

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 1

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 24, 2019

Leverett Village Co-op, Mired In Debt, Declares a State of Emergency

By ISABEL KOYAMA

LEVERETT – The Leverett Village Co-op on Rattlesnake Gutter Road, the only food market in Leverett and a beloved anchor of the community, is threatening to close as it faces a \$200,000 deficit.

“Be Our Hercules!” read handwritten posters at each entrance of the store, imploring customers to come to the rescue: “The Co-op is in a time of urgent need. How can you help?”

Last Tuesday, October 15, the coop’s board of directors hosted an “emergency” meeting to shed light on the current financial crisis, and discuss a way forward. Every last chair in the store was brought out to accommodate attendees, many of whom showed up in response to an SOS email sent by board member Jono Neiger a week before.

“Help!” Neiger’s email, which was forwarded on different online platforms including the Wendell town listserv, began. “... Our little neighborhood grocery and hang-out space will be gone in months or even weeks if the community doesn’t step up.” The letter went on to outline the extent of the coop’s debt and suggest ways people can help dig it



Village Co-op board member Jono Neiger (center) presented a plan to save the store at an emergency public meeting held last week.

out – by spreading the word, buying prepaid cards, donating, volunteering, and giving feedback.

“The listserv was kind of a shock,” said coop member Kari Ridge in reaction to Neiger’s email. Sure, there were noticeable signs that the coop was suffering: the shelves were rather bare lately, and the latest Leverett town newsletter pointed readers to a new capital campaign for the store. Still, many faithful members and cus-

tomers are left with questions after suddenly learning the magnitude of their little coop’s debt. “Nobody really knows exactly what’s going on,” said Ridge, who has been a member of the coop for 12 years.

Most of the debt is owed to vendors, and a quarter of those vendors are owed more than \$1,000 a piece, according to a financial report of current payables.

“It’s not as if this happened see **CO-OP** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Spinner Park Statue Still Moving to Rear of Park

By JEFF SINGLETON

A group of downtown Turners Falls residents who have opposed the redesign of a small “pocket park” on Avenue A in Turners Falls for over a year returned to the Montague selectboard meeting on Monday with a petition containing over 90 signatures in a last-ditch effort to alter the plans. The effort failed, as the board, after a sometimes contentious discussion, voted unanimously to stay with the original design.

The controversy has centered on the plan to move the statue of a female spinner of wool, which currently sits near the front of the space, to the back. The design has been justified as more consistent with traditional park design norms, see **STATUE** page A7



Controversy raged over how far back the town should move this replica of Leon Cugno’s “La Fileuse de Procida.”

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Library Spending Delayed; STM Okays All Articles

By GEORGE BRACE

On Monday night the town of Erving held a three-hour quadruple feature of meetings, including a special town meeting, a regular selectboard meeting, and joint meetings with the library building and finance committees. A decision on a budget request for the library construction project was postponed for two weeks by the board, and all four special town meeting articles, including funding for a sidewalk and streetlight construction project, were approved by voters.

It was Pete Sanders’ first meeting as a selectboard member. Sanders,

the town’s water superintendent, ran unopposed in an October 8 special election to fill a seat vacated this summer by Scott Bastarache.

The selectboard discussed at length with the library building committee whether to authorize spending approximately \$100,000 from the library project budget to purchase furniture and other items, culminating in a 2-1 vote to delay action on the matter until the next board meeting on November 4.

Feelings were strong on both sides of the issue, with library director Barbara Friedman and building committee co-chair Jacquie Boyden

see **ERVING** page A6

Wendell Planning Board Hears No Opposition to Solar Moratorium

By JEFF SINGLETON

WENDELL – A hearing conducted by the Wendell Planning Board on Tuesday heard public input on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment that would place a moratorium on “large” and “extra large” solar arrays in the town until 2021. The proposed amendment will be on the agenda of a special town meeting scheduled for October 30.

Although planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger encouraged the audience of approximately 15 people to address the concept of a moratorium, not the broader issues associated with large-scale solar, most of the comments focused on the negative impacts of large arrays on Wendell’s forests. No opposition to the moratorium was voiced at the meeting.

The hearing did not address the question of whether the board

should approve a special permit for a 10-acre solar facility on New Salem Road. That decision, which will be based on the town’s current bylaws, will be discussed at a board meeting on November 4, according to Riebschlaeger.

The debate over that project may have encouraged the board to revisit the town’s solar bylaws, but “was not the only factor,” Riebschlaeger see **SOLAR** page A5

Rising Up to the Challenge of High School

By ANTHONY PETERSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – “Rise Up is a self-actualization course that helps youth figure out who they want to be and reach their goals. We learn leadership and com-



The program features team-building activities.

munication skills through team building and community service,” teacher Faith Klumb, known as “Ms. K,” says when asked what the class is about.

In the fall of 2007, Ms. Sheila Thorn – a former teacher at Turners Falls High School who is now the school adjustment counselor – originally started teaching the class. It was then called “Reconnecting Youth,” part of a national program that aimed to help reduce student dropout rates. Students were picked to be in the class. In the class they would have to track their attendance and their substance use. Reconnecting Youth was like a group therapy for everyone involved, and it helped a lot of students stay in school.

Though the class started as a dropout prevention program, it has evolved into a positive support class. The students do team-building activities, or “Challenge Days” as they are called in Rise Up.

The most recent Challenge Day was a scavenger hunt throughout the school building. Students worked in teams to find inspirational objects and connect with people such as the custodians and office staff. The students are encouraged to see the class, and the whole school, as a positive environment to grow in as a person.

Another important part of the class is about goal setting. Students learned about SMART (Specific, Measurable, and Timely) goals, and managing their stress.

Next, they consider the people in their lives who push them to achieve their goals. The “Fire-Lighters” who help them stay inspired and working hard should

see **RISE UP** page A8

The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Local high school teams butted heads this week with some of the best teams in the region. The Mohawk Co-op footballers took on the Ware Indians, leaders in the Tri-County Conference. The Turners Falls volleyball team split their games against two tough non-league opponents. The Great Falls Soccer Hawks played two excellent teams to end their season with a 10-1 record.

The Turners Falls field hockey team played the top two teams in the Bi-County Conference, and in the

process, qualified for the postseason. The Franklin Tech Eagles played against Frontier, the top dog in the Inter-County North Football Conference. And the Great Falls Football Hawks almost scored half a buck.

Field Hockey

TFHS 0 – Southwick 0
Smith Academy 1 – TFHS 0

The Turners Falls field hockey team had their work cut out for them this week. Powertown needed one point to qualify for the playoffs. A tie would get them there, but their two opponents were the top two

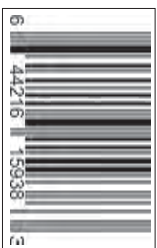
see **SPORTS** page A6



Smith Academy’s Bailey McCoy and Turners’ Hannab Marchefka race for the ball as the Thunder face the Falcons in Hatfield.

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The Montague Reporter

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Realignment...

"If Turkey goes into Syria, that's between Turkey and Syria.... They have a problem at a border. It's not our border. We shouldn't be losing lives over it.... Why are we protecting Syria's land? Assad's not a friend of ours. Why are we protecting their land? And Syria also has a relationship with the Kurds, who by the way, are no angels."

President Trump, having a hard time at home, is withdrawing the 1,000-odd American troops from northeastern Syria, caving to Turkish demands that it should be able to carve a 20-mile "buffer zone" out of the Kurdish-majority territory governed by the multi-ethnic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria.

The old-fashioned US foreign policy claim to support the development of democracy in the Middle East, of course, is over. Out the window.

On October 12, fighters from Ahrar al-Sharqiya, a jihadist militia fighting under the Turkish-backed "Syrian National Army," ambushed a car fleeing the town of Tal Abyad and murdered a woman named Hevrin Khalaf. The incident encapsulates the present turning point in the ongoing war.

Khalaf, a 34-year-old Kurdish engineer, was the secretary-general of the Future Syria Party, a political movement dedicated to rebuilding the country along the directly democratic, multi-ethnic model developed in the Northeast. Ten other civilians were killed along with her.

Turkish forces pressed southward, beginning to capture towns in the buffer zone. The United States "negotiated" a cease-fire to allow the Kurds and their allies to evacuate the territory. On Tuesday the UNHCR estimated that over 7,000 refugees had also fled eastward into Iraq.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, the Kurdish-led coalition in the Northeast, responded to the betrayal by the Americans by entering an alliance with the Syrian government.

But if they thought President Assad's backing from Russia meant that they would be protected from the air by another great power, they were mistaken — on Tuesday the Russians, too, showed their willingness to throw the Kurds under the bus, with presidents Putin and Erdogan cutting a deal to guarantee a joint enforcement of the buffer zone.

Playing alliances — including arms deals — with both Syria and Turkey, Russia is now well-positioned to broker a compromise peace deal; this week's maneuver-

ings may mark the beginning of the end for the long and tragic civil war. It would also represent the triumph of Russia's pan-nationalism over the idealistic post-nationalism offered by the Kurdish movement, an affirmation of the rights of two strongmen over their respective territories.

In other words, an area peacefully co-administered by Kurds, Syriac Christians, Assyrians, Arabs, Yazidis, Turkmen, Armenians and more will now be cleansed of such ideals, patrolled instead by the Turkish, Syrian, and Russian militaries, and possibly repopulated with hundreds of thousands of refugees that Turkey would love to expel.

It's not difficult to understand why we are seeing videos of frustrated Kurds throwing tomatoes and rocks at retreating US military vehicles. It's not the first time our government has betrayed Kurdish movements in the region, but this time the whole world is witness to the US military in nonsensical retreat from its stated commitments.

Let anyone think Trump's decision can be explained as an antiwar effort, a fulfillment of his campaign promises to bring troops home from overseas adventures, we should note that about 700 will be shifted to Iraq, and another 300 into southeastern Syria to help protect — what else? — oilfields. And the very same week, Trump agreed to deploy an additional 1,800 troops to Saudi Arabia, bringing the total there to about 3,000.

Why Saudi Arabia? Well, "Saudi Arabia is a very good ally," he explained, besides which they have "agreed to pay us for everything we're doing."

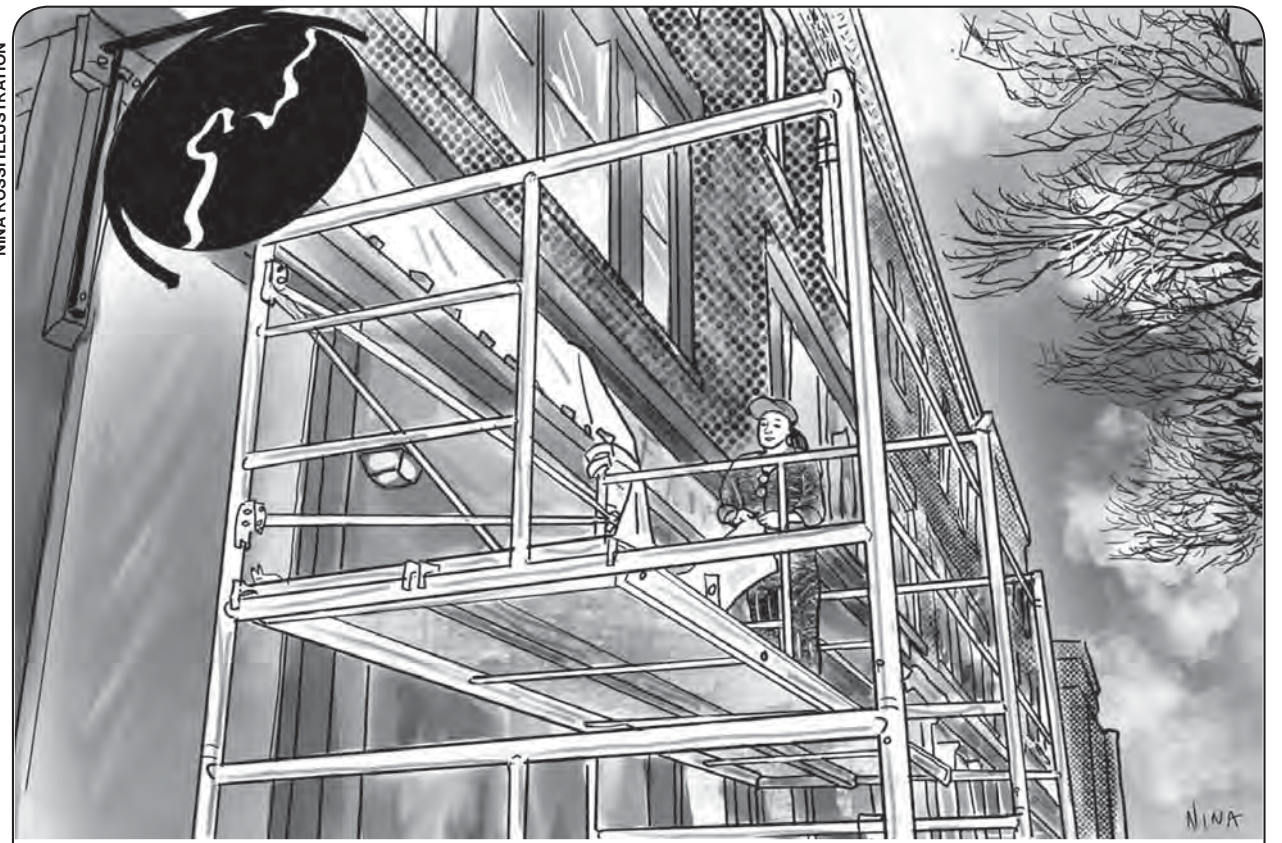
"That's a first," the president added. Yes. *Explicitly* renting out US personnel for hire is a new development. We're sure it will be a strong selling point at US Army recruiting centers.

But really? "100 percent of the cost," Trump said. "Including the cost of our soldiers."

It's not clear that this is true, fortunately or unfortunately. The *Washington Post* researched the claim and received denials or deflections from the Defense Department, the State Department, the Foreign Affairs, Appropriations and Defense committees in both the House and Senate, and the Saudi embassy.

Nevertheless, there they go, our patriotic volunteer fighting men and women, to Saudi Arabia, to lean into a conflict with... Iran.

So, who's in charge here?



