

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 45

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 10, 2019

UNEARTHING THE ARCHIVES

Kathy Becker and Annie Diemand Look Back at the *Wendell Post*



Diemand (left) and Becker (right) each hold an issue from the *Wendell Post*'s 1977 first volume at Diemand Farm in Wendell.

By CHARLOTTE KOHLMANN

WENDELL – Throughout its 238-year existence, Wendell has never had a long-standing newspaper, except once. One, spearheaded by community youth, lasted from 1977 to 2001. It was called the *Wendell Post*.

I recently sat down with Kathy Becker, one of the newspaper's co-founders, and Anne Diemand, another dedicated force behind the paper. Together they had every job imaginable, from distributing issues to delivering typewriters, creating content, participating in rubber-cementing the layout, and so much more.

"We were always pushing to make sure it printed, and we held people's feet to the fire," Kathy tells me. "But it didn't belong to us: we had no more power than anybody else."

As the three of us sit a few yards away from day-old calves on the 70-year-old Diemand family farm, we discuss how the *Wendell Post* was crafted from kitchen tables for 24 consecutive years.

After realizing in 1977 that she needed to be the one to initiate the talk of a newspaper amongst her friends, Kathy gathered Michael Idoine, Ed Judice, Gary Neilson, Karen Pierce, and her brother-in-law Lewis Becker, who wanted to serve the town with a "sounding board" in print form.

Annie Diemand joined the group after the first issue, and helped build its credibility. She had familial ties to the land and the community, some of whom were at first apprehensive of the publication and its founders.

"I was first approached to do the delivering and get the newspaper out," says Annie. "I would go as far as New Salem and Orange. We even had people requesting to send the paper to them. I would write all the subscriptions by hand, and at one point I had 25 to 35 of them. But once I got started,

I soon took on other jobs within the paper."

In the first issue, the staff stated that the "kind of concern people show in Wendell makes it a special town. The *Post* values that concern and will attempt to nurture it." The group set out to record every measure of life in the town, and it did not matter to them for how long someone had called Wendell home. Their platform was "an attempt to broaden our ability to communicate the workings, activities, and concerns among the Wendell community."

Topics ranging from committee and board meetings, political campaigns, public works, letters to the editors, police logs, Old Home Days, births, marriages, graduations, and obituaries to recycling, the Route 2 debate, and other environmental concerns were all covered. "A lot of the time people didn't feel comfortable writing, and so we wrote for them," says Kathy.

During election cycles, sometimes candidates could not write down their ideas and could only verbally articulate them, so staff members would help write them down for the newspaper. It also served as a place to post schedules, personal announcements, issues with the local government, and topical events. Eventually, a section for New Salem provided that town a space for its own news.

One of the newspaper's editors, Jonathan von Ranson, would later write that it was a social exercise. "The hair was let down, writers were experimenting with the topical and emotional boundaries of the community. It was the perfect newspaper for a tribe, I gradually realized that was helping itself along a more promising survival path," von Ranson reflected when the *Post* was first included in the UMass-Amherst Special Collections archive.

A few of the *Wendell Post*'s see **UNEARTHING** page A6

Passions Run High, But State Forest Bill's Prospects Are Uncertain

By JEFF SINGLETON

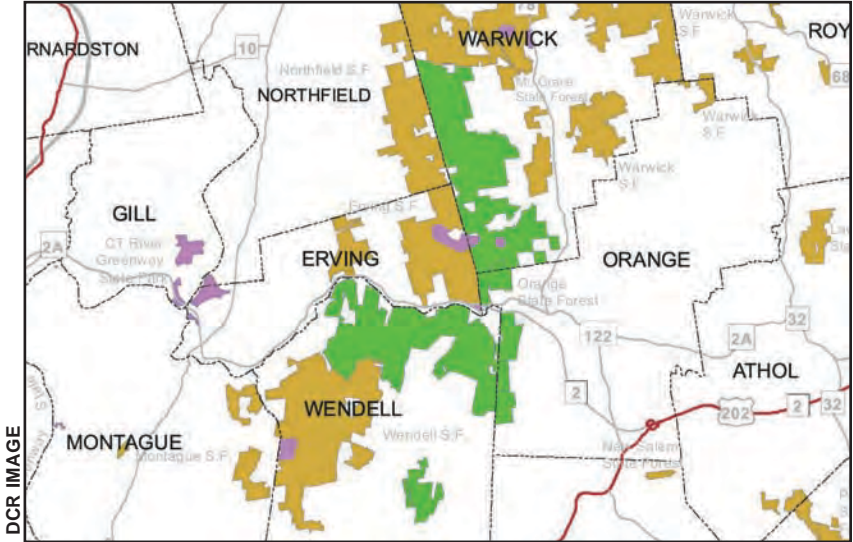
FRANKLIN COUNTY – In the wake of the recently completed state forest management project, which involved a good deal of logging, at portions of Wendell State Forest, many opponents of the logging have turned their attention to supporting major changes in state policy. On September 24 between 35 and 40 logging opponents attended a hearing of a bill, H.897, sponsored by representative Susannah Whipps of Athol, that would effectively ban most logging in forests under state management. The hearing was held at the state house before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.

H.897 would radically change the forest management policies developed by the Department

of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) between 2009 and 2012, effectively eliminating a category called "woodlands" (roughly 40% of DCR forests) where logging is allowed. The bill does this by codifying two of the other designations in the guidelines, "reserves" and "parklands," into state law. The bill eliminates the policy that "reserve" forests are only guaranteed protection from logging for ten years, and would presumably mean "woodlands" would become reserves.

The 14 sections of H.897 would amend a number of laws dealing with state forests. For example, Section 12 would eliminate the current portion of Chapter 132, Section 40, a provision dating to the 1940s, that defines state forest management policy as "providing a continuing and

see **H.897** page A4



The Department of Conservation and Recreation currently categorizes its forest lands as "reserves" (green), "woodlands" (brown), and "parkland" (purple).

EXIT INTERVIEW

"Mostly Because I Could Add and Subtract..."

By MIKE JACKSON

MILLERS FALLS – I first asked Mike Naughton during the summer if he would like to sit down for an interview. He had recently stepped off the Montague finance committee after 24 years, and I thought readers might want to hear his thoughts about it. Since then, he has been appointed as one of the town's three reps on the "regional school planning committee," which will investigate whether it makes sense to meld what are now the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley school districts.

"I'm not sure how much of what I have to say is really interesting to people," Mike told me as he settled into a chair in the *Montague Reporter* front office.

I guess it was interesting to me. We ended up talking for two and a half hours, and I learned about what brought him to town, the twists and turns of his career, and his participation in town affairs, as well as the philosophical through lines that wove those things together. (This transcript has been abridged and edited for clarity.)

MR: What was the first thing you volunteered for in town?

MN: I moved to town in 1974, bought a house in Lake Pleasant in 1978, and really had very little interest in town politics. I ended up being treasurer of the Lake Pleasant Water Supply District, mostly because I could add and subtract.

The commissioners read the water meters, sent out bills, collected the money, and went around with a big wrench when the people didn't pay.... I lived there from '78 to 1990, and I wanna say I did it for three years or so. Anyway, I was doing it mostly to just be part of the community, meet people, and help out.

At some point, after I moved out, the district ended up merging with the Turners Falls water district. There had been a real bad feeling between Lake Pleasant and Turners Falls that existed when I got there –

MR: Between the water districts?

MN: Well, kind of between the water district – Lake Pleasant had its own fire district, Turners Falls' fire and water district owned land on Lake Pleasant, and the rumor was they'd prefer all the houses not to be there. When I moved there, there was no sewer system, and while I was there, there was a combination state and federal grant to put in a sewer system.

I guess I never saved the article, but the town had to appropriate some money for the sewer system, too, and somebody at town meeting was quoted in the newspaper as saying "those houses are all dumps over there, why don't we just bulldoze them all?" That was kind of an attitude that people had.

But once the sewer system went in, the issue of everyone having their own septic system – and not everyone see **NAUGHTON** page A5



Michael Naughton looks back on his years on the Montague finance committee – and the experiences that prepared him for it.

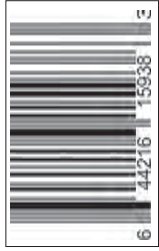


Circa 1981: a staff meeting, where topics and articles that would be covered for an upcoming issue would be discussed. Left to right: Kathy Becker, an unidentified volunteer, Lew Becker, Brenda Vincent, Annie Diemand, and Lisa Aubin.

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Catastrophe

“If there has been a glimmer of hope in any of the grim news coming from the Syrian civil war, which is now entering its fifth year, it is in Rojava – a strip of territory along the country’s northern border with Turkey that is hosting, under extremely difficult conditions, an experiment in direct democracy, social welfare, and gender equality.”

That’s what we wrote on this page on August 6, 2015.

“Rojava is the nucleus of a social revolution that could spread across the whole region. And, now that its fighters have served as the vanguard in the campaign to push IS out of Syria, the international community is turning its back.... What kind of superpower stands by nervously when one of its allies – Turkey is, after all, *still a NATO member state* – attacks another?”

That was February 1, 2018.

This week Donald Trump abruptly announced the withdrawal of US troops from northern Syria, following a call from Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and gave

the green light for the Turkish state to invade the multiethnic communal territory. The Turkish military launched hundreds of airstrikes, and as of press time, a ground invasion is underway. (Follow events at syria.liveuamap.com.)

A bipartisan bill in the US Senate would impose sanctions on Turkey, and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says it has a veto-proof majority. It is unclear what it would mean for the US to sanction a NATO ally that hosts 20 to 80 of its nuclear missiles.

“If you call our operation an invasion,” Erdoğan warned European leaders, “we will open the doors and send 3.6 million refugees to you.”

This is a worsening disaster on many levels, the direct consequence of electing a game show host as the so-called leader of the free world.

We should defend Rojava, not simply because “the Kurds” have been “allies of the US” against the Islamic State. It is a laboratory of freedom, a sanctuary for minorities, and a reminder that even amid chaos, we can build a better future.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



French King Bowling Center owner Erik Semb said his business celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, and that although the Snowbird League was filling the lanes on Tuesday morning, bowling is a lot less popular than it used to be: the league is down from 300 bowlers weekly to about 100.

T-Shirts Are IN!



Great news this week here at the *Reporter* office: we’ve received the first run of official *Montague Reporter* t-shirts in nearly a decade!

The new shirts feature an original design donated by Emma Kohlmann, printed in bold black ink on a creamy off-white color called “natural,” and they are beautiful. This limited-edition run was produced as a fundraising project for the *Reporter*, a 501(c)4 nonprofit which relies on the generosity of you, our readers, to stay in print.

We’re asking \$15 to \$30, sliding scale, for each t-shirt. We have a

limited number, so order them now at montaguereporter.org/shirt.

Name your price, select a size, and indicate how you would like to receive your shirt: you can stop by our office at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls, by appointment; you can add another \$5 and have your shirt mailed; or, if you receive your paper by home delivery, we can bring it directly to you.

We may print another run, but for now, shirts are available while supplies last. Thanks to Emma Kohlmann, and to the hard-working volunteers that made this possible!

Letter to the Editors

Care and Due Diligence

A quick note to clarify the water contamination problem Chet Cramer addresses in his letter about residential wells downgradient from the closed Leverett landfill (in the October 3 *Montague Reporter*):

- 1) The Town installed a new well outside the affected area for one of the original five.
- 2) Ongoing costs of filters and bottled water for the remaining four are paid by the Town, not the homeowners.
- 3) The Town Meeting did not vote to “stop” studies regarding the situation. It voted to authorize the Selectboard to undertake actions aimed at solving the contamination problem. Three specific possible solutions were authorized and prioritized: (a) deep wells below the contaminated aquifer; (b) a water line connection to Amherst; and (c) taking the affected houses by eminent domain.
- 4) The Selectboard immediately took actions in line with the Town Meeting vote: (a) hydrologists were contracted to research the deep well option; and (b) engineers designed the possible Amherst connection up to the time-sensitive permitting stage (we had already contracted with them prior to Town Meeting).
- 5) In the course of these actions, a promising new

water purification technology developed at UMass became available for municipal use. In accordance with due diligence requirements, the UMass scientists were contracted to run pilot tests on water from the affected wells to see if this is a potential low-cost solution.

6) As of this writing, the deep well research is nearing a conclusion; discussions with Amherst have been initiated; and the new technology pilot tests are happening in October.

7) It is possible that the lower cost deep well and water purification options will not work. Given the likely high costs associated with extending an Amherst water line, if Amherst is willing to negotiate this option, it may be that the underlying concern of the homeowners, as expressed by Mr. Cramer, to “access the equity in their homes, or even to sell them” will be most efficiently and effectively resolved by following the third option authorized by Town Meeting: eminent domain takings.

8) The Selectboard intends to pursue each available option with care and due diligence.

Peter d’Errico
Chair, Leverett Selectboard

CORRECTIONS

Last week we wrote (“*Gill, Montague Name Reps To Six-Town Study Group*,” page A1) that representatives to the planning board tasked with a feasibility study for a new school district “might work for two to three years, meeting twice a week.”

That was an error caused by a staff member’s fingers moving around unsupervised by a central nervous system. Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan had actually told the school committee that these meetings might be expected to occur “twice a month.”

We apologize for the error, and thank Mike Naughton, who is expected to be appointed as one of

Montague’s representatives, for noticing it and not panicking.

The same article asserted that school committee chair Jane Oakes “had previously announced” she was unavailable to serve on the planning board when fellow Gill member Bill Tomb volunteered to do so. Oakes let us know that this was not the case. We thank her for helping us set the record straight.

Finally, in our coverage of last week’s Source to Sea cleanup (“*Picking Up After Others*,” page A1), we mistakenly asserted that all trash collected in the region is staged at the Green River Swimming Area in Greenfield.

Beth Bazler, land manager at

FirstLight Power and the coordinator of a different section of the cleanup, clarified for us that while trash from the Green River ends up there, the debris we saw volunteers collect along the Millers River goes to the Montague transfer station.

“The Highway department is super supportive of our efforts,” Beth wrote, adding that “the ability to use the gated transfer station is invaluable, and we think the world of Ray (the transfer station attendant), Tom Bergeron, and Matt Cadran, who help facilitate this use.”

Whoops! Thanks, Beth.

We hope that the present issue is generally more accurate, and thank our readers for their fortitude.

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or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

The **Kidleidoscope** program continues each Friday at the Discovery Center, 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 Friday, October 11 is **Squirrels**.

On Saturday, October 12 from 10:30 to noon, attend another free nature program, the fifth in a series of water-themed programs in the Great Hall featuring stories and art. Story book pages from *A Drop of Water* by Gordon Morrison are on display. **Make a small nature-weaving** using plants and grasses like those living near our ponds, streams, marshes, and swamps. For ages six and up, accompanied by an adult; teens and adults are also welcome.

The third annual **Great Greenfield Dinofest** is happening this Saturday, October 12 at the Second Congregational Church on the Greenfield Common, and other nearby locations. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., it features children’s activities, a parade, a musical theater performance, and movies with live music.

