre property, including 10 acres in Greenfield. Registration for this event is required and can be done at mountgrace.org or by reaching out to Carol Mayer at mayer@mountgrace.org or at (978) 248-2055 x15. Tickets are \$30 including lunch and one drink ticket, or \$10 with no lunch. For any questions regarding the event, please contact Cami Duquet at duquet@mountgrace.org or (978) 248-2055 x13.

On Deck at the Shea: Alt-Country-Rock and Electro-Dabke

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Coming up in the next two weeks are a few events of note at the Shea Theater that readers might be interested in.

This Friday, September 27, **Fred Eaglesmith** is performing at the venue for the first time.

Eaglesmith is a Canadian alt-country-rocker with a great sense of humor, and so expect the music to be interspersed with “lengthy comic monologues,” according to the Shea press release, which goes on to say, “Fred’s songs are about trains, machines, horses and rural life, dogs and drinking but, at the end of the day, they are all about the human condition. Monologue topics include life on the road, what’s going on at the ranch back in Ontario, and stories about crossing the U.S./Canada border.”

The singer-songwriter was one of nine children; he hopped a freight train as a young man when he left southern Ontario, to start writing

songs and performing in western Canada. His former bands have included the Smokin’ Losers, the Flathead Noodlers and the Flying Squirrels. After forty-two years on the road and twenty-two studio albums, he’s coming to Turners Falls.

Eaglesmith will be performing with his wife, Tif Ginn, who does vocals plus accordion, guitar, melodica, mandolin, ukulele, stand-up bass, and percussion, as needed.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Tickets online at sheatheater.org or at the door. Have an advance listen to Eaglesmith on his website: fredeaglesmith.com.

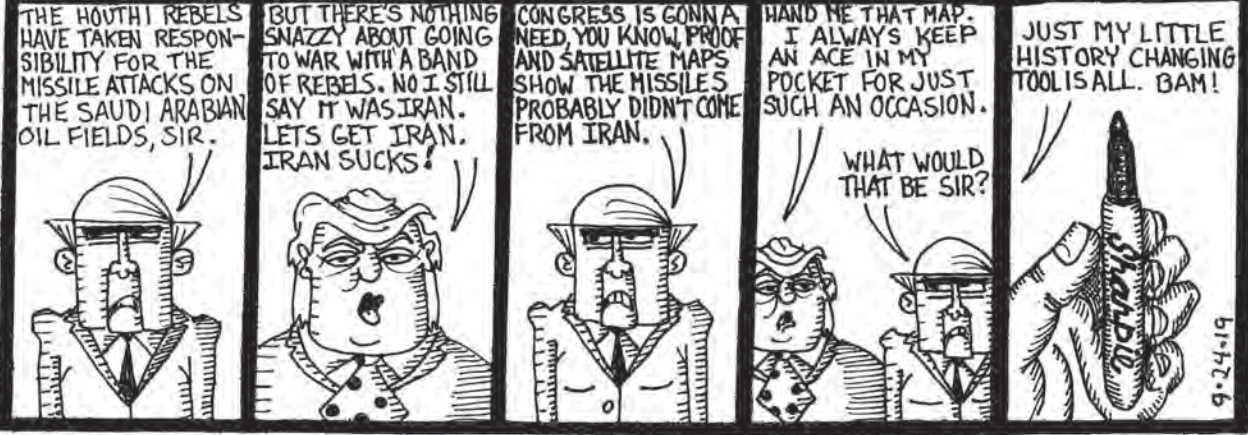
A Super Collision

Last October the Shea hosted Laudable Productions’ Super Collider Latinx Edition, featuring the bands Rio Mira (Colombia, Ecuador), LADAMA (Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, USA), Orquesta El Macabeo (Puerto Rico) and Berkshire Bateria (USA).