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

On Sunday, Jess Marsh Wissemann had finished pouncing the outlines for the letters with chalk, and was removing her stencil before lettering the new sign for the Upper Bend Cafe & Brunchette on Avenue A. Jess is also part of the creative team at Mike's Maze in Sunderland, where she painted the '60s-style posters featured in "Cornstock," a maze celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Woodstock music festival this year.

An Easy Way to Help a Neighbor...

Beacon Roofing Supply, a Virginia-based company, is offering to fully fund five roofs this year for veterans in need. The company has identified 10 finalists, and set up an online poll for voters to select the winners.

One of those finalists is Lori-lee Adams, a disabled Air Force veteran who lives in Turners Falls.

Lori-lee reached out this week to the *Reporter* for help spreading the word. We thought her story would make an interesting article, but since voting closes next Thursday, the day our next issue comes out, we decided it made more sense to just pass her appeal directly to you.

"I need the help of my community, far and wide," Lori-lee writes. "All it takes is a few moments of time, and everyone, everywhere is able to figuratively pound

a nail for this to happen."

After serving as a weapons technician in the Air Force, Lori-lee suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. She lives with the residual effects of the injury and other health issues, and works as a speech pathologist in Springfield schools. She donates her time at a local disabled veterans charity.

If she receives enough votes, Beacon will supply materials and pay a local contractor to re-roof her house.

Help Lori Lee Adams by voting for her on the Beacon for Hope website by October 31: go.becon.com/beaconofhope/top10/1.

Winners will be announced on November 11, and we'd love to run an article about her new roof in some future issue!

CORRECTION

Last week's coverage of former Turners Falls deputy fire chief Leon Ambo's retirement (page A1) erroneously stated that the department covers Lake Pleasant.

Lake Pleasant residents are under the jurisdiction of the Montague Center fire department. We apologize both for making and for not catching the obvious error.

T-Shirt Fundraiser



Our t-shirt fundraiser enters its third week. We've sold out of XS, but shirts in S to XXL remain.

This limited-edition run of off-white, all-cotton shirts features an original design by Emma and Charlotte Kohlmann. We're asking \$15 to \$30, sliding scale, for each shirt.

Name your price, select a size, and indicate how you would like to

receive your shirts. You can make an appointment to pick them up at our office at 177 Avenue A in

Turners Falls; you can add another \$5 and have your shirt sent in the mail; or, if you receive your paper by home delivery, we can bring it directly to you!

Order now at montaguereporter.org/shirt...

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

Sounds like the **Great Falls Festival** was a huge success! We're fortunate to have that event in Turners Falls to bring people to the downtown area who might return to shop or eat at local businesses.

Thanks to the organizers and sponsors, and especially the people who clean it all up at the end! When I drove through town the next morning, you couldn't tell there had been thousands of people and hundreds of pumpkins there just 12 hours earlier.

From 10 to 11 a.m. this Saturday, October 26 at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls, you are invited to challenge not only your mind but also your patience by **swapping puzzles** with fellow puzzle-masters! Chat for a few minutes if you would like in the comfy climate-controlled community room with light refreshments, all courtesy of Greenfield Savings Bank. No reservations required. All welcome with a puzzle to swap!

Red Fire North is celebrating fall with their 2nd annual **"Popcorn, Pumpkins, and Pizza"** from 12 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 27 at their new location, 485 Federal Street (Route 63) in Montague. The party

also features live music, seasonal baked goodies, and cider pressing.

On Sunday, October 27 from 3 to 5 p.m., the Friends of the Leverett Library invites the public to their annual meeting at the Library, featuring a special speaker.

Using maps of the region and writings by Native authors, Amherst college professor Lisa Brooks will introduce ways of seeing the familiar space of New England and the Connecticut River Valley through **Indigenous lenses of language, land and waterways**. This talk will cover a wide range, from Native resistance in the 17th-century conflict known as King Philip's War to the publications of Colrain-born William Apess in the 1830s.

Reminder: The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association and the Millers Falls Library will host a Halloween craft night on Tuesday, October 29 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the library, 23 Bridge Street in Millers Falls.

Join them to make masks, beaded Halloween spiders, and decorate pumpkins. All ages welcome. Refreshments provided. For more information, call (413) 863-3214.

Thursday, October 31 is the Annual Rag Shag Parade on Avenue A

in Turners Falls, sponsored by the Trustees of the Montague Soldiers Memorial Committee and the Montague Business Association.

Show off your costumes before the Rag Shag Parade between 3 and 5 p.m. Local businesses and organizations will be inviting costumed youngsters into their workplaces with sweet rewards. Look for a **bright Halloween-themed hanging** displayed in local business store front windows or doors as the welcome sign. Participating locations will start at the Town Hall and extend all the way down the Avenue to Cumberland Farms!

Make your way to the **Rag Shag Parade** at 5 p.m. in the Aubuchon's parking lot. You could win a prize! Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters. Then parade down Avenue A to the Discovery Center, where organizers will pass out awards and holiday candy. Montague Police Chief Chris Williams and his friendly staff will have a watchful eye on the downtown for safety reasons.

Looking ahead...

Businesses, restaurants, and events all over the region are discovering that **waste reduction and composting** is easy and can save money, or at least cost the same as throwing it all in the trash. The Greater Quabbin Food Alliance's Food Waste Recovery Group is building on the success of their workshop held last April in Orange by offering two additional free workshops this fall in Phillipston and Turners Falls.

The Wednesday, November 6

seminar will take place at Brick and Feather Brewing at 78 11th Street, Turners Falls, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The November seminar will be useful for businesses, restaurants, community agencies, faith-based organizations, food processors, and residential facilities that could reduce waste by bolstering composting and recycling efforts in both their daily operations and for regular meetings or events where additional food is provided. Attendees will be inspired by businesses that are reducing their carbon footprint with various waste reduction, food rescue, or composting initiatives.

A complimentary light dinner will be provided; a \$10 suggested donation benefits the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. In keeping with the spirit of this event, please consider bringing your own reusable tableware and to-go containers. Local beer and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Space is limited; please pre-register at bit.ly/GQFAfoodwasteevents2019.

The Montague Elks Lodge No. 2521 will hold its **annual Veteran's Committee fundraiser**, a prime rib dinner, on Saturday, November 9 at the lodge located at 1 Elk Avenue, Turners Falls.

The meal begins with appetizers at 5 p.m., with dinner and dessert beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets, which cost \$18, will be available until November 1, so call (413) 863-2521 to claim yours. All proceeds benefit veterans at the VA Hospital in Leeds.

Send your local briefs to editor@montagureporter.org

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SNAP Reforms Threaten School Lunch

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The Gill-Montague regional school committee met for the second time in two weeks on Tuesday. The committee heard a presentation from Sheffield assistant principal Christine Limoges about this year's MCAS standardized test scores, and an update from facilities manager Heath Cummings on ongoing building projects.

Montague member Haley Anderson noted during the announcement period at the beginning of the meeting that proposed eligibility changes in the USDA's food stamp program could result in the loss of free school lunch for up to a million American students. She urged her fellow committee members and the public to weigh in on the Trump administration proposal at regulations.gov; the comment period is open until November 1.

Chair Jane Oakes of Gill recommended the district notify parents of the proposal.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is now taking applications for a pool of \$500,000 to support regionalization-related efforts. Gill and Montague are currently forming a planning board with Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick to assess the feasibility of a new six-town district.

"We were told this was coming, and now they've released this money," Sullivan said, adding the dead-

line was November 4. The grant could fund transportation studies, surveying families in the would-be district, and food and facilitation expenses for the planning board.

Oakes said she thought a professional facilitator would be helpful, as the 18-member board will represent "a challenging number of people."

Timmie Smith of Gill made a motion supporting the district's application for the grant, which passed by a unanimous 8-0 vote. Sullivan said he would contact Pioneer Valley superintendent Jonathan Scagel and ask if that district would like to coordinate applications.

Cummings and business manager Joanne Blier reported to the board on ongoing capital projects.

An engineering study about how to heat Hillcrest Elementary was being reviewed by district and Montague officials. Underground oil tanks at Hillcrest and Sheffield will have to be removed.

Cummings said the building management system at Turners Falls High School is being consolidated into one system. "I'm thinking of just keeping it to HVAC right now," he said, adding that security and lighting could be added in the future.

Most of the damage from last year's flood at Gill Elementary has been repaired, but Cummings said the connection between the furnace and building management system was repaired with incorrect parts. "We've had nothing but overheating issues at Gill all week," he said, but the contractor was correcting the error.

The pair reviewed capital proj-

ects being requested from the towns for FY'21. Cummings said the district's 2003 tractor is "on its last few years," and being "used year-round, daily." Blier said the tractor has been on the schedule for replacement since 2016. The replacement cost, which both towns would shoulder, is estimated at \$40,000.

"We're pressed for space right now at Sheffield," Sullivan explained of a proposal to divide that school's library with a wall to create new classroom or office space. "It's a funny building, because there's lots of square footage, but there really isn't any usable space."

Montague is planning to apply for CDBG funding to study a new playground at Hillcrest. Blier said that when she heard the new playground at Rutter's Park is costing about \$370,000, she realized "we're about 100 years from raising that on our own."

Student representative Katilyn Miner asked the committee to consider moving graduation from June 6, a day shared with a number of other districts, to Friday, May 29.

Cassie Damkoehler asked whether teachers had been asked for input on the change. Gill-Montague Education Association president Karl Dziura said he had not had an opportunity to talk with his colleagues about the proposal. No action was taken.

Limoges gave a detailed presentation on MCAS results from grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10. DESE's rubrics focus on a measure called student growth percentile (SGP),

quantifying how much students improve from year to year relative to other students statewide with similar scores. The district's results were generally not very good.

"As you can see, our math scores were pretty dismal," Limoges said – particularly at Sheffield, and particularly in math. The good news she brought was that this year the district has adopted an entirely new math curriculum called Bridges.

"We weren't teaching Common Core, so obviously we weren't going to do well on a Common Core test," Limoges argued.

"That's a lot of information to digest," Oakes said after the presentation, "but it's important to keep digesting it."

The committee reviewed nine resolutions for the upcoming Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference. They voted to endorse resolutions endorsing a ban on styrofoam, fighting climate change, fully funding school transportation for foster children, granting universal pre-K, eradicating poverty, guaranteeing students easy access to menstrual care products, and overhauling the state charter school system.

They voted against a resolution to eliminate the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, and another calling for a legislative study of the school bus market.

Finally, the committee voted to allow Gateway Regional and Worthington to join the Collaborative for Educational Services, and to update the CES's bylaws in minor ways.

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Week ending Oct. 18:

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Nathan Johnson

Grade 7

Alexander Sabin

Grade 8

Trevor Brunette

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Audrianna Bassett

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RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS
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in Montague



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Citizens Summoned to Special Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On October 16, members of the Wendell selectboard signed the warrant for a special town meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30 – not October 31, as we wrote in our coverage of the October 2 meeting. The posting was barely made within the two-week timeframe that is required for a special town meeting warrant. The selectboard will hold their regular meeting at 6 p.m. the same night, then will move to town hall for the town meeting.

The special town meeting warrant has ten articles. **Article 1** would take \$78,000 from stabilization to lower the tax rate. **Article 2** would put \$819.70 into the stabilization sick leave account. **Articles 3 and 4** would raise the fire chief's and tax collector's salaries a total of \$639. **Articles 5, 6, and 7** would pay bills of prior years. **Article 8** would authorize \$5,000 for a consultant to help with payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) for solar installations. **Article 9** would take \$19,278 from the town's rehab account to complete the installment of new LED light fixtures in the town hall.

Article 10 would create a moratorium on the construction of large and very large solar installations until December 30, 2020 (see article, page A1). The application for installing a solar array on the corner of Morse Village Road and New Salem Road was submitted before this proposed bylaw would go into effect, so the bylaw would not apply to that project.

Rehab Loans

Brian McHugh of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelop-

ment Authority met the board and gave an outline of the requirements and offerings of the new round of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Wendell and Shutesbury have \$985,000 in grant money available for housing rehabilitation and other work, with Wendell acting as the lead town. The housing authority will take 27% for administration, and the remainder is to be used for zero-interest loans with the goal of bringing houses up to code. The loans become due when the house changes ownership, but if there is no change of ownership for 15 years, they are forgiven.

McHugh said that the simplest way to accomplish the loan forgiveness is to forgive 1/15 of each loan every year until none is due. Selectboard members voted to accept that system, when it becomes official. Loan repayments go back into the fund, and the money is then available for another loan. Before this new round of grants, Wendell had \$54,000 in its loan fund.

The repayment schedule has been made more generous than it was when these loans were first created. The goal of relaxing the repayment schedule was to help keep roofs from leaking and to bring septic systems up to Title V standards. A loan may also be used to pay off an internet drop, after the town's contribution.

The loans are aimed at households with less than 80% of the area's median income. Landlords may apply. The time to apply is now: Wendell has nine applications in so far, and Shutesbury has two. The grant is for 18 months, but may be extended to two years.

Town Buildings

Selectboard chair Dan Keller returned to his statement from the October 2 meeting, that an engineer has said the town buildings' septic system is not getting enough input – less than what a single household would contribute.

The board considered connecting the meetinghouse, but, as board member Christine Heard said, it would not add much. The board of health is not opposed to adding a private residence to the septic lines, but the licensing and permitting of that may show favoritism, and have legal complications.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich agreed to put a mention of the situation in the folder for the annual town meeting.

As a member of the energy committee as well as the selectboard, Laurie DiDonato told her fellow selectboard members that the permitting process for ground-mounting solar panels at the highway garage made that option less attractive.

The solar installation was originally proposed to go on the office building's south-facing roof. That idea turned out to be more expensive, because the shingles underneath might need to be replaced as part of the project.

Building inspector Phil Delorey said he had found the highway department plans, and said that roof, which is metal, should be able to support the panels. But Keller said the company that built the garage did not follow specifications, and that the roof is inadequate.

There was some discussion of the project to insulate the town hall floor. The first steps were to dig out underneath to make room for a worker and equipment, to add

floor supports, to lay down a plastic vapor barrier, and to cover it with enough sand to keep the plastic in place. After that, foam insulation was to be sprayed between the floor joists. The job was broken into its separate pieces to spread expenses over more than one year, and so contractors could bid on all or some of the work.

