

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 44

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 3, 2019

## Gill, Montague Name Reps To Six-Town Study Group

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE**—The town moderators of Gill and Montague have been asked to appoint three residents from each town to study the feasibility of a six-town school region with their counterparts from Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick, but the appointments were delayed until this week by a reluctance by Gill-Montague school

committee members to volunteer for the extra assignment.

Under state law, one of the three members from each town should be a school committee member. No Gill or Montague member volunteered on September 10, and its September 24 meeting was canceled due to a posting error, so the school committee held a special meeting Tuesday night to determine who it

see **SIX-TOWN** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Brown Retires From Planning After 47 Years

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its September 30 meeting, the Montague selectboard accepted the resignation of Turners Falls resident Ernie Brown after 47 years on the town Zoning Board of Appeals. If you do the math, that means Brown joined the board in 1972, while the Vietnam War was raging, burglars broke into the Democratic Party headquarters at the Washington Watergate Hotel complex, no one had heard of hip hop or personal computers, and Montague's zoning bylaws were brief and to the point.

After being presented with a "token of our appreciation," which appeared to be a certificate honoring his committee work, Brown addressed the board. He said the town's zoning regulations were "in their infancy" in 1972.

"We learned together, because zoning was new to the town of Montague," he said. "We worked together to learn and keep up with the changes. Basically it was the people I worked with." Brown said that "it was tough for me to step down, but I felt that we need new blood," noting that several new residents had joined the board recently. He thanked the town for "allowing [him] to serve."

Town administrator Steve Ellis, speaking as a "relative newcomer to town," said he valued having Brown as a neighbor. "When I wanted to put a shed in my back yard, there was Ernie walking down the street checking things out," he said. "We need people like him who are on these boards for the right reasons."

Brown received a warm round of applause from the crowd in attendance.

### Religious March

Mark Garmalo and Curtis Dunbar came before the board to request a permit for a "Rosary Coast to Coast" procession in Turners Falls on Sunday, October 13 from 2 to 5 p.m.

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

MEMORIAL

## Joe Parzych: One of a Kind

By DAVID DETMOLD

Joe Parzych, our friend from Gill, passed on last week, at the age of 90. A heavy equipment operator, writer, photographer, engaging raconteur, and keen observer of the lifeways of our towns and their residents, Joe leaves behind a legacy of strong foundations, brilliant articles, and long enduring friendships. His irreplaceable contribution to our community will last as long as the buildings he helped to build. The memoirs he wrote beckon from bookshelves to delighted readers in decades to come.

I first met Joe in a creative writing class at GCC in the late 1990s, when he was plotting the outlines of the book he would soon write: a rich and revealing recollection of his childhood in Gill on a hard-scrabble homestead with a domineering father and an overworked mother in the 1930s and '40s.

I clearly remember reading his story of the day his mother convinced his father to buy her an electric washing machine to replace the hand-cranked press and washboard they used to clean the clothes of their steadily expanding family. Once she plugged it in, she washed every article of clothing in the house, and all the sheets and pillow cases, and spread the resulting haberdashery over all the low-hanging trees and bushes in their front yard to dry. Joe wrote it was like an entire clothing factory had exploded on Main Road from the joy and exuberance of one modern appliance!

Friends of Gill who want to learn real home truths about the town they are living in today could find no better starting place than the book that came out of those early writing sessions: *Jep's Place*. Ask for it at the Slate Library, and learn what a beacon of light that library was to young minds like Joe's growing up in Depression-era Gill.

At that time, the idea of the *Montague Reporter* was just ger-



*Joe Parzych, a longtime contributor to this newspaper, died last week at the age of 90. Our former editor David Detmold shares his memories.*

minating in my mind. But once we got down to brass tacks, in the fall of 2001, Joe was the first person I called to help. His story of how a Polish contractor took on the complicated task of renovating the Colle Opera House on Avenue A and discovered hidden treasure behind one of the walls became the centerpiece of our very first issue.

Readers demanded more, and we called on Joe to vividly describe, using his intimate knowledge of construction practices, each and every major infrastructure improvement to come down the pike for the next dozen years, in terms the layperson could understand and savor. We always promised to pay him for his writing, and invariably failed to find the funds to do so, since we could never afford to even pay the printer in those years.

Yet he never let us down, and added his own eye witness and often dangerously-acquired photos to complement his writing and let our readers see their tax dollars in action: from the \$48 million renovation of the Gill-Montague Bridge, (oh, sorry, I mean Turners Falls-Gill Bridge) to the

see **MEMORIAL** page A5

## Picking Up After Others



JACKSON PHOTO

*Source to Sea volunteers Marcia Bernard (left) and Betsy Norwood (right) pick up garbage along the guardrail on East Main Street near the Millers River.*

By MIKE JACKSON

**MILLERS FALLS** — "Lotta heavy drinking over here," Jackie Bocon observes cheerfully, as she deposits another fistful of nip bottles in a plastic bag her daughter Karen is filling with recyclables.

It's a warm fall Saturday morning, and a small crew is scouring the woods off Newton Street between the train tracks and the Millers River for trash and debris. The Bocons, together with Jackie's lifelong friend Betsy Norwood and her daughter Marcia Bernard, are taking part in the Source to Sea Cleanup, a massive annual effort to tidy up the banks of the Connecticut River and its tributaries across four states.

Neighbors have tossed brush,

lawn clippings, and compostables in a heap near the rail bridge at the northern end of the street. The organic material is left alone, but Karen and Marcia find a path down and drag up a few pieces of a demolished picnic table.

Betsy, it turns out, is the motivating force behind this team. "Every year she says to the organizers, she wants a place with a lot of trash," her daughter explains.

The group wears matching purple t-shirts, and consults a map and instructions provided by FirstLight Power, which is overseeing a number of sites along this section of the cleanup. An advance scout has circled problem areas on the map, warning them to watch out for

see **CLEANUP** page A7

## From Hallway Wars to Homecoming, Booster Week Boosts Students' Spirits

By ANTHONY PETERSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** — This week, September 30 through October 5, Turners Falls High School is celebrating Booster Week. It's a very fun week where everyone has school spirit, and it brings everyone together.

This week of events is coordinated by the TFHS Student Council, led by advisors Beth Fortin and Megan Bendiksen. This is their third year of planning Booster Week. It's always a great week that ends with the Homecoming dance on Saturday night.

There are dress-up days during the week. Monday was Soccer Mom/BBQ Dad Day. Tuesday was Decades Day — freshmen dressed up like the 2000s, sophomores were

see **BOOSTER** page A6



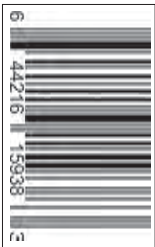
PETERSON PHOTO

*The Turners Falls High School sophomore class works on their Booster Week hallway decorations during GAP period on Monday.*

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# The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

## Life Is Fragile

Last Thursday a writer and photographer representing our newspaper had the opportunity to fly in a restored 1945 B-17 bomber out of Keene, NH.

The *Aluminum Overcast* is one of about 15 of these planes still in service, and members of the regional press were offered the chance to fly by its owner, the Oshkosh, WI-based Experimental Aircraft Association.

The resulting piece is on Page B1, and we hope readers will enjoy it.

We were stunned on Wednesday, as we pepared this edition for press, to hear of a tragedy at Bradley Airport in Connecticut, where another B-17 bomber apparently experienced engine failure soon after takeoff, turned around, crashed into a de-icing facility at

the airport, and caught fire. Seven of the 13 passengers or crew members are reported to have lost their lives as of press time, with several others in critical condition.

The *Nine-oh-Nine* was owned by the Collings Foundation, and used for similar educational and exhibition flights to the *Overcast*. It also flew passengers in the last week out of Worcester, Laconia, and Nashua, and a year ago out of the same Keene airport our correspondents visited.

As of press time, the National Transportation Safety Board has not announced any findings as to the cause of the crash. Readers are urged to research the risks of flying in antique aircraft before choosing to do so. Our hearts go out to all those who lost loved ones in Wednesday's tragic accident.

## The Rural Plans

In last week's lead editorial, we observed that the Democratic presidential field for 2020 appears to have narrowed to three frontrunner candidates: Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders. A few more national polls came out this week, all showing either Biden or Warren in the lead with Sanders coming in third.

There is a press narrative that Sanders has lost steam, or reached his ceiling, and he has had a mixed week: his third-quarter financial report showed the highest level of donations any candidate in the race has yet enjoyed, but he had to cancel several campaign events for an emergency heart procedure. In New Hampshire, the early primary state, polls are showing him slipping to a more distant third.

The other big narrative is that Biden may inevitably slip, and his lack of stamina and sharpness is showing on the trail. What would his collapse mean? A *Washington Post* editorial on Wednesday argues that Warren "has moved so far to the ideological left that she might turn off a lot of Biden supporters," and speculates that this scenario is what is keeping fellow moderates like Pete Buttigieg and Kamala Harris hanging on.

But a lot can happen in nine and a half months, and maybe it's not worth getting too bogged down in hypotheticals. What's more interesting are the policies the candidates are endorsing in this primary context – and the fact that Warren

is seen as running "to the left" at the same time as her star is rising.

Sanders and Warren have posted 28 and 47 policy documents and counting on their respective websites (last week it was 27 and 44). Biden still has seven up.

Let's look at "Investing in Rural America" (Warren), "Revitalizing Rural America" (Sanders), and "Joe's Plan for Rural America."