The Historical Society of Greenfield, located at 43 Church Street, will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. It has dinosaur tracks and other artifacts on display. For the schedule and further information, see ptco.org/festivals/dino/. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Massachusetts

Cultural Council, and a variety of local businesses.

Learn how to edit and print iPhone pictures from an expert at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls this Saturday, October 12 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Kim Curtin, owner of Kim Curtin Photography, has graciously agreed to share her expertise with the public, helping to save the precious memories we carry on our phones!

Kim is an award-winning photographer with experience not only as a gallery owner, but also as a participant in iPhone art exhibits. She was part of the recent Macworld convention in San Francisco – quite an honor! – and her art can be viewed and purchased at local Big Y stores. This event is entirely free, thanks to Kim’s generosity; refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

On Saturday from 4 to 6:30 p.m., join local naturalists Pat Serrentino and Ted Watt for a late afternoon and evening **exploration at an active beaver site** in Satan’s Kingdom Wildlife Management Area in Northfield.

Pat and Ted will talk about beaver behaviors and the fascinating anatomy that enables them to achieve the engineering wonders for which they are renowned. Explore their working areas plus dams and lodges, and hopefully view some beavers at work in the gathering dusk, then walk a short distance back to the parking area.

This free walk is geared to adults and children over eight years old, and limited to 12 people. Come pre-

pared to fend off ticks and mosquitoes, bring binoculars, and wear sturdy shoes. Heavy rain cancels. The group will carpool from the Cherry Rum parking lot in Greenfield at 3:30 p.m., drive to Satan’s Kingdom, and arrive back in Greenfield around 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by Greening Greenfield; to pre-register, call Edie at (773) 465-1646.

Looking ahead...

On Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., join naturalist Nancy Goodman to learn how to **identify trees by their bark, leaves, and other clues**. Bring binoculars, water, a snack, sturdy walking shoes, and the book *Bark* by Michael Wojtech if you have a copy.

This program is co-sponsored by Northfield Mountain and the Athol Bird and Nature Club, and will take place at Northfield’s scenic Riverview Picnic Area along the Connecticut River, 100 Ferry Road, Northfield. Pre-register for this free program by calling (800) 859-2960.

The **Great Falls Festival** (formerly PumpkinFest) is coming up on Saturday, October 19 from 2 to 9 p.m. on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Check their Facebook page for the full schedule and updates at www.facebook.com/greatfallsfestival.

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its Fall **“Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day** on Saturday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. The drop-off sites are the Buckland Recreation Facility, the Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and the Whately Transfer Station.

Residents from any District town may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, and propane tanks. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection; however, there are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items is online at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html.

The Carnegie Library is hosting a **Halloween Party** on Saturday, October 26, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls. The library will provide a safe environment for children to make crafts, play spooky games, and eat yummy snacks. Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association and the Millers Falls Library, 23 Bridge Street in Millers Falls, will also host a **Halloween craft night** on Tuesday, October 29 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Join them to make masks, beaded Halloween spiders, and decorate pumpkins. All ages welcome, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call (413) 863-3214.

Finally, the **Montague Wood Bank is seeking volunteers** to help prepare wood to give to our neighbors in need. This not only helps provide firewood for those in need of assistance, but it helps to reduce town waste by recycling trees that have come down, and to build community through volunteerism.

Upcoming volunteer dates are November 2 and 17 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls, near the regional dog shelter and the Montague transfer station. Call David Detmold, chair of the Montague Tree Advisory Committee, at (413) 863-9296 if you are interested.

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Jasmine McNamara

Related Arts

Aiden Bailey

GUEST EDITORIAL

By **BILL STUBBLEFIELD**

WENDELL – On Tuesday, September 24, the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture held a hearing on H-897, “An Act Relative to Forest Protection,” sponsored by my state representative, Susannah Whipps. The bill would protect all state land as parks and reserves, managed in a very minimal way, similar to our National Parks. This would include 610,000 acres of land, which is 20% of our forests and 11% of our total land base. These are my comments for the hearing:

Today, we stand on the brink of a sixth great extinction as the rate of species loss approaches that of the five great extinctions of the geological past, each of which dramatically altered the history of life.

A recent UN panel reported that about one million species are in imminent danger of extinction. Long-term sampling is showing dramatic declines in insect abundance, so much so that we hear of an Insect Apocalypse already underway. And you don’t have to be a scientist to see this. Many here today are old enough to remember when a summer drive in the country meant a windshield smeared with dead insects.

And still the evidence mounts. Just last week, scientists reported that there are now almost three billion fewer birds in the US and Canada than there were a mere 50 years ago.

The causes of the biodiversity crisis are many, but almost all of them trace back to the ever-increasing impacts of industrial civilization: habitat destruction on a global scale, more and more plastic, vast volumes of pesticides – every one designed to kill – and the list goes

on... All of which reflect an ever-greater diversion of resources from natural ecosystems into the human project.

A full-scale effort to reduce these impacts is clearly required, but the single most important thing we can do is greatly increase the lands and waters set aside in perpetual protection from this assault. To quote the esteemed biologist, Professor E. O. Wilson: “Many decades of research have convinced me and many other conservation scientists that we must save at least half of the Earth from industrial exploitation if we hope to avoid catastrophic plant and animal extinctions.”

The bill now before us, H-897, is a modest but important step in this direction.

Logging, the greatest source of disturbance in New England forests today, has an overall negative impact on biodiversity. Continually removing wood robs the forest community of essential nutrients and critical habitat. By repeatedly creating new openings, logging fragments the forest, which increases the risk of local extinction. We must recognize that it is not the species that thrive on such disturbance that most need our help. Disturbance is everywhere. What are genuinely rare, and most in need of our protection, are mature ecosystems where the wounds of disturbance have time to heal and the web of ecological interactions has time to develop to its fullest extent.

Any land use policy is likely to help some species and harm others, and protecting our public forests from logging is no exception. Nonetheless, there will still be ample amounts of early-successional habitat that logging now provides. Natural disturbance will continue, as will logging on private lands. Moreover, there is suit-

able habitat for many non-forest species in various wildlife refuges and military installations, around airports and farm fields, along highways and railroads, and so on.

Where I live, power line easements provide habitat where shrub-loving species such as Chestnut-sided Warblers and Eastern Towhees are abundant and thriving. By the same token, increasing mature forest habitat will help forest specialists such as the endangered Cerulean Warbler.

Forestry science has developed a set of tools that will be of inestimable value going forward, as we take stock of just how much carbon and living diversity our forests contain. We object not to the science of forestry itself, but rather to the goals it serves. All too often, traditional forestry devotes itself to the singular purpose of maximizing the amount of wood products that can be harvested over time.

This is a grossly inadequate basis for managing our public forests because it fails to include critical benefits of profound importance, including carbon storage and biodiversity protection, as well as enhanced recreational, educational, psychological, and even spiritual benefits that only the grandeur and majesty of mature forests can provide.

For the people of Massachusetts and for all the inhabitants of planet Earth, we call on you to pass H-897!

Bill Stubblefield lives in Wendell, holds a doctorate in Biology from Harvard University, and is a proud member of the Wendell State Forest Alliance. For more information, visit www.save-massforests.com.

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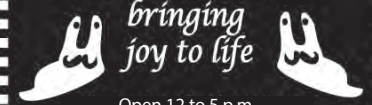
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increasing supply of forest products for public consumption, farm use, and for the woodusing industries of the commonwealth." It would add the goals of "optimizing carbon sequestration" and "native biodiversity protection."

Supporters of the bill have focused on the impact of DCR's "industrial logging" on global warming. They say that the agency's forest management policies significantly reduce carbon sequestration – the process by which trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis – and thus contradict the state Global Warming Solutions Act of 2009.

"We face a climate emergency, and this is a simple and effective way to help increase the capacity of our forests to protect biodiversity and sequester carbon in the future," Michael Kellett of Restore The North Woods told the committee.

State senator Joanne Comerford of Northampton, a sponsor of the bill who also testified at the hearing, began her presentation with a quote from former vice president Al Gore: "So far the best avail-

able technology for pulling carbon dioxide from the air is something called a tree."

Citing a report that CO₂ in the atmosphere had exceeded a "dangerous tipping point," Comerford argued that "we must reexamine the way the state thinks about forest management..."

Her statement did not directly criticize DCR's forest management policy. "The committee will need to wrestle with some important questions as we review the legislation," she said. "I co-sponsored this legislation with the hope that I could engage my constituents, and this committee, in these conversations."

Chris Egan of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, an industry group that represents "forest landowners, foresters, timber harvesters, and forest products companies," argued the bill would have negative effects on the forest products industry, and the state's "rural economy."

Egan also challenged the argument that logging had a statistically significant impact on carbon sequestration. He cited a study which calculated that forest management practices on MassWildlife lands led

to a very small reduction in carbon stocks from 2007 to 2018, reductions which he said were more than offset by "new growth" of trees during the same period.

DCR, on its website, also argues that research on carbon stocks on state land shows that tree harvesting has had a "minimal impact" on total sequestered carbon since 1960. The agency did not testify at the hearing.

H.897 would apply not only to forests under the control of DCR, but also those managed by the Department of Fish and Game, which includes a large section of state land in Montague called the Montague Plains, as well as land controlled by the Division of Water Supply Protection, which includes the forests surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir.

In addition to Wendell State Forest, the Quabbin, and the Montague Plains, the local impact of the new policy would be felt in Warwick, Erving, Northfield, and Leverett, all of which contain forests currently in the "Woodlands" category.

There have been several controversial tree-cutting projects on the Montague Plains, which the state

has justified as reducing the danger of fire in the large pine barren. Janet Sinclair of Shelburne Falls, who helped write H.897, told the *Reporter* that she was not necessarily endorsing forest management practices on the Plains, but that the bill would still allow "latitude for flexible management of reserves."

Under its definition of "reserves," H.897 states that "the timber in Reserves shall not be sold, removed or destroyed," but that "[v]egetation management shall be allowed in circumstances where historical and scientific data prove such action is necessary to: ensure public health and safety; provide fire protection and prevention," and protect endangered species.

Brian Hawthorne, the habitat planning coordinator who manages the Montague Plains for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, declined to comment on the bill.

Several other sources who we spoke with for this article said the future of H.897 is uncertain, but asked not to be quoted. The House committee has yet to decide whether it will vote on the bill during the current session.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Complainants Encouraged To Form Committee

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard began their October 2 meeting by approving, with two yes votes and one abstention, borrowing \$1,558,500 to build a fiber-optic network in town.

Wendell's north and south commons have been the source of some debate through several recent selectboard meetings. The October 2 meeting moved the discussion forward without a definitive conclusion.

Former selectboard member Ted Lewis and former highway commissioner Harry Williston expressed concern about the condition of the war memorials on the north common during two September meetings. Crabgrass and other weeds are growing through an apron of grey stones in front of the memorial, and the result is not worthy of the sacrifices veterans have made.

Lewis and Williston suggested replacing the stones with a concrete slab, but that suggestion was not well received by others in town, including a group formed to encourage pollinating plants. The men returned on October 2 with other ideas.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller and member Christine Heard visited neighboring towns to see their memorials. Keller went to Orange, where there is a statue of a soldier sitting with a boy and a plaque with the words "It shall not be again" surrounded by a brick circle. Heard went to Shutesbury, Gill, and Warwick, and said she thought Wendell's memorial looked best. New Salem's is surrounded by wood chips.

Lewis liked the idea of bricks, and brought up the fact that some of the bricks in Orange had the names of donors engraved on them. Most of the money for maintaining the memorial comes from private donations and not the town budget. Keller said he would help with fundraising.

Lewis and Williston were given the task of creating a design and getting estimates for filling an excavation of the apron area with the necessary stone, and topping that with mechanical weed stopping and then

bricks. The highway department can remove the stones and weeds and dig the necessary foundation.

Heard suggested creating a common committee to address competing wishes for both commons, and that Williston and Lewis become part of that committee.

Science Debated

In January several Wendell residents attended a land use symposium at Smith College put on by the Western Massachusetts Pollinator Network. They learned that insect populations are declining worldwide, native bees pollinate more thoroughly than domestic honeybees, and 80% of our food supply depends on pollinators.

The reason for insect decline is not fully explored by scientists, but pesticide use and habitat fragmentation and destruction are likely causes. The residents formed an informal group to help local pollinators. An easy way to increase insect populations is to mow grass higher and less frequently, and the group convinced the selectboard to have the mower of town properties leave the north end of the north common unmowed for one of this summer's mowings.

No member of the group lives near the common. Neighbors of the common did not like the new look, and someone took the initiative and mowed the unmowed section.

Cheryl Richardson's home is next to the north common and she said she mowed what the town mower had left untouched. She said that children use the common to play frisbee, and that tall grass and weeds encourage ticks, and are not healthy. She said she has not seen any bees on the common, but in her yard, where she has a flower garden, bees are plentiful. She thought that if an area is to be mowed less frequently it should be further south, close to the gazebo – and the veterans' memorials.

Al McIntire said the idea that tall grass encourages ticks is not borne out by science. A study in Springfield showed no difference between close-cut grass and an unmowed

plot; ticks need moisture and thrive in damp leaf litter. He offered his phone to show the study he was citing, and said that he was concerned about ticks because he came close to dying from a tick-borne disease.

Williston said that before he began mowing his yard, he was plagued by mosquitoes, but now that he keeps his mowed short the mosquitoes are not there. He thinks the north common should be kept mowed.

Lewis said that what grows on the common is not grass, and that calling the ground there soil is an insult to soil. Kate Nolan, a member of the pollinator group, said that wildflowers actually prefer poor, sandy soil, and thrive there if left alone.

The common will not be mowed for the next six months, and Heard suggested that Richardson join the still-unformed common committee.

Further Concerns

Tree warden Corrine Baker has previously said the crabapples on the west side of the north common were dead or dying, and suggested replacing them with native trees, like dogwood. Keller suggested staggering any replacement effort. The trees there now are suffering from a wind-borne fungus, and the treatment is to rake the leaves from around the trees and dispose of them elsewhere.

Alison Wight, who lives across Center Street from the south common, came in with three concerns. She said the Jersey barrier next to the town hall is cracked and ugly, and asked for it to be replaced with something more attractive and more appropriate to New England, such as large stones.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo insists that whatever is there needs to be heavy enough to stop a car from traveling into the generator and propane tanks next to the town hall.

Wight has noticed that the curved metal bicycle rack across from the police station is rarely, if ever, used, and said it does not belong there. The town hall front to the left of the entrance is filled with a mess of wires and boxes, she said, and should be made less apparent and offensive.

Keller said that, as a minimum, the wires could be painted to blend in better with the town hall siding.

Wight also asked that the police station and town hall wireless internet connection be given password protection. People park in front of her house late at night and watch movies, and the sound is so loud that she hears it inside her house. She said that not every movie is one she wants to be aware of, especially late at night.

Heard suggested that Wight join the common committee.