Now, more than a year after the work was started, board members were not sure exactly where the project stands. Estimates for the work are now two years old, and likely invalid.

Keller said he would talk with Tom Chaisson, who worked in the crawl space, to find out what he did and what he has been paid for.

Other Business

National Grid sent Wendell a request for an easement to put an anchor and guy in the cemetery. Keller suggested talking with cemetery commissioners, and granting approval, if they agree.

Selectboard members signed appointment slips: Ray DiDonato for the municipal light plant manager, Gillian Budine for the cultural council, and several people for the town common study committee: tree warden Corrine Baker; former highway commissioner Harry Wiliston, because of his interest in the veterans' memorial; abutter Allison Wight; and Katie Nolan, because of her interest in restoring pollinator habitat.

Abutter Cheryl Richardson did not want to be on the town common committee, but said she might attend meetings. The selectboard is still hoping for input from the historic commission, library, and senior center.

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Members of the Montague police and Montague Center and Turners Falls fire departments assess the aftermath of a garage fire on Center Street. The garage was detached, but crews were concerned about a propane tank on the site.

KATHY LYNCH PHOTO

Local historian Ed Gregory of Greenfield (far right), who grew up in the Patch in Turners Falls, presents a slide show last weekend at Greenfield Savings Bank about Turners Falls in 1912. Gregory showed photographs from the July 1912 edition of *Western New England Magazine*. He also spoke about the issue of the bridge between Gill and Turners Falls built in the 1930s: it is not called the Gill-Montague Bridge; its real historical name is the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Gregory campaigned to have the 2014 name plate changed to the correct name by writing letters and talking with state officials.



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

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SOLAR from page A1

told the *Reporter*. “We just felt we needed to give people more guidance about these proposed solar projects,” she said.

At the October 22 hearing, several audience members argued that “carbon sequestration” by forests – the process by which trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis – outweighed the environmental benefits of large-scale solar electric production.

“The older the tree, the greater amount of carbon is stored,” one resident said. “The best carbon sequestration strategy is preserving forest land... I don’t think the town should approve solar that cuts forests.”

Another audience member questioned the effectiveness of state policies, where state subsidies of large-scale solar arrays are also supposed to discourage cutting forests.

Dan Leahy, a former land protection specialist at the US Fish and Wildlife Service and former president of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, read a long list of actions that town residents and Wendell government had taken over the years to preserve its forests. As a result of these actions, he said, “we have unfragmented forests in Wendell.”

Leahy told the board he supported the moratorium on large-scale solar because “[w]e need time to see what we can do to eliminate the threat to

our forests, or mitigate its effects.”

Several audience members said the moratorium was needed to sort out the complexities of solar development policies.

“Different parts of town government would benefit from talking to one another about issues like this,” said Amelia Sawyer. “These are privately-owned properties, and people also benefit from putting food on the table.”

“I want to hear other voices from other boards,” said Shannan Leelyn.

“If you approve restrictions that are too tight, you violate property owners’ rights,” said Riebschlaeger. “This fifteen months is essential for sorting this out.”

The planning board did not take a formal vote, and the text of the town meeting article was not made available at the hearing. A copy obtained by the *Reporter* calls for amending town zoning regulations so that large-scale and extra-large-scale solar electric installations will be “not allowed” until December 30, 2020.

The article also states that... “during the period of the solar moratorium the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of solar electric installations in Wendell, consider the long-term objectives for solar electric installations and their impact on health, safety and welfare of Wendell’s citizenry and to determine how the Town shall reasonably regulate

solar electric installations...”

Riebschlaeger said the planning board would organize this “planning process.”

The warrant article also states that the process could lead to amending Article XIV of the town’s zoning bylaws, which regulates solar facilities. Article XIV came in for some criticism at the hearing from Leahy, who noted that its “Section A” seems to encourage large- and extra-large-scale facilities.

“Can anyone explain to me the thinking behind the statement that the purpose of the bylaw is to ‘facilitate the creation or expansion’ of large and extra-large scale solar installations?” he asked. “How and why did we invite large-scale solar development?”

Section A goes on to state that the bylaw’s goal is to “address public safety, minimize impacts on environmental, scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations.”

Meanwhile, Section E of the current bylaw states that all solar projects should “minimize environmental impacts by avoiding land clearing and fragmentation of open space, preserving natural habitat, and limiting the use of and providing for the containment of hazardous materials, and by satisfying applicable noise standards.”



Cemetery Commission Seeks Third Member



MONTAGUE – Have you ever found yourself spending a nice fall day walking around an old cemetery, looking at the old stones, wondering what the lives were like of those buried beneath your feet? Perhaps you’ve spent childhood afternoons with paper and crayon in hand making grave rubbings, or teenage nights cavorting between the stones in the moonlight?

If you identify with any of these scenarios, you should consider joining the Montague Cemetery Commission!

The Cemetery Commission recently acquired a second member, and is actively seeking a third and final member to complete our

ranks. The Commission takes care of Montague’s seven municipal cemeteries, which are historical in nature. The job at its most basic is overseeing the maintenance of the grounds, and serving as a contact for anyone with genealogical questions related to the cemeteries.

With a full commission, we could expand our scope. We hope to plan events, plant pollinator gardens, and fund restoration work in the next year. The types of projects we take up depend on the interests of our members, so if there’s a project you’d like to see happen, join us!

Interested? Have questions? Reach out to us at judithcemetery@gmail.com.

CO-OP from page A1

yesterday,” said store manager Ann Walsh. “This has been happening for a long time. Sales have been dramatically dropping for 11 years.” Walsh came to the Leverett store last July with three decades of retail experience, having previously worked as a marketing team leader at Whole Foods Market in Hadley and store manager at Mill Valley Milk Company.

The Leverett Village Co-op has undergone numerous changes in the past year, not only in leadership but also in business strategy. They renovated the run-down kitchen, and upgraded the computer and phone systems. The store advertised new events like game nights, open mics, live music, kids’ programming, and Wednesday dinners on the fancier side.

“It comes down to being able to provide what everyone wants,” said Walsh, emphasizing her vision to be as inclusive as possible. “The idea is to engage every person, whatever their interests are.”

The store’s café also revamped its food menu, and, to the dismay of some long-time lunch regulars, temporarily traded pizza slices for sandwiches. (“We’ve had people say, ‘you don’t care about the working class, because you don’t have pizza.’ And that’s just not true,” Walsh told the *Reporter*.)

It also acquired a pouring license in May 2019, adding mimosas to Sunday brunch.

Many of these changes have indeed attracted customers – one sales report shows dramatic spikes in revenue on Wednesdays and Fridays, evenings with activities, every week since June. Still, the overall trajectory of revenue has gone down. Sales have continued to drop, and cash flow remains inconsistent.

“We were spending money we didn’t have,” Neiger put it frankly during the October 15 meeting. To make matters worse, the coop’s applications for loans have continuously fallen through.

“They put all their eggs in a basket



A sandwich board at the coop advertises Friday night pizza, bar hours, and dine-in and take-out options.

with a hole in it,” said Lauren Shea, a former Village Co-op employee of 33 years. In the past year, the coop pushed forward with costly changes to its infrastructure and business model with the hope that they would get a loan – but banks aren’t biting.

Board president Susan Lynton has been analyzing the finances and approaching banks and development funds for months on end, including Greenfield Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, and Common Capital.

“They’re telling us we’re undercapitalized,” reflected Lynton after being turned down again this past week. She explained that in order to grant a loan, banks need evidence that the community is committed to the coop, which they apparently don’t see.

“We definitely need to raise a lot of money,” Walsh pointed out. The coop’s fundraising team, which is the same as the board, has raised around \$30,000 so far under the leadership of Pat Fiero.

Neiger, who joined the board in the Fall of 2017, said there are larger dynamics at work that led to this crisis. “It’s always been a marginal business,” he said – meaning the margin between cost of goods and their sales price is small – “and lots of rural stores are struggling.”

Even neighboring coops considered to be thriving, like the River Valley Coop in Northampton and Green Fields Market in Greenfield, have low margins compared to giant competitors.

Just over a year ago, Harvest Co-op closed its two remaining locations in the Boston area after a 50-year run. Membership numbers and sales had been decreasing for a few years, and by the end they were losing \$30,000 every month. All the while, Costco has risen as the largest retailer of organic food in the United States, according to an article published by *Civil Eats* last year. No longer the cheapest option for local, organic products, food cooperatives everywhere are re-examining their identity in order to remain relevant in a rapidly changing market where “organic” labels are ubiquitous.

“My daughter and son-in-law order goods directly from Amazon, and it’s delivered in one day,” said Lynton. “There’s a change in the way people are shopping, and a change in the way people are using their time. How do you combat that?”

The Village Co-op’s recent up-scaling was an attempt to respond to that phenomenon by broadening the customer base with a more inclusive business strategy – hence the bistro. Yet in meetings, comment threads, and conversations, some members have expressed disillusionment by what they perceive to be sudden and unnecessary changes in the store’s identity. Neiger said some regular customers feel as if “their small country store turned its back on them.”

Kari Ridge remembered how during a previous board meeting, one coop member voiced feeling “disenfranchised” by the coop’s bistro transformation, and the pricey menu that went with it.

“I’m heartbroken about what’s going on,” said Shea, with a hint of regret. “How a store of that size and that location can get out of a \$200K deficit, I don’t know.” Shea said she still buys her yogurt, and sells her

art, at the coop.

“The old days of the hippie-dipie Leverett Co-op are over,” Leverett resident Nick Seamon, owner of the Black Sheep Deli in Amherst, remarked midway through the October 15 emergency meeting. Residents also suggested the store increase revenue by installing an espresso machine, or by becoming a community-supported agriculture (CSA) distribution site.

“Here’s sixty bucks,” said one community member, tossing cash on the table.

As of now, the historic Leverett Village Co-op is open, and the community that has held up the store for so long intends to keep it that way.

“I’m so impressed with the people who work in the store: their mo-

rale, their gumption,” said Lynton. “We’ve pulled together an amazing staff, so it would be a real shame to see it close.”

The Leverett Village Co-op board of directors has announced another public meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29. As of press time, its location has not been determined but it will either be held at town hall or at the coop, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Membership committee chair Ann Ferguson can be reached with questions and concerns at ferguson3638@gmail.com.

For additional ways to get involved, visit the coop’s website at leverettcoop.com.



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ERVING from page A1

urging the board not to delay the decision. Friedman said she had been told that three months was a good lead time for installation of the furniture, and timely action was necessary to insure the library was furnished in time for the desired opening date in February or March 2020.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith and others said the request was not sufficiently detailed to act on, citing the lack of proper estimates for some items, which they felt left a door open for potential overages in the budget.

The building committee said they did not have firm estimates or quotes for the remainder of items in the budget, though as a result of their research, two members said they felt comfortable that the remaining items would come in under budget, and they had enough flexibility to make whatever changes were necessary to hit the budget mark.

Committee members also noted that extra money was available in a Friends of the Library fund to cov-

er contingencies.

Jacob Smith said that he was seeing a consensus on a substantial portion of the furniture request, approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000, but that the remaining portion – another \$100,000 to \$150,000 for items including security and IT systems – was “very vague.”

“We need the full picture,” said Smith. “We’re already half a million over budget, so everything is over budget at this point as far as I’m concerned.”

He continued by saying, “anywhere we can do something that doesn’t mean we have to spend those additional article dollars... I would lean in that direction.”

Board member William Bem-bury, who cast the dissenting vote in the denial of the request, said he felt confident in the library’s committee’s estimates, and wanted to move forward. “We’re a rich community. The money is there if we need it,” he said. “If we have to go back before the town, I don’t have a problem with that. I’d be willing to stand and talk about it until hell

freezes over.”

Jacob Smith said it wasn’t an easy decision, and he didn’t think it would be different in two weeks, but felt he needed the data before making it. His motion to push the decision to the November 4 select-board meeting passed by 2-1 vote.

Sidewalk Spending Approved

The joint meeting with the finance committee was brief, and addressed wording changes in the town meeting warrant articles. The committee retained their approval of the articles with the changes.

The special town meeting convened at 7:08 pm. Three of the four warrant articles passed unanimously, while Article 2 passed by a 2/3 majority vote.

The unanimously approved articles were Article 1, which authorized payment of \$4,090 in FY’19 expenses, Article 3, which authorized \$15,000 for a study to look into code-compliant office space at POTW#1, and Article 4, which authorized the conveyance of a utility easement along One Care Drive to

Eversource and Verizon for \$1.

Article 2 involved a vote to appropriate \$200,000 for the purpose of roadway and sidewalk improvements on River, Warner, and Strachan streets in Erving. The funding is in addition to Chapter 90 funds and money previously allocated for the project, and required a 2/3 vote.

Jacob Smith said the project was designed in accordance with state “Complete Streets” guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and involved new roadway, signage, and sidewalks.

Residents spoke on both sides of the article. One referred to the project as a “Pandora’s box,” saying the changes may result in truck drivers having accidents, potentially creating legal consequences for the town. Another resident replied that truck drivers have CDL licenses, and are capable of turning around safely.

Mobility concerns were raised in support of the article by several residents. One spoke in praise of ADA-compliant sidewalks, and said she has a family member in a

wheelchair, who has experienced problems getting around. “Sidewalks are important,” she said.

Others agreed that the safety of walkers and mobility issues are paramount over the convenience of truck drivers and a corporation, Renovators Supply Manufacturing, whose representative also spoke in opposition to the project.

Other Business

Reconvening after the special town meeting, the selectboard approved an \$18,600 contract with Tighe & Bond for work needed on hazardous materials cleanup at the former International Paper Mill in Millers Falls.

They also reviewed a PEG access proposal from Comcast and a streetlight expansion project planned for North Street, Ridge Road, and Mountain Road, and signed a memorandum of agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to be part of the county-wide emergency communications system.

**SPORTS** from page A1

teams in the conference. Last Thursday, October 17 they hosted the Southwick Rams, and on Saturday they played the undefeated Smith Academy Falcons.

Turners is a pretty young team. Like most sports at the school, the field hockey team has to use younger athletes to supplement their numbers. Turners gave recognition to their lone senior, Aly Murphy, before the Southwick game.