All three candidates focus extensively on **agriculture**, and for all three, this takes two main forms: tipping the economic playing field from agribusiness to smaller-scale farms; and changing *how* we farm as a way to fight climate change.

There are variations: Sanders wants to "Incentivize community ownership of farmland"; Warren to "expand the 'Farm-to-School' program a hundredfold and turn it into a billion-dollar 'Farm to People' program"; Biden would "expand the Obama-Biden Administration's microloan program for new and beginning farmers."

Sanders says the least of the three on **healthcare**. Warren would block hospital mergers unless they "maintain or improve access to care," and Biden would double funding to community health centers.

Biden calls for a \$20 billion investment in rural **broadband**; Warren for \$85 billion.

Sanders is the only one whose rural plan discusses **rural schools** as anything besides potential customers of local food. "Stop consolidating rural schools and start building

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

*Graham, 7, of Greenfield, explores an old scale at the Loot warehouse sale in Turners Falls last weekend. He likes going to the "raccoon store," and says his favorite find has been some toy army guys. His mom was buying an industrial-sized roll of silver book binding paper for PTO projects for his school.*

Letters to

the Editors

### A Matter of Health and Wealth

Five households in Leverett have their private well water polluted by the nearby long-since capped town landfill, now "transfer station."

These families have been coping with this problem for years, some for decades, using high tech filters and bottled water. Due to this pollution, they have been unable to access the equity in their homes, or even to sell them (as one had needed due to illness).

Over these years, there have been many studies trying to solve this problem. Last Spring three options were put on the warrant for the town to vote.

It's hard to understand why, after our Town Meeting passed the

### Hopefully Both

Greta at the U.N. evoked reality with her all-encompassing perspective and emotional honesty.

What a young woman! If her strength is matched by the other young people in the movement, it will save us – and if it's too late to do it physically, then perhaps in the quality of our spirit as we collectively go.

Hopefully both, but if it must be only the shift to realism that she represents, might that be the real reward anyway, the spiritual one...?

This stuckness we're in hollows out our dignity, our humanity.

Chet Cramer  
Leverett

Jonathan von Ranson  
Wendell

## Emergency Preparedness

Thank you to all who attended the Emergency Preparedness Training workshop presented by the MA Office on Disabilities last Wednesday at the Turners Falls fire station. It was funded by FEMA based on previous hurricanes and the need for safety.

Thanks to presenter Evan George of the Office on Disabilities from Boston, Captain Kyle Cogswell and his fellow staff at the Turners Falls Fire Department, and Christa Snyder and the culinary students from the Franklin County Tech School for their fantastic baked goods. It was a team effort with these great professionals.

Furthermore, thanks to the many attendees including citizens, TRIAD volunteers, LifePath staff, the Ashfield fire chief and staff, etc., who filled the conference room at

the fire station.

The importance of being prepared for storms was emphasized as we left with our new, very large red backpacks full of emergency items.

Severe storm season begins this fall and lasts into the spring. Tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, ice storms, microbursts, and power outages have previously occurred in our region. It is essential we follow the weather emergency warnings, pack emergency bags, and make ourselves and our families and friends safe in these unpredictable severe weather patterns.

It is also Fire Safety Month, and fire departments are expressing the importance of maintaining working fire alarms.

Betty Tegel  
Turners Falls

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Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

The **Leverett Harvest Festival** is happening this Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leverett Elementary School, 85 Montague Road. Fun, family-friendly activities include birds of prey, music, magic, vendors, food, and more! Arrive early for the pancake breakfast hosted by the Leverett Fire Department, served between 8 and 10:30 a.m.

The **Kiddleidoscope** program continues each Friday at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river.

Meet in the Great Hall. For ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends welcome. The theme for this Friday, October 4 is **Bears**.

On October 5 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., attend another nature program for all ages. Amanda Melinchuk, **bat re-**

**search** monitor with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, shares her expertise and talk about myths and misconceptions surrounding bats, why bats are important, the bats in Massachusetts, threats to bats such as white-nose syndrome, what you can do to help bats, and information on bat houses. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

The news from **Wendell** is that the **Monthly Market** will take place on Saturday, October 5 for the last time this 2019 season. Markets are set up on Center Street by the gazebo on the north common from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

It is always a fun time with vendors, musicians, and a bodyworker, who will be Shelley Hines this month. The Friends of the Wendell Free Library will have a benefit table with all kinds of bric-a-brac and munchies, too! The weather will add to the atmosphere of a true New England fall event.

Contact Laurel Facey for more information at (978) 544-7178.

Returning by popular demand, the **Connecticut River Flute Choir** (CRFC) will perform at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls this Saturday, October 5 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. CRFC is an ensemble of musicians who love to play the flute! Directed by Hannah Smeltz, also the director of the Montague Community Band, the group was founded in the spring of 2016.

The members of CRFC represent a wide range of musical and professional backgrounds, rehearse weekly, and have performed at a variety of community and private events. Flute choirs traditionally will include different voice ranges, similar to a vocal chorus of soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. CRFC features piccolo, alto flute, bass flute, and contrabass. Their repertoire includes pieces specifically written for the instrument, but also features arrangements and compositions from Baroque to contemporary.

On Saturday, October 5 from noon to 5 p.m., Dancing Bear Farm on Frizzell Hill in Leyden celebrates with an open house and “Farm Friends Market” at the farm on Frizzell Hill. High winds in the spring of 2018 tore the plastic off the greenhouse where Tom Ashley cultivates **seven varieties of figs**, and much nursery stock was lost, including mature trees planted in the ground. The farm is back on its feet, and proud to showcase a new greenhouse it calls the **Figtorium**.

The event will feature live music by Rob Skelton and Pitchfork, with poet/forester Mike Mauri; greenhouse tours at 12:30, 2:30 and 4 p.m.; tours of neighboring Frizzell Hill Farm’s goat barns at 1 and 3 p.m., and a market of local vendors. The Farm Table in Bernardston will supply fig-themed appetizers, and afterwards the Gill Tavern will offer a fig with goat or lamb entrée (reservations are advised).

Landlords, renters, and homeowners alike are invited to a workshop at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday, October 10 in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center called **How to Make Your Apartment or Home Comfortable Year Round**.

Landlords may learn about incentives to make their buildings more efficient and comfortable, for lower tenant turnover, tapping into big incentives for capital improvements such as insulation and efficient heating. Tenants may hear how to make their apartments cozier and waste less money on energy, from program giveaways like LED light bulbs and efficient refrigerators.

Brought to you by Drawdown

Montague, Community Action Pioneer Valley, the Center for Eco-Technology, and the Montague Energy Committee.

Looking ahead...

**Valley Time Trade** will hold an event next Saturday, October 12, at the Sunderland Public Library, 20 School Street in Sunderland. Time Trading is an alternative organized currency exchange system through which members earn hours (time credits) for time spent helping other members.

The event will start with an orientation at 1 p.m. Bring friends! At 2 p.m. there will be a snack and dessert potluck – bring a snack or beverage to share, and please label ingredients.

Stick around for a Speed Trading session at 2:30 p.m., when you can meet fellow traders, learn what they offer, express what you need, and build community together.

Capture autumn colors, textures, and contrasts with Northfield Mountain staff member Beth Pelton on Saturday, October 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. Participants should **bring a camera, tripod, one or two lenses**, and water and a snack to take on the trail. The program is free for ages 12 and older. Register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Beth Pelton is a professional freelance photographer whose photographs regularly appear in *Monadnock Table* and *At Home* magazines, and you can see her work at [www.eightcattailsimagery.com](http://www.eightcattailsimagery.com).

After a half day of classes in the morning of October 14, Four Winds School in Gill’s Riverside neighborhood will be hosting their first ever **Walk-a-thon fundraising event** from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. This event is a wonderful, student-initiated fundraiser to benefit the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the descendants of the first Native Americans that the Pilgrims interacted with upon their arrival in the 1620s, who were the topic of study in the school’s humanities class last year.

In addition to the fundraiser, this event is intended to be an alumni and family reunion day. Therefore, beyond the walking and donating, there will be food, festivities, and, for the first time ever, Four Winds merchandise and swag for sale, the proceeds of which will benefit the school. Four Winds is a private school for middle-school-aged children. (Full disclosure: my son attended Four Winds, and I have a soft spot in my heart for the school!)

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## Create Ingenious Scarecrows

**BERNARDSTON** – The organizers of Scarecrow in the Park, the festival which takes place every October in Cushman Park in Bernardston, seek creative people to participate in this year’s Scarecrow Contest. The event will take place on October 19 and 20, and scarecrows must be in place by noon on October 18, with judging soon after. The funds raised benefit the Bernardston Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

The five scarecrow categories sponsored by the Kiwanis are Scariest, Funniest, Prettiest, Most Interesting Use of Materials, and a rotating category, which this year is Reading. Each category comes with

a \$100 prize. In addition, Bear Country Radio will bestow a \$100 prize on the maker of the best “Bearcrow.”

One \$10 fee enters each scarecrow display in all six categories. Anyone of any age is welcome to participate. Organizers would love to have Cushman Park overflowing with the fascinating creations of all sorts of people. Forms are available at Cushman Library, in the “Notes” section of the Scarecrow in the Park Facebook page, from [scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com), on the WHAI website, and at Sweet Lucy’s Bakeshop at 7 South Street in Bernardston. Questions can be directed to [scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:scarecrowinthepark@gmail.com).