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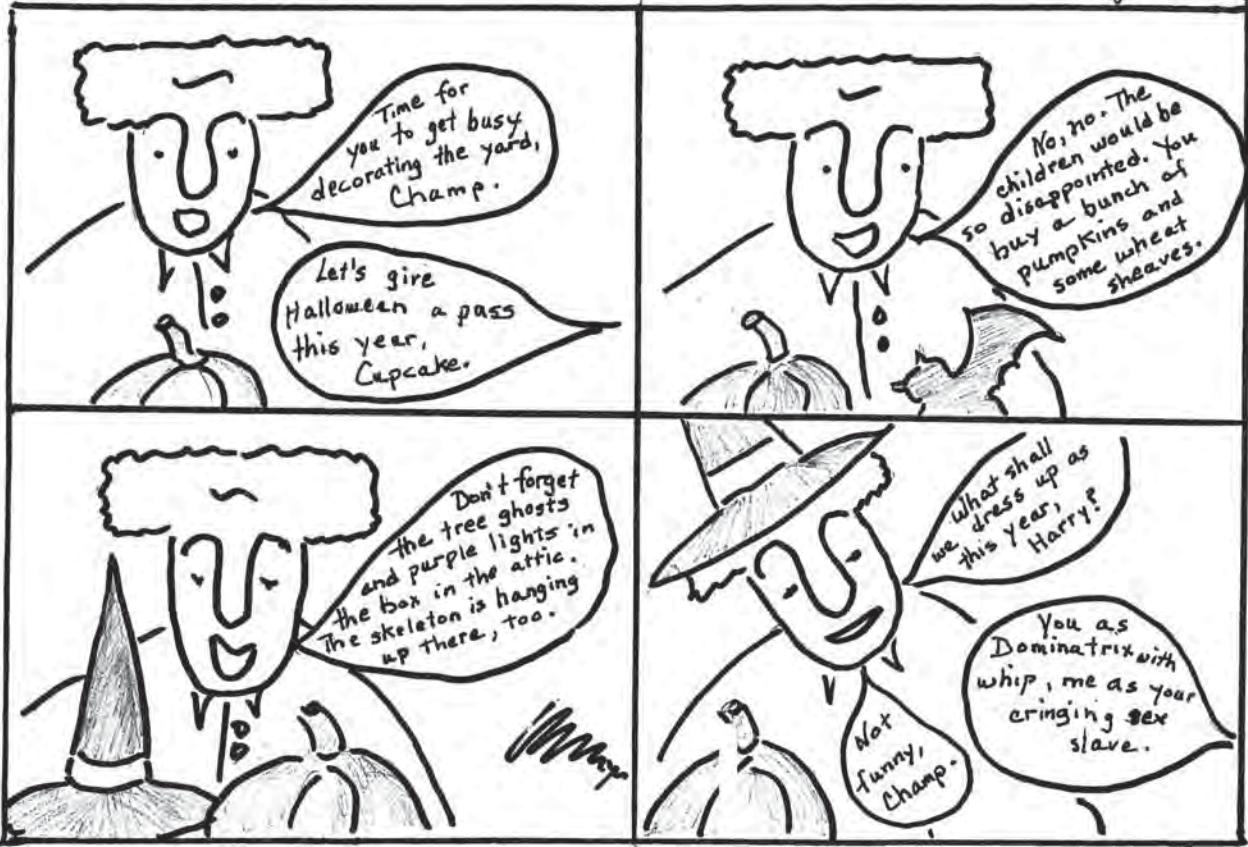
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Help Eliminate Plastic Trash!

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) hosts their 23rd annual Source to Sea Cleanup this Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28. In addition to annually coordinating thousands of volunteers to clean up trash in our rivers, CRC continues to work toward solutions to the persistent problem of trash pollution.

Plastic bags, bottles, and polystyrene (Styrofoam) are consistently the most found items during Source to Sea, and these items never fully break down in the environment. In 2018, Cleanup volunteers collected over 22,100 plastic bottles and 1.76 cubic yards of polystyrene from our waterways, including 96 pieces of plastic foam dock floats.

CRC is asking for your help to spread the word about our plastic problem and the impact on our rivers. Enter your Source to Sea Cleanup photos showing trashed rivers at their worst in CRC's online photo contest. Then share your photos online via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using *#PurgeThePlastic*, tagging local elected officials and the companies whose logos appear on the trash.