Southwick has the distinction of scoring the second-most goals against Blue this season with a 3-1 victory earlier in the season. They were determined to repeat the multi-goal feat last week, but Powertown’s defense had other ideas in mind.

All three fullbacks – Murphy, Jade Tyler, and Juliana Rode – play softball, and all have hit the ball over the fence, so hitting a heavy plastic ball downfield comes naturally to these ladies. Their field is 100 by 60 yards (like baseball and football, field hockey uses yards instead of meters), and they had no problem cracking the ball all the way down into Ram territory. Jade swatted it especially hard, but sometimes it rose to the dangerous zone, giving the ball back to the enemy.

In the first half, even when Southie moved the ball down field, one of the fullbacks would intercept it and smack it back. This ping-pong game went on for 29 and a half minutes, but in the final seconds of the half, Southwick was given three chances to score, and right before the horn sounded, a corner shot was called against Powertown.

Because the half cannot end on a penalty, Blue needed to clear the ball. But the Rams kept control, and forced another corner shot. Again, because the half couldn’t end until Blue cleared the ball, the game went on. The Rams kept control, and Blue committed yet another penalty, giving Southwick one more chance to break the goose egg. Blue cleared it on the third corner shot, and the half ended.

“The team’s goal all season was to make the post-season,” coach Becky Dame said after the game, but with a half hour left to play, Blue faced an uphill battle. The second half dragged on and on, as the coaches and the players kept track of the time. Both teams ran attacks, but neither could break the plane, so the game ended with a tie, and Turners earned a spot in the playoffs.

Blue packed up their sticks and headed down to Hatfield on Saturday to play the top team in the league. Smith is a tough place to play – they don’t play at the high school. This made a few of the True Blue faithful late. At the middle-school field, fans are segregated from the players, another tough adjustment for visiting teams. While the home fans were dispersed along the far sideline, Turners fans were relegated behind the goalpost.

The teams played even for the first 29 minutes, with sharp shots at both defenses.

Then a Smithie shouted, “One minute left,” and the Hawks attacked with savagery. In a repeat of Thursday’s game, Smith was granted three corner shots in the waning seconds of the half, and Blue held tough and kept the ball out of the goal.

Smith picked up where they left off in the second half, keeping the ball in the circle and forcing corner shots. Blue got the ball back 10 minutes later and put pressure on Smith’s defense, but the attack was broken up, and the battle shifted to the midfield.

Then 20 minutes into the second half, Smith worked the ball deep into the Blue zone. Turners shot the ball downfield, but Smith intercepted the clearing attempt, ricocheted it into the circle, and put it in the goal, finally breaking the tie after 51 minutes tie.

The teams played even until the end of the game, but neither defense would give up the ghost, and Smith escaped with a 1-0 victory to keep their perfect season intact.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Easthampton 1
Lenox 3 – TFHS 2

After defeating Easthampton 3-1 on Tuesday the 15th, the Powertown volleyball team hosted the Lenox Millionaires last Friday. Turners won the first two matches, but the Millionaires came back to sweep the next three, to take the contest 3-2.

In this one, Dabney Rollins led the team in kills, Madison Liimatainen served the most aces, and Hailey Bogusz gave the most assists.

Football

Frontier 20 – FCTS 8
Ware 28 – Mohawk 16
GFMS 48 – Mohawk 0

Last Friday the Franklin Tech Eagles traveled to South Deerfield to take on the first-place Frontier Red Hawks. Frontier is the type of school that benefits from school choice – you can see that by the familiar names on their team rosters and by the size of their marching band. But Tech showed up in force, and there were sizable crowds lining both sidelines.

This game was played just days after the Packers/Lions game, in which fans and media blamed the refs for deciding the outcome. That may have fueled the outspoken reaction of many fans at the game, especially when a penalty negated long gains or gave the other team a first down. This scenario played out very early in the game, as both teams committed costly penalties and their fan bases loudly voiced their disapproval.

But the boys on the field didn’t blame the refs. They just played the game.

On Tech’s opening drive, they couldn’t convert on fourth down, and gave Frontier the ball on the Red 40. After a couple long gains the Hawks had a first down on Tech’s

13. Tech tightened up, but the Birds scored on fourth and 2 to draw first blood. The 2-PAT was good, and the Fronts led 8-0 after the first quarter.

Tech answered early in the second, when Bailey Young scored and added the 2-PAT to knot the game at 8. For the rest of the half, defenses dominated, and neither team could score.

Tech had a chance at this point, getting first possession in the second half in a tie game. But this was where the game turned around for the Eagles. Frontier tried an onside kick, but it wasn’t the usual knuckleball bouncer – this kick went straight toward the sidelines. It looked like it would be out of bounds but one of the Frontier players leapt up and caught it, giving Red the ball and the momentum. It didn’t take long for the Hawks to score, and at 9:40 of the third, Frontier took a 14-8 lead, fumbling the PAT. Frontier converted on another fourth down final quarter to put the game out of reach, 20-8.

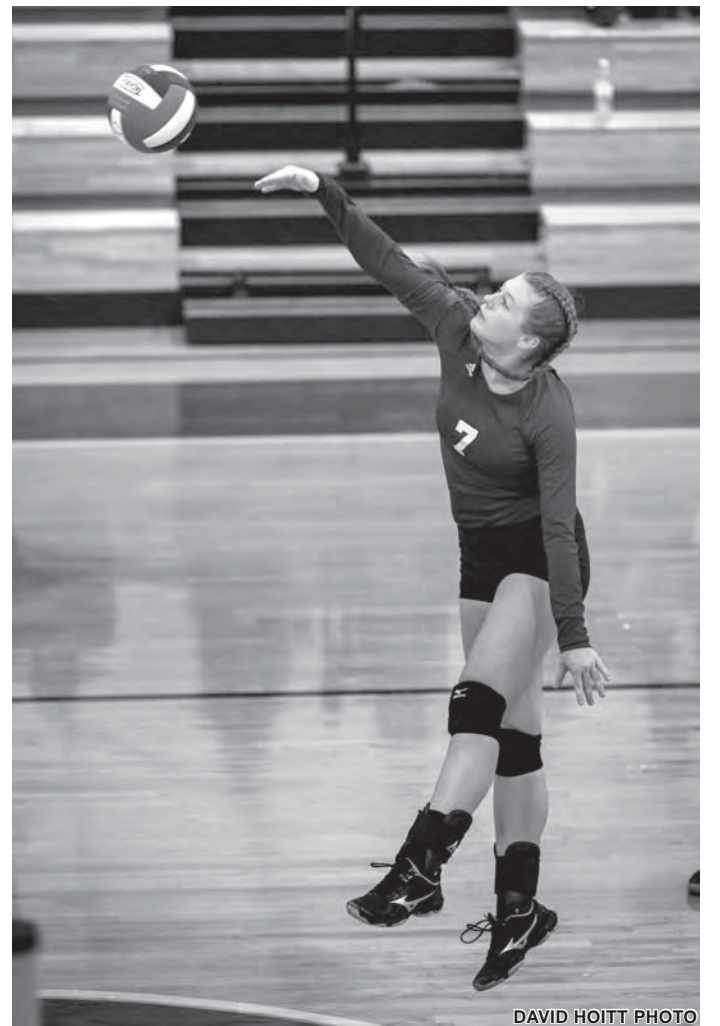
Franklin Tech put up another strong defensive effort in this game with both Dylan Demers and Donte Rosewarne recording eight solo tackles. Other standouts were Brooks Medeiros, Dominic Bowden-Smith, and Jason Zingler. Offensively, Young chopped out 92 yards on the ground, and three passers combined for 80 yards in the air.

This Friday the Franks welcome the Mahar Senators, currently second in the ICN.

Also last Friday, the Mohawk Co-ops hosted the Ware Indians. Because I was in South Deerfield, I had to rely on updates from my sources. Ware led 22-0, but in the third quarter, Mohawk finally got on to the scoreboard: Shawn Davenport completed a TD pass to Jaden Whiting, and then another pass to Matthew Pollen for the 2-PAT to make the score 22-8. Ware scored again in the fourth to go up 28-8, but Davenport completed two scoring passes to Whiting, for the touchdown and the 2-pointer to make the final score 28-16.

Last Wednesday, October 16, the Great Falls Middle School Hawks beat Mohawk 48-0. It could have been even worse, as the Hawks were leading 32-0 at the half.

I don’t remember any Turners team scoring 50 points in a game. When I was a sophomore, Turners beat Frontier 48-0, and Turners had a 58-8 win in 1971. I went to both those games, but in ‘71 I was probably playing behind the bleachers and wasn’t paying attention.



Turners’ Dabney Rollins drives the ball over the net against the Lenox Millionaires. Rollins tallied 14 kills, one ace, one block, and four digs in the closely-contested five-game match.

So as Turners was going for the 2-PAT, leading by 48, I couldn’t help but want them to score. It didn’t happen, but that’s okay: hopefully, there’ll be plenty of years for these kids to make memories.

Soccer

GFMS 4 – Eaglebrook 2
Frontier 4 – GFMS 3

The Great Falls Soccer Hawks entered last week with a 9-0 record. On Wednesday they traveled to Deerfield to play Eaglebrook and came out with a 4-2 victory. Then on Friday, their last game of the season, the Hawks took on their toughest opponent: Frontier.

The game was a little confusing at times, with both fan bases calling “go Hawks!” But by the end of the match, Turners’ fans were yelling, “Go Great Falls.” The Blue Hawks scored twice in the first half, keeping Red out of the net, the Red Hawks came out kicking in the second, tying the score at 2.

Red scored their third unanswered goal to take the 3-2 lead; not to be undone, the Blue Birds answered to knot the game again. Then Frontier kicked the game-winning goal, handing Blue their first and only loss of the year.

Next week: The playoff picture sharpens.



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- SAFE COMBINATIONS CHANGED

STATUE from page A1

opening up the space to facilitate public use.

Opponents have argued that the new empty space in the park's center would, in fact, not be user-friendly to local residents. They also have claimed that the design process, funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), failed to sufficiently involve downtown residents.

The land on which Spinner Park sits is owned by Powertown Apartments, which administers a group of buildings containing affordable units in downtown Turners. The town of Montague has a permanent easement on the land allowing it to alter the park. The spinner statue is a replica of a late 19th-century creation by the French sculptor Leon Cugnot (1835-1894), which was dedicated in 1985. The statue, according to the town website, "honors the contribution of women to the Town's industrial past."

The design that would change the location of the statue is part of a broader renovation to significantly upgrade the park. Produced by the Berkshire Design Group, it was first unveiled at a public meeting at the Gill-Montague senior center in November 2017. The designers received a range of "public comments" at that initial meeting, including concerns about the spinner's proposed relocation.

Over the next year, the park design was presented at a number of selectboard meetings in the context of CDBG hearings and posted on a planning Facebook page for public comment. The proposal generally received favorable reviews. In January 2019 critics of the proposal, including several town meeting members from Precinct 5, voiced strong opposition to the plan at a selectboard meeting.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he would allow the petitioners five minutes to state their case at Monday's meeting, but the ensuing discussion of the pros and cons of the park design lasted over 20 minutes.

The petition endorsed a "compromise redesign plan," which would move the statue approximately four feet toward the park's rear to allow "more space for event programming," while also "allow[ing] for seating to encourage conversation, so low and moderate-income downtown residents ... may continue to use Spinner Park in ways they have traditionally enjoyed."

The petition also noted, in bold letters, that such residents "are meant to be the primary beneficiaries of Community Development Block Grant funding."

Town planner Walter Ramsey commented that the difference between the location of the statue in the official redesign proposal and the compromise plan was only five feet, "less than an arm span." He said that the cost of revising the park plan would be between \$8,000 and \$13,000 "in town funds," which may not have been clear to people signing the petition. Ramsey argued that a "robust public process" had produced the current design, including the senior center meeting in 2017, seven public presentations in the selectboard room, and a Facebook posting which "engaged over 1,700 people."

Downtown resident Edite Cunha said that Kuklewicz had called for a public meeting in January to reach "consensus" on the issue, but that no meetings had taken place until Sep-

tember. She called these follow-up meetings "very discouraging." "We were basically told that it's just too late to make any changes," she said.

Jean Hebden called the "whole notification process" about meetings to discuss the plan "flawed," since many low-income and senior residents do not have internet technology. "I attended every meeting I knew about," she said. "The block grant is for the community and the community doesn't want it the way it is designed."

Former finance committee Chair John Hanold told the board that the goals of the park redesign were to recognize the contribution of women who "worked in the fabric industry for years," and to provide a "gathering place for people to speak to each other on an informal basis." He said the compromise proposal supported both those goals, but that "if you put the statue all the way in back, it loses its meaning."

Fourth Street resident David Detmold said the compromise plan would also save the town money by using reinforced concrete, instead of granite, on the walls of the park. "It's not true that we don't care about attracting visitors to the downtown," he said, pointing out that a number of downtown business owners had signed the petition.

In the end, the selectboard voted unanimously to stay with the original design plan, rejecting the compromise proposal. Board members suggested providing "movable furniture" for the park at some future date to address the petitioners' concerns.

August Festival Successful

The selectboard held a "debriefing" on "Barbès in the Woods," a global music concert held on August 17 on the Montague Center property of Kathy Lynch and Dean Garvin. The event took place on the same day as the traditional Old Home Days celebration on the Center common, and there had been concern about the amount of traffic and noise this would produce.

However the consensus at Monday's meeting was that the day was "amazing," in the words of Ann Fiske, an Old Home Days organizer. Fiske said she had been a "skeptical all summer" of having two events at once. Mentioning a short but violent cloudburst during the day, Fiske suggested a "better contingency plan for the weather" in the future.

Lynch said the day was "incredibly inspiring," given that "the country is going through a lot of pain." She said that there had been a good collaboration between the festival and Old Home Days.

Deb Radway of Center Street said her house was the closest to the music stage, near where her cat is buried. She added to the positive reviews of the event, but said in the future organizers should consider a "no-parking plan" on Center Street.

Police chief Chris Williams said he had been concerned about the crowds crossing Turners Falls Road to get to the Bookmill, but the potential problem did not materialize thanks to the work of staff from Laudable Productions, which organized the Barbès event.