Other Business

Board members signed an appointment slip for Aaron Lempert to fill a one-year vacancy on the energy committee created by departure of Gloria Kegeles.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich invited anyone present to attend a FRCOG budget and tax recap workshop on October 3.

Keller relayed the intention of town facilities engineer Jim Slavas to write a job description for his position. Slavas suggested an annual walkthrough of all of the town buildings.

Town accountant Brian Morton sent an email with suggestions of which accounts should be carried forward, and which returned to the general fund. Among the accounts to be carried forward are the "office building repair" account and "highway garage" account. Board members decided to consult the cemetery commission about the "graves opening" account.

The "pole moving" account was created when Verizon wanted \$43,000 to move four poles so that the bridge over Whetstone Brook could be replaced. The poles were moved without Wendell's money, which will be returned to the general fund.

Board members discussed the need for a special town meeting, but did not set a date. If they are able to sign the warrant at their next regular meeting, the earliest legal date for a special town meeting would be October 31.

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NAUGHTON from page A1

even had a septic tank; I discovered I had just a hole in the ground, basically. You could see why the water department might have concerns –

MR: A small, dense settlement, all with septic, right next to a backup water supply.

MN: Right. But once the sewer system went in, that problem went away. And they fixed up the roads at that point, ‘cause they’d torn them all up to put in the pipes going through the village....

MR: Why’d you end up in Lake Pleasant?
MN: I had been living in Montague Center, and after a while I had a girlfriend and the two of us wanted to move into our own place. We’d been living in a big house with a lot of people in it, the Bartlett Farm.

MR: Were there a lot of spots like that in Montague [Center] back then?

MN: There were a few! There was a place called the Ball Farm, up on Taylor Hill somewhere. We weren’t really a commune in the same sense that Montague Farm was, with a mission and all that – just a group of people who just wanted to live together in a big house, because it seemed cheap, and we’d all been in college, and it seemed like sort of a transition from dorm life to real life.

MR: How were things with the neighbors?

MN: Some of the neighbors around our age we became friendly with. I didn’t have a lot of interaction with other neighbors, and looking back, I wonder what they thought. I’m not sure I would have liked being one of our neighbors back then. But I don’t recall a lot of complaints from people – there was kind of a “live and let live” attitude, I don’t remember any hostility.

I moved there in ‘74.... with Deacon Bonnar, who I’d been in the produce business with. For a good part of that time, I was working for a natural food company, doing deliveries – I’d go away for a week or so, and then come back. That was Llama, Toucan and Crow, which became Lama Trading Company after my time...

In the beginning, their mission was to provide healthy, unprocessed, nutritious food: no white sugar... A guy named Bob Swanson was one of the founders; he had been a buyer for a natural food store called Erewhon in Boston, and for a while he was driving a van down to New York to pick up fruits and nuts. Somewhere along the line he got the idea of starting his own food distribution company, and he partnered with two people running something called the Infinity Company in New York.

I never met the other two. I was friends with a guy who wanted to be an over-the-road truck driver, and had gotten a job with Llama driving straight trucks as a means to that end.

I had been working at Squash with Deacon, going to Boston and back....

MR: How did Squash get started? Were you bringing produce from here to Boston?

MN: No – none of this has to do with the finance committee, but it’s quite a story!

So there was an organization called the Amherst Food Conspiracy, which ended up changing its name to the Amherst Food Coop, because the people who came to be in charge were paranoid that the word “conspiracy” would provoke the wrong reaction. It was started as a practical project by an anarchist discussion group that Deacon was a member of. At the time I was living in a house with him and two or three other people, in Amherst near the Belchertown town line, kind of a precursor to Bartlett Farm. Our household was a member.

One day we were dropping off our food order and saw a sign tacked to the bulletin board that said “Coop Needs New Treasurer – Call Joe.” Deacon was good at adding up numbers in his head, and was really proud of that fact, and I liked arithmetic, so we figured, why not?

Joe answered the phone and said, “Boy, am I glad you called, because you’re the only ones who called, and I’m leaving for California tomorrow....” So we became the treasurer, which meant we collected all the food orders and tabulated them, and made the orders, and sat there during the distribution collecting all the money, and paying all the bills.

At the time, we were buying from a vegetable wholesaler in Springfield. And we noticed

the prices we were paying to this guy were higher than what we would have paid at the supermarket in downtown Amherst... Maybe it was fresher, but it sure wasn’t cheaper.

Deacon had [been to] the Chelsea wholesale produce market, so he decided to hitchhike into Boston one day with our order form, and he walked around the market and asked people what their prices were. He came back and we ran the numbers and decided that if we were to go to Boston and rent a UHaul truck and buy all the stuff, drive it back to Amherst, we would end up paying a lot less! And we were young and stupid and thought, “Well, that sounds like fun,” so we ended up doing it.

So we were going to Boston and renting a UHaul truck and driving it back, and plus we were hitchhiking in with at least a couple thousand dollars in 10s and 20s....

[They bought a truck, and formed a company. Mike moved to Montague, started driving for Llama, Toucan, and Crow. Eventually...]

I worked at Llama as a truck driver, ended up becoming a dispatcher, and shortly after that, the head bookkeeper there started trying to introduce computer systems into the company. I decided I wanted a better way to pay drivers.... I decided fairly early on I wasn’t going to do all that by hand, a computer system would be handy....

MR: This is the late ‘70s?

MN: Yeah. I started out writing a program where you could type in all the stops for a particular run, and it would arrange them in order of delivery.... That was on a Wang BASIC.

And that’s when I started getting into origami again, because there was a lot of waiting around for things to calculate, and a lot of paper everywhere.

So, one thing led to another, and the guy who was doing the computerization teamed up with a couple other people to form a company, Valley Computer. By that point they were using DEC mini-computers, the PDP-11 series, and they asked me if I wanted to work for them. I decided I’d rather do that than dispatching, so I went off and programmed computers.

Llama was our biggest client, but we had some other clients. And then eventually Valley Computer went out of business, through poor management but also because of the PC revolution.... I ended up keeping a couple of their clients, and getting new ones.

MR: When did you move to Millers?

MN: I had gotten married, and we decided we wanted a bigger place than we were living in Lake Pleasant. One thing led to another, and we bought a piece of land over in Millers Falls from the town, that ended up taking a while to clear the title on. That was sort of an adventure. No house, just land the town had taken for taxes, but apparently didn’t really have clear title to. It was a complicated situation. A guy named Solomon Amidon had been a big landowner around 1900.... *[It does get complicated!]*

So then we had a house built there, and it turned out we had to get a variance. The street layout was 50 feet wide, but at the time it was laid out there was only one house on the street, and it was on the other side.... so the actual street boundary was 30 feet past the pavement on our side! I got to know John Bennett, the town planner, at that point, and I think David Jensen was newly building inspector.

I figured out what permits I needed to make it happen. And after that, I ended up getting on the planning board.

MR: Once you’d been through it, on the other side! Did they ask you to join?

MN: Every once and a while the town puts out, you know, “we need volunteers!” And I was thinking “fine, I’ll volunteer.” So I did that for a while, in the early ‘90s....

I’d been working out of my house for a while, but that fell apart, because I wasn’t really into marketing – PCs were coming along strong, and I wasn’t in that world. I hung on for as long as I could, and when it fell apart I was unemployed for a while... I ended up getting hired at Renovator’s Supply in Millers. That’s when I started working on IBM computers.

MR: Must have been a nice commute! Did you walk across the bridge every day?

MN: Most days! It wasn’t bad. It was a horrible place to work for many people, but

not for me – I like business application programming, I like solving problems....

The owner bought a company up in New Hampshire, and he had an airplane and used to fly back and forth to North Conway, New Hampshire. At some point, the people in the warehouse, who really did have awful working conditions – no real doors on some of the buildings – decided that they wanted to unionize, and his response was to decide to move the entire operation up to New Hampshire. And I decided I didn’t want to go.

I got a job down at Channing Bete in South Deerfield, and that ended up being just a little far away to make planning board meetings.

MR: It’s cool to understand the background, what you were doing for work. People always bring different things into these committees.

MN: One day, there was a little ad in the *Greenfield Recorder* saying that Judd Wire was looking to hire an RPG programmer.... They actually hired me for Y2K remediation; they had a Y2K problem. People who say that Y2K was a hoax are not correct: it wasn’t going to be the doomsday that people were predicting, but there was a lot of code out there that nobody really knew what would happen. Judd had a very clear problem... I started at Judd Wire in 1998, and I retired in 2016.

All of a sudden I was very local: it was a very short drive, no traffic lights. And I was living in Millers, and I noticed that most years, maybe all years, we didn’t have enough people running for town meeting. There were fewer candidates running than there were open slots. So I said to my wife, “Why don’t you vote for me for town meeting?”

I started going to town meeting, and I had questions about how things worked – especially the money – and I pretty quickly figured out that town meeting wasn’t a great place to get those questions answered. And there was a year when there were only two people sitting up on stage for town meeting, Woody Brown and Joe Zangri. So I volunteered for the finance committee, and got appointed.

MR: Is it mostly one heavy season, winter and spring?

MN: Mostly. It depends on what’s going on. In the beginning, there’s a pretty big learning curve for understanding – it’s got its own jargon to describe what’s happening, so you’ve got to understand not only what’s happening but also what the words are to describe what’s happening. And that can take a little while.

MR: So your first time around is pretty much just sitting and listening.

MN: I would say that’s a good way to go do it! In my case, after a few years, the school district started having financial difficulties, because the money from ed reform had started petering out in the early 2000s, and the school district reacted by asking for bigger and bigger assessments from the member towns. And that went from being sort of an annoyance to being a real problem. The levy limit – the amount of money available to spend – wasn’t going up at the same rate as their requests....

In a typical year, Montague has roughly anywhere from \$300,000 to \$600,000 more to spend than the previous year. A good chunk of that is taken up with contracted salary increases, increases to insurance premiums, and things. In the early 2000s, the schools were coming in and asking for a \$500,000 increase in the assessment, or \$700,000.... There were years it was going right up to the wire in town meeting in May, to come to a decision as to what was recommended...

MR: And then it went past.

MN: Fiscal 2008 went to a district meeting... which hadn’t happened before, but once it happened, the dam kind of broke. That first year, the district request was voted down by a wide margin. The joint finance committee/selectboard recommendation passed, 132 to 130, and the district decided to accept it.

The following two years, the budgets failed the town meeting as expected, and the district didn’t accept them but instead opted to go with a so-called “1/12 budget,” set by the [DESE] Commissioner. And when it got to be December and there was no approved budget, the state assumed fiscal control. That happened FY’09 and FY’10.

FY’11 is when Carl Ladd came in as superintendent. He was *very* committed to getting the district out of state fiscal control. He ended up proposing that the district accept the budget implied by the assessment request which had passed at the district meeting – which was not the school committee request, several hundred thousands dollars lower than that – for FY’11, and that it level-fund that budget for FY’12.

MR: Did they accomplish that with layoffs?

MN: Layoffs, and some other means, but there were a number of layoffs. Apparently he was not a popular guy with the school, and he did not stay. I’ve heard different stories about that; it may be one of those situations like *Ra-shomon*, it depended where you were sitting and what you tended to pay attention to....

There was an ongoing budget agreement, and there was the “compact,” which was the codification of the assumptions underlying that agreement. That was Tupper Brown’s work, with big contributions from Jeff Singleton, who was convinced the state ought to sign on the dotted line to take some responsibility for what was going on.

There was a five-year plan, which showed assessments increasing at roughly 3% and district budgets increasing at 2½%. And the assumption was that [state] Chapter 70 [aid] would start going up after about three years, because enrollment would have stabilized.

MR: And instead, it didn’t.

MN: Instead it didn’t.... This fiscal year, FY’20, Gill-Montague began to break out, because its foundation enrollment has stabilized districtwide over the last few years.

That, along with changes to the Chapter 70 foundation budget formula.... meant that Gill-Montague, instead of getting \$35,000 more in Chapter 70, got \$350,000 more, and they expect they should get even more next year. Which is one of the factors that’s going to face this regionalization committee: Gill-Montague may no longer be in big financial trouble.

It arguably has other challenges, related to low enrollment –

MR: Such as being able to sustain certain kinds of educational and extracurricular programming at the secondary level. So the bigger argument for regionalization on the Gill-Montague side is coming from “we want AP classes, we want a football team...”

MN: That seems to be the case. But there’s also the question of what joining with the four towns of Pioneer would do to the financial situation.... I hate to say it, but I think the train is heading in that direction, and I want to be sort of a brake, to the extent of saying “we really need to be looking at this carefully.”

The dream of AP classes and more programming is wonderful, but is it really going to happen? And what is it going to cost – not just in dollars, but in terms of how is it all going to work? How are we going to get this critical mass of people in one place to have a band, or a vibrant theater program, or a football team?

I mean, they’re getting on the bus now to drive an hour to Mohawk for football practice. I guess if you want to be on a football team you’re motivated to do that.... I’d like to look at a map of the district, and look at maps of bus routes. These may all be solvable problems...

MR: Do you have anything to say to people who are considering getting involved in town?

MN: I would encourage people to do it. Don’t assume that you have to be an expert, just be willing to learn. Don’t assume you have to have a particular background: if you’re interested, that’s good enough.... And you’ll find it rewarding, and interesting, and fun. The town needs more people like that.

Of course, it’s hard, because I’m a privileged, white, male – what am I gonna say? I see the world through this lens. I hear people say “well, if you were a woman of color, you wouldn’t feel it’s so easy to step forward.” Maybe I wouldn’t.

But I was a nobody at town meeting, raising my hand and asking questions. And I looked around at the last town meeting, and there seemed to be other people like that – including a woman of color, who got up and asked a really good question. You get better at doing it by doing it... Practice is everything, so just start doing it!



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UNEARTHING from page A1

founders and contributors, including Kathy, had moved into town in the early 1970s, and initially felt unwelcome by longstanding members of the community. The establishment sometimes seemed to treat young newcomers, with their “radical” ideas and left-leaning politics, as a threat to the traditions and governing order of the town.

This rift between the old and new motivated an eagerness in the youth to circulate the town’s news and publish never before told stories. “We just wanted to tell the stories of the older generation to share with the younger ones,” says Kathy. “We interviewed them. And then we would give them the article, and give them a chance to change it before we ever printed it.”

She continues, “If they didn’t like it, then it gave them an opportunity to change it. It gave them security.” It came as a surprise to the town’s older members that the publication gave them a platform to voice their own concerns and opinions, which for some had never been circulated in print before.

Full PDFs of these issues can now be browsed on the UMass Special Collection’s online public database.

The *Post* printed stories about forgotten or unheard-of characters and what they did for Wendell, articles on town history, notes from the oldest organization called the Ladies’ Aide whose members helped fellow townspeople, and entries from 19th-century local diaries. Soon 20-something-year-olds were knocking on doors, interviewing the residents, and asking them to share small facets of life and their opinions on current issues.

“We tried not to write about national news, but concentrate on the local news of Wendell,” says Kathy. “No one would know about these stories, and they needed to be told.”