CRC is challenging two companies via social media – Dunkin' and Cumberland Farms – whose trash is regularly found during the Source to Sea Cleanup.

“We invite everyone to join us in telling them we expect better,” says Lennard. “We want less single-use plastic and plastic foam; we want more reusable and compostable options; we want items that are easier to recycle and keep out of landfills.”

Over the past 22 years, Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers have removed more than 1,100 tons of trash from our rivers. The Source to Sea Cleanup is a two-day river cleanup coordinated by CRC in all four states of the 410-mile Connecticut River basin (New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut).

Each fall, thousands of volunteers remove about 50 tons of trash along rivers, streams, parks, boat launches, trails, and more. For more information or to register for the event, visit *www.ctriver.org/cleanup*.

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been the voice for the watershed, from source to sea. Healthy rivers support healthy economies. To learn more about CRC, or to make a contribution to help protect your rivers, visit *www.ctriver.org*.

and Cumberland Farms – whose trash is regularly found during the Source to Sea Cleanup.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Forum on Shared Wood Shop Space: Available to Buy or Lease

NORTHFIELD – Calling all woodworkers. Initial investments to start a business can be daunting. The recent closure, due to an illness, of Michael Humphries Woodworking has created affordable business options for others looking to start, expand, or augment their enterprises.

Michael Humphries began his business in his living room, like many business owners, expanding bit by bit over the course of four decades to reach the highest end of fine woodworking. Having access to advanced, and expensive, machines without shouldering the whole investment can shorten the time to reach your business and craft-making potential.

Wednesday, October 2 from 5 to 7 p.m., a tour, panel presentation, and Q&A will provide information and scenarios on how a woodworking cooperative at this site can accommodate business ventures. Possibilities range from three or more woodworkers, or other artisans, forming a co-op to a single full-time woodshop on one side with benches in the second shop leased by the month or by the hour.

Business entrepreneurs and investors are also encouraged to attend the forum to learn more about co-op specific lending opportu-



Equipment in the mill room includes this Mikron multi-moulder.

nities, and technical assistance in forming a co-op.

Purchased by Michael Humphries in 2000 and expanded in 2014, the building layout makes a variety of arrangements possible. The central 3,500-square-foot millroom is bordered by two bench rooms, one on the sunny east side and one on the north, each with four work stations. The second floor hosts ample office space and a one-bedroom apartment with wood flooring and a fireplace.

Located at 158 Birnam Road in Northfield, 10 minutes to I-91 and 15 minutes to Route 2, this complete cabinet and millwork shop offers easy access to local markets and to Boston, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

No need to register. Plenty of parking. Refreshments will be served. Individuals and businesses at every level of interest are encouraged to attend. For serious inquiries, if you can't attend, call or text (413) 262-7850.

FACES AND PLACES



Top: Last Saturday's Premier Fashion Show at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Left to right: NYC model Nathaniel walks a white suit by Dominique La Roche Indigenous Designs; Victoria wears a top by Sonia Noel; and Josie also models fashion by Sonia Noel.



NINA ROSSI PHOTOS

Bottom: The ReVamp Upcycle Fashion Show at the Discovery Center on Sunday. Left to right: Stash models an outfit made from men's ties by Rachel Teumim; Nathaniel wears a costume Nina Rossi designed using old records, fishing net, plastic toys, and an inflatable lobster; Cece models a dress by Turners Falls designer Anne Harding, incorporating price tags from the Salvation Army.



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

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

September’s Featured Poet: Chris Bolling

on the oldest day

on the oldest day
Is I. sitting. with my
coffee stained t-shirt.

a loose spliff. some
relatable rhythmic poetics
playing. we placed a small
hand on the lighter. It is brown
like us. Some call us black too
but that’s for a different poem.

sometimes the emotions
of my friends feel like
the weather for the day?