Other Business

The board approved a proposal by head librarian Linda Hickman to purchase new signs, with money donated to the library, for the old town hall building, which contains the Montague Center Library. Hickman proposed to change the signage so the larger sign, which currently



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

says "Montague Town Hall," to say "Montague Center Library 1859" to avoid confusion. The two smaller signs on the building will now read "Library Entrance" and "Old Town Hall, 1858."

Hickman said the changes had been approved by the town's Historical Commission by a vote of 3-1. Kuklewicz, endorsing the proposal, said the Historical Commission was "always thoughtful."

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron proposed that the rate he is paid to plow snow be increased from \$30 to \$40 to be in line with the new union contracts negotiated for his staff. The board increased the rate to \$35.

At the request of police chief Williams, the board placed staff sergeant Leon Laster on "Injured on Duty" status (111F). Neither the chief nor the board revealed the nature of Laster's injury.

John Dobosz, director of the town parks and recreation department, invited residents to an information session about the Montague Center Park Master Plan at the Montague Center Fire Station on Wednesday.

Dobosz also requested and received permission for the use of public property for the annual Sawmill River Run on the morning of January 1.

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority received approval to disburse a \$39,527 invoice and a \$4,500 change order for the Rutters Park improvement project in Lake Pleasant.

The board voted to award a \$32,394 contract to World Energy Services for energy-efficient lighting at four town buildings, to be paid for by a state Green Communities grant, and to award a \$8,251.68 contract for telecommunications services to Crocker Communications. They amended a contract with Steve Smithers for up to \$6,000 for work on the historic awning in front of town hall, and executed a \$8,400 recycling dividends grant to the town.

The board also briefly discussed the evaluation of the work of the local access station, MCCI, by the cable advisory committee. The evaluation was mainly positive.

At the end of the public meeting the board retired into an executive session to discuss contract negotiations with town administrator Steve Ellis. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Monday, October 28 at 7 p.m.



Opponents of the redesign have argued that moving the statue all the way back would discourage residents from gathering and talking in the park. This week's petition asked the selectboard to consider moving it less far back, but town officials argued that another redesign would be costly.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 22, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Former Water District Treasurer Implicated

Over the course of her ten-year tenure as treasurer of the Riverside Water District, Theresa Peffer, a resident of Oak Street in Gill, allegedly siphoned about \$40,000 of district funds into her personal bank account, making partial payments back to the district from time to time to cover up the misappropriations, according to Dennis Banash, Riverside Water Commission chair. Peffer resigned as treasurer in July of 2008.

Banash said Peffer admitted her theft to the commissioners. He said she transferred sums of money back and forth between her account and bank accounts she controlled as bookkeeper for the Temple Israel in Greenfield, and for her husband's TV and electronics business in Shelburne Falls, in what amounted to an elaborate Ponzi scheme.

Banash said he had noticed a discrepancy in the amount charged by the town of Greenfield for water supplied to the district and the amount charged to users of the water in Riverside in records presented to the commission by Peffer, and questioned her.

At about the same time, Banash said the commission received a letter from the Greenfield Savings Bank which read in part: "We have seen a small apparent co-mingling of [the Riverside Water District's account] with one of Ms. Peffer's personal accounts here at the bank. We are aware that on at least one occasion she deposited checks payable to Riverside Water District totaling \$583.93 into one of her personal accounts..."

The letter, signed by Alan Blanker as senior vice president and general counsel for Greenfield Savings Bank, recommended the district

conduct an audit of statements and balances for their account.

The district went further, and hired the accounting firm of Edward Margola of Greenfield to conduct a forensic audit of the treasurer's activities back to the year 2001.

It was Margola who informed the commissioners that Peffer had been involved in similar misappropriation of funds for Temple Israel, Banash said.

Margola provided documentation of at least \$38,000 in misappropriated funds under Peffer's control at the district during the years 2001 to 2008. She also presented a bill to the district for \$3,000 for a false audit, which she prepared using fabricated numbers and delivered to the water commissioners under Ed Margola's own letterhead.

Leverett Funds One Private Well

Leverett approved spending at least \$30,588 to install, test, and connect a new well to the house owned by Pat Duffy at 7 Cushman Road. But selectboard chair Richard Brazeau made it clear to the nearly 100 voters gathered at the special town meeting that town coffers will be tapped again over coming years to deal with problems at up to half a dozen homes in the path of a plume of groundwater contamination stemming from the town's former landfill.

"The old landfills were just pits. Whatever is in there is going to keep leaching out," said Brazeau.

The money approved will also pay for clean-up of the town's former stump dump, located beside the former landfill. The stump dump may be contributing to elevated manganese levels in the groundwater, Brazeau said.

He also proposed forming a committee to come up with a long-term cost/benefit analysis for resolving the issue of other affected wells.

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RISE UP from page A1

be kept close, rather than the people who discourage their dreams, called “Firefighters.”

Ms. K, the teacher of Rise Up since 2012, says a connection with the teacher and a positive environment and peer support is very important. She even has a GAP (Guided Academic Progress) class, which meets for 30 minutes three times a week, called Rise Up Reunion. Any student who took Rise Up before is welcome to join the GAP as a way to keep the connection amongst the students and with the teacher.

Rise Up students have the opportunity to volunteer at the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Dog Shelter, and the Center for Self Reliance. They also participate in a “team building adventure” held by the GCC Outdoor Leadership Program.

In order to be considered for the class, students can be recommended by current class members and TFHS staff, or they can sign up for the class during course selection in the spring. Seniors Hailey Bogusz and Journey Smalls, who took the class last year, are now interning for the class.

“You have to really want to be there, or it won’t be beneficial,” says Bogusz. “My favorite part is Challenge Days. As an intern, I learn to step back and let others speak more. The class has helped me a lot to realize what is important to me.”

The Rise Up class holds a dodgeball tournament fundraiser every year for a local organization or local families. Last year they made “munch boxes,” ready-to-go meal kits which include spaghetti, sauce, and garlic bread, from the money they raised from the tournament. 24 local families received the munch boxes. Other organizations that have received donations from the proceeds of admission in the past are the Franklin County Office Dog Shelter, the Greenfield Family Inn, the Center for Self Reliance, and the Franklin Area Survival Center.

This year’s Dodgeball tournament will take place on November 22 at 6 p.m. “The students who organize and volunteer to run it are currently in the process of finding a need in our community, and a product they can create with the proceeds,” says Ms. Klumb.

Teams can choose between a competitive or recreational bracket, and the cost to compete is \$20 a team. The winning team gets money and bragging rights. (My team won last year.) This event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Anthony Peterson is a senior at Turners Falls High School.

Scenes from the Great Falls Fest

Photos by GRACE JILLSON



Clockwise from top left: People and pumpkins line the street. The kids of Karen’s Dance Studio perform spooky routines in Peske Park. Students of Nam’s US Taekwondo Center run on Hamster Works’ new booth to make a frozen drink. Aubrey Kocjan, Megan Shaw, and Judy Bennett of the MEGAdance group (front row, left to right) move to the music. One-man band “Robie Bones” Spooky Kids Jams” welcomes kids to join in.

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OCTOBER 24, 2019

Above: Crowds throng Avenue A during Saturday's Great Falls Festival.

LA MARIPOSA CELEBRATES CULTURAL DIVERSITY WITH ART EXHIBIT, DAY OF THE DEAD ALTARS

By VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – Felipe González is the soul of Mariachi Shoe Repair on Avenue A in Turners Falls. If you have ever entered his establishment, you will have seen that he not only fixes and designs shoes, but also creates other leather goods. He is also a painter.

Felipe started painting when he was little, and for different reasons he stopped doing it for a while until his in-laws gave him a canvas and some brushes and he took it up again.

Eighteen years ago, when Felipe was still living in his hometown of Isla Mujeres, Mexico, he met Nina Marks, a young woman from the United States who was his neighbor. Nina is originally from Great Barrington, but then moved to Chicago, where she first came into contact with Spanish and Mexican culture. After hearing many stories from friends and family about Mexico, she decided to use her savings from her job as a waitress and seek paradise there, hoping to find inspiration to play the guitar, draw, and paint. The cheapest plane ticket was to Cancun, so there she went and ended up in Isla Mujeres, an island across the bay from Cancun. Neither Nina nor Felipe thought that one day they would meet here in western Massachusetts.

Felipe married an American, had a daughter, and came to live in this part of the country.

In California, Nina met Agustín Peñaloza, a Mexican self-taught artist from Querétaro who lived in



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

An altar for the dead at La Mariposa.

a small ranch where Nina went to teach the boys English. Nina immediately recognized Agustín's talent in the drawings on the walls that adorned the ranch. Agustín can make a work of art from any piece of material he finds on the street. He likes to take advantage of found pieces of wood or beautiful papers. On wooden panels he creates designs ranging from animals to plan-

ets and satellites.

Thanks to Facebook, Nina and Felipe met again and have decided to create a beautiful project dedicated to the Day of the Dead. There will also be an art exhibition of the three Colectivo artists: Felipe, Agustín, and Nina. Felipe and Agustín, as members of the indigenous community, are inspired by nature and the

see **ALTARS** page B5

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – There's a saying in gardening that it takes a garden three years to mature. The first year a garden sleeps. The second year it creeps, and the third it leaps. Here at the Great Falls Apple Corps we are ending our second season in existence, and we're getting ready to leap!

It's been two years of planting, scheming, foraging, and growing. Our first year was about seeing what we could do, and who would want to help. Our second year



Washington hawthorn berries.

has been about building on our connections, and finding space and people who share our mission of filling Turners Falls with edible landscaping.

As there are still leaves on the trees, our second season is not over yet. GFAC will be hosting our two last events of the year this coming week as we creep towards the end of our second season in existence.

Upcoming Events

We are hosting a **fall clean-up** at the Unity Park Community Garden this Saturday, October 26 at 10 a.m. Work to be done includes weeding and mulching paths, processing the compost pile, and clearing out the back corner of the garden to make way for a shaded seating area.

We still have herbs (especially mint) to harvest, and there are more than enough strawberry plants to take home for every participant to start their own strawberry patch. All are welcome.

Our last event of the year will be our second annual **Applesauce Making Party**. We'll be at the grills next to the bandshell at Peskeomskut Park on Wednesday, October 30 from 2 to 6 p.m. as part of the Great Falls Farmers Market Halloween Party and End of Season Celebration.

There will also be delicious food, live music, and a see **APPLE COLUMN** page B4

Pedestrians of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI



Thursday, 8/15/13

2:49 a.m. An inebriated male party with various injuries was found sitting in the middle of Spring Street; turned over to the care of his family.

Sunday, 9/20/13

9:03 p.m. Officer flagged down and advised of kids running and lying in the road near Airport Curve.

Monday, 9/21/13

12:45 a.m. Suspicious auto on Fourth Street; caller reported witnessing one occupant urinate in road. Responding officer determined that the substance in the road was not urine, but rather soda. Vehicle sent on way, destination Shelburne.

Tuesday, 4/2/14

9:09 p.m. Caller reported almost striking apparently intoxicated male walking in the middle of Main Street near the Mini Mart.

Wednesday, 7/19/14

1:37 p.m. Caller concerned about kids picking berries in the roadway on Montague Street; would like DPW to trim the bushes and put a signboard there.

Saturday, 9/20/14

3:13 a.m. Report of a person lying in the roadway near the post office.

Sunday, 10/26/14

10:48 p.m. Female party reported walking in the middle of the travel lane on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge heading into Gill; wearing a brown jacket, has brown hair, and is carrying a red Solo cup.

Tuesday, 10/28/14

9:37 p.m. Caller reports that there is a male stumbling in the roadway on Unity Street; unknown if he is injured. Officer located male and provided courtesy transport to Wendell.

Tuesday, 11/4/14

4:54 p.m. Caller complains that she drives down Park Street daily and there are young (4-5 year old) children who play in the road. She nearly struck one of the kids today.

Saturday, 2/14/15

12:56 p.m. Caller observed two old individuals running in the

roadway toward the police department; he believes that their vehicle is stuck in a snowbank near the cemetery.

Saturday, 5/30/15

9:21 a.m. Caller from Madison Avenue reports that she is with a 1½ year old child who was standing barefoot in the middle of the road. Caller has been with her for 10 minutes and has been unable to find out where she lives.

Monday, 8/31/15

2:26 p.m. Caller reports that a female is allowing a young child to play in the road at Avenue A and Fourth Street, and that the child has been nearly struck several times.

Monday, 9/28/15

11:50 a.m. Caller advises of people working near the Water Pollution Control Facility, including a man inside a manhole. Caller concerned that he will get hurt, as there is no officer there and he was difficult to see.

Tuesday, 11/10/15

9:38 p.m. Caller advises that a male party with a flashlight is walking on the sidewalk of the General Pierce Bridge, possibly trying to flag people down. Greenfield dispatch called to advise that they have units responding to their side of the bridge for a female party standing in the middle of the road with a shopping cart.

Wednesday, 12/2/15

10:54 p.m. Caller reports hearing a loud crash on Federal Street and can now see someone in the road with a flashlight. Debris located nearby; mailbox was struck. Vehicle believed to be white and would have extensive front end damage.

10:27 a.m. Report of a male youth, approximately 10 years old, in the middle of Fourth Street, lighting a fire in a pan. Caller advises that this is an ongoing issue with this youth.

Wednesday, 2/10/16

9:15 p.m. Caller who refused to give name or number advising

see **PEDESTRIANS** page B5



Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY
PHOTOGRAPH BY KIMBERLY COLLEGE

“CHARLOTTE”

Hi, I'm Charlotte! I'm a loving gal who is accustomed to being an indoor/outdoor kitty and living with adults and older children.

I lived with a cat and a dog and we got along well. I hate to play favorites, but I must admit that I really enjoyed playing with the hound.

I'm particular about where I like to be petted. Petting my back is

ideal, but as they say in cop shows, “Step away from the belly.” Well, it's something like that.

My last guardian was allergic to me and running out of tissues, so here I am looking for a new home. Maybe it will be yours! If you're interested, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities

OCTOBER 28 to NOVEMBER 1

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 a.m. Aerobics;

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

Monday 10/28

12 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 10/29

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Write Your Own Obit II

Wednesday 10/30

9 to 11 a.m. Veterans' Affairs

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/31

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. NO Gentle Yoga

Friday 11/1

12 p.m. Pizza Party

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 10/28

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

Tuesday 10/29

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

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 10/30

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Halloween Lunch

1 p.m. Costume Contest

1:30 p.m. Tales of the Supernatural

Thursday 10/31

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 11/1

9 a.m. Quilters Workshop

9:15 a.m. Walkers

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

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.