While some communities might have put a damper on this kind of free expression, in Wendell it was embraced. Local young people were politicized and motivated, more writers and staff volunteered to help protect the vitality of the individual and collective voices, and alternative journalism gained political clout.

Every issue took weeks of preparation. It came out a few times a season, and was solely dependent on when the contributors could all get together during their busy schedules. “We would brainstorm issues we had heard about or wanted to share,” says Kathy. People would then volunteer to write an article from the list and we would also tap into the community and ask them to write.”

People would also send in their manuscripts, letters, and photographs by mail or call up one of the staff and hand it off. “We would all



PART VI: KATHY BECKER AND ANNIE DIEMAND LOOK BACK AT THE WENDELL POST

decide what articles would go in the issue as one group,” Kathy remembers. “There was no hierarchy in the importance of articles, nor among us. Everybody was the core.”

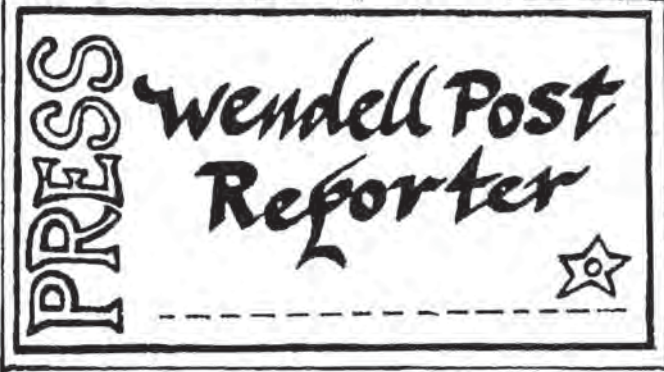
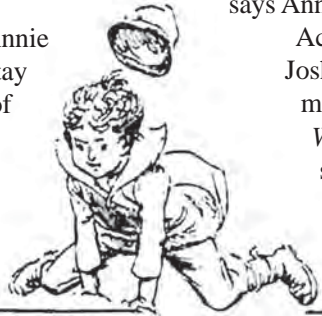
The staff bought themselves a Selectric typewriter, which “would travel to the homes of volunteers and they would type up as many articles as they wanted to in 24 to 48 hours,” says Annie. “After, it would go to the next typist.” She would drive all over town delivering the articles and the machines.

“Over the years, the articles were written on different typewriters, which made it not so visually consistent. But we were okay with that. It was a patchwork,” says Kathy.

As more volumes were completed, the box listing staff grew significantly larger, and the town started to rely on the *Wendell Post*. Photographers, contributors, editors, illustrators, typists, and delivery persons were now a conglomerate of all ages, stemming from different political backgrounds with varied mobilities. Some writers and typists were homebound, and felt good about making a contribution and seeing their names on the masthead.

Once the writing process was complete for a full issue, everyone would get together and spend one single night laying out the paper. They would meet at someone’s house and first share a meal together. With full stomachs, they went on to cutting and pasting the layout. At one point, friends built farm tables for this very process. Raul Brennehan and his brother would calligraphically make the headlines. Illustrations were drawn, or clip art from books were cut and used for graphics.

Kathy and Annie would always stay until every detail of the upcoming issue was finished, and most nights, that meant they



A press pass could be cut out from the newspaper for anyone who wanted to contribute. Kathy Becker once used a pass as an official credential for a 1980s Democratic National Convention. “Those were simpler times when you could get in with just a slip of paper,” she says.

all worked past sunrise. It would then be driven to Highland Press in Athol, which printed every volume. They are a small, still-functioning family press which started in 1925.

No political sides were taken, civil language was always pursued, and when articles were written about an individual, it was never in an offensive or negative tone. But the *Wendell Post* eventually came to a halt after 24 years in circulation.

According to Annie and Kathy, once people wanted to use the newspaper for detrimental purposes, it started to falter. “When certain people started to take power for themselves, we broke down,” Kathy says. “I walked away, and then Annie walked away. We did not leave in mean-spiritedness, but we did not want to be a part of the paper if that is where it was being led to.” For Annie, Kathy, and many staff members, a democratic balance of power had been the newspaper’s greatest mission. Letting go of this meant the paper lost its spirit to continue.

When the newspaper ended in 2001, it did not mean that what it provided for the community also ended completely.

David Detmold and friends started the *Montague Reporter* the next year. When I ask Annie and Kathy if they thought the *Wendell Post* would still exist today if circumstances had been different, both tell me that its ethos lives on in the *Reporter*. “It does not need to, because we have this newspaper,” says Annie.

According to Josh Heine-mann, a former *Wendell Post* staff member who trans-itioned to

being a *Montague Reporter* writer, “David thought to include Wendell among the towns covered. Others might have wanted the *Post* continued as the *Post*, but I saw that as a way that Wendell news could be circulated faster, with less of the coordination of volunteers – fewer evenings out for all of us.”

It is clear to say that the *Reporter* took inspiration from the *Post*. Both entities tell intimate stories that transcend the expendability of regular headline news, and focus on the fleeting qualities of small-town life and dynamics.

Through Kathy’s chance encounter meeting with Robert Cox, the head of the Special Collections and University of Massachusetts Archives, a repository for the newspaper became a reality in 2013. Robert and the team of archivists digitized every issue of the *Wendell Post’s* 25 volumes.

Full PDFs of these issues can now be browsed on the UMass Special Collections’ online public database at scua.library.umass.edu/ead/mums762.html. (Readers can search online for “Wendell Post collection.”) The physical collection can also be viewed in the archive at 154 Hicks Way in Amherst.

“Now it is searchable. The whole history of Wendell for those 24 years is now online,” says Kathy. “If I want to know what the origins of the Route 2 fight were, or when the Full Moon Coffeehouse started, I know where to find it.”

A newspaper is initially used as a tool for navigating the pres-

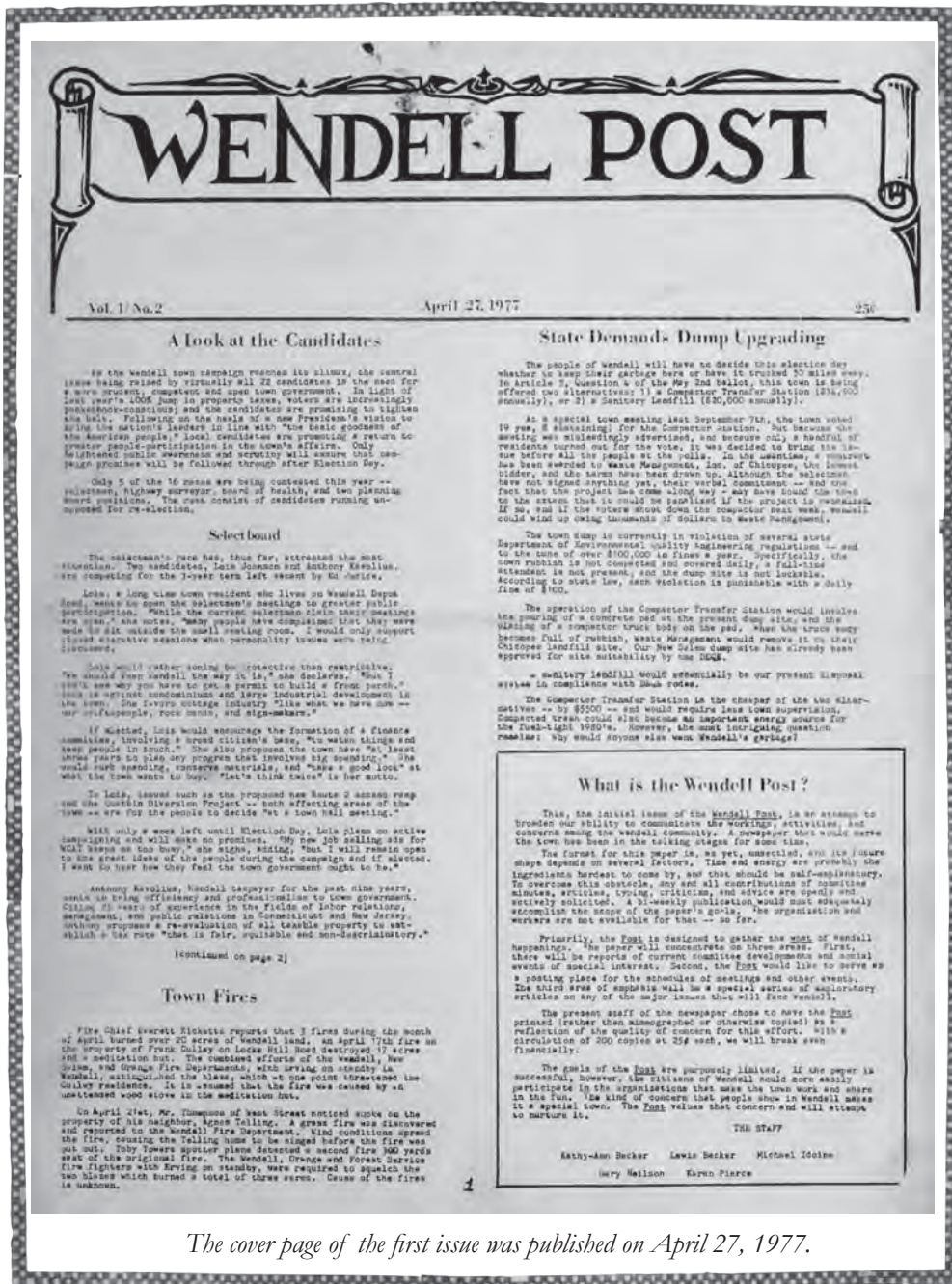
ent-day political and social climate, and once no longer pertinent, it is often disposed of. But the *Wendell Post* wasn’t like most newspapers. The articles it shared were worth safekeeping, because those behind it were safeguarding the stories of local people, helping bridge a rift in the community. Sharing and transcribing personal stories, and providing a platform for many people’s opinions to be heard, created a level of trust: first in the information the newspaper provided, and ultimately in the relationships it built.

For the *Wendell Post* to get to its readers, it had to go through countless numbers of hands. This is what makes the newspaper so magical to today’s reader: it bottles up the essence of a small town. It never surpassed 50 cents a copy, it was printed cheaply, and it only needed timely volunteer efforts from contributors to make it a reality.

“The *Post* was for everyone: for those who wrote it, read it, bought it, or stole it,” says Kathy.

As a result of their work, the *Wendell Post’s* staff also created a valuable archive of this span of the town’s history. And in making that archive available for free to a broader audience, they have taken the original gift of their “social experiment” and extended it to the future, far beyond the boundaries of Wendell.

This is the sixth installment of Charlotte Kohlmann’s “Unearthing the Archives” series, highlighting local archives and their curators.



The cover page of the first issue was published on April 27, 1977.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Extra Library Costs

By KATIE NOLAN

Daniel Pallotta, hired by Erving as owner’s project manager (OPM) for the new library, twice mentioned that he had just returned from a vacation in Paris to attend Monday’s joint library building committee and selectboard meeting, but that didn’t make the committee and board members more sympathetic to a list he presented amounting to \$94,591 in change orders for the library construction project.

The highest cost changes were for tongue-and-groove ceiling boards; installing vented metal roofing, instead of structured insulated panels (SIP) covered by metal; and painting of siding that was originally planned to arrive pre-primed.

Pallotta explained that the original ceiling design specified that tongue-and-groove pine board would be applied to panels. However, because of the span between the roof rafters, the project’s structural engineer disapproved this part of the design. (A credit of \$22,950 was applied for the unpurchased factory-applied tongue-and-groove panels.)

Under the change order, a subcontractor would instead apply the pine boards between the rafters.

Pallotta recommended the board approve an estimated \$58,189 for the work, but require the contractor to work on a “time and materials” basis, paying them only for materials used and hours of labor, rather than the lump-sum estimate. Pallotta promised to “watch productivity” for the installation, and said he felt confident the final cost would be lower than the estimate.

The board approved Pallotta’s recommendation.

According to a memo from Tim Luce of roof installer JD Rivet & Co., architect Johnson Roberts Associates had specified that Pac Clad metal roof panels be installed over the SIP panels. However, according to Luce, “[i]t was later discovered that there was conflict between the requirements of the specified metal panel manufacturer’s water-tightness warranty and the SIP panel manufacturer’s recommendation for underlayment above their product.”

“Without venting,” Pallotta warned, “the roof will rot.”

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said, “I agree we need it,” but that he felt the added cost was due to a “design defect.” He observed that the roof had been designed

with “incompatible products,” and pointed out that “we pay the OPM and designer to make sure things function properly.”

“Regardless of architect, contractor, or OPM liability,” Pallotta replied, “the town must fund this.” He said the town could “go after the guilty party” after the building is completed.

“I’m not thrilled that we need to put this in,” said selectboard member William Bembury, “but we have to do it.”

Pallotta noted that the entire project to date had only 2.4% of the project cost in change orders, which he characterized as a relatively low percentage. Regarding the roof design issue, he said, “Happily, we caught it.”

Library building committee member Debra Smith suggested that the town “bring Johnson Roberts to the table. Is there a reason this can’t be dealt with now?”

Pallotta suggested discussing the matter with architect Phil O’Brien of Johnson Roberts at the next building committee meeting.

Finally, he told the board and committee that the pre-primed siding specified in the building plan was no longer produced. Therefore, the siding need to be primed at the building site, at an extra cost of \$7,665.

Pallotta recommended shifting funds from other building line items,

such as IT, security, and utilities, with the thought that savings on furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) would cover the line-item transfers.

Building committee co-chair Jacqueline Boyden said she wasn’t comfortable shifting funds from IT, because “we don’t know what those costs are.”

Debra Smith cautioned against shifting funds when the FF&E request was still incomplete.

Library director Barbara Friedman told the board and committee, “We’ll know about FF&E in November.” The board decided that it was still early in the project to decide on whether to move funds between line items.

The next library building committee meeting will be held on October 17 at town hall.

October 21 STM

The board issued a revised warrant for the special town meeting scheduled for Monday, October 21. A fourth article, authorizing conveyance of a utility easement on Care Drive, was added. If approved, the selectboard will be able to grant a utility easement to Eversource and Verizon to install transformer equipment at 2 Care Drive.

Article 1 of the warrant would authorize paying \$4,091 in FY’19 expenses. Article 2 would use \$200,000 from the capital stabilization fund for River, Warner and Strachan Street roadway improvements. Article 3 would use \$15,000 from

the same fund to conduct a feasibility study for public works office space, and dry storage, at POTW#1.

The meeting will be held at the senior/community center, and will start at 7 p.m..

Other Business

The board signed an application for the town’s Emergency Medical Services service zone plan. The plan, which identifies first responder and ambulance service providers operating in Erving, describes the standards for the providers, and explains how their services are coordinated, will be submitted to the state Office of Emergency Medical Services for approval.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka said the plan describes “what we already have” for EMS services in town.