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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
*Week ending Sept. 27:*

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**Grade 7**  
Khiarieliex Huertas Hernandez

**Grade 8**  
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Gill Mulls Pill Suit's Flimsy Local Cut

By **GEORGE BRACE**

The Gill selectboard made forward progress on a number of items Monday night, in a relatively short meeting characterized by the need for further steps before making decisions on a number of items. The board addressed a notice on the federal opioid class action lawsuit, a right-of-first-refusal notice on land being sold, and the proposed placement of a sign for the Riverside historical district.

Board chair John Ward was unable to attend the meeting.

Town administrator Ray Purington reported on a notice the town received from the federal court hearing the class-action lawsuit seeking reimbursement for costs incurred by municipalities as a result of the opioid crisis. He described the notice as being typical of the kinds of class-action notices people receive at their homes about products such as electronics and cars.

Purington said the notice was sent to 34,000 cities and towns, and was the first Gill has heard from the federal court advising towns of their rights to stay in the class, or opt out and pursue their own recourse. He said he couldn't see that it made sense for the town to pursue legal action on its own, due to the cost of litigation, but that "it really feels like too soon to make the decision to stay in or opt out."

He said Gill has incurred costs as the result of opioid abuse in the form of police and medical calls, purchases of the drug Narcan to treat overdoses, and training, but that "it's not a huge number." He said it did not feel likely that the costs incurred in a separate lawsuit would be covered by monies received in such a suit, and questioned how much money the pharmaceutical companies involved in paying the settlement would have for a second round of payments.

Purington said if the town wanted to opt out of the class action suit, it would need to do so before November 22.

The website dedicated to the lawsuit, [www.opioidsnegotiation-class.info](http://www.opioidsnegotiation-class.info), provides an estimated breakdown of a hypothetical \$1 billion settlement. Franklin County would get just under \$200,000, with the lion's share of \$86,000 going to Greenfield, and Gill receiving \$617.

Purington said that while he didn't know the exact amount, Gill has spent more than \$617 on Narcan alone. He called the breakdown of how money would be distributed within Franklin County "surprising, or weird," and said that "it just doesn't make any sense." He said he "wondered and worried" about the reaction to the proposal country-wide if there was as much of a question in Franklin County as there appeared to be.

### First Refusal

Purington reported to the board on what he called an "informal notice of intent to sell, and the right of first refusal" the town had received regarding 70.8 acres of land owned by Bruce and Carolyn Krejmas.

The property, located off West Gill, Atherton, and Bascom roads,

is enrolled in the state's Chapter 61 program, which authorizes a reduction in property taxes for a variety of farm, agricultural and open space uses, and grants towns the right of first refusal on the sale of such land under certain conditions.

Purington said he had looked at the legal requirements for such notices, and found there were areas missing in the notice sent by the Krejmases. He said he was drafting a letter to the couple explaining what was needed to make the notice official. Based on limited information, Purington said he thinks the land is going to be withdrawn from Chapter 61 status, which would give the town the right of first refusal in the sale.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker said he was interested in taking a look at the property to see what the impact of its removal from Chapter 61 would have on the town: for example, would there be a development going in?

Purington said that based on the frontage, there was room for eight or nine lots, though other factors, such as the presence of wetlands, could factor in. There are no buildings on the land presently. He said the town has 120 days to consider an official notice once it is received, and that the selectboard, planning board, board of assessors, and conservation commission would be doing the considering.

Board member Randy Crochier asked whether it would make sense for these groups to have a joint meeting on the subject.

Purington replied that would depend in part on each of the boards' opinions on the matter; such a meeting might not be necessary.

### Fire Department

The selectboard approved a purchase order of \$6,523 from the fire department for repairs and maintenance on Engine Two. The vehicle recently underwent a safety inspection which listed a number of items as needing attention.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien said the repair estimate did not include several items recommended in the inspection. Beaubien said some of the additional work was to be performed by the department, and he would be in contact with Purington as further estimates on the remaining items were received.

The board also approved a request to declare Engine Three as surplus equipment in anticipation of its replacement by the town's new tanker truck, scheduled to arrive the following day. The chief said Engine Three was already out of service due to a fuel leak, and the department has been removing equipment from it to be used in the new truck. The chief and board agreed it would be nice to get rid of it before winter.

The board also appointed William Kimball as a firefighter.

### School Extraregionalization

Snedeker provided an update on the status of forming a six-town planning board as a next step in looking into the possibility of school regionalization. He said he had volunteered to coordinate the board's first

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Tensions Over Plume Wells Brim

By **ROB SKELTON**

Leverett's newly-hired road boss Matt Boucher came to the October 1 selectboard meeting to touch base with his new employers. His start date is October 15, and he'll hit the ground running with two big projects: the Coke Kiln road bridge replacement and a culvert reconstruction on Shutesbury Road.

Boucher said he wants to get one more person on board before winter hits. He was urged by the board to report problems directly and immediately, and not to wait for a scheduled selectboard meeting.

Pat Duffy and Virginia Goodale, neighboring landowners of the underground "plume" emanating from the closed South Leverett landfill, expressed to the board their belief in the unlikelihood of a permanent solution to their water woes. The proposal to extend a water line from Amherst, which they favor, will be costly.

"Bockelman wants us to pay for it," said selectboard chair Peter d'Errico, referencing Amherst town manager Paul Bockelman, who must vet the project with the newly-created Town Council, whose collective opinion is as yet unknown.

"Amherst is talking eleven or twelve connections; we have four," d'Errico added. That number, 4, would not include Duffy, for whom the town has already bought a well, according to the board, who thinks her current problem is not plume-related.

At this news Duffy burst out of the room, slamming the door behind her.

Resident Steve Nagy pressed the board on the timeline for the water mitigation, and accused it of foot-dragging and double-dealing.

A shipping container at 2 Dudleyville Road which neighbors have complained about will remain as is, since it complies, as a temporary structure, with zoning by-laws, according to the building inspector.

The abandoned Blinn residence at 1 Dudleyville Road, taxes unpaid since 2013, is a candidate for a tax-taking. The landmark historic house on the brook in Moores Corner is full of trash and possibly rodents. An outside inspection is slated for this Thursday, with the building inspector and the fire chief. No one from Leverett has contacted the Blinns, who live in Greenfield, about the growing eyesore.

Leesa Crocker's attempt to get the selectboard's support to continue to squat on 1.5 acres of land belonging to Eversource fell on deaf ears.

"This is not a selectboard issue. Eversource owns the land. It's their property," said selectwoman Julie Shively. Shively was accused of ethical lapses by Crocker's daughter Roxanne, ostensibly due to her meeting with the cemetery commission without Leesa's presence.

Jono Neiger of Rattlesnake Gutter Road argued that the town's "right-to-farm" bylaw should apply to Crocker's circumstance, but the selectboard wasn't buying it.

They instead referred the matter to the moribund agricultural committee, and then, failing that, suggested mediation – a process which all parties involved, Crocker, Eversource, and the Leverett Cemetery Association, must agree on.

meeting, but it can't happen until all six towns have appointed their town committees. Snedeker said most of the six towns involved have committees underway, but Bernardston has yet to begin forming one. He is hoping to get the meeting scheduled for mid-November.

"It's an important committee," said Crochier, adding that he was surprised there was not more public interest.

Snedeker said that it was a contentious issue, and opinion is split in a lot of towns.

Crochier replied that whether someone felt strongly one way or the other, he would think they'd want to be on the committee so their voice was heard. He added that as taxpayers, "we have a horse in the race."

Both Snedeker and Crochier said they hadn't made up their own minds on the issue, but wanted to see an open conversation.

Talk turned to how changes at the state level affect the matter. Crochier said he had learned in the past that "we can't sit as a group and worry about what the state's going to do." He said "we don't have any control" over what the state does, but "we do have control over what we can do."

### Other Business

The board reviewed a request for

the placement of a sign for the Riverside Historic District. The proposed location is on the Riverside school property, on the corner of Route 2 closest to Riverside Radiator.

Purington said the sign is similar to the Historic District sign now on the town common, and that highway superintendent John Miner had looked at the placement and saw no problems.

Snedeker also saw no issues. The board decided to approve the placement of the sign, pending approval by Sgt. Bassett of the police department.

The meeting closed with public service announcements:

Flu shot clinics will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. next Friday, October 11 at Stoughton Place, and from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16 at Gill Elementary. Those interested should bring their insurance card, or shots can be purchased for \$20 for adults, \$10 for children.

Bulky Waste Collection Day is Saturday, October 19. The closest pickup location to Gill will be the Northfield Highway Garage, from 9 a.m. to noon.

State senator Jo Comerford will be at the Slate Library from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, as part of "The People's Office Library Tour," during which she will visit libraries in all 24 towns of her district.

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OBITUARY

Joseph A. Parzych, Jr.  
May 28, 1929 – September 25, 2019

**GILL** – Contractor/excavator, local author, and freelance journalist and photographer Joseph A. Parzych, 90, died on Wednesday, September 25 at the Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield.

Joe was born in Gill on May 28, 1929, the son of Mary (Gowel) Parzych and Joseph A. Parzych Sr., immigrants of Poland. He grew up in a family of 13 children, attended a one-room schoolhouse in Gill, and at the age of 17, served in the Army Paratroops (PFC) in Japan after World War II.

After serving, he graduated from the Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill and Turners Falls High School in Turners Falls. He attended Bryant College (now Bryant University) in Rhode Island, where he earned a degree in business administration, and in 1953, he married Edna (Carlton) Parzych.

From 1956 to 1990, Joe owned and operated J.A. Parzych Excavating. Towards the end of the 1980s, before retiring, he started writing part time. After retirement he became a freelance journalist, photographer, and author.