THEATER PREVIEW

The Diary of Anne Frank: Words to be Remembered

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – The Silverthorne Theater Company completes its 2019 season with *The Diary of Anne Frank*, written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, now playing at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center.

The play, directed by Keith Langsdale and produced by Rebecca Daniels and Carmela Lanza-Weil, caps off a series of discussions and readings offered by Silverthorne in October called “Facing Closed Doors: Exploring the Roots of Racial and Ethnic Exclusion Through Theater.” The readings examined the long history of racism in Europe and throughout the world, which created hate-filled stories and shocking lies about Jews and other ethnic and racial groups for the purpose of political power and financial advantage.

This production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Diary of Anne Frank* begins with the Frank family in 1942, hiding in Amsterdam as Hitler is rounding up Jews to be brought to concentration camps. The script centers on the words in Anne Frank's diary, which was later published and widely read. Using Anne's words to frame the lives of the members of her family while in hiding, the play shows their efforts to maintain a normal life as they focus on the well-being of the children, relying on the teachings and traditions of their Jewish faith to get them through.

As the play opens, the actors enter the space that will be the hiding place of the Frank and Van Daan families for the foreseeable future. The set, designed by John Iverson, provides a complex and rich environment for the actors, with several individual rooms divided off from each other, and a loft space accessible by a ladder. Each room offers the characters a private space to talk or argue, or cry, without the other family members noticing.

The strong ensemble cast of ten actors offers a look at Anne Frank's life during her last few years as a young teen: growing up, missing school and friends, and managing to adapt and make the best of what she had within the confines of this small hiding space.

Central to the play are the moments when Anne Frank, played by Samantha Choquette, reads from her diary. Her youthful innocence in the face of darkness is inspiring, and Choquette embodies this feeling in her portrayal. Anne's close relationship with her father, Otto Frank, played by Frank Aronson, offers a glimpse of the importance of his strength during this time.

The family hides in a space above what were once his business offices, and those helping them – at great risk to themselves – are his former employees. Whenever there is a conflict to be resolved, it is he who offers a level-headed solution and calming manner.

Alongside Otto Frank is his wife, played well by Stephanie Carlson, supporting him quietly and doing her best to hold her tongue when confronted by rude behavior – unlike her daughter Anne, who is in many ways a typical teenager, with emotional outbursts and the occasional hurtful language towards her mother. Anne's older sister Margot,



BLANCHETTE PHOTOS

The families celebrating Hanukkah in *The Diary of Anne Frank* are in good spirits.

Left to right: Kimberly Salditt-Poulin, Chris Demerski, Michael Budnick, Stephanie Carlson, Frank Aronson, Samantha Choquette, Molly MacLeod, and Stuart Gamble.

played by Molly MacLeod, is another source of comfort and guidance, but seems always alone and isolated, quietly reading, rarely interacting much but always supporting her mother.

We see this family grow over time as Anne gets older and more aware of her behavior. All of this happens with subtlety as the play progresses and the passage of time is made clear in various ways.

The Franks are not alone in this hiding space. Joining them are the Mr. and Mrs. Van Daan family, played by Michael Budnick and Kimberly Salditt-Poulin, and their teenage son Peter, played by Chris Demerski. Peter is shy, and he and Anne do not get along in the beginning, but as time goes on they become good friends, and their relationship creates several lovely moments in the play.

At some point Mr. Kraler, played by Ted Trobaugh, who has been

helping them with supplies and information, brings yet another person into the hiding space – “only for just a few days,” he says, but the man stays. Stuart Gamble plays Mr. Dussel, a private man who normally lives alone, who joins the families with his own quirks and fears.

Stopping by with food, former Frank employee Miep, played by Mary Kearny, brings a wide smile and good cheer whenever she can. Completing the production staff are technical director John Iverson, stage manager Carly DellaPenna, costumes by Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette, and assistant Piper Pichette.

The *Diary of Anne Frank* continues with productions on October 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, 289 Main Street in Greenfield. Tickets are available by calling the box office at (413) 788-7514.



Samantha Choquette as Anne Frank, reading from her diary.



Peter Van Daan (Chris Demerski) and Anne Frank (Samantha Choquette), in the loft where they can speak privately.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Recent Performances Online!

By MICHAEL SMITH

Available now at montaguetelevision.org we have some fresh new videos. Check out Chris Weisman and Omeed Goodarzi, Ruth Garbus, and Little Wings performing at 120 Birge Street, Brattleboro on October 1.

You can also see David Leibe Hart (of Adult Swim's Tim and Eric Awesome Show) perform at Looky Here in Greenfield on September 14, with Jonah Mociun as backing musician. Liebe Hart puts on a show certain to please old fans and new ones alike. In addition to creating electronic versions of David's old favorites, the duo performs their new

songs along with puppets, projected video accompaniment, and David's oddly endearing stories of past relationships and paranormal encounters. All this and more available at montaguetelevision.org.

Is there something going on around town that you feel needs to be captured on video? Let us know! Or we could help get you set up to shoot it yourself! We will train anyone who's interested in proper camera operation and video editing basics.

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!

Saturday: Hand In Pills

FRANKLIN COUNTY – National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is back Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

About 80 percent of people who use heroin reported using prescription opioids first, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

Locally, more than 52,000 pounds of drugs have been collected since 2011. The Northwestern District Attorney's Office coordinates the effort in cooperation with the DEA, Sheriff's Departments, local police, drug misuse prevention organizations, and others. The drugs are boxed at the area sites and transported by law

enforcement officials to Community Eco Power in Agawam, where they are incinerated and converted into renewable energy.

"This is a great opportunity to clean out your medicine cabinets and get your unwanted drugs away from young people and others who might misuse them," Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan said.

The collection sites in Franklin county are the Deerfield Police Department, the Greenfield Police Department, the Leverett Police Department, the Montague Police Department, and the Sunderland Police Department.

At the Wendell Library: "Life in the West Bank"

By ANNA GYORGY

WENDELL – Sherrill Hogan presents a talk, slideshow, and discussion on Palestine called "Life in the West Bank" on Monday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wendell Free Library.

Many of us have special other places, even lands, that we return to repeatedly over time.

For Charlemont resident Sherrill Hogan, that place is the West Bank, the largest intact Palestinian territory. Home to about 2.8 million Palestinians, with 600,000 Israeli settlers, the West Bank, bordering on Jordan, has been under military occupation since 1967.

Sherrill has visited the area 16 times, and on Monday evening will present images, history, and stories from her most recent trip in July 2019. The peace activist became interested in the area in 2002, when she learned about Israeli destruction of

Palestinian homes in the West Bank. These demolitions punished whole families if a member had taken any action against the state of Israel.

She joined the International Solidarity Movement that year to oppose what, under international law, is recognized as a form of collective punishment. Three times Sherrill has brought interested groups to the area, and she says that "since they were there, almost all have become activists for Palestinian rights."

Her presentation in Wendell will feature slides that she says "illustrating the human face of Palestinians in the West Bank," followed by talk and discussion about the current situation. All are welcome to the event, which is accessible and free. Light refreshments will be served.

The event is co-sponsored by the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice and the Middle East Peace & Justice Coalition.



West Bank children dancing.

HOGAN PHOTO

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Several Sheep Loose; Imagined Gun; Gnarly Storm; Rapping/Singing Male; Garage Fire; Beer Tent Fight

Sunday, 10/13

1:38 p.m. Laurel Lane caller who wishes to remain anonymous reporting that her neighbor just came home from the golf course and was stumbling when he walked into his home. Caller states he just left the driveway in his truck with a beer in his hand; is concerned he is intoxicated. Referred to an officer.

2:07 p.m. Caller from Park Street reporting that a stray cat has been hanging around her house for a little while now. Cat is orange in color with some white areas; no collar. Report taken for animal control officer.

5:41 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road states that there are two suspicious white pickup trucks parked across from her home. Unable to locate.

Monday, 10/14

12:51 a.m. Caller states that there are several sheep loose from a farm on Federal Street. Farm owner notified and responding.

1:45 p.m. Report of fire in propane tank against a building on East Mineral Road. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 10/15

4:34 a.m. 911 caller reporting unwanted male on Turnpike Road; argument between male and someone else. Units clear; verbal only argument between male and female over a cell phone. All OK at this time.

9:20 a.m. A 39-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

9:46 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that a green car just backed into her car and left. There is damage. Report taken.

3:34 p.m. Landlord from a neighboring property reporting furniture, tools, and other items left in the wooded area above the parking lot at Third and Canal streets. Message left for DPW.

Wednesday, 10/16

11:43 a.m. Motor vehicle stop on Avenue A. Verbal warning issued for manipulation of electronic device. Operator was forthcoming about the infraction and cooperative.

12:42 p.m. Caller from Faren Care Center reporting that they sent an employee home earlier today due to performance issues; before leaving, employee made

statements in front of staff and residents that if she did not pass her CNA, there would be a mass shooting. Investigated.

2:51 p.m. Caller from Laurel Lane reporting confrontation with a neighbor that turned physical; stated neighbor shoved him while he was trying to retrieve something for his child out of vehicle, and now he fears for his safety. Caller advises of ongoing issues with same neighbor. Officer spoke with both involved parties; neighbor advised he had filmed the caller riding his three-wheeler, but did not touch him. Parties advised of options.

5:28 p.m. Caller from Basically Bicycles reporting that on more than one occasion he has found drug paraphernalia by the back entrance to his business. Advised of options.

6:17 p.m. Caller is locked behind the gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

7:21 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle seen leaving area behind kitchen at Faren Care Center. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 10/17

12:24 a.m. 911 call and business line call reporting tree down blocking travel lane near the railroad overpass on Federal Street. Shelburne Control advised for MCFD response. MCFD clearing tree. All units clear; road reopened.

12:32 a.m. Officer advising of tree blocking part of southbound lane on Federal Street south of Swamp Road. Call placed to MassDOT. Tree cleared by MassDOT and MCFD.

12:42 a.m. Report of tree blocking North Leverett Road near the crossover. Officer advises medium-sized limb removed from road.

3:05 a.m. Request from Sunderland PD to set up detour on Sunderland Road at Fosters Road. Sunderland PD has Montague Road in their town closed with trees and wires involved. Vehicles need to be detoured to Fosters

Road to avoid the incident in Sunderland. DPW foreman advised; same will have detour set up. Officer clear; Sunderland PD advised. Same will move barricades off road when their road is reopened.

3:20 a.m. Officer advising of tree down and blocking one lane on Old Northfield Road in area of Lake Pleasant Road; requesting DPW tree warden. Tree warden advised and en route.

5:11 a.m. 911 caller reporting tree and wires down at Wentworth Avenue and Millers Falls Road. No arcing, sparking, or flame. Power out in area. TFFD and MPD officer advised and en route. Officer advises large tree on lines; pole completely severed; top 15 feet broken off. Eversource advised; TFFD on scene.

5:40 a.m. Caller advising large amount of standing water on the Millers Bridge. Officer confirms large amount of water. Bridge is still passable. Drains on Millers Falls side appear to be clogged. MassDOT advised.

5:58 a.m. Officer reports large amount of standing water on Avenue A between Fifth Street and Freedom Credit Union. DPW advised.

3:33 p.m. Caller calling on behalf of her boyfriend, who left his fan-pack at the skate park earlier today; when they returned for it, his money and cell phone were missing. Young girl at park advised that she saw a couple take the items. Party later turned in phone found in the park that a student turned in to him today; believed to be phone from this call. Officer will attempt to make contact with victim of stolen phone to see if he can identify it.

5:16 p.m. Caller is locked behind the gate on Migratory Way. Access granted by officer.

Friday, 10/18

6:22 a.m. Two-car accident on Sunderland Road with airbag deployment;

one party has a hand injury. Call info given to AMR; Shelburne Control requested to tone MCFD. Tow requested for both vehicles. Copied MCFD cancelling AMR.

9:57 a.m. Shelburne Control received a call for a male party walking/yelling/swearing in the area of Bridge and Crescent streets. Officers located subject; male was rapping/singing, but is OK.

4:11 p.m. Walk-in would like to speak to an officer about an ongoing dog complaint on H Street. Officer following up.

Saturday, 10/19

7:40 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting theft of his employer's credit card from his truck; believes it happened overnight. Officer spoke with caller; copy of charges made to card will be dropped off at MPD.

9:30 a.m. Dog bite occurred this morning on Center Street; report taken; officer contacting ACO.

12:58 p.m. Multiple calls received for garage on fire on Center Street; detached but close proximity to house. Occupants have already evacuated. Officer advises per homeowner there is a half-full propane tank in the garage. Shelburne Control/TFFD copied.

5:46 p.m. Third-party report of yellow truck on its roof in the Plains off of Old Northfield Road. Several other vehicles trying to help. Services rendered.

6:15 p.m. Report of stolen scooter in Turners Falls. While still on line, caller advised the scooter had been located, then disconnected.

7:25 p.m. Officer advising of fight at Great Falls Festival beer tent. Requesting TFFD and AMR. Medical attention refused. Courtesy transport to First Street provided.

8:13 p.m. A 46-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant and also charged with illegal possession of a Class B substance, subsequent offense.

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APPLE COLUMN from p. B1
free arts and crafts activity put on by the Carnegie Library. Costumes are encouraged. Last year's applesauce party was 42 degrees, and while hot applesauce does much to warm the belly, we are hoping for better weather this year!

**Wild Edible Spotlight
Hawthorn Fruit**

When I first started paying attention to the plants downtown, I realized that I had made a big assumption. I had thought all of the fruiting trees along the avenue were crabapples, but then I was told that actually some of trees were hawthorns. To be fair, hawthorns are in the same family as crabapples and look similar if you don't know better. Take a close look, however, and you'll find that the hawthorn berry is much darker red, the leaves are lobed, unlike crabapple leaves, and in addition to the tree's regular

branches, most varieties have small "thorns" or tiny sharp-ish branches. Hawthorn is good for snacking, or processing into jelly or wine. While I don't feel qualified to speak to the medical uses of the fruit myself, if you ask an herbalist (as I have), they'll tell you that it's a "heart herb," both physically and emotionally. When my cat passed away a few months ago, a friend gifted me with a jar of "heart syrup" which contained, among other ingredients, hawthorn.