At the request of water operator Peter Sanders, the board approved designating three 375-gallon expansion tanks as surplus. Sanders said the tanks will be removed to make room for a generator. He added that, in order to remove the tanks, they need to be cut open, and that the metal would be sold as scrap.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith told the board that the town needs a heating and cooling policy for all town buildings. As a Green Community, Erving needs to monitor its energy usage. He said he would check to see what policies other towns have adopted.

Gary Betters was appointed as the Veterans Services representative.

Metal Roof Idea Turns a Short Town Meeting Into A Longer One

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The special town meeting of October 2 approved nearly all of the articles presented to it unanimously, with little debate. Yet the meeting lasted over two hours, in part the result of lengthy discussion of whether a new roof on the Parks and Recreation “field house” in Unity Park should be shingle or metal.

The first six motions on the 17-article agenda funded wage increases in union contracts, finalized after the spring annual town meeting, as well as adjustments to the wages of non-unionized employees in response to these contracts. Montague town administrator Steve Ellis explained that it was the town’s “practice” to adjust the salaries of non-unionized employees – both elected and appointed – based on changes that resulted from the collective bargaining process.

The wage adjustment articles passed nearly unanimously, although former finance committee chair Mike Naughton told the meeting he was “not a big fan” of step increases based on the notion that employees are doing a better job simply because “they had been there another year.” He said he would advocate “moving toward a situation where jobs are valued fairly. If cost-of-living adjustments are appropriate, they are made appropriately, and people should move through a pay scale because they are actually doing a job better, not just based on the assumption they were doing better because they had been working another year.”

Ellis said he “appreciated that,” but that “we are in a unionized environment,” and “there are some pros and cons” to the system most municipal contracts use.

The meeting approved **Article 7**, which appropriated funds collected from the local cable provider Comcast to the local access station MCTV for its capital needs, and **Article 8**, which appropriated \$1,821 for an assortment of “prior year bills,” passed unanimously with little debate.

Article 9, which appropriated \$158,002 for prior year sewer bills, also passed unanimously. Ellis explained that the late bills were partially the product of significant inflow into the Millers Falls sewer system, which had “inundated” the town of Erving’s sewer plant where Millers Falls’ sewage is processed. Funds to pay the bills had been set aside in the “retained earnings” account of the Water Pollution Control Facility.

The meeting then appropriated \$100,000 (**Article 10**) for remediating the inflow and infiltration into the Millers Falls system, which had caused the overflow.

At this point the meeting was barely an hour old, and more than half the articles had been approved with limited debate. The next article, which proposed to appropriate \$100,000 to repair or replace the shingled roof on the Unity Park field house, inhabited by the town parks and recreation department, appeared to be headed in the same direction.

But Ariel Elan of the Montague energy committee rose to propose an amendment to add \$70,000 to the appropriation for a metal roof, “with apologies for the time that that is going to take.” Elan said she had been to a meeting of the town capital improvements committee, and had been very impressed by a proposal for a metal roof that, it was claimed, would “last twice as long.” She also said the town had been

“challenged” to maintain its infrastructure, a challenge which may become more extreme due to “economic inequality.” Avoiding the need for a new roof over the next half-century could help, she argued.

The amendment, as Elan predicted, generated a good deal of discussion, during which it was revealed that both the capital improvements committee and finance committee had been divided over the metal roof question. In the end, the metal roof amendment was defeated 26 to 38, and the original motion for a shingle roof was approved unanimously.

But the debate over the roof seemed to cause town meeting members to question **Article 12**, which appropriated \$268,670 for the purchase of a street sweeper. Town meeting members did not question the need for a newer sweeper, but rather whether the vehicle should be purchased outright or in installments over a four-year period, as is often the method with expensive equipment purchases.

When town officials suggested that there was a large amount of free cash available and a total purchase would save interest payments, Mike Naughton wondered if this argument did not contradict the one made against the metal roof – that the cost would cut into funds needed for “other projects.”

This led to a debate over the virtues of leasing or outright purchase. The motion to purchase the sweeper with one lump-sum payment was eventually approved unanimously.

The final four articles of the meeting, which included a controversial tax agreement with the FirstLight Power Company, were approved in about 30 minutes, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was October 8, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Erving Votes Down Gas Station

In a standing-room-only turnout on Monday night, Erving voters failed to reach the two-thirds majority necessary to amend the town’s zoning bylaws to allow for the construction of a gas station in the town’s protected aquifer zone, or to allow drive-through restaurants within a designated central village commercial zone.

Ralph Semb co-owns with his son Eric a site inside the recharge zone of the town’s drinking water supply where they proposed to build a gas station and fast food restaurant, across from their French King Entertainment Center.

Ralph Semb responded to a question from the floor about what the backup plan would be if the town’s drinking water supply were to be contaminated with petroleum. The elder Semb said, “We could turn on a valve and get water from the Turners Falls water district.”

10th Anniversary of MontagueMA.net

The *MontagueMA.net* website, a project of Montague WebWorks, will hold a Tenth Anniversary Party at the Rendezvous on Saturday.

Created by resident Michael Muller in 1999, over the last ten years the website has provided a sounding board for residents to weigh in on town elections, town meetings, and school budgets, and

has been a place to announce local events, post missing pet notices, and chat with each other.

Currently sporting a membership of more than 1,300 people, including over 1,000 Montague residents, the website is fairly active for a town of only 8,300 people.

Wendell Free Library Improves Internet Access

Wendell selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser came into the September 30 selectboard meeting fresh from downloading his email at the library, where a new antenna installed by AccessPlus has improved access to the internet. Pooser said the system was “smoking” (fast).

He said there are still kinks in the system, but it is faster than the HughesNet satellite system the library had been using.

Librarian Rosie Heidekamp confirmed after the meeting that for the last six weeks, library patrons in Wendell have been able to take advantage of the new speedier technology. “It’s still five times slower than the state average,” said Heidekamp, “but it is the fastest thing out this way.”

But a few minutes into last Wednesday’s meeting, planning board chair Deirdre Cabral came before the selectboard with a concern that the antenna may have been put in place without going through the permitting process required by an existing town bylaw written for cell phone towers. The planning board will hold a hearing to discuss proposed changes, which would exclude wireless internet signals from the cell tower bylaw.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

Greenfield, as a man with “deep institutional knowledge” of the capital needs of the WPCF.

Ellis also sought approval for changes in the job description. He said the existing description “lacked reference” to some of the departments and agencies the superintendent would need to work with, including the local department of public works, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The revision also stressed frequent presentations to town boards and town meeting, as well as monitoring industrial pre-treatment.

The board unanimously approved the changes.

Metal Roofs, Mental Crises

Ellis reviewed the results of the special town meeting held the previous Wednesday. He noted that all the articles were approved, so the town can count on funds for negotiated union contracts and the Millers Falls sewer repair project. Ellis called the

debate over an amendment to appropriate additional money to make the new Unity Park field house roof metal, which failed by a close vote, “a great discussion. It was interesting, the symmetry,” he said, perhaps referring to similar divided votes on the capital improvements and finance committees.

The board approved a request by police chief Chris Williams and lieutenant Chris Bonnett to execute an agreement for a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training grant for the department. Bonnett said the team approach to potential mental health crises, where police may be the first responders, “is not like a SWAT team,” but a collaboration with various “stakeholders” including mental health professionals.

He said that a “full crisis intervention training,” which the grant helps fund, takes 40 hours per officer, and the minimum training is eight hours. The selectboard approved the grant, which is funded by the state Department of Mental Health.

Other Business


The board approved a permit for the use of public property for the annual Rag Shag Parade, sponsored by the local War Memorial Committee. The parade will take place on October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. and proceed from the Food City parking lot down Avenue A to the Discovery Center parking lot.

Chris Boutwell, who presented the request, said he was not sure when the parade tradition started, but chair Rich Kuklewicz said he remembered seeing the parade “as a kid.” [Editors’ note: It started in 1925.]

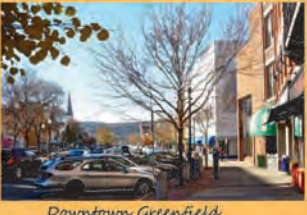
Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard approved a request by Chief Williams to hire two new reserve officers. It also appointed William Dole to the zoning board of appeals, and Kathy Lynch to the Montague Cultural Council.

Under the agenda item “topics not anticipated,” Ellis announced that the bids for grant-funded “Complete Streets” projects had come in significantly higher than anticipated. He said the bids had come in \$180,000 higher, “and that would leave us without any contingency.”

Ellis said he was discussing various options with both the engineering firm that set the original cost estimates, based on a state Department



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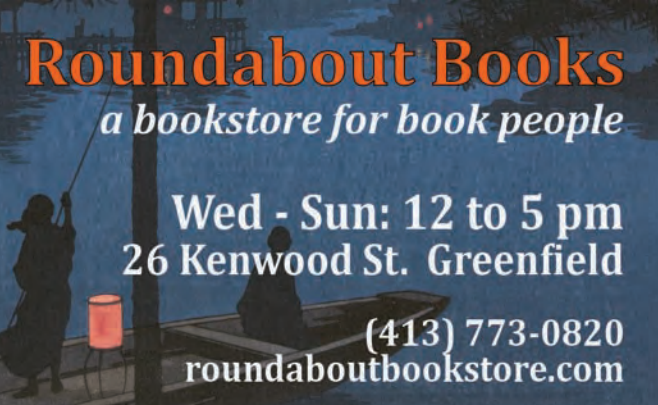
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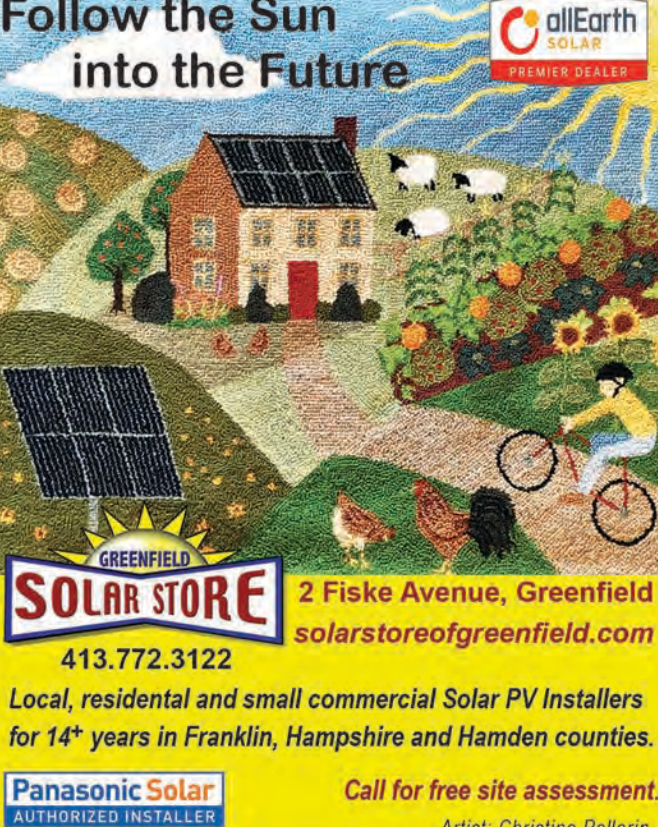
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NINA ROSSI PHOTO

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Above: Cows graze on a Gill hillside.

The Week in Turners Falls Sports: Homecoming



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Top right: Turners' Kaylin Voudren takes possession against Pioneer's Sydney Unaitis and Kaitlin Trudeau on Booster Day. Above: Hailey Bogusz sets the ball for bitter Dabney Rollins as the Thunder rolls past the Mohawk Trail Warriors.



By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Last week, Turners Falls High School celebrated its annual Homecoming Booster Week. The week culminated on Friday with six separate sports contests, and some of the senior athletes took center field.

Homecoming elicits mixed emotions. The seasons are changing. For students, it's a time of celebration and dreams of the future; for alumni, it's a time to revisit their past; for the parents, it's a sign their kids are getting older. And for Turners Falls seniors, the week served as a reminder that this will be their final season at their soon-to-be *alma mater*.

This week also ushered in Breast Cancer Awareness month. All the NFL teams showed their support by donning pink patches, and in Turners, the field hockey players wore pink ribbons in their hair and the football team wore pink knee socks. Even some of the middle school athletes wore pink on their uniforms.

Two teams kicked off the day's see **SPORTS** page B5

cedar and rose: insights from naturopathic practice Five Remedies to Beat Colds and Flu

By DR. NITYA EISENHEIM

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The cold and flu season is upon us. In last month's article, I wrote about using fermented foods to prevent colds and the flu. This month, I

will be focusing on some remedies to beat the cold and flu in children which will also work with adults. Remember to always consult with your physician regarding appropriate treatment for you. This is not a replacement for medical

or health care. (I'm a Naturopathic physician, practicing in Greenfield at Cedar Rose Naturopathic, and this is my fourth column in this paper. I'm passionate about herbal medicine, cooking, healthy food, and community building. I love foraging for wild edibles and medicinal plants and igniting that passion in others.)

First of all, I have to say that it's normal for children to get sick. Children need to exercise their immune system in order to build immunity. They do that best by getting sick.

Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers can get about seven to eight colds a year. During school age, they average five to six colds a year. Teenagers get about four colds a year. And in addition to colds, children get diarrhea illnesses, with or without vomiting, two to three times a year.

I only get concerned when a see **CEDAR & ROSE** page B3



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

In this column, Dr. Eisenheim recommends a few herbal remedies believed to be helpful for preventing colds, easing symptoms, and helping the body to get better faster.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER PASSING THROUGH

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER BEND – 24 September. It has happened without us even noticing: the morning after the rain, the maple outside the bedroom window is a bright curtain of yellow leaves shining even through the other side of my closed eyelids. Still drowsy, I wonder: What is that bright light, anyway? The morning sun hitting the golden sugar maple is a pretty good alarm clock. The noisy cardinals at first light also draw me out of sleep.

Outside the window the Virginia creeper has turned bright crimson, and the catbird plucks the last deep purple pokeberries from the magenta stems. The Joe Pye weed has faded, and the bumble bees have abandoned the lifeless jewelweed, and are now devoted to the wild aster.

1 October. This is a gray day with a promise of sunshine in the afternoon, maybe some evening showers.

We're getting into our fourteen fleeting days of high-season foliage. Seems to me that by October 14, as in the past, all it will take is a steady rain or a strong wind, and the leaves will be down.

Grandfather Abe used to call this time the "Fall of the Year." Then as now, it meant leaves falling down, hunting season opening, last days of trout fishing in Four Mile Brook. Here nowadays nobody takes out the shotgun, and with son Kevin off in Brittany, the flyrod sits unused in the corner.

On the other hand, we've got the binoculars, traded in for the gun, coming in handy for the ephemeral wave of confusing fall warblers, just passing through. An occasional old-fashioned towhee, bright red eye and handsome three-piece suit of white, chestnut and black, visits the yard on the way out of New England. I say old-fashioned because he's today just the way Audubon painted him 200 years ago. At least there are some things that don't change.