Joe was never one to sit still during his retirement years. He operated his backhoe, chopped wood, pattered around the yard, and traveled – within the US, and overseas to Poland twice.

He wrote numerous articles, short stories, and a book-length memoir of his childhood growing up in Gill. His favorite TV shows were Cops and People’s Court, and he loved watching the New England Patriots.

Joe is survived by his daughter Christine Parzych of Greenfield, his son Joseph M. Parzych of Gill, and his son-in-law Thomas H. Olsen of Dover, PA; his grandkids Matthew Olsen (Jessie) of Dayton, OH, Nick Olsen of York, PA, Kaitlin Parzych (Steve) of Greenfield, and Joseph R. Parzych (Amanda) of Greenfield; a sister, Laura Oles of West Springfield; and a number of nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, and god-children, all of whom he was very fond of and loved very much.

He was predeceased by his wife of over 54 years, Edna, in January 2008; his parents Mary and Joseph, his daughter Deborah June in 2005; his daughter Joann May in 2015; and all of his siblings, except for one.

Per Joe’s request, there will be no public service. He donated his body to medical science.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made out to the Gill Firemen’s Association; the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office TRIAD Division; Meals on Wheels (LifePath); The United Arc’s “Friends In Common” program; or another worthy cause of one’s choosing.

**MEMORIAL** from page A1

historically faithful reconstruction of the American House on Fourth Street, complete with anecdotes about the wild old days when pigs roamed that barroom and a bare-knuckled brawler challenged a national boxing champion to duke it out in public, and upheld our local honor by besting him.

Joe was that rare writer who could sell a story to a national trade publication like the *Hardhat News* and captivate readers of our local weekly, who might not know the difference between a two-by-four and a *petit four*, with the selfsame tale. (Couldn’t fault him for that – *Hardhat News* paid better than we did!)

Joe could teach you and make you laugh at the same time, whether the topic was how our readers should handle such problems as an attack of Giant Hogweed (*Turn!* and *Run!*) or the burden of modern environmental regulations, which he felt were impinging upon the native vigor of the old wildcat construction operations he used to work for. (Peter Mackin, may you rest in peace.)

He loved his town, but objected to loudly barking dogs in a near-

by kennel. He loved his wife Edna deeply, and he was heartbroken at her loss. He loved his children.

He loved to hoist a beer from time to time, and felt as much at home at the posh Gill Tavern as he did at the Old Vic. Walking home from Greenfield, he flinched from imaginary cougars hanging from dark trees on the French King Highway. He made us see what he saw. He loved this place, from Jep’s Place to the rag room at the Strathmore Mill, and we grew to love it with him.

I always knew this day would come eventually. That I would be writing these words. But that doesn’t make it any easier.

Joe, you were one of a kind, and we will not see your like again. With your passing, a way of making the concrete world hidden in the foundations of our lives, upon which our modern world is built, has now vanished from our midst, although the buildings still stand.

Those buildings you worked in, those foundations you excavated and made plain to all of us, will long outlast you, but they will never surpass you. We will miss you, Joe.

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**WENDELL** from page A1

has been following the issue closely. “The incentives coming from the state are not working properly,” said Nolan, referencing the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART), a state-run program intended to support renewable solar energy development.

Despite SMART’s efforts to incentivize solar companies to build away from forests, the state has received complaints that too much undeveloped land is being cleared in order to mount solar panels. “It seems like in western Massachusetts, there has been a lot of cutting forests,” said Nolan.

The state is currently working to revise the SMART program in response to feedback from citizens. In the meantime, some towns are seeking to enact more stringent bylaws.

If Wendell passes a similar moratorium at town meeting, any new applications from solar companies would be put on hold while the zoning bylaws are revised. Planning board members mentioned at Monday’s meeting that there may be a special town meeting soon, although a date was not selected.

When asked whether the planning board has the power to deny a special permit to Sunpin Solar, Riebschlaeger said “Yes, we do. A special permit is not guaranteed.”

She added, however, that a site plan review is guaranteed: “The planning board can put restrictions on [the project], like where they can have the road in, or whether they have to meet conservation guidelines. That would apply to a site plan review.”

Whether or not Sunpin Solar will begin development in Wendell remains to be seen. Neither the board’s planned October 22 discussion about the solar bylaws nor a potential moratorium would have any effect on Sunpin’s special permit application, which must be approved or denied according to the bylaws already in place.

**SIX-TOWN** from page A1

would recommend.

Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan said he had asked the district’s lawyer and a regionalization expert clarifying questions. The planning board might work for two to three years, meeting twice a week, and it is unclear whether a member’s seat would expire when their term on the school committee ends.

“I’m in, because you guys are out,” Bill Tomb told Jane Oakes and Timmie Smith, who had previously announced they were unavailable. “By process of elimination, I’ll represent Gill.”

The school committee unanimously voted to recommend Tomb to Isaac Bingham, Gill’s moderator. According to Gill select-board member Greg Snedeker, there is a “99% chance” the other two members from that town will be Snedeker and Deb Loomer.

It took longer to produce a Montague member. “I’m not going to make myself available,”

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

**Public Statement by the Wendell State Forest Alliance**

It is with deep sadness that we must accept that DCR has completed its logging project in Wendell State Forest, leaving the disturbing ruins of the once precious and beautiful wild area. Wendell State Forest Alliance, however, have made a unanimous decision to continue its work to protect other publicly owned state forests from commercial logging.

We would like to thank all of the wonderful individuals and groups that have come out to support our efforts, including nearby residents, members of Climate Action Now, Sierra Club, Extinction Rebellion, Save Mass Forests, Sugar Shack Alliance, Protect the Northern Woods, and more. We enjoyed a strong and loyal partnership with the many people who enjoy, treasure, and care about our public forests.

Next on the Wendell State Forest Alliance (WSFA)’s agenda is to pass House Bill H897, a bill that will protect Massachusetts public forests from commercial logging. About 30 or more members and allies of the group attended the hearing of H897 in Boston on September 24 to urge the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to move the bill forward for a vote. About 5 to 10 scientists reported on studies of soils, trees, biomes and wildlife. Many spoke up for the importance of trees and intact forests to sequester carbon to mitigate climate change. Others spoke passionately about the benefits of leaving forests to naturally protect the biodiversity and life that depend on it. Several spoke about environmental justice and the ill effects of biomass that is being pushed on us. People spoke about the illogical, irresponsible and poorly thought out projects by larger solar companies, to log forests for solar energy. Others passionately expressed their own experiences exploring and enjoying wild forests.

WSFA is also pursuing legal actions to stop DCR from continuing its logging operations due to what we see as insufficient and illegal procedures and lack of response to communication requests. Some members who were arrested while protecting the forest will be declaring necessity defenses for their charges and requesting lists of discovery for their trials.

We will educate and inform people about the importance of keeping our state forests wild, especially in areas where future logging projects are being announced. We will work with allied groups, scientists, and individuals to develop presentations, articles, and videos filled with information about the newest scientific discoveries about the integrated life within the forests.

WSFA has decided that the defense of Wendell State Forest is the first of many projects. Although other groups have begun this work, the defense of state forests is growing exponentially. Witnessing the destruction at Wendell State Forest has fueled the fire. We join groups in the great global expansion to protect our planet from destructive extractive industries that are causing extinction and climate catastrophe.

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# The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – This week in high school sports, the Mohawk Warriors stampeded over Pathfinder, the Turners Falls golf team went 2 and 0, the Tech Eagles field past the Spartans, Powertown field hockey let up a goal, and the volleyball team challenged some pretty big schools. Cheers were heard in the gym, and we'll include an introduction to the Tech/Turners co-op teams.

**Cheer**

The Turners Falls cheer squad has only two teams to root on this year: the Mohawk co-op football team, and the Turners boys' basketball team. But that doesn't mean they can't cheer on other sports.

At Friday's volleyball game, one of the cheerleaders was sitting in the stands in her street clothes, loudly reciting her football cheers as Turners battled East Longmeadow. During the breaks, she encouraged fans to go to this Friday's football game, the only varsity game to be played at Turners Falls High School this year.

**Field Hockey**

TFHS 7 – Palmer 0

TFHS 4 – Athol 0

TFHS 1 – Amherst 1

Powertown field hockey has relied on their defense this season. This has kept them in every match as they needed only one or two goals to win.

This week, while their defense continued their sharp play, Powertown's offense exploded. After shutting out Franklin Tech on September 24, the Blue Kilts beat Palmer and Athol 4-0, and finished up the week by tying Amherst.

In the Palmer game on September 25, Turners piled on five goals in the first half and added two more in the second. Kaylin Voudren led the scoring parade with two goals. Lindsay Davenport also earned two points with a goal and an assist. Olivia Whittier, Kendra Campbell, Paige Sulda and Ella Guidaboni also scored goals, with Brynn Tela and Brooke Thayer giving assists.

Even though the score was lopsided, it could've been worse: the Panther goalkeeper had to swat away 15 other shots, while Haleigh Green only had to make two saves!

Then the next day Athol came to town. In this game, it was Red who played defensive ball. This kept the game close, but also forced them to play most of the game in their own territory. In fact, Athol only forced one shot into the crease, which Greene slapped away. With so many Reds playing in the circle, they bent but didn't break, and Turners had to settle for one goal in the first half. At 10:03 Davenport fielded a carom and passed it in front of the net, where Tela knocked it home.