Try some fruit for yourself: there is a row of hawthorns on Avenue A between the Third Street alley and Fourth Street, as well as a few trees with larger fruit growing alongside the building that houses the Rendezvous.

You can direct any questions to the Great Falls Apple Corps on Facebook, Instagram, or via email@greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Census Workers Needed

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Since the first census in 1790, the Census Bureau has completed a count of every person living in the United States and its territories every 10 years by literally walking (or riding on horseback) on every single road and every single block in the country. In 2010, that was 11.2 million blocks, or 67 million miles traveled.

The recruiting of hundreds of thousands of temporary workers for the 2020 Census – often described as the nation's largest civilian mobilization – is now underway.

The US Census Bureau is recruiting 2.7 million people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. The week of October 21 through October 26 is National Census Recruitment Week, and the Census Bureau will host thousands of recruiting informational events around the country, including 90 in Massachusetts.

The goal is to recruit approximately 50,000 people in Massachusetts now for the 2020 Census jobs in the spring. These jobs are critical to ensure a complete and accurate census. Applying early to work as a census taker is a great way for holiday seasonal workers, students, retirees, and workers in the gig economy to line up spring and summer employment.

The 2020census.gov/jobs website allows applicants to apply for a range of positions, including census takers (or enumerators), recruiting assistants, office operations supervisors, census field supervisors, and clerks by completing a single application online. Opportunities are available in cities and towns throughout Massachusetts and offer flexible work hours, including daytime, evenings, and weekends.

The Census Bureau is committed to hiring people who are familiar with their community. Available jobs include:

Census takers visit households to collect data for the 2020 Census. These positions require interviewing the public, so applicants must be available to work when people are usually at home such as during evenings and on weekends.

Recruiting assistants travel throughout geographic areas to visit with community-based organizations, attend promotional events, and

conduct other recruiting activities.

Office operations supervisors assist in the management of office functions and day-to-day activities in one or more areas, including payroll, personnel, recruiting, field operations, and support.

Clerks perform various administrative and clerical tasks to support various functional areas.

Census field supervisors train and oversee a team of census takers, monitor work progress, and follow up on issues in the field.

Qualified applicants will be placed in a pool for the 2020 Census positions in their area. Applications will remain active and updateable throughout the recruiting and hiring period. For more information, contact 1 (855) JOB-2020 and select option three. Applicants may also contact the Federal Relay Service at 1 (800) 877-8339.

For more information, please visit the 2020census.gov/jobs page or the Census Bureau's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages.

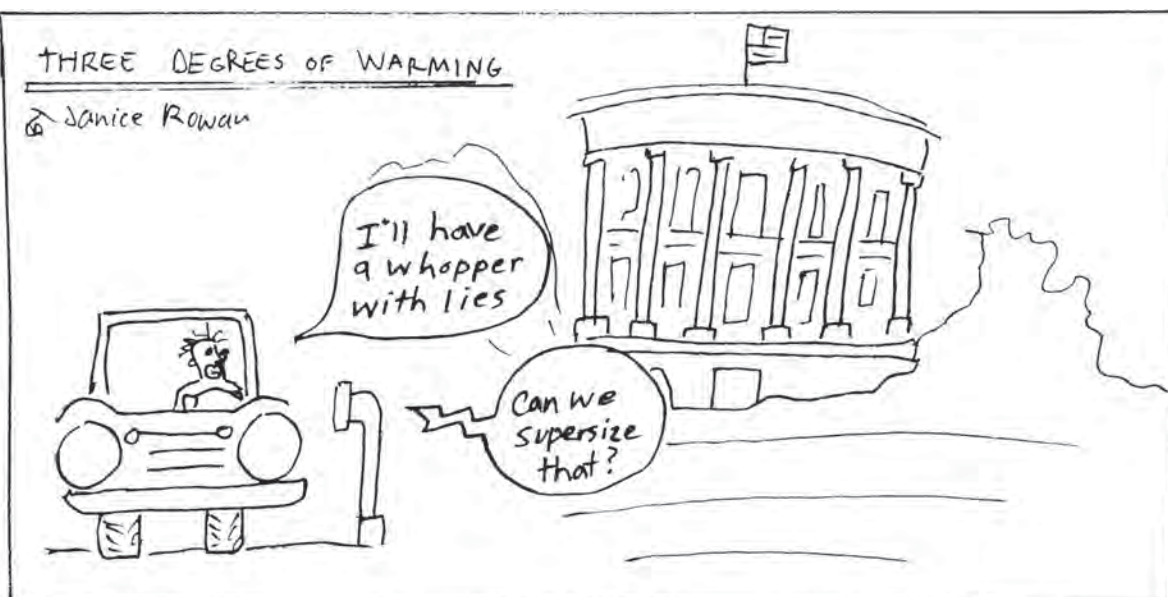
Depending on when you apply, it may be several weeks or several months before the Census Bureau starts hiring in your area. The good news is that your application will remain in their applicant pool for the entire 2020 Census operation (unless you ask them to remove it). You may update the information on your application at any time. Just log in to the account created when you applied and submit your changes.

The 2020 Census informs decisions about funding for important resources in your community such as schools, roads, businesses, hospitals, and more in communities nationwide. Data will inform decisions about funding for resources including the Medical Assistance Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Section 8 housing assistance, and Title 1 grants, among others.

Information will also be used to determine the distribution of Congressional seats to states and to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas, and other important functional areas of government.

Learn how the census shapes communities at 2020census.gov.

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ALTARS from page B1
feelings that inspire them.

Nina, who formally studied art, is also inspired by nature. Felipe defines his painting as Caribbean art, and Agustín defines himself as folklorist.

Day of the Dead Origins

First, some history to explain the celebration of this day. The Day of the Dead, which should not be confused with Halloween, is celebrated in Mexico, in some Central American countries, and in immigrant Hispanic communities in the United States. In 2003 UNESCO declared the Day of the Dead as a "Masterpiece of the Intangible and Oral Heritage of Humanity."

Many of you, even if you do not come from these countries, will know about this tradition if you have seen the famous cartoon movie *Coco*, which focuses on the adventures of a Mexican kid on this day. (If you haven't seen the movie yet, I recommend you do, either in English or in Spanish. It's worth it just to enjoy the music.)

There are some discrepancies regarding the origin of this tradi-

tion. Some historians attribute it to indigenous tribes of Mesoamerica who paid tribute to their dead with skulls and other votive instruments before the arrival of the Europeans. It coincided with the ninth month of the Aztec calendar, and the month-long festivities were presided over by Mictecacihuatl or Dama de la Muerte (the current Catrina).

Other scholars believe that it was already a tradition in the Roman Empire, where they built altars to honor their dead. During the Middle Ages a variation of this theme was celebrated in Europe. The Jesuits are said to have brought the Day of the Dead to America during the Spanish colonization.

Whether an indigenous or Catholic tradition, it is clear that different cultures throughout history have wondered about the mystery of death, or how to honor their dead and make their memories last. My personal opinion is that the current Day of the Dead is a mixture of both cultures, a cultural syncretism that reflects the encounter between the two worlds.

The most important difference that currently exists between how



Artists Felipe González, Agustín Peñaloza, and Nina Marks in front of La Mariposa Colectivo in downtown Turners Falls.

the Day of the Deceased is celebrated in Spain and the Day of the Dead in Mexico is that on this side of the Atlantic, death is taken with humor, with fine irony. The dead are often assigned monikers such as "skinny," "baldy," or "bony." In Spain, death is a taboo subject, and no jokes are allowed.

The Day of the Dead, celebrated from October 31 to November 2, is replete with essential symbols. The main one is the altar. In every house an altar is erected to honor family members and loved ones who are no longer living. The favorite foods and drinks of the dead are enshrined on the altar along with other objects such as books, tobacco, candles, photographs, flowers and anything closely associated with those who have passed on.

Tradition says that the dead visit the house and return to taste their

favorite food. Offerings like sugar skulls of different colors, "dead bread," hot chocolate, and other sweets are also placed on the altar. If the family member liked music, music is played or musical instruments placed on the altar. If the deceased liked to paint, brushes and canvases are on display. In short, the event becomes a party in which all share in the pleasures that those who have passed on once enjoyed. It really is a party to celebrate death and life.

Altars, and a Party

It is precisely this tradition that has been recreated at the Mariposa Colectivo at 111 Avenue A in Turners Falls. On October 14, Indigenous People's Day, they set up three altars: one dedicated to children, another for adults, and a third altar dedicated to pets.

Felipe invites the public to bring photos of loved ones and pets that have died to adorn the altars, as well as candles, flowers, and other objects that were appreciated by the deceased in life.

Next Saturday, November 2, as a culmination of the art show and the altar displays, a party will be held from 8 until 10 p.m. DJ Martínez will spin bachata, merengue, and cumbia, and there will be soft drinks and Mexican snacks, such as tamales and rice with beans. If you wish you can bring food to share, but it is not necessary. The event is suitable for audiences of all ages, and free, although donations are accepted.

This is a translation by Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno of an article that ran on our October 10 Spanish Page.



"Primera vez en la nieve," by Agustín Peñaloza.

PEDESTRIANS from page B1

there was a person walking in the middle of Turners Falls Road in Greenfield today wearing a big, white, fluffy coat. Stated every time she drove by there today, something strange was happening.

Thursday, 4/7/16

9:33 p.m. Caller reports that a white male in a long coat is walking in the roadway coming up the hill just before Scotty's; caller believes party may be intoxicated, as she nearly struck him. Party located; PBT result of .134. Officer made contact with Wendell police chief, who agreed to meet at line and transport this party home.

Friday, 9/16/16

1:38 p.m. Caller reports witnessing a male party slap an elderly male at East Main Street and Bridge Street. Responding officer reports no physical altercation. Second call stating that involved party was back in the middle of the road yelling and harassing workers.

Friday, 11/11/16

8:26 p.m. Caller states that a group of kids is sitting, "Indian-style," on the solid yellow line in the middle of the road near the high school. Responding officers also assisting with group of kids by the football field. Units clear; children spoken to and advised that sitting in the middle of

the road near the high school was not a good idea.

Sunday, 11/13/16

10:29 a.m. Caller reports that a female wearing plastic bags is partially in the road at the top of Turners Falls Road in Greenfield; expresses concern that she could be struck by an oncoming vehicle.

Saturday, 1/28/17

8:59 p.m. Caller advises that two gentlemen were walking up the hill on Mountain Road in Greenfield, and one of them threw their bike in the middle of the road and positioned at the vehicle.

Saturday, 4/29/17

12:14 p.m. Report of male walking in the middle of Bridge Street with his hands up in the air.

Saturday, 6/1/17

7:54 a.m. Report of teenage female walking in the middle of Montague Street. Caller concerned that female will be struck by a motor vehicle.

Wednesday, 7/5/17

10:10 a.m. Report of a female creating a disturbance on J Street, yelling in the street, possibly under the influence. Officer spoke with female, who was worked up because she just had an altercation with her mother but agreed to calm down.

Monday, 8/14/17

2:18 a.m. Report of three intoxicated subjects causing a disturbance in the street

across from Carroll's Market: two males and one female getting in and out of an older model red Chevy pickup.

Wednesday, 10/11/17

8:23 a.m. Report of a motorist who struck a cat near the ballfields on Montague Street. Motorist is standing in the road trying to keep other vehicles from hitting the cat again. Caller pulled over with her hazards on to keep other cars from hitting the other motorist, who is standing in the road.

Tuesday, 1/23/18

5:53 p.m. Caller reports hearing what sounds like a female screaming in the street in

front of a Third Street location. Caller went outside but could not locate anyone in distress. After speaking with several people in area, officers determined that a male party was the person screaming. Party taken into protective custody.

Wednesday, 2/7/18

9:45 p.m. DPW advises there are people snowblowing in the road downtown making it difficult for sanders/plows to navigate; requesting that an officer speak with them.

Monday, 4/9/18

10:58 p.m. Caller states that the driver of a red car parked

near F.L. Roberts got out, urinated in the street, then got back into the vehicle. Caller reports that driver appeared intoxicated. Vehicle has since left the scene and headed up Third Street hill at a high rate of speed. Unable to locate.

Friday, 5/4/19

5:07 p.m. Caller states that there are three grown men skateboarding in the road on Fairway Avenue. Area checked; unable to locate.

Saturday, 5/27/18

8:56 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street reports small children on motorized toys as well as an adult female on a scooter in the roadway. Adult male in orange traffic vest was stopping traffic on Bridge Street for these parties. Caller concerned for their safety. Officer spoke to involved parties; found they were just crossing street; no problems. Could be an ongoing issue with a neighbor.

Thursday, 6/14/18

7:05 p.m. Anonymous caller from Second Street reports that there are minors standing in the road consuming alcohol. Officers did not see anything matching description.

Friday, 7/6/18

9:33 a.m. Caller concerned for safety of two children playing in the large puddles that have built up in the road at Avenue C and Griswold Street.

Saturday, 10/20/18

12:43 p.m. Officer out on Eleventh Street with a male party standing in the road. Male party just watching traffic.

Tuesday, 2/12/19

8:43 p.m. Report of male subject stumbling around and yelling in the street outside Prondecki's. Provided caller with number for Shelburne Control for Erving PD.

Thursday, 2/21/19

10:30 p.m. 911 caller states that there is a man in dark clothing standing in the road with his hands up on the bridge over the river on East Main Street. Caller almost struck man because he could not see him. Officers off with a male party on Newton Street. [Redacted.]

Wednesday, 5/8/19

5:14 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street reporting that two adults are in the street throwing two-liter bottles filled with water back and forth to each other. Caller stated that they are close to their vehicles, and close to hitting the wires.

Monday, 9/2/19

8:34 p.m. Caller reporting that a male party is in the middle of the road near Food City waving a light around.

Saturday, 9/28/19

1:22 a.m. 911 caller reporting twelve people fighting in the street at Avenue A and Third Street. Units en route.