All spring, the towhee admonished me with his call of "*drink your tea!*" ringing out from the low bush at the back of the garden. Now all he can muster up is a simple "*chewink*" autumnal call, while he scratches and tosses fallen leaves high in the air behind him, as did our bantam hens years ago.

The white-throated sparrow is down from his summer home in see **WEST ALONG** page B8



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

The eastern towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus).

Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

“FLIP”

Looking for a chatty lap cat to warm you up this winter? Flip might be just the cat for you. She won’t “flip” out if you pet her, she’ll purr, but she also enjoys “me” time to think and dream. She enjoys playing with toys and romping with other cats. She loves a little catnip. Flip is accustomed to living harmoniously indoors with adults, cats

and dogs. Sadly, her fur mom had to bring her here because her husband has cancer and they’re losing their house. Misfortune for a family is also misfortune for beloved animals. Flip is looking to start a new chapter of her life. Maybe you can turn the first page. If you’re interested, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 14 THROUGH 18

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 10/14
8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic, by appt.
Tuesday 10/15
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Write Your Own Obituary
Wednesday 10/16
9 to 11 a.m. Veterans’ Affairs
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Food Bank
Thursday 10/17
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Gentle Yoga
Friday 10/18
12 p.m. Breakfast at Lunch
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

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

Monday 10/14
CLOSED (Columbus Day)
Tuesday 10/15
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
Wednesday 10/16
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
1 to 6 p.m. Spook-Tacular
Community Blooooooood Drive
Thursday 10/17
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
1 p.m. Bingo & Snacks
Friday 10/18
9 a.m. Quilters Workshop
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.

Sports, Sports, and a Fall Fruit Fest

By MICHAEL SMITH

Coming soon to montaguetelevision.org, we’ll have some exciting new high school sports for you to check out! The Turners Falls football team combined this season with Mohawk Trail Regional High School. This past Friday, October 4 they played a game at Turners Falls High School, in honor of Turners Falls’ Homecoming night, against McCann Technical High School. Seniors from the cheer squad and football program were honored prior to playing under the lights. It was a cold night, but the game was on fire! The video will be available soon on montaguetelevision.org, so keep an eye on our latest Videos page, as well MCTV’s Facebook page. The Turners Falls volleyball team played East Long-

meadow recently, and that video will also be available soon on montaguetelevision.org. The girls played hard throughout this thrilling match, so support the team by watching the video, and following our Facebook page for future updates. It’s almost time for the Great Falls Festival (Pumpkinfest)! It’s one of our favorite events to cover here at MCTV, but we need your help – we need people who are excited about filming to help us cover the Festival, so we don’t miss a moment of fun. If videography is a passion or interest of yours that you’ve been meaning to pursue, there’s no better time and place to begin! Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetelevision@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!



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – *We plan, God laughs*, so the saying goes. Though I have to wonder... Is laughter God’s likely accurate response? I’d say it’s more of an eye roll and a deep sigh. “Why do they insist on thinking they know better?” God would probably utter. *Because*, God. Because for some of us, planning gives us the courage to take the next step. The bravado to concretize a vision. We delight in making a move, any move, knowing that there’s magic in momentum. Beauty in carving out a map. Not to mention how much our culture is enamored by plans, plans, and more plans. So even if we don’t like plans, planning is basically shoved down our throats. God, can’t you see? This love affair with planning, whether we like it or not, is part of our day-to-day reality.

We Plan, God Laughs

But alas, God, you are right in your response, whether it be utter frustration or comic relief. If I’ve learned anything over the years, it’s that the best way to go about life is to remember to check in with our inner guidance – to trust that each of us has a divine compass, or a direct connection to something greater than us, that’s leading us to our highest potential and expansion. (If only we’d pay attention.) I realized how good I was at “planning” early in my 20s. I never had a five-year plan, but the plans I did have, I zeroed in on with unfailing focus. I was the Queen of Plans. I remained committed to my goals, and therefore the plans I made in order to achieve them, even when my inner compass would quietly recommend I take a right instead of a left. And then, I got pregnant. Getting pregnant has single-handedly been the biggest curve ball thrown my way. As my belly grew, my baby’s dad and I rode the waves, and just kept showing up to each new thing – of which there are *many*, for new parents. Even to this day, we seem to be figuring this whole thing out on the daily. Motherhood threw all my life plans out the window, and for the first three years of my son’s life, I devoted myself to stay-at-home-momhood. (For the most part.) Along the way, I became a single mom; as if figuring out motherhood

wasn’t enough, I now had the added thrill of navigating self-employment and keeping the bills paid. I had no idea I would end up in Turners Falls. Months before moving here, I had taken the leap into the unknown, with my then one-and-a-half-year-old in tow, a part-time remote job, and virtually zero savings. I took the leap and landed here, unplanned. And for the first time in my life, I feel like I’ve landed in a place where my seeds are taking root. As the roots spread, and I find my bearings, I feel a sense of groundedness that allows me to be present with my child. Yes, life gets hectic, overwhelming, and exhaustion has its way of sneaking in, but through all that, I feel gratitude for the land we call home. I also feel awe, because I found my way here through absolutely zero planning, but rather, pure intent and faith. Every time I take a stand for myself and my desires, and take a leap of faith into the unknown, I now also do it with the intention of leading by example. As my child grows more and more into himself, I want him to know that his inner compass is the one to listen to. I want him to see that even though it’s scary to step into the unknown, it always pays off. As long as we’re listening to our hearts, we can trust we are being guided in the right direction.

Silverthorne Presents *Diary of Anne Frank*

GREENFIELD – Silverthorne Theater wraps up its 2019 season with a production of the classic play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett wrote this Pulitzer Prize-winning work which premiered on Broadway in 1955. Directed by Keith Langsdale, Silverthorne’s production opens Thursday, October 17 and runs through Saturday, October 26 in The Perch at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield. The play, on its surface, looks back. Anne and her family are Jews in the Netherlands in 1942 during World War II. Persecuted and stripped of their livelihood, they flee to the Annex of the father’s business for survival. In the world of the Third Reich, they are the Other. Against the background of impending death, the young Anne Frank wrote daily of her fears, longings and squabbles generated by eight people living in four small rooms over two years. Though she did not survive their discovery and deportation, Anne’s diary bears witness to the fate and resonates with today’s stories of the hunted, the Other. Dates for the production are October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee on October 20 begins at 2 p.m. There will be a pre-show talk by history scholars Bernard Baker and Ted Thornton on Thursday, October 17, beginning at 7 p.m. in the the-

ater. Each subsequent performance will be followed by facilitated audience discussion. Director Keith Langsdale worked with Silverthorne Theater in 2018, staging the world premiere of Steve Henderson’s powerful piece, *White, Black & Blue*. He brings an impressive set of prior productions here in the Valley, having directed for the Majestic in West Springfield, New Century Theatre in Northampton, and in theaters in Los Angeles and New Hampshire among others. He is also an accomplished actor, and performed the solo role in STC’s production of *The Tattooed Man Tells All*. The cast of *The Diary of Anne Frank* features Frank Aronson as Otto Frank and Stephanie Carlson as Mrs. Frank. Samantha Choquette appears in the key role of Anne Frank, while Chris Demerski plays Peter Van Daan. Molly MacLeod plays Anne’s older sister, Margot. Carly DellaPenna joins Silverthorne for the first time as stage manager. STC’s invaluable tech director John Iverson designs and executes the sets and lighting. Kelly Culver will costume the show. Carmela Lanza-Weil and Rebecca Daniels are co-producers. Silverthorne enjoys its status as resident company at the Hawks & Reed. Ticket and reservation information may be found on Silverthorne’s website, silverthorne-theater.org, or by calling (413) 768-7514.

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Episode Eleven: Wes Buckley



The Pittsfield musician recalls his childhood influences.

Interviewed by J. BURKETT

PITTSFIELD – Wes Buckley is a songwriter & musician from the Berkshires. He has a new YouTube series called “Soundcrafting With Wes Buckley,” and his new album *Dancing the Bliss* and other albums are available online at wesbuckley.bandcamp.com.

He plays out regularly and comes to western mass sometimes, to venues like the Dream Away Lodge, the Root Cellar/Ten Forward, and Mystery Train, sometimes in a duo with “Pancho,” who he used to play with a while back at venues like the Whitehaus in Jamaica Plain.

MMM: What was your first instrument?

WB: Mom stepped it up in my fifth grade year and started renting me a Yamaha alto sax. The following year I began learning on a Yamaha recorder in the basement of the middle school, in a tiny music room next to the CAD and carpentry shop. That, combined with mom’s deep passion for New Age music, is what I think birthed my never-ending love of flutes. Wooden, PVC, you name it. There is something real earthy about flutes.

I then moved to Bari sax in 7th grade at about 85 pounds. Not sure if you could see me behind it, but I played it in concert and marching band in a full suit at all the football games, through all the concussions.

My first electric guitar came the next year or so, a Yamaha Pacifica.

MMM: Any early music playing memories?

WB: I grew up in a trailer. I have a lot of memories which include one-inch shag between my toes... Sometimes I would be improvising painfully long solos (at double the volume of my friends) for entire weekends. Plus lots of candles.

We taped everything, so I have the great pleasure of being reminded that I am a much better listener now. It was a joy learning through improvisation, and I try and bring that to my education work today. I’m a freelance teaching artist as well as a performer.

One good memory happened at a backyard party with my first band. I had my eyes closed and was ripping away then realized I was playing alone. Annoyed by that fact, I opened my eyes looking back at the drummer. He just pointed in front of me and I turned around to two cops about a foot from me with

their arms on their hips.

MMM: When did you first write songs?

WB: When I got a guitar, in 1995 or so. It was an immediate connection to creative writing for me. I would write songs to memorize new chords and write songs to get out all the weirdness of reality. Later it became more about sharing all the weirdness of reality which is a very different approach to writing songs.

MMM: What are some of your influences?

WB: My pre/early teen influences are Zappa, George Clinton, Patti Smith, Sun Ra, John Coltrane, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan, Robert Johnson, Moondog, The Stones... I had all those CDs, and listened endlessly to them. Some are recommendations from my dad. Some were “Best Of” records my mom had. For others I would go to the store and just judge by the cover. I discovered some amazing stuff that way without an older sibling. For instance, *Interstellar Space* at age 12!

There’s been a massive amount of listening since then. I love the music people I know make. Friends’ and friends of friends’ music I listen to a lot. I’m influenced by “spacey long-form noisy” music. and “kind of out of the ordinary melodic” music.

MMM: Do you like Neil Young?

WB: I think it’s safe to safe I love Neil Young. I definitely love his music. Mom had *After the Gold Rush* on CD. I found it, and that was that.

I didn’t get to see him until 2017. My wife set up a tour in Germany and surprised me with tickets to the most beautiful outdoor venue in Berlin on a full moon. He opened it up solo on piano playing “After the Gold Rush”... gave me tears.

MMM: How about Tim Buckley?

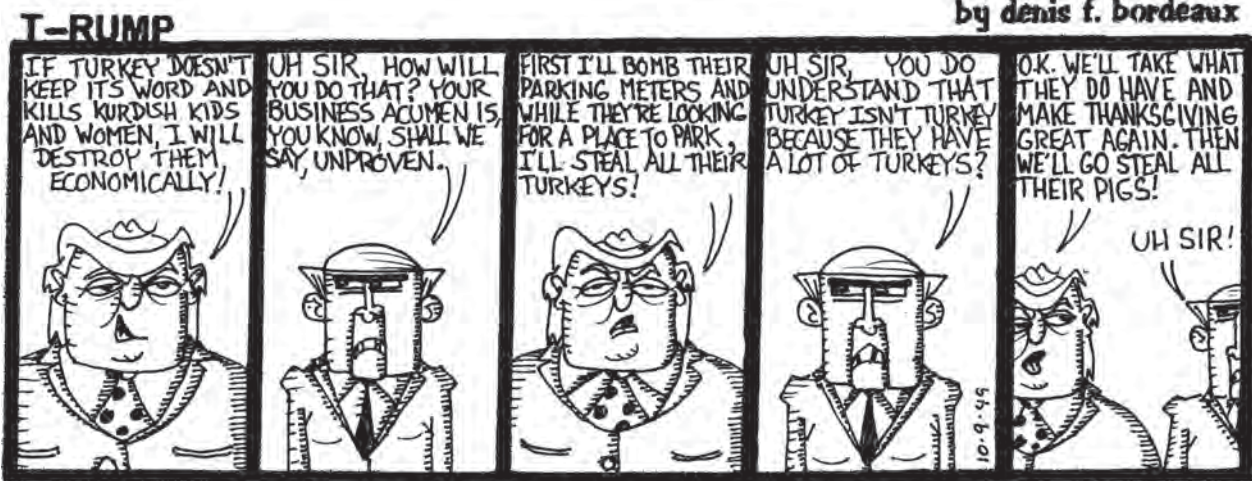
WB: I like Tim. I got into him a little later. Not imprinted on me like some others, but I had my time delving into *Starsailor* and the like.

I actually got into him because my mom bought me a Richie Havens comp when I was little. My mom was at Woodstock, and has a special love for Richie Havens. No immediate relation, though.

MMM: Have you done visual arts or theater?

WB: I did theater for about six years. Four Shakespeare plays and some one-acts. *True West*, too.

I draw regularly, and have since I



was 5 years old or so. My visual art focus lately is electric percussion sculptures. I found a plastic skull at a tag sale this summer, so the new instrument is human-shaped with old clock parts and stuff you can spin and bang and make noise on. It’s about time. Others are food-related. I have one, a wooden platter with old food containers and springs, etc., all painted red – called Borscht, because it’s red and makes beats! I also make cigar box guitars, very much visual art though musical, too.

This summer I got to run a camp making these crazy instruments with some students. That’s one direction I’m headed in.

MMM: Can you talk about your new YouTube series?

WB: Sharing on social media doesn’t come naturally to me unless there is a good dose of hilarity regarding social media, which gets old fast. I don’t know, I just haven’t figured out how to totally accept it.

This is actually what led to mak-

ing the ongoing series “Soundcrafting with Wes Buckley.” I thought I’d, ya know, be out there on the internet, but not have to talk about my life. If you watch the show it should come as a complete surprise that this was the impetus for the show. I’m just staying visible... on YouTube... in 2019.

Then it became something else, and guests came on, and I’m learning how to edit better, and its satirical goodness really took off for me. It’s about learning instruments, the music business, house shows, songwriting, etc.

One episode with Neil Horsky, an amazing community artist and musician from Boston, is now going to be part of an art show screening inside the Boston City Hall next year. This was not what I had in mind, ya know? Screenings in Boston City Hall.

I mainly make episodes in the winter, though, when I have a little more time, so more to come. I have a great video I’ve been doing this summer for the next season.

MMM: Any tour plans or new recordings?

WB: I have a new record out in the next few weeks called *Dancing the Bliss*, produced by Johnny Iri- on, with drumming by the amazing Brian Kantor. It’s going to be spinning on WFMU and other underground stations, so tune in.

I’m playing shows for the next several months in support including Fresh Grass Festival this year.

MMM: What do you like about West Mass?