In the second half, the Raiders' defensive scheme backfired. Anywhere outside the circle, an infraction just means change of possession, but in front of the goal, it means a corner shot. To begin the half, Powertown forced six straight corners, and at 13:08, this pressure paid off. The inbound pass came through the circle, Davenport dribbled the ball back and shot it to Whittier, who hit the far corner of the net and Blue went up 2-0.

Turners added a third goal on a Voudren-to-Tela play, and at 2:13 Whittier found Sulda, who put the

game out of reach at 4-0.

After 17 unanswered goals, a team finally scored against Turners on Monday, when Amherst Regional forced a late-game 1-1 tie. I was at the volleyball game while the Blue Kilts played down in Amherst, so I had to rely on Haleigh Greene's mom for updates.

The sign of a good team is that no player is irreplaceable. That's what Turners was facing on Monday. Greene, who rarely misses even a practice, was out sick, and JV goaltender Cady Woznick had to step in. She and the rest of the defense managed to shut out the Hurricanes through most of the game.

For Turners, Sulda scored off a Tela assist to give Blue the lead at the half. In the second half, Amherst was able to thread the ball past the Blue D to escape with a 1-1 tie.

**Football**

FCTS 37 – Monument 6

Mohawk 49 – Pathfinder 0

Even though we're only a third of the way through the season, the football playoff picture is getting interesting. Franklin Tech, who lost close games against two tough teams, destroyed Monument Mountain in their first league game. Meanwhile Mohawk, fresh off a 37-6 blowout against Smith Vocational, dominated Pathfinder 49-0. Going into Week Four, the future is wide open for both teams.

I decided to go to the Tech game last Friday instead of traveling all the way to Palmer. This game was hard to call, as Berkshire teams are traditionally difficult to gauge; until recently, they mostly just played each other, and often complained that they were underrated compared to Pioneer Valley teams.

So, facing the possibility of starting the season 0 and 3 in their first game against a league opponent, Tech gave no quarter. They kept up the same hard-headed defense they used against Chicopee, while also dominating on offense.

Austin Demers led the Eagles on defense with 10 tackles, followed by Dylan Demers (6) and Kyle Snyder (5), while Cameron Wood added a sack and Snyder snagged an interception. On offense, Hunter Wozniak (14), Ryan Bergmann (12), and Colby Mailloux (8) scored points for Tech. Owen Bashaw went 7 for 12 under center, for 131 yards and two TDs.

Tech continues their League run with an away game against Easthampton on Friday.

Meanwhile out in Palmer, Mohawk was crushing Pathfinder. A source gave me the score at halftime, but by then the game was already over. After scoring two TDs in the first quarter, the Co-ops added four more in the second, and by the time I heard the score it was 42-0. Mohawk's JV came on in the second half and increased the lead to 49.

Next week, Mohawk tries to make it four in a row as they face the Ware Indians at Turners Falls High School.

**Soccer**

Mohawk is not the only school co-oping with Turners Falls. Tech shares two fall sports with Turners, boys' and girls' soccer. After the boys started their season with two wins and two ties, they have been shut out in their last two games by a combined score of 7-0, so they sit

at 2-2-2 midway through the regular season.

This Thursday they host Smith Voc, and on Friday they travel to Granby.

The Tech Lady Co-ops, however, are having a tougher season. They are currently 0-6, and have scored only two goals. After a 12-day rest, they host Smith Voc on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup>, and then travel up the trail to take on Mohawk on October 10.

**Golf**

TFHS 20.5 – Smith Academy 3.5

TFHS 13 – Saint Mary 11

The Turners Falls golf team had a good week, going 2-0 against Smith Academy and Saint Mary Parish.

The Smith game was scheduled for September 26, but it was raining at Thomas Memorial, so it was postponed to Monday. That was an interesting pick, because it was also the last day of the Elks tournament. The course at Thomas's was dotted with student athletes, adult Elks, the yearbook photographer, and the coaches riding around in golf carts. This mix lent an atmosphere of friendly but competitive play.

"We're the only school in the area that's not regionalized," the Smith coach said quietly as the game was winding down, "just 36 kids in four grades." And as I watched the middle schoolers play for Turners, I couldn't help but think, "Turners must not be much bigger."

Joey Mosca tied for top on the leader board with a 39, and split his match 2-2. Brian Poirier shot a 47 to win 3.5-0.5, followed by Aidan Bailey (48, 4-0). Joe Kochan (56, 3-1), Jeremy Kovalsick (57, 4-0), and Vinnie Carne (57, 4-0) scored the rest of Turners' points.

Then on Tuesday, the sextet traveled to Tekoa Country Club in Westfield to take on Saint Mary. Bailey led Blue in this one with a 41 to give Powertown 3.5 points. Mosca shot a 43 and got 2.5 points, Poirer scored 1.5 and finished in 52 strokes, while Kovalsick shot a 55 for 2 points. Carne (62) added 3.5 points, and Jack Jette finished in 70.

The team takes on Franklin Tech this Thursday, and hosts Greenfield on Friday.

**Volleyball**

TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0

West Springfield 3 – TFHS 1

East Longmeadow 3 – TFHS 2

After sweeping Pioneer 3-0, the Turners Falls volleyball team went on a skid, losing their next two games. But it's no cause for alarm: Turners' schedule is packed with city schools, and winning isn't necessarily that important; what is important is playing your best against the best. Turners did just that, stealing a match against West Springfield and forcing a fifth against East Longmeadow.

Last Wednesday, the team traveled up to Northfield. After edging out the Pioneers in the first match 25-23, Blue went on a tear, easily winning the last two 25-9, 25-9.

On Friday, the West Springfield Terriers came to the Turners Falls gym. It was Friday, so I had to leave after the first match to catch the kickoff across town. The Terriers seemed a little surprised by the Blue Ladies' determination. Powertown got off to a good lead and held on to win 25-19.

Turners kept pace in the second,

**BOOSTER** from page A1

the 1980s, juniors were the 1990s, seniors were the 1950s, and lastly, the staff dressed up as the 1960s and '70s. Wednesday was Crazy Hair Day, and Thursday is VSCO Girl/Eboy Day. Friday will be Class Color Day: the freshmen's color is yellow, sophomores are red, juniors are black, and the seniors are purple.

Student Council advisor Beth Fortin said she is most looking forward to Decades Day.

All four grades will also participate in Hallway Wars, which is an annual tradition since float-making stopped after 2012 due to decreasing interest from students. About the hallway decorating, "I like the camaraderie of the class working together on it," said TFHS/GFMS librarian Tabatha Martinelli. As a class advisor, Martinelli has helped in Hallway Wars twice, and her classes' themes were "1950s Diners" and "Haunted Hallway."

As of press time, the classes have started to assemble their hallways.

Friday afternoon will be the pep rally, where we will find out who won Hallway Wars and the dress-up days. A huge part of the pep rally is class competitions. In the past a crowd favorite was the grade vs. grade tug of war.

This year's events are still a surprise. TFHS teacher Jessica Vachula-Curtis said, "I'm hoping to see 'human Hungry Hungry Hippos' on scooters, like they did a few years ago."

A big change for this year is that new TFHS/GFMS principal Joanne Menard has invited all of Great Falls Middle School to join the fun as spectators. This will get younger students excited about

the activities they will get to do in a couple of years.

After school Friday there will be sports, starting with golf at Thomas Memorial golf course playing Greenfield at 3 p.m. Back at TFHS at 4:30, field hockey will be playing Pioneer Valley. Volleyball will play at 5 p.m. versus Mohawk.

Lastly, the Mohawk-Turners football co-op will play at 7 p.m. versus McCann Tech. This is the only football game that will be played at Turners this year.

Senior wide receiver Jaden Whiting said he thinks playing at home on Booster Day will be fun, and that anticipating this game "feels wonderful."

Senior captain Liam Driscoll said, "I am extremely excited about playing at Turners and the crowd will be booming!"

This is a great chance to see all of the TFHS sports in one day. Also, the TFHS cheerleaders will be selling pumpkins before the football game to support Turners athletics.

The fun will wrap up on Saturday night with the Homecoming Dance at Thomas's golf course from 7 to 10 p.m. "There is no theme this year," said Senior Kaitlyn Miner. "We are just decorating classically, with black and white and pops of red. We are very excited for the dance, and Booster Week!"

The Turners Falls High School Student Council is buying pizza, and bringing desserts.

Senior Lorie Wood said, "I'm going for the food!"

Anthony Peterson is a senior at Turners Falls High School.



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Fleet-footed Sam Lashtur moves the ball downfield against Westfield Tech. Lashtur attends Turners Falls High School and plays for Franklin Tech.

forcing West to score 26 to pull out the win, but Westfield took the rubber easily 25-8 and held on to win the last match 25-20.

Then on Monday, the East Longmeadow Red Spartans came to town. Sparta is another city school, but Powertown gave them all they could handle.

In the first match, Powertown pulled ahead 19-12, but Red went on a streak to take a 23-22 lead. With Eastie serving game point, 24-22, Blue got the defensive point to stay alive. The game ping-ponged along with the teams tying at 25, 26, and finally 27-27. Turners scored the next two, and won the first match 29-27.

The second match was also closely fought, but with the score 20-20, Red went on a run to take it 25-21. With the matches even at 1-1, Red

skyrocketed out to a 10-3 lead in the third match and expanded it to 23-14. Blue pulled within four points, 23-19, but East bounced back to win the rubber 25-20.

With their backs against the wall, Blue won the must-win 25-20. Then, in the 15-point tiebreaker, Sparta came out swinging, blocking and spiking, running the score to 5-0 before Blue got their first point. Turners kept pace, but could not break into that five-point deficit; the teams switched sides with the score 8-3, and Sparta held on to win 15-10.