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the
poetry
page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

October Poetry Page

Editor's Note:

Last week the Turkish army invaded Northern Syria to drive the Kurds from areas near the border. Within hours after the assault began, my inbox began to fill up with messages from Turkish friends. Some, like Sema Tamanon and Clifford Endres, sent poems. I decided, given the current situation, to devote this poetry page to Turkey, Syria, and the Kurds.

It Has Always Been Like This

We went from being "special people and wonderful fighters"
to "not angels" in less than 24 hours.

We went from being the heroes who defeated Daesh
to being terrorists ourselves.

In the morning we bought aubergines in the market,
the kids went to school and then played football in the sandy lot,
moms made dinner, the old men sat in the sun and smoked,
dads took their kids to grandma's.
The hawkers of goods peddled
their ware in the streets.
The sky was blue with just a few clouds.

All ordinary.
All how it should be.

Now all how it isn't.

We went from buying melons in the market
to guarding our children in basements
as the Turkish bombs began to fall
as the sky changed from blue to black
with acrid smoke ascending everywhere.

It's always been like this. Powerful men deciding
that women and children and ordinary folks don't matter,
that their deaths are of no consequence.

It has always been like this.
It will probably always be like this.

Look out from the top floor
of the Trump Twin Towers in Istanbul
and you'll not see a genocidal massacre underway,
you'll not see children blown apart,
mothers torn in two, husbands and fathers
oozing blood onto the street.

No.

You'll see two old tyrants,
one a villainous fool
the other a foolish villain
strutting hand in hand
maybe even slapping
one another on the back
chortling as they slaughter us
for their own calculated pride
for their own greedy gains.

- Sema Tamanon, Amsterdam
Translated from Kurdish by the author

Solve et Coagula

And the sorrowful reddish fields:
In the unfamiliar distance
of every human face
marks of absence
display the earthy mix
of loving
of dying
that brought back life
to the long exhaustion of hope
On a day outside the calendar they clear
the boundless land
with fire
a gentle downpour greens the stillness
a cloud moves
from blue to more blue

- Enis Batur, Istanbul
Translated by Clifford Endres
and Selhan Savcigil-Endres

Some Advice to Those Who Will Serve Time in Prison

If instead of being hanged by the neck
you're thrown inside
for not giving up hope
in the world, your country, and people,
if you do ten or fifteen years
apart from the time you have left,
you won't say,
"Better I had swung from the end of a rope
like a flag" -

you'll put your foot down and live.
It may not be a pleasure exactly,
but it's your solemn duty
to live one more day

to spite the enemy.

Part of you may live alone inside,
like a stone at the bottom of a well.

But the other part
must be so caught up
in the flurry of the world
that you shiver there inside
when outside, at forty days' distance, a leaf moves.

To wait for letters inside,
to sing sad songs,
or to lie awake all night staring at the ceiling
is sweet but dangerous.

Look at your face from shave to shave,
forget your age,
watch out for lice

and for spring nights,
and always remember
to eat every last piece of bread -
also, don't forget to laugh heartily.

And who knows,
the woman you love may stop loving you.
Don't say it's no big thing:
it's like the snapping of a green branch
to the man inside.

To think of roses and gardens inside is bad,
to think of seas and mountains is good.

Read and write without rest,
and I also advise weaving
and making mirrors.

I mean, it's not that you can't pass
ten or fifteen years inside
and more -

you can,
as long as the jewel
on the left side of your chest doesn't lose its luster!

- Nazim Hikmet
Translated by Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk

Contributors' Notes:

Sema Tamanon is a young Kurdish poet from Turkey, now living in exile in the Netherlands. She found her voice as a poet in a creative writing workshop that Patricia Pruitt, former MR poetry editor, taught at Kadir Has University in Istanbul. This poem first appeared in Kurdish on October 19 in *Rojname Kurdi* (Berlin).

Enis Batur is one of the leading figures in contemporary Turkish literature with more than a hundred published books. Clifford Endres and Selhan Savcigil-Endres are Kadir Has University professors emeriti. These poems are excerpted from a new collection-in-progress of poems that Talisman House is scheduled to publish next year.

Nazim Hikmet (1902-1963) is regarded as the first modern Turkish poet and recognized around the world as one of the great international poets of the twentieth century. He served lengthy prison terms in Turkey and his books were banned for his opposition to what he regarded as the government's anti-democratic policies. A new generation of Turks has embraced his anti-autocratic philosophy as well as poetic modes. Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk have translated more than a half-dozen Hikmet books into English.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Diary of Anne Frank*. This sensitive story of a group of Jews who went into hiding in the sealed-off upper rooms of an office building in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam strongly resonates with today's stories of the hunted and the hidden, the unfortunates with nowhere to go. Silverthorne production. See review, page B2. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Unexplained! Spooky Story Swap*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Pharmakon*, with *Red Comm*, *Donna Parker*, *Years Of Dust*, *Strange Fate*, *Brujo*, and *Feed-back Queen*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

Millers Pub, Millers Falls: *Little House Blues Band*. Harmonica-driven blues quartet. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Diary of Anne Frank*. (See Thursday listing.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Rocky Horror Picture Show; Freaks*. Double feature movie presentation. \$. 8 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Climate Change Theater Reading*. Short play readings on climate change, with incidental music and talk back session. 1 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Traditional Music Jam*. 3 p.m.

LEGO artists wanted for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit. Drop off your creation on Tuesday, November 5 from 4 to 6 p.m., with an entry form and \$5 fee. Prizes in creativity and craftsmanship awarded in six age groups at November 7 ceremony. Details and entry form at brattleboromuseum.org.

EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Lori Lynn Hoffer*, paintings. Through October. Followed in November by *Oh Beautiful Glass*, an eclectic group exhibit by glass artists, with an opening reception on Saturday, November 2, at 4 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: 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

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Freedom & Struggle Song Swap*. Singalong and potluck. \$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Diary of Anne Frank*. (See Thursday listing.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Masquerade ball, costumes encouraged. Free-style boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse: *Chris Scanlon & The Other Guys*. Valley all-star musicians *The Other Guys* join *Scanlon* for a night of rocking originals, ballads, and songs from a rock opera. Homegrown talent in a big way at the longest-running non-profit coffeehouse fundraiser. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Artemisia's Intent*. One-woman play about 17th century painter Artemisia Gentileschi. Adult content. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sayreal, Rebelle*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Kate Mohanty* tape release show, with *Hollow Deck*, *Adam Foam & Liam Kramer-White* duo, *Carbus* trio, and *Chris Weisman* with *Omeed Goodarzi*. Managing editor's pick. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *No Lens, Whalom Park*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jazz Brunch with Masala Jazz*, 11 a.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Mike Glick, Lindsey Wilson*. With opener *Eric Phelps* and *Rob Peck*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Bridge of Flowers*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *999, Pajama Slave Dancers, The Clap and Guest*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: An evening with *Daughters of Corn*, Nicaragua dance troupe. Beautiful dresses and marimba music. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bastian Void, Minivan, Bluffs, Mary Jest-*

er, Trash Panda. \$. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Contact Improv Dance Jam*. Live music and contact jam. This week's musicians are *StompBoxDuo*. Preceded by a class at 6:30. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Great Falls Farmers Market, Peskeumskut Park, Turners Falls: *Fissure Cat*. 4 p.m.



The "Daughters of the Corn," a Nicaraguan dance troupe, performs this Sunday at the Shea Theater.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owsley's Owls*. Two sets of high-intensity Grateful Dead music. 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pumpkin Carving Contest*. Bring your pumpkin in and win a prize. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mama's Marmalade and Gaslight Tinkers*. Halloween concert and bash. Costumes encouraged. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Costume Party and Show*. Lovelights Media and Goufriend Productions present this party featuring *Mozzaleum, Nemesister, Minivan, Owlhouse*, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Roots of Creation, Treehouse!, No Lens*. Halloween bash. \$. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Carolina Eyck*. Elegies for theremin and voice. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *RJD2, Tonio Sagan & Co., Cajordion*. \$. 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

12 Federal Street, Greenfield: *Climate Change Theater Reading*. Short play readings on climate change with incidental music and talk back session. 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *What Our Voices Carry*. Play created by incarcerated women's group, *Voices From Inside*, and local playwright *Trenda Loftin*. Weaves women's personal experiences into the larger picture of incarceration, addiction, and mental health systems. \$. 7 p.m.

First Church, Hatfield: *Dixieland Stomp*. Sextet of brass and banjo playing high-energy music. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Movie, Event Horizon*. Astronauts make a startling discovery when they investigate a long lost starship's disappearance. Part of the Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror movie series. 7:30 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Post Moves* album release. With *Josh Burkett, Willie Lane, and Allysen Callery*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Moxie, ZoKi*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Obituary, Scald Hymn, Federico Balducci, Grabass Cowboys*. Noise show. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Buck Gooter, Evil Sword, Beige,*

PussyVision. \$. 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Contact Improv Dance Jam*. Silent contact jam. \$. 8 p.m.

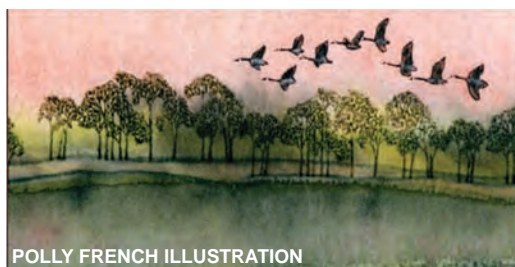
CALLS FOR ART

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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POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER THE WITCHES OF MILLERS FALLS

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS – Last Sunday, somehow this story made its way into my hands. If ever you're searching for local lore and curious tales about our villages, it's always a good idea to visit the Historical Commissions, the Historical Societies, and the hidden back rooms of our libraries. You never know what will turn up.

Something did turn up at the Erving Historical Commission museum this past weekend.

Those old scrapbooks that some dear souls faithfully compile, that then lie around gathering dust in forgotten corners of the homes of the older members of the family until they find their way to other forgotten corners of museum back rooms. In this instance, a sixty year old scrapbook donated by one Mrs. Florence Chaffin of Millers Falls, made its way into my hands.

And so on a Sunday in late October, sitting in Pearl Care Museum of Erving, old photographs and obituaries from the 1890s and 1920s appeared before my eyes as I slowly turned the pages of Mrs. Chaffin's meticulous scrapbook.

These old clippings mention all-but-forgotten places such as Point Pleasant, the Durkee family burial

vault along the Connecticut, and the infamous Durkee Tavern. Some of these sites are mentioned as being in Millers Falls, others could be situated in Northfield on the Erving line; all accounts place the Durkee Tavern near the mouth of the Millers River, a few hundred yards upstream from the French King Bridge on the old Northfield Farms Road.

Regardless of the movable location of the ghostly Tavern, local legend has forever bound the Tavern to the enigmatic person of old Granny Stowell. Now, looking at Granny's reputation as a witch woman from our perspective of the year 2014, one must be careful to not leap too quickly in passing judgment on this woman.

Women were condemned as witches for all kinds of reason in ages past. (Please search out the recent novel by Wendell writer Kathy Becker called *Silencing the Women – The Witch Trials of Mary Bliss Parsons*. Becker writes a poignant tale about one of her ancestors thusly accused.)

So with Mary Bliss Parsons in mind, I'll cautiously recount what has been written and said about Granny Stowell and her daughter Dycie, our own Millers River witches.

Old newspaper accounts and research done by Millers historian

John Taggart generations ago (and recently brought into the current century and digitized by historian Ed Gregory) tell the tale of Granny and her dysfunctional family.

But first, back to the Tavern, inextricably tied to the legend of the Stowells. Newspaper accounts, preserved in this priceless scrapbook, placed the Stowell house and the Tavern in roughly the same vicinity.

The Tavern itself was famous as a stopping off place for the various stagecoaches that ran up to Northfield, and as the scene of many a raucous carousing when the log drivers came floating down the Connecticut out of the wilds and looking for an even wilder night!

The Stowell home was just a bit downriver, high on the banks of the Millers, just at the mouth, and approximately near the current site of Cabot Camp. Granny, her husband, and daughter lived there at the foot of what was described as "brooding hills, with the dark angry Millers River below."

Granny's husband himself was convinced he had married a witch, and that he had heard her selling herself to Satan, out behind the barn one winter's night...

It seems that their daughter's name was Dycie Stowell, whose full name was Boadicea, the ancient pa-

gan name of a very strong woman of mystery and legend. Dycie was bound out as a servant to the proprietor of Durkee's Tavern.

There, Dycie fell in love with a river man by the name of Will Darby. The problem was that Will already was engaged to be married to another young Millers Falls woman.

This woman was convinced that Dycie was casting a witch's spell over Will, so she resorted to a remedy of the time to break that spell. She baked a cake. In the cake she placed some of Will's hair. The story doesn't tell us who was supposed to eat the cake, but it never got that far.

Granny suspected something and sent Dycie to destroy the cake. During the furious struggle between the two women, the cake was indeed destroyed, just as a violent lightning storm broke out.

The very lightning bolt struck a huge elm at the Tavern which fell on the poor Will Darby. Of course, everyone assumed that it was the Stowell witchcraft that was responsible for the tragedy, and apparently Granny didn't mind boasting for years that it was indeed Dycie's spell.

This story of Dycie and Granny Stowell was recounted in Harper's Magazine in February 1882, forever tying together the Witches of Millers Falls and Durkee's Tavern on the banks of the Connecticut River.

The postscript to this dark tale is even darker. When Granny finally died, she was buried late at night in the old cemetery on East Mineral Road, not far from the mouth of the Millers River.

Local legend has it that Granny's husband makes his way there every

Witches' Sabbath on October 31, to dance on her grave.

And in fact, to find out ourselves, a few of us ventured up to Granny Stowell's grave a few years ago on Halloween night, to see what we could see.

As the night wore on, and as we waited for the witching hour, we fortified ourselves with some of the Devil's drink, firey whiskey, that seemed to burn its way down even more so than on ordinary nights.

We waited at Granny's grave, but that grave told no secrets, no Stowell widower came to dance on the grave, and feeling sheepish, we finally drifted away leaving Granny in peace.

It wasn't until we stepped outside the low cemetery wall that we stopped in shock, hair standing on end! Who had placed a smashed-in frosted cake and the lit, grinning jack-o'-lantern on the hood of the car?

Who, indeed?

This column first ran in the October 30, 2014 Montague Reporter. We're reprising it this Halloween week. Happy haunting!



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