If someone hurts you, then
I too am hurt.

rain isn’t always
predicted. sometimes
it stays and wont
leave. but always is
the sun. those days

those days none of
crops grow in the field
so then we must do a
rain dance for the
trauma to bring
tears. And again and
then again and again and
again and again and.
sometimes. only sometimes
do we sit.
alone.

and write.

to my dear las vegas friends

you bearded glutton
you short shorts and high socks
pale skin and alcohol breathe

loud laughs and crazed smiles
winning minutes and saddening hours
nights of joy
& knights of splendor

gambling is the american way of the west,
cheers to all cigarette air and bourbon burps
ashy knees and stressed, open palms
out on the forehead.

what do we have here?
we have hopes
& higher hopes
& bets

& matches
& add-ons
& raises and fails
& raises and fails

& raises that fail
oh last las vegas times
cheers to
visits of victory and vicious defeats

may fate’s cherubs carry your tired arms
and wallets into the heaven of a person
to help you forget about the night fading
away.

How to be killed by police:

It doesn’t matter what you
do. it matters that we tell

you. it matters that we show
you & why

we must show you.
we must watch you.

we must see your
comfort crawl off

your shoulders.
we must see you tremble

in reality & spirit.
must see your sun set

in a hurry to get away
from this feeling

we sit, dwell, &, worship
in this// breathing in

nothing & having
nothing to breathe in.

being alive is to
have nothing to

believe in when you are
a being of nothing more

than black faith
not bad faith. Not

faith being soiled,
we sleep in that holy

heaven is a dead garden
that ancestors still till
till it becomes part of us

till our lives are
witnessed by the cosmos

like a black water hole
giving birth to

emotional egos errantry
drawing laws from

the wind // tell me
how do we always

make something
out of nothing

if you believe me then don’t run.

Contributor’s Notes: We are very pleased to feature this month the work of Chris Bolling, who recently moved to Turners Falls.

CHARLOTTE KOHLMANN PHOTO

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sundog, Greef, Hollow Deck, Bringers of the Dawn*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Revolutionists*. Silverthorne Theater presents this brutal comedic quartet about four very real women who lived boldly in France during the Reign of Terror. (See article, page B1.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Artspace, Greenfield: *Jam Session*. Kevin Dee leads monthly session, all ages and skill levels welcome. Suggested donation. \$. 12 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Revolutionists*. (See Thursday's description.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. Pothole Pictures kicks off the season with this award-winning documentary about graffiti artist *Banksy*. Live music before the show. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fred Eaglesmith*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: The legendary *Talib Kwei*, with *Maspyke* and *Jackson Whalan*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Traditional Music Open Session*. Contra, Irish, old time, etc. Open jam session. 3 p.m.

Riverwoodstock, Shelburne Falls: Joseph Allred, Joshua Burkett, Allysen Callery, Moonbloom, Reticence, Rachel Riverwood, and Karen Zanes. Ask a

CALL FOR VENDORS

Vendors wanted for the next Saturday PopUp market on October 5 at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. Rent a space for selling your work, service, or what have you. Contact Sarah Robertson with your ideas, at marketing@hawk-sandreed.com.

EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Moving Lines, An Abstract Literacy*. Drawings by *Margaret Jasinski*. Inspired by nature, this show will be up for one week only, from September 23 through September 28, with a reception on September 27 at 5 p.m.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Susan Valentine Open Studio and Exhibit*. September 5 through 29.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: New exhibits to open October 4 include *Fafnir Adamites: Interfere (with); Doug Trump: By Rail; Maria Elena Gonzalez: Tree Talk; Gordon Meinhard: The Lives of Tables; and Thelma Appel: Observed/Abstract*.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Fabrications II*.

noise hippie. By donation. 4 p.m.
St. James Church, Greenfield: *Freedom & Struggle Song Swap*. Singalong and potluck. Donation. \$. 5 p.m.
Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Zydeco Connection*. Cajun dance party, by donation. 6:30 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *A Dub Supreme*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. (See Friday's description.) \$. 7:30 p.m.