This week, the volleyball team picks on someone their own size as they travel to Greenfield on Thursday and host Mohawk on Friday.

Next week: Football comes home to Turners Falls!

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MONTAGUE from page A1

The march is planned to start at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church on K Street, proceed down Seventh Street to Avenue A, take a right on First Street, and finish at the “far parking lot” next to the Connecticut River.

Garmalo and Dunbar did not discuss the purpose of the event. Garmalo told the *Reporter* that up to 150 participants would “pray for the country” during the procession, and at the assembly on the river. A similar event was held last year.

According to the Rosary Coast to Coast 2019 website, organizers around the country hope to mobilize up to 2,000 events similar to the one in Turners Falls to pray for a “return of our nations, our cultures and our world to God and to Holiness.”

The website warns that “In 2019, the Spiritual Battle has intensified, with the forces of evil becoming more extreme in their positions against Life from conception to birth to natural death and the sanctity of Marriage and Family.... It is in this environment that a call to Spiritual Arms is being issued again and with greater urgency to prayer warriors across the country and the world.”

The board approved the use of town property for the event.

**Park Improvements**

In other news, Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) came before the board to receive authorization for two large disbursements related to the Rutters Park improvement projects in Lake Pleasant – \$9,386.98 to the engineering firm GZA Environmental, and \$74,550 to Aqua Turf Irrigation. The board authorized both disbursements.

Hunter said the area planted with grass seed would be ready for use “next spring or summer,” but the playground area with wood chips will be finished “by the end of the month.”

“The end of the month being the end of October,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

The board meeting was taking place on September 30. “It would be a busy next couple of hours,” said member Mike Nelson.

Hunter agreed.

He remained in the room for a brief discussion of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The federal grant, which is actually executed in FY’20 with the state Department of Housing and Community Development, is administered for the town by the FCRHRA. This year’s block grant totals \$612,065.

Ellis noted that approximately \$415,000 of that would be spent on the “comprehensive renovation” of Spinner Park, a small “pocket park” on the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street. He said the town and FCRHRA would put the project out to bid this winter so it can be completed in the next construction season.

The location of the statue of the female textile worker, currently at the center of the park, has been somewhat controversial. The original plan to move it to the back of the park to create more space at the center was opposed by a number of downtown Turners Falls residents, who said the empty space would discourage locals from meeting and talking to one another there. But at Monday’s meeting, Hunter said the final plan retains “moving the statue to the rear, opening up the space.”

The board voted to execute the block grant.

The board also voted to award an \$18,196 contract for trail improvements in Millers Falls to Morse Engineering and Construction Industries, LLC of Fiskdale, MA. The project, which includes both trail upgrades and improved boating access to the Millers River, is being funded by a state Recreational Trails grant.

**Sandy Lane**

Ellis presented an update on the progress of the new public works facility being constructed off Turners Falls Road. He said that “site work is nearly complete,” and “mixing in a heavy gravel base and doing compaction” would take place over the next few weeks. He said he was “happy” to announce that the site was in good condition, with no “contamination” or “rocky outcroppings.” The town expects the “steel building” to arrive in late November so it can be “outfitted during the course of the winter.”

The expected completion date is the first week of June.

Ellis estimated that at this point, the project could come in over \$1 million under budget, “should we not encounter any issues.”

However, he noted that one of features of the original plan cut out of the final project due to cost was a fuel station on the property. The current DPW fuel station, which Ellis called “substandard and antiquated,” is at the transfer station on Sandy Lane. Ellis said he would ask the project manager to get estimates of the cost of adding a fuel station to the project.

Kuklewicz said he would like to see what he called an “independent, expert analysis” of the current fuel station at Sandy Lane. He suggested the town hire someone “who has no vested interest in what we do, one way or the other, to determine the viability of what’s there.”

“It makes absolute sense,” said Ellis. “It’s one of the reasons I wanted to bring the question to you today.”

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

**Other Business**

At the end of the meeting Ellis briefly reviewed the progress of several town projects. He said the project to upgrade the Colle Opera House on Avenue A, which includes major window improvements, was “substantially complete.”

Kuklewicz said he did not want to call the project “complete” until the protection put on the electrical wires, and the caution tapes that are “dated and fluttering,” are removed.

Ellis suggested that this was the job of the electric company, and there was a limited amount the contractor could do about it.

“The only way I can think of to assure this is to not call the project complete,” replied Kuklewicz.

Ellis said “we got through” most of the work on the Shea Theater roof without encountering any more problems, and were waiting for a company to do the “finish work,” which he called “metal edging.”

With regard to the town hall annex, he said the “old decking” was in “surprisingly good condition,” and the work could be completed by the end of the week.

After that, he said, “we will move on to the equipment room roof.”

The meeting adjourned after just under 40 minutes. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held on October 7.



CLEANUP from page A1

poison ivy.

The volunteers have come prepared with work gloves, buckets, and bags, and Betsy wields a miniature rake with a long handle, perfect for fishing nips and lottery tickets out of the vegetation.

“I didn’t wear my bathing suit, so I’m not saving you,” Jackie warns Marcia as she clammers down a steep embankment beside the East Main Street bridge.

After finding surprisingly little litter on the stony bank of the river itself, the group works its way across the bridge onto Papermill Road in Erving. Cars and trucks here don’t seem used to slowing down for pedestrians.

A Bugles bag full of old water, a cardboard pizza box, and some glass beer bottles in various stages of brokenness go in the bags. Back on the Millers side, Karen makes a foul discovery: a heavy plastic bag filled with many smaller plastic bags, which appear to be full of dog feces. She carries it down the street, arms outstretched, nose wrinkled.

The real dump turns out to be under the shelter of the railroad tracks off East Main Street. Volunteers are instructed to leave settlements alone, but none of us think



This tire and rim had become fused with the brush alongside East Main Street.



The group is pretty sure this mattress isn't in active use, so they haul it up to the road.



The immediate bank of the Millers was fairly free of litter on Saturday.

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

Overflowing Dumpsters

As fall approaches, we ask **all** owners of restaurants, commercial businesses, and landlords to please manage their waste pickup in a way that is respectful of our town and residents. In Montague, rental properties with three or more units **require** a dumpster, according to the Montague Board of Health regulations.

Overflowing dumpsters are a town-wide issue, and we are asking for those that own dumpsters to please ensure that the use of this type of trash disposal unit is taken care of on a regular basis and does not jeopardize the health of the public.

Please note: **In 2014, the Montague Board of Health voted to charge a \$50 fee for overflowing dumpsters.** The fee will be assessed to the property owner. The orders to correct and fines that are sent from this office have begun after many complaints have been received.

In your travels in enjoying the town, if you see an overflowing dumpster, do not hesitate to bring it to the business’s or landlord’s attention, along with our office.

Thank You for Your Cooperation,  
**Daniel Wasiuk, Health Director & Anne Stuart, Board of Health Clerk**

this is a camp in active use; there is a queen-sized mattress nearby, but it may simply have been flung over the embankment.

In one corner, dozens of 3.5” floppy discs have been methodically destroyed and mixed in with the dry leaves. There is a CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge, perhaps from a paintball gun.

It takes a good amount of pushing,

pulling, and kicking to dislodge a car tire – which actually turns out to be an entire wheel – that plants have grown up inside. No one has brought a machete. Karen eventually rips it out by the roots, tumbling over, and the group cheers. “That’s her Crossfit training for today!” Marcia jokes.

Betsy says the most unusual item she’s seen today is a metal crutch. The strangest thing Marcia reports seeing in previous years’ cleanups is a used condom in a tree.

This year the Connecticut River Conservancy has called out two companies by name – Dunkin’ Donuts and Cumberland Farms – in an attempt to encourage them to shift toward reusable containers, but at least here in Millers, there doesn’t seem to be a particular concentration of their trash on the ground.

The group consolidates all the trash into a pile on the side of the road, which the power company will come and haul out in the afternoon. (Readers of the police log in this edition will learn that someone found this operation suspicious, and called the police.) At the end of the day, all the region’s treasure will be piled up at the Greenfield Swimming & Recreation Area for a volunteer appreciation event.

“They have furniture, they have tons of bicycles,” Betsy says, recounting past years’ hoards. “Tires, tires, tires... People just throw it out the window rather than bringing it home! Mattresses you have to pay for, and you need a truck to transport it, and sometimes the [Bulky Waste Day] times just aren’t convenient, and I think people just can’t get there.”

“Even the beer cans,” she continues. “What do they get, five cents? But people don’t want to be bothered with that. And a lot of it’s young people, who don’t want their parents to know they’ve been drinking, so they get the evidence out of the way.”

“I like doing stuff like this,” Jackie says. “Betsy and I walk every day down the canal, we see that stuff all the time – it’s awful what people do, it really is. They can’t pick up, you know?”

Jackie and Betsy graduated from Turners Falls High School together. I later find their faces, side by side, in the Class of 1958 yearbook, back then a Braun and a Busha.

“Can I offer you a suggestion?” Betsy asks with a grin when I say I’m done following them around taking pictures. “Next time you sign up, get a shirt, and come help. I mean, you helped today, too...”

I promise to be more helpful next year. Someone else can write the article!