Out here in Pittsfield we are in love with the land, and our home, and doing our best to connect and raise one another up. I can really feel that when I enter into the community and offer to give a hand. There’s a lot of crap, too, but that’s to be expected. I know it’s the same in many places, but I just want to be doing all that from here.

I like the colors and I like the smells and I like the stories. My family has been in Massachusetts for 400 years, so I’m just here.

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SPORTS from page B1

festivities at 3:30 p.m. Down at Thomas Memorial, the golf team teed off against Greenfield, and up at the high school the Great Falls Soccer Hawks kicked off their match behind the tennis courts against Smith Academy. The varsity field hockey team began their contest against Pioneer at 4:30 p.m., and at 5, the volleyball team went up in the gym to take on Mohawk. The cheer squad seniors took their bows at 6:45 p.m. and at 7 the Mohawk Co-op football game kicked off.

I met up with countless parents, students and alumni throughout the event. The conversations ranged from war stories to lamentations on Thanksgiving and positive plans for after graduation. As people conversed on that crisp fall day, there was a melancholy thread, a bitter-sweet mix of memories, goals, and plans for the future.

Golf

TFHS 20 – Mohawk 4
FCTS 17.5 – TFHS 6.5
TFHS 12 – Greenfield 12
Monson 19 – TFHS 5

Last Wednesday Powertown played a tri-meet against Mohawk Trail and Franklin Tech. Against Mohawk, Blue won 20-4. Joey Mosca shot a 41 to win his match 3-1, Aidan Bailey finished in 44 for 3 points, Brian Poirier swept his match 4-0 with a 50, Jeremy Kovalsick finished the course in 54 strokes and won a 4-0 forfeit, Joe Kochan (58) won 3-1, and Vinnie Carme shot a 60 to score three more points for Turners.

In the Tech match, Bailey scored 3 points, Mosca, Poirier and Kovalsick got one each, and Carme took a half point for Turners’ final score of 6.5.

At the Booster Day golf fight, while the students were playing on the course, some of the old-timers in the parking lot spoke about their own school days. Thanksgiving inevitably came up. Most of the gentlemen claimed to be die-hards, and recounted the Blue/Green games they’ve attended since they were in high school themselves. And then the sadness crept in. Most seemed to be at a loss as to what to do on Thanksgiving.

Greenfield beat Powertown 20.5 to 3.5 earlier this year, but on Friday, Blue forced a 12-12 tie at the end of regulation. Unfortunately, Green beat Turners by one stroke in team scores, and took the tie-breaker 12-12.

The team celebrated Senior Day on Tuesday, with Poirier and Joe Kochan receiving accolades and balloons. Poirier shot a 44 for 3.5 points, Mosca got half a point with his 46,



Joey Mosca tees off at Thomas Memorial as the Thunder challenges the Green Wave on the links.

and Bailey (51) added a point. Also competing were Kovalsick (58), Kochan (60), and Carme (64).

Field Hockey

TFHS 1 – Belchertown 1
TFHS 0 – Pioneer 0
Greenfield 6 – TFHS 1

The Turners field hockey team has hit a bit of a rough patch of late. Until Tuesday, they had a six-game unbeaten streak going. After scoring 17 unanswered goals, their next three games resulted in ties. Then they came into Greenfield.

The Thunder rolled down to Belchertown on October 2 and tied the Orioles 1-1. Paige Sulda scored Blue’s goal, and Haleigh Greene made eight saves.

On Booster Day, the Pioneer Black Panthers forced a scoreless tie against Powertown. It seemed that Blue was having difficulty moving the ball past the 30. The Cats, for their part, were moving it down the field as a unit. The Thunder Ladies used personal heroics to break up the Pioneer attack time after time, but for most of the game, Pioneer players would reach the ball first, no matter where it was hit by either team.

“They’re a Black Wall,” one of the fathers joked at one point, as a clearing attempt was met by three black-kilted players in the center of the field. This team play versus individual effort dynamic played out for most of the game. With five minutes left, Blue finally attacked as a unit. They kept the pressure on and the ball in the circle. But a few wide shots and some fearless goal-line defense ended the game at 0-0.

Monday’s game was postponed by rain, so the teams met again on Tuesday. It seems like Greenfield always beats Turners Falls in field hockey, no matter how good Turners is. But this year things could be different. Their records were pretty even, and their games against common opponents had similar results.

But the Wave would have no part in this upstart team from across the river. They came out in formation and moved the ball into Blue’s circle, forcing five corner shots before finally scoring. Green kept up this disciplined attack, scoring two more goals before the horn. Blue did a little better in the second half, but Green kept breaking up their attacks and forcing the ball back into Powertown’s territory, scoring twice more before Blue finally put one in. Lindsay Davenport prevented the shutout at 9: 41, but with 18 seconds left, a final dribbler rolled into the Blue goal and Greenfield won the game 6-1.

Volleyball

After losing some tough matches against city schools, Powertown got back on track this week. On Thursday they defeated cross-river rivals Greenfield 3-0, and on Friday, they welcomed the Mohawk Trail Warriors and shut them out 3-0.

Unlike the other fall sports, volleyball is an indoor sport. While it was too wet to play field hockey on Monday, the volleyball team had the luxury of playing their match inside Turners Falls High’s hallowed halls. Blue beat Athol 3-0, and remained perfect in the Northern conference.

Soccer

GFMS 6 – Smith Academy 3
GFMS 10 – Pioneer 1

The Great Falls Soccer Hawks chalked up the first victory of Booster Day Friday by outscoring Smith Academy 6-3. On Monday, with games postponed throughout the valley, the middle schoolers

DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



The Thunder’s cheer team encourages the crowd and players during last Friday’s Booster Day/Senior Night football game at Turners Falls High School. Eight athletes who attend Turners play on the cooperative Mohawk Trail Warriors team this year.

played on in the rain, and the Blue Birds won 10-1.

With these two wins, the Hawks are currently 9-0 with three games left. Their top scorers are Yolvin Medig, Lincoln Coleman, John Martinez, David Klemperer-Siano, and Anne Kolodziej, and their goalkeeper is Eli Guerin.

According to coach Matt Kolodziej, their big game is this Thursday, October 10, against an “always-dominant Frontier.”

With all this school choice business, it’s hard to predict the future of Turners Falls sports. But from what I’ve seen, all the fall sports programs, including cheer, should be just fine for at least the next six or seven years.

Cheer

Before the football game started, the team that always roots for others, the cheer squad, got a little recognition themselves. Four seniors stepped up to midfield with their loved ones and accepted gifts, balloons and got their pictures taken. They were Journey Smalls, Allison Wheeler, Emily Sisson, and Kaitlyn (Miner’s Meats) Miner.

Coach Sarah Underwood has done a remarkable job with her team. A number of years ago, the Turners cheer team consisted of only two boys, and a year later, only four middle-schoolers donned the blue and white. Back then, on Senior Night, it was kind of sweet as these little girls had to reach up to give football players their flowers.

Now, just a few years later, four of Underwood’s girls have come of age, and gleefully accepted the applause they’ve given to others so many times before.

Football

McCann 12 – Mohawk 0
Athol 12 – GFMS 10

On Booster Day, two Turners seniors were given their due at midfield: Liam Driscoll and Jaiden Whiting. Part of the booty they received were balloons. This was very interesting: traditionally, Turners seniors get blue and white balloons and Mohawk gets blue and gold, but on Friday, the team’s seniors all received blue, white, and gold balloons.

Joining the Mohawk football team were players from middle school: not just from Turners, but also from Mohawk and Pioneer. After all, in the future, these kids might be playing varsity together for one school or another.

By the time the game started, the sun had set and it was cold. Many spectators lamented the fact that

they didn’t bring gloves or winter hats. In the bleachers and at the concession stand, the football conversations continued. At one point, a woman said, “I’m going to have *him* around” – she gestured to her husband – “while I’m cooking Thanksgiving dinner. He’s not going to be at the game.”

Mohawk won the toss, and elected to receive. The drive stalled after two plays, and on third and 8, one of the McCann Hornets swatted away a pass, but a Mohawk came up with it to keep the drive alive. Three plays later, they were knocking on the door: first and goal from the 8. Then McCann drove them back 7 yards in three plays, and Mohawk was facing fourth and goal from the 15. A field goal attempt went wide.

McCann took over and began drilling it down the field, forcing first down after first down. Mohawk tightened up, but on 3 and 6 to go, after Mohawk stopped the runner in the backfield, McCann got the must-have first down. A missed tackle and a sprint gave McCann first and goal from the 8, and on the next play, they cracked it right in to take a 6-0 lead at 2:48 of the first quarter.

Mohawk shot through the line, and blocked the PAT. Receiving the kick, the Warriors began their second drive, but their vaunted passing attack fizzled and they were forced to punt.

That punt was partially blocked, and the Hornets got the ball on the Blue 35. They drove 31 yards, but Mohawk forced a fourth and goal from the 4. In this do-or-die situa-

tion, McCann crashed through, and expanded their lead to 12 points. The special-teams defense came through for the Coops, and the PAT was again blocked.

So, with 4:06 left in the first half, Mohawk was still within striking distance. Alas, the game went on without them threatening again. While McCann orchestrated long clock-killing drives, Mohawk had difficulty getting a first down. At one point in the fourth quarter, they committed two penalties on fourth downs, keeping the ball in the Stingers’ hands. And the game quietly ended in a 12-0 loss.

On Tuesday, the Great Falls Middle School Hawks took on Athol. Blue led 8-6 for most of the game, but in the waning minutes, Athol got a first down on the 11. They crashed their way forward until Blue stopped them on fourth and 1 from the 2.

The offense came on the field to run out the clock, but the refs called a conference. Athol had moved the ball to the half-yard line, which gave them a fresh set of downs, and the defense came back out. Athol scored with a minute left to take a 12-8 lead.

Powertown intercepted the ball on the 2-PAT, ran it all the way into the end zone for the 2-pointer, and took back possession down by two points, 12-10.

Turners did their best, driving down to the Red 30 with 22 seconds left. Blue ran a play, but time ran out, and Athol took the game 12-10.

Next week: Tech tries to stay in the hunt.



Turners Falls’ Liam Driscoll, co-captain of the Mohawk Trail Warriors, evades the McCann Tech defense during the Booster Day game at TFHS.

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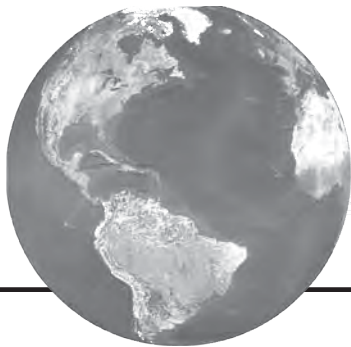


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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la nueva página en español del Montague Reporter. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org.



Celebremos el arte y la diversidad cultural: Altares en La Mariposa.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – Felipe González es el alma del Mariachi Shoemaker en la Avenida A de Turners Falls. Si ustedes han entrado alguna vez en su establecimiento habrán visto que no solamente arregla y diseña zapatos, sino también otros artículos de cuero y además pinta. Felipe empezó a pintar cuando era pequeño y por diferentes motivos dejo de hacerlo por un tiempo hasta que sus suegros le regalaron un lienzo y unos pinceles y comenzó a hacerlo de nuevo.

Hace 18 años Felipe estaba en su lugar natal, Isla Mujeres en México, cuando conoció a Nina Marks, una jovencita de Estados Unidos que era

su vecina en el país vecino. Nina es de Great Barrington, desde donde se mudó a Chicago y allí empezó su contacto con el español y la cultura mexicana. Así que un buen día, con sus ahorros de su trabajo como mesera, después de escuchar muchas historias sobre la belleza del lugar provenientes de amigos y familiares, decidió irse a buscar el paraíso y encontrar inspiración para tocar la guitarra, dibujar y pintar.

El billete de avión más barato era a Cancún, así que allí se fue. En aquellos años, en Isla Mujeres, ni Nina ni Felipe pensaban que algún día se encontrarían aquí en el Oeste de Massachusetts. Felipe se casó una estadounidense, tuvo una hija y vino a vivir a esta parte del país.

También en México, Nina con-

oció a Agustín Peñaloza, un artista autodidacta mexicano de Querétaro que vivía en un rancho pequeño donde Nina iba para enseñar inglés a los muchachos.

Nina reconoció enseguida el talento de Agustín en los dibujos de las paredes que adornaban el rancho. Agustín hace una obra de arte de cualquier pedazo de material que encuentra en la calle. Le gusta aprovechar piezas de madera, o papeles hermosos que encuentra en la calle. Diseña formas en paneles de madera, desde animales hasta planetas y satélites.

Gracias a Facebook, Nina y Felipe se encontraron de nuevo y han decidido crear un bonito proyecto dedicado al Día de los Muertos. Pero, hagamos un poco de historia para explicar sobre la celebración de este día.

El Día de los Muertos, que no se debe confundir con Halloween, se celebra en México y en algunos países de América Central y en las comunidades hispanas en los Estados Unidos como consecuencia de la inmigración. En 2003 la UNESCO declaró el Día de los Muertos como Obra Maestra del Patrimonio Intangible y Oral de la Humanidad. Muchos de ustedes, aunque no provengan de estos países sabrán de esta tradición si han visto la famosa película de dibujos animados *Coco* en la que se narran las aventuras de un chaval mexicano, precisamente en este día. Y si todavía no han visto la película, recomiendo que lo hagan, ya sea en inglés o en español. Vale la pena simplemente patata gozar de su música.

Existen algunas discrepancias en cuanto al origen de esta tradición. Algunos historiadores la atribuyen a algunas tribus indígenas de Mesoamérica que rendían tributo a sus muertos con calaveras y otros instrumentos votivos antes de la llegada de los europeos. Coincidió con el noveno mes del calendario azteca y las festividades que duraban todo el mes, eran presididas por Mictcacihuatl o Dama de la Muerte (la actual Catrina).

Otros estudiosos creen que era ya una tradición en el Imperio Romano donde construían altares para honrar a sus muertos y de allí pasaron a la Edad Media en la que se celebraba el Día de los Difuntos hasta llegar a los Jesuitas que la trajeron a América durante la colonización.

En cualquier caso, ya sea una tradición indígena o católica, está claro que diferentes culturas a lo largo de la historia se han preguntado acerca del misterio de la muerte o cómo honrar a sus muertos y lograr que sus recuerdos perduren. Mi opinión personal es que el actual Día de los Muertos es una mezcla de ambas culturas, un sincretismo cultural que es el valor más importante del encuentro entre los dos mundos. La diferencia más importante que existe actualmente entre el Día de los Difuntos que se celebra en España y el



Nina, Felipe y Agustín delante de El Colectivo La Mariposa

Día de los Muertos en México es que a este lado del Atlántico la muerte se toma con humor, con fina ironía, se la celebra y se le ponen calificativos como la flaca, la pelona, y la huesuda. En España, la muerte es un tema tabú y no se hacen bromas con ella.