The Shea Theater will host World Music Super Collider: Hafla Edition on Friday, October 4 at 8 p.m., featuring 47 Soul and Les Filles de Illighadad. See the description on Page B4 for more information on these dual headliners.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Gong Brattleboro: Adventures in Gamelan*. Festival featuring *Gamelan Merdu Kumala, Mark Cetilia and Zach Hazen, Laura Cetilia, Brompt Treb*, with film screenings by *Insitu Recordings*, and installation by *Evan O'Donnell*. \$. 7 p.m.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Rosemary Caine, Chris Devine, Michael Nix*. Resonator Series by Hawks & Reed. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Revolutionists*. (See Thursday's description.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mad Agnes*. Theatrical, humorous harmonies. With open-

ing act *Pete Nelson*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *A Dub Supreme*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. (See Friday's description.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ghost of Paul Revere*. \$. 8 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Blood Oath and Friends*. Readings and performances with *Tana Frank, Giselle Guillén-Martinez, Yasmeen Najeebi, Kylie Power-Sullivan*, and *Oona Robertson*. All ages. \$. 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Song, movement, laughter for young children and their caregivers. *Marcy Gregoire* and *Hilary Lake* with puppets, costumes, instruments. \$. 10:30 a.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sal-sa Wednesday*. With *McCoy* and *DJ Roger Jr.* \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Fred Cracklin', Imelda Marcos, Preening*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Oakland Stroke*. Tower of Power tribute. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Harvest & Rust*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Million Brazillians, Sweetness the Point of Song, Taxidermists*. \$. 8 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Now Ensemble*. Flute, clarinet, electric guitar, double bass, and piano ensemble. Performing brand new work by *Michi Wiancko*. Indoor concert. \$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Stone Coyotes* with special guest *Peyton Pinkerton*. \$. 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Moon Shells*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rhythm, Inc.* EP release party. \$. 8 p.m.

Textile creations, both wearable and fine art. Through November 2.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Speaking for the Trees*, paintings by *Cindi Oldham*, through September. Followed by the Fourth Annual *Migrations Festival*, a celebration of human and natural diversity of the Americas and Upper Connecticut River Valley. Art exhibit on view October 1 through 21, with a celebration on October 13, at 2 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery: *Western Massachusetts Illustrators Guild Group Exhibit*, September 17 through October 25, showing narrative illustration by 15 artists, including many well-known children's book illustrators who live in the Valley. Opening Reception Friday, September 27, 6 p.m. Closing

Reception Friday October 25, 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Art of Jeff Wrench*. October through November. Reception on October 6, 2 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Mapping the Body*. Multimedia installation by *Nancy Lautenbach* featuring her Pod series, inspired by the female form in collage, drawings, and sculpture. Through October 26.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Karen Iglehart: Entering Abstraction through Color*, oil paintings; *Carson Converse: Modern Art Quilts*; and *Dawn Siebel: The Endangered*. Through October.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Local Color*. Art inspired by the landscape of western Mass by member artists. Through September.

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CALLS FOR ART

Nina's Nook in Turners Falls invites artists to submit erotic art for Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut. Submit up to three jpegs to eroticart2020@gmail.com by January 15 for the February show. A \$10 participation fee is asked at drop off to help with expenses relating to the reception.

Artspace in Greenfield welcomes artists and art instructors with ideas for exhibits and programming at the center. If you have an idea for a class, a musical project, a gallery exhibit, or what have you, please contact the office at (413) 772-6811 or email info@artspace-greenfield.com.

Where do you live? Where are you from? Who gets to make the map, and what gets left out? Exploded View announces a call for art on the theme of "You Are Here." Open to all media; send three jpegs along with descriptions and dimensions of the work and name, address, phone number to exploded-viewma@gmail.com by December 15 to be juried into the show, scheduled at the *Great Falls Discovery Center* during *January and February 2020*.

**THURS 9/26 8:30 pm
Masala Jazz**

**FRI 9/27 9:30 pm
Bluegrass & Beyond**

**SAT 9/28 9:30 pm
Ultra Mammoth**

**SUN 9/29 11 am
JAZZ BRUNCH
w/ John Lentz Trio**

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