Volviendo al Día de los Muertos que se celebra desde el 31 de octubre hasta el 2 de noviembre hay una serie de símbolos que no pueden faltar. El principal es el altar. En todas las casas se monta un altar para honrar a los familiares y seres queridos que ya no están y en donde se colocan los alimentos y bebidas favoritas de los difuntos cuando estaban vivos. Otros objetos que podemos encontrar son libros, tabaco, velas, fotografías, flores y todo aquello que fuera en vida del agrado del difunto. La tradición dice que los muertos visitan la casa y vuelven para probar sus víveres favoritos.

En el altar se colocan también ofrendas como calaveras de azúcar de diferentes colores, pan de muerto, chocolate caliente, y otros dulces. Si al familiar le gustaba la música se pone música o se colocan instrumentos musicales o si le gustaba pintar, los pinceles y los lienzos. En definitiva, una fiesta para compartir con los difuntos sus placeres en vida, una fiesta para celebrar la muerte y la vida.

Precisamente esta tradición es la que van recrear en el Colecti-

vo de La Mariposa en el 111 de la Avenida A. A partir del lunes, 14 de octubre, Día de los Indígenas, montarán tres altares, uno dedicado a los niños, otro a adultos y un tercer altar dedicado a las mascotas. Felipe invita al público a traer fotos de seres queridos y mascotas que han fallecido para adornar los altares, así como velas, flores y otros objetos que fueran apreciados por estos en vida.

Además de los altares, habrá una exposición de arte de estos tres artistas autodidactas. Felipe y Agustín, como miembros de la comunidad indígena, se inspiran en la naturaleza y los sentimientos que esta les inspira. Nina tiene estudios de arte, pero también se inspira en la naturaleza. Felipe define su pintura como arte caribeño, y Agustín lo define como folklorista.

El 2 de noviembre como colofón a la muestra de arte y los altares se celebrará una fiesta a partir de las 8pm hasta las 10 pm en que la música de bachata, merengue, cumbia correrá a cargo de DJ Martínez. Habrá también refrescos, antojitos mexicanos como tamales y arroz con gandules. Si lo desean pueden traer comida para compartir, pero no es necesario. El evento es apto para público de todas las edades, y gratis, aunque se aceptan donaciones.



Primera vez en la nieve de Agustín Peñaloza

Tablón de anuncios

- **Food Bank de Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. La próxima distribución de comida será el miércoles 16 de octubre de 1:30 a 2:30 p.m.
- Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con **The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts** en el teléfono: (413) 247-9738.
- **Santo Taco.** En colaboración de la cervecería Brick and Feather, el puesto ambulante de tacos, Santo

- Taco, ofrecerá sus especialidades mexicanas el sábado de 12 de octubre de 2 a 6 p.m. en el 78 de 11th Street en Turners Falls. Santo Taco se especializa en cocinar y servir tacos usando productos orgánicos y locales. Ofrecen también variedades vegetarianas y sin gluten. Los tacos se cocinan en el momento.
- **Colectivo La Mariposa.** Desde el 14 de octubre al dos de noviembre exposición de altares y de arte indígena a cargo de Luis Felipe González Pérez, Agustín Peñaloza y Nina Marks. Información en Colectivo La Mariposa en 111 Avenue A, Turners Falls y en el (413) 824-6792.

Noticias del mundo hispánico.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

Ecuador: El jueves 3 de octubre el presidente Lenín Moreno decretó el estado de excepción debido a las protestas convocadas en todo el país debido al aumento del precio de los carburantes. Algunas asociaciones de transportistas decidieron desconvocar las protestas, pero asociaciones indígenas han decidido seguir con ellas debido al fuerte gasto que supone el incremento del Diesel en las labores agrícolas.

España: El Tribunal Supremo ha dictado sentencia favorable a la exhumación de los restos mortales del dictador Francisco Franco que está enterrado en el mausoleo del Valle de los Caídos. El presidente Sánchez espera que esto se produzca antes de las elecciones convocadas el 10 de noviembre tras no haberse producido acuerdos del PSOE con otros partidos para poder formar go-

bierno. La extrema derecha está en contra de esta decisión, así como la familia del dictador que sigue ocupando un lugar importante en la sociedad española.

Perú: Grave crisis institucional en el país andino debido a la presión ejercida por el partido fujimorista con Keiko Fujimori al frente. El partido de Fujimori que representa la oposición y tiene la mayoría del congreso ha intentado influir en la composición del Tribunal Supremo para conseguir ciertos beneficios cuando líderes de su partido sean juzgados acusados de corrupción.

El presidente Vizcarra decidió acogerse a la constitución y disolver el parlamento para convocar elecciones. La tensión social generada fue tan grande que las Fuerzas Armadas y la Policía tuvieron que declarar la lealtad a la constitución para prevenir cruentos enfrentamientos en las calles.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *John Scofield*. Solo guitar. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Lentz Trio*. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Word Fest*. Spoken Word, poetry, stories and more over the weekend. See the schedule at *greatfallswordfestival.com*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Ed Hines*. Middle Eastern rhythms with the original American Oud. Part of the monthly Great Falls Coffeehouse Series. By donation. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Louise Landes Levi, Ed Yazijian and Special Guest Orchestra*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tou-bab Krewe, Jonathan Scales Fourchestra*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lucy Isabel, The Basement Cats*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Word Fest*. Hear the work of many voices as artists and writers present spoken word pieces for the first or hundredth time on a variety of themes. See weekend schedule at *greatfallwordfestival.com*. \$. 11 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Haiku Circle*. Part of the Great Falls Word Festival, a reading of haiku poetry. See *greatfallwordfestival.com* for schedule. \$. 3 p.m.

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

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Greenfield Drum & Dance*. African dance, followed by a Drum and Dance instead of the usual Dance Spree. \$. 6 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Heather Maloney* CD release show. Western Mass native Maloney releases her new album, *Soil in the Sky*, with a string quartet. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Officially 10 Forward Celebration*. Celebrate official re-naming of the Root Cellar to 10 Forward. With *Rawlings, Meginsky, Johnson Trio* and *MARASCA*. 8 p.m.

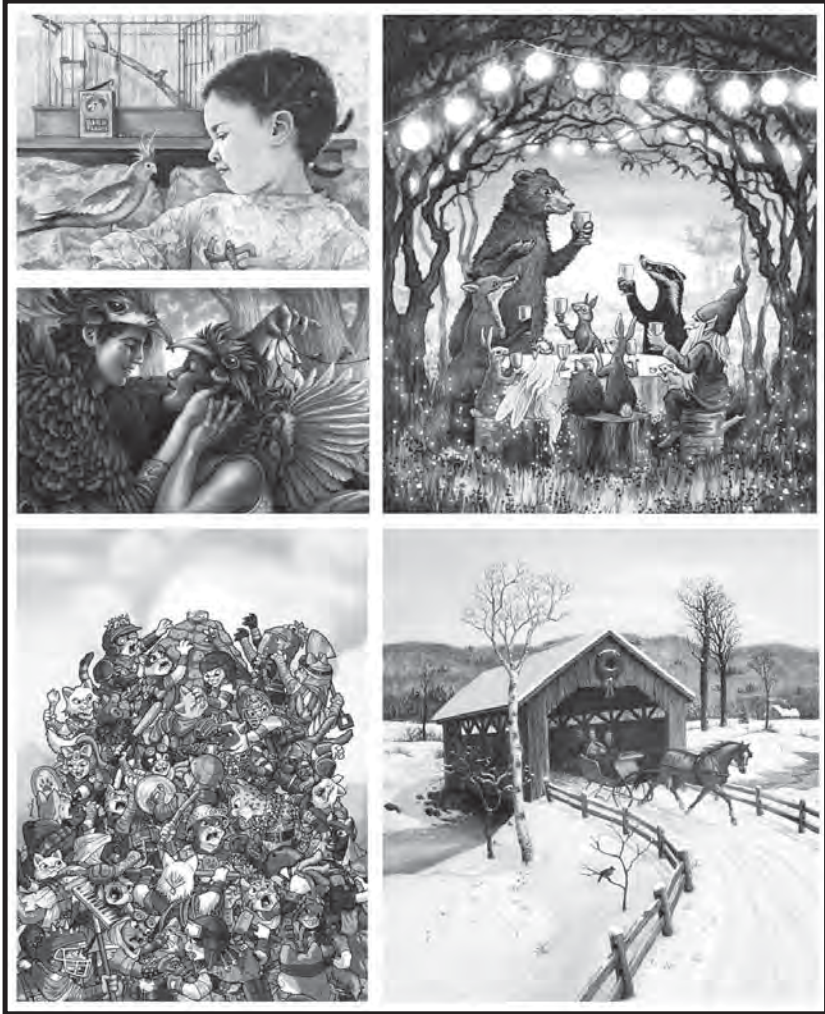
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Local Hip Hop Slam*. \$. 9 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Flesh Narc, Chris Pistiokos, Gloyd*. Psychedelic no-wave meltdown. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

SUBMITTED IMAGE



The Greenfield Gallery in downtown Greenfield is hosting the Western Massachusetts Illustrators' Guild group show featuring 15 artists. These narrative art works will be on view until November 16. Featured are many well-known children's book illustrators residing in Western Mass; meet them at a closing reception on Friday, October 25, 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Immortal Jellyfish*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Word Fest*. More Word! (See Saturday's listing.) \$. 11 a.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Gabriela Lena Frank Premieres*. An evening of world premieres by six composers from the GLF Academy of Music, a California-based mentorship program fostering diverse composers. Indoor concert. \$. 3 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Hung Trucker Ensemble, Lauri Mc Ensemble*. Early bird show. \$. 6:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Grün Wasser, Lucy, David Russell, VEERdance*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ow-sley's Owls*. Grateful Dead tribute. 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Carson McKee & Kami Maltz*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Ten Gallon Hat, Lonesome Hero, Long River*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eilen Jewell*, album release show. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *7 Count, Elias*. \$. 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*. Anniversary dance with *David Kaynor* and members of the original band, celebrating 39 years. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Strange Machines, The New Motif*. \$. 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Great Falls Festival, Turners Falls: Two stages of music, with vendors and activities up and down Avenue A. Noon to 10 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Sara Thomsen*. A weaver of song and community singing from northern Minnesota. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Wistaria Quartet*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Sam's Place*. A haunting evening during the Great Falls Festival. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Pet Bottle Ninjin, Sweetness the Point of Song, Hairbrush, Vic Rawlings*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *What Cheer? Brigade*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Amherst College, Amherst: *Festival of American Poetry*. Readings by *John High, Ruth Lepson, Michael Leong, Elinor Nauen, Patrick Donnelly*, and *Fanny Howe*. 6 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Doomsquad, Mary Jester, Nemesister*. Pop and dance music, followed

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*.



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by *Karaoke with Craig*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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.



THURS 10/10 8:30 pm

John Lentz Trio

FRI 10/11 9:30 pm

**Lucy Isabel
The Basement Cats**

SAT 10/12 9:30 pm

Immortal Jellyfish



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EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Lori Lynn Hoffer*, paintings. Through October.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: New exhibits 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*. Through February.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Fabrications II*. Textile creations, both wearable and fine art.. *Genevieve Abate*, painting exhibit in the back gallery. Through November 3

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: 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 at 2 p.m. this Sunday, October 13. Followed by *25 Years of Cider-Days*, an exhibit of historic cider presses and images, from October 25 to November 6.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Art of Jeff Wrench*. Participatory portrait exhibit. Through November.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Gla-*

cial Potholes. Photographs by *Geoff Bluh*. Through November. Reception, October 27 at 1 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: *From Sunrise to Moonrise*. Color photographs by *Amanda Quinby*. Through October.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
Wendell, right on time.

The morning glory we’ve been waiting for all August has finally agreed to show its many faces to the sun in meeting the October morning. Its many vase-like blooms that will last only one day, peer up at the sky. Hummingbirds have long winged away, the bumble bees are still busy in the goldenrod and aster.

*Passing through, passing through,
Sometimes happy, sometimes blue...*
– Pete Seeger

5 October. The first ice appeared this morning, coating the shingles of the porch roof outside the bedroom window on the north. The cardinal young of the year clamor in their early morning routine, following their parents around the yard, begging for food. They do seem a little stunned by the sudden cold. Holly berries, already bright red, glisten under the sparkling crystals of frost.

Out back, the maple is giving up the ghost as its foliage falls way too soon this year. Below the lofty branches, golden leaves pave all: the lawn, the green Parisian café table, the Adirondack chair.

7 October. Feels like the autumn blues have got me. Why do those old songs like “September in the Rain” keep drifting down the back alleys of my mind? There’s got to be something about September and now October, to turn your mood somber in spite of the riot of color in the leaves. Too many sad songs of farewell and longing about this

time of year.

I imagine it’s got something to do with the leaves falling down, the last rose of summer, the fragile morning glories that will fade when the first chill frosts them over, one of these mornings. They are holding out against the likelihood of being zapped by the next icy visit of Jack Frost. The other autumn ephemera, like the flashy migrants taking a victory lap around the garden before heading south leaving us behind, don’t help the mood.

Lucky for me, the dog of the house, our four-year-old Siberian husky Nicky, never goes through any such states of mind. He doesn’t let me get moody for long. Newly energized by the chill, he’s feeling the coming of the weather he was born to. He leaps and cavorts, exhorts me to play ball or chase him around the yard at 7 in the morning. No time for me to sit around feeling glum.

He pushes my arm to get me going. I point to my coffee cup and say somewhat sternly, “Coffee!” He knows the routine, and resigns himself to a patient stare with his expectant bright blue eyes that bore into my consciousness in spite of my efforts to ignore him. He lets me finish scratching out these last few lines. I try to make my first cup last.

He, of course, wins out, and before long the autumn blahs are forgotten as I race him around the yard. My blood gets pumping, and for dog and writer, there’s no time to waste.



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- Franklin County Technical School, Landscape and Horticulture Shop
- Northfield Mount Hermon School, Outdoor Team
- Turners Falls High School

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- 1 television
- 3 mattresses
- 3 love seats / recliners
- 1 Studebaker

Thanks to the funding and strong muscles of the folks listed below, trash was removed from beautiful natural areas in the towns of Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Millers Falls, Montague, Northfield, and Turners Falls.



CARTER WALL PHOTO

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- FirstLight Power Resources
- USA Hauling & Recycling
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation
- Town of Montague, Transfer Station/Highway Department
- Bridgestone Tire, Tires4ward recycling program
- Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Northfield Mount Hermon School Dining Services
- 2nd Street Baking Company



BETH PELTON PHOTO

Top: Karen Bocon collects trash along the Millers River.

Left: Monte Belmonte, “Mr. Dumpster 2019.”

Below: Skipper Denzel Hankinson worked from land and sea to pull debris from the Connecticut.

Event Organizers:

- Beth Bazler, Kim Noyes, Michael Pattavina, Lindsay Hartnett and Beth Pelton, FirstLight Power
- Ray Purington
- Deborah Bazer
- Chris Tobey
- Stacey Lennard, Andrea Donlon, Aliki Fornier and more, Connecticut River Conservancy



JIM FOUAD PHOTO

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