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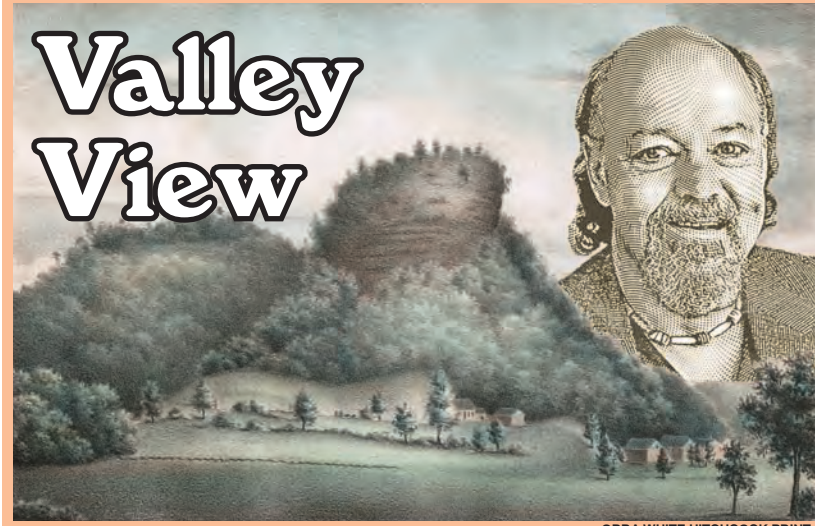
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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER OCTOBER 3, 2019



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** — Memories fade over time, and a half-century is a long time in the local-history realm.

Thus, I suppose it should come as no surprise that recollections of Greenfield’s old Nash’s Mills neighborhood at the beginning of Leyden Road are quickly sliding into oblivion. The church, the dam, the pond and other buildings did, after all, vanish more than 55 years ago to make room for Interstate 91.

What it boils down to is that even people now in their mid-60s were really too young then to provide the intricate details and insight required to paint a complete picture.

Yes, there are many who remember the stately, brick North Parish Church and its popular Parish Hall, demolished in 1963 for the highway, while others fondly recall fishing Nash’s Mills Pond with a bobber and worm or Daredevil lure, or skating there in the cold of winter.

Then there are those who mention the concrete-and-stone stairs said to be built during the Depression by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews. The stairs followed the south side of the Mill Brook falls from the top of Nash’s Mill Road to the bridge over Green River.

But inquire about the bedrock waterfall’s color or the blasting required to remove it, or ask how much of the landform was removed to hollow out the highway corridor today spanned by an overpass, and there seems to be only spotty recollection.

“You must remember that the construction site was out of the way, where you didn’t notice it in passing,” recalled Richard Shortell, 72, who grew up in the upper Greenfield Meadows, attended North Parish Church with his parents, and was in high school during the 1963-64 highway project.

When asked if the bedrock was the red sandstone with which we’re all familiar in this part of the Connecticut Valley, not one of many neighborhood witnesses queried responded with an authoritative, knee-jerk, “Yes.” Instead the question was greeted with a silent, bemused pause, followed by an uncertain, “Yes, I think so.” Certainly not a definitive response.

Nonetheless, likely on the mark.

An exception was 93-year-old Greenfield native Anna Butynski, and even she hesitated. Caught off guard, the Greenfield Meadows farmer took a while to stir her memory and provide a credible response. Although she couldn’t recall the color of the cascading bedrock waterfall below the dam, she did remember it as “beautiful,” and did recall red outcropping of ledge in the neighborhood above, on both sides of the Leyden Road bridge crossing the narrow ravine just above the dam and falls.

“There was red rock all around there,” she said. “I used to lace my skates sitting on red rock along the shore behind the Parish Hall. I’m pretty sure there was red rock that had to be removed at the house across the bridge, too. That was Wayside Farm with a dairy barn when I was young. I remember them delivering milk with a white horse and wagon.”

Butynski grew up on the downtown half of Conway Street and remembers being able to see North Parish Church all the way from Main Street, the steeple taller than the neighborhood trees. As an adult married to Michael Butynski, she and her husband started Colrain Road’s Butynski Farm, which she still owns with extended family and raises vegetables. The state took four acres by eminent domain from the farm’s northeast corner bordered by the Green River during Interstate 91 construction.

Although she does remember an extended construction process that included mention of blasting, she didn’t remember hearing explosions, or paying much attention to the construction. Though nearby on her abutting acreage, like Shortell, she said it was largely out of sight, out of mind.

Like most people questioned, Butynski had only vague recollections of the natural, cascading stone falls below the dam. Maybe she never focused on them. Perhaps parents in the neighborhood deemed them off-limits to children due to potential danger. Then again, who, other than a fisherman or maybe a landscape artist or naturalist, would have a reason to study the falls, know them intimately and remember their twists, turns and bubbling pools?

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B5

Above: Ed Gregory shared this photo of the renovation of Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant he took from Ninth Street.

# A Peaceful Flight In A War Machine



SERGE WILTSHIRE PHOTO

We were invited to send a reporter on a press flight of this B-17 bomber last week, so we called Pete.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**KEENE, NH** — This past weekend the Experimental Aircraft Association’s B-17 *Aluminum Overcast* visited Keene, New Hampshire. The 74-year old plane is on a tour of at least thirteen cities — it will be in Hyannis this weekend, and Westfield the next. Pilot Rex Gray explained the purpose of the tour: “The EAA’s mission is to promote aviation so that guys like you know that flying isn’t just going to the airport and taking off your shoes.”

*Aluminum Overcast* has been touring the country as the EAA’s flagship since 1994. “Flying Fortress,” “Queen of the Skies,” and just plain “Fort” are all nicknames given to the bomber that some say made

victory in World War II possible. The B-17 is prevalent in patriotic images of the war. A sky filled with hundreds of shiny B-17s is one such image.

According to *Air Force Magazine*, “The fort became a symbol of the air war in Europe — and a symbol of victory as well.” Their symbolic power was also used during the war on the home front: famous B-17s such as the *Memphis Belle* — which inspired a 1990 film of the same name — were brought home to travel the country on war bond tours.

*Aluminum Overcast* was delivered to the Army Air Force on May 18, 1945, ten days after the war in Europe ended. The plane is a memorial to the original *Aluminum Overcast*, which was shot down over France on its 34<sup>th</sup> mission. This was

a very high number of missions; according to one crew member, most did not make it beyond eight. The plane’s name is a reference to a quip made by a fighter pilot who described a bomber-filled sky as “aluminum overcast.”

## The Flight

I sat in a beige jumpseat next to my photographer, Serge Wiltshire, journalists from two southern New Hampshire newspapers, and a host of the “libertarian anarchist” radio show Free Talk Live. The four engines with their 12’ propeller blades murmured, the long pause at the beginning of the runway when the anticipation becomes almost too much to bear. Just three inches of

see **FLIGHT** page B8

## THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: NICOLA YOON

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** — Happy October! In August, I saw the movie *The Sun Is Also a Star* with my mom, and watching the movie inspired me to read the book by Nicola Yoon it was based on.

I know you’re supposed to read the book before watching the movie, but I kind of liked seeing the movie first, because I could picture the characters in my head better. I really loved the movie, and the book was really amazing too! I thought that since I already saw the movie the book wouldn’t be that interesting, but it was really good, and there were little things that were changed that made it exciting to read.

*The Sun Is also a Star* is about a girl named Natasha Kingsley, who is an illegal immigrant. She is being deported the night the majority of the story takes place. Natasha only believes in things that can be scientifically proven; she doesn’t believe in love, destiny, magic, things “meant to be,” etc.

Natasha and her family moved to New York City from Jamaica when she was eight, and she thinks of New York as her home. Natasha is really strong, and even though her family has accepted the deportation, Natasha goes to an immigration lawyer to try to help her case, and to allow her family to stay in the United States. While Natasha’s family is packing to leave for Jamaica, Natasha refuses to get ready to leave — which works out well, as she meets Daniel Bae. Daniel is a first-generation Korean American, whose parents came to America from South Korea for more opportunities.

Daniel’s parents want him and his brother to be doctors and go to Harvard. However, Daniel’s



PHOTO COURTESY IZZY V.C

Our correspondent didn’t yet land an author interview, but reviews the book and movie.

brother, Charlie, got kicked out of Harvard, so there’s a lot of pressure on Daniel to be the doctor. Daniel’s dream job is to be a poet, and he’s not really passionate about being a doctor or going to Harvard like his parents want. Even though Daniel is not that excited about going to Harvard, he knows that his parents came to America for a better life for their kids, so he doesn’t want to disappoint them.

Daniel and Natasha meet on the street in New York City, and Daniel tries to convince Natasha that he can

see **AUTHORS** page B4



# Pet of the Week



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Are you looking for an adventurous, independent cat friend who loves to have access to the great outdoors? Kia might be your girl.

Kia had free access to the outdoors in her previous home and she thrived, hunting and having secret adventures. But when she came in, she was ready to receive attention, food, and all the privileges and

warmth the indoors offers. She is a friendly and affectionate with people but does not really enjoy other cats; however, she has lived with a large dog, and they got along just fine.

Interested in this free spirit? Come and meet her at Dakin! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

## Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 7 THROUGH 11

### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

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

#### Monday 10/7

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday 10/8

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Movie: *The Man Who*

*Killed Hitler And Then The Bigfoot*

#### Wednesday 10/9

12:30 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 10/10

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Gentle Yoga

#### Friday 10/11

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

Bettters, 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 10/7

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

#### Tuesday 10/8

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

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

#### Wednesday 10/9

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11 a.m. M3 Class

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

#### Thursday 10/10

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

1 p.m. Computer Class

#### Friday 10/11

9 a.m. Quilters Workshop

9:15 a.m. Walkers

9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

### LEVERETT

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

## OCTOBER LIBRARY LISTING

### Montague Public Libraries

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

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348

Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591

Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220

Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

### MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**Saturday, October 26:** *Halloween Party at the Carnegie.* The library will provide a safe environment for children to make crafts, play spooky games, and eat yummy snacks. Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. until noon.

### WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

**Saturday, October 5:** Film: *The Blob.* Steven McQueen, cleverly disguised as an alien blob of Jello, is a classic part of the monthly sci-fi/fantasy series. 7:30 p.m.

### LEVERETT LIBRARY

**Tuesday, October 1:** *Family Scrabble Games* resume today after summer break. Weekly, 3:15 to 4:30.

**Tuesdays, October 8 & 22:** *Tuesday Music Gathering.* New! 6:30 to 8 p.m. Hosted by *Gene Stamell.*

**Tuesday, October 15:** *Portia Weiskel's Leverett Literature*

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

*Group.* New date. 6:30 to 8.

**Thursday, October 17:** *“Who Goes There...” Presentation by Agawam Paranormal.* Presentation includes buildings such as the Houghton Mansion (North Adams), Henry Woods Building (Town Hall, Barre), and the Gaylord Library (South Hadley). 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### DICKINSON LIBRARY, NORTHFIELD

**Friday, October 4:** *Playful Engineers with Jay Mankita.* Hands-on workshop in which participants will have a chance to design, build, test, and play with Rube Goldberg “Machines,” and other chain reactions, connecting focused play with serious science. (STEM programming is brought to you with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.) 2 to 4 p.m.

**Friday, October 11:** *Make your own self-portrait,* for the upcoming library exhibit on courage, spunk, grit, and perseverance. 2 to 3 p.m.

**Friday, October 18:** *Kids – can you beat Matt – at Jenga.* Come and find out what Jenga is all about. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

**Saturday, October 26:** *Learn Zentangle.* Basic introduction to the Zentangle® Method of drawing; covers history, applications, and steps to create original Zentangle tiles. Open to all levels. *Certified Zentangle Teacher Sally Houghton* will lead you through this creative experience. More about Zentangle at [zentangle.com](http://zentangle.com). 1 to 3 p.m.

### ART EXHIBITS

**Leverett Library:** *Two Artists of One Teacher.* The Art of *Charlotte Burns* and *Lee Ann Lamsa*, with mentor *Louise Minks.*

**Dickinson Library:** *Portraits from the Farren: Peter-Michael Kinney and Residents of the Farren Senior Care Facility.* Through mid-October.

## Friday at the Shea: A Global Dance Party

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – A number of artists have helped the distinctive sound of West Saharan electric guitar cross over to American audiences during the last decade: Mdou Moctar; Mali’s Tinariwen collective; Group Bombino and Group Inerane from Niger; and Group Doueh, from the disputed borderlands of Mauritania and Morocco.

Each has its own take on the genre, usually a fusion of traditional music of desert nomads with psychedelic rock. Some specialize in gentle, trance-inducing jams; others, party music bursting with sunny, acid-fried soloing. Most hail from the Tuareg ethnic group, and until recently, all these guitarists have been men.

Enter Fatou Seidi Ghali, singer and lead guitarist of a unit called **Les Filles de Illighadad**. Though the “desert blues” the male musicians have popularized actually emulates music traditionally played by Tuareg women, who sing accompaniment over a drum called the *tende*, it has been frowned on for women to pick up the guitar.

So Fatou, who grew up in an isolated goat-herding outpost called Illighadad, learned the instrument covertly. Today her band, which braids together twin guitar lines and twin vocals over the *tende*’s constant pulse, stands with any of the international touring groups, and is on its premier tour of the States.

Tomorrow night, Friday, October 4, the group plays the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

“Tickets are selling strongly,” says Edo Mor of Laudable Productions, which has booked the show as the eighth installment of its World Music Collider series. “At the Shea, you really need to have a minimum of 200 people in there for it to feel like a party, and I think we’ll get at least that.”

Laudable, based in Easthampton, was the company



London’s 47Soul bring the Palestinian diaspora to the dancefloor.



Tuareg women weren’t supposed to play guitar, so Fatou Seidi Ghali, leader of Les Filles de Illighadad, taught herself.

behind Barbès in the Woods, the August global music festival in Montague Center. Friday’s show is the eight Collider, the second at the Shea – and the second “Super Collider,” as he explains to me.

Instead of being paired with a domestic opener, Les Filles are splitting the bill with **47Soul**, a group of Palestinians from Jordan by way of the United Kingdom who play what they call “shamstep,” electronic dance music rooted in Levantine genres such as *dabke* and *mijwiz*.

The *Guardian* called 47Soul’s album *Balfron Promise* the world music album of the month in January 2018, describing it as “a cheerfully wide-screen fusion of electronic hip-hop and traditional dabke dance music, mixed in with a dash of reggae.... They play synthesizers, drum machines, guitars and Arabic percussion, and are impressive live performers, as they proved at 2016’s Womad.”

“They’re not similar to each other at all,” Mor says of the double-headliner bill. “It’s two bands from out of country, and I think they’re both pretty interesting – and worth the price of entry by themselves.”

While 47Soul are used to playing to Western audiences, Mor says it is a “moment of contact” for Les Filles – “a moment for us to get to know each other for the first time.”

He also tells me the tour was almost canceled due to visa issues, which have been particularly difficult for northern African musicians under the current US administration; the band’s manager eventually enlisted US senator Kirsten Gillibrand to advocate with Homeland Security for their approval.

“People are going to be dancing to both sets,” Mor predicts. “It’s going to be a long night of music.... Make sure you have dinner before you come.”

Tickets were \$20 in advance, and will be \$25 at the door. Show starts at 8 p.m. with local openers **Zaytune**.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Week of October 3 to 9

By MIKE SMITH

We’ve got local high school sports for you here on MCTV! Catch the Turners Falls Varsity Volleyball and Mohawk Football games from the comfort of your own home. You’ll be able to find them all on *montaguetv.org*.

While you’re there, be sure to catch the latest Varsity Sports Report with your host Bobby C! He’ll keep you up to date on all you need to know about local high school sports. Also available now, the finance committee meeting which took place on Wednesday, September 25. Stay up to date with all things local at *montaguetv.org*.

If there was an emergency and you had to leave your home, do you

know what to do? What to grab? Or where to go? If the answer is no, don’t worry! MCTV was at the Montague Police Department to record the Emergency Preparedness Seminar which took place this past September 25. Those who attended learned vital tips on how to survive disaster situations; check it out for yourself on *montaguetv.org*.

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

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

Profile: Nimble Arts

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I went to the Franklin County Fair this year and saw the Nimble Arts Circus. I found it to my liking, and decided I wanted to write an article about them.

According to their website at *NimbleArts.org*, “Nimble Arts was founded by identical twin aerialists Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion to create inventive works of theatrical circus.” Their performing experience includes “duo swinging trapeze with Cirque du Soleil, aerials and acrobatics with Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey, the Pickle Family Circus...”

Nimble Arts’s group of performers includes people who were “formerly with Cirque Eloize, Circa, Big Apple Circus, Pilobolus and others.”

I interviewed Serenity Smith Forchion, who has also been a creative director since Nimble Arts began, along with her sister. Nimble Arts had been around “since 2002,” she told me. Before that, she was with Cirque De Oriel for “4½ years, from 1997 to 2001.”

Nimble Arts operates out of Vermont. The shows they do are interactive performances, single acts, and full productions. She told me “duo trapeze, which is a single act, is the one I’ve done the most.”

The group has aerialists like Elsie and Serenity, acrobats, jugglers, stilt walkers, mimes, and clowns. They performed at the Fair for the first time this year, and Serenity said “it was fun.”

They also have performed in “Boston, MA – probably 40 different places – and Lowell, MA.”

How many performers are in these shows? “It depends,” she said. “The company is myself and my sister.” There are another 10 to 20 people they hire, depending on the show. “Sometimes I perform by myself. Sometimes I have 30 performers.”

A juggler named Tony Duncan they had with them at the Fair has been with them for 16 years. He also has 40 years of experience juggling. Morgan, a female performer who does handstands, has been with them for 10 years. They draw nice crowds at their performances, ac-



Nimble Arts cofounder Serenity Smith Forchion performs an aerial silks routine.

cording to Serenity. They did that at the Fair, too.

Serenity said she started doing this at 16. She got to swing on a trapeze when she was on vacation. She started teaching herself, and got a job at a summer camp. A couple more places in Massachusetts they have performed are the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, and the Northampton Academy of Music Theatre in 2013.

They have workshops and classes where you can learn to be an aerialist. I was told they have “thousands of students, who come to us every year from around the world.”

As for what I saw, in terms of how they perform at the fair where I got the idea to write about them, here are my thoughts. I saw the juggler I spoke of before their show that Saturday afternoon. He was juggling bowling pins while using a hula hoop. He didn’t look like he was an amateur while he was doing that. It was a nicely impressive sight to see!

During the show I saw the same man do some juggling to music well, too. One of the aerialists did aerobics to music while hanging from a rope. That was cool to watch. It was something I enjoyed seeing at the fair very much!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Aggro Pekingese; Brawl On The Ave; Weed Theft; Bobcat On The Hill; Suspicious Trash Cleanup

**Sunday, 9/22**  
11:03 a.m. Report of traffic signal malfunction; traffic coming down Seventh Street toward Avenue A is not seeing a green light. Officer and DPW advised. DPW advises lights are fixed.  
6:09 p.m. Family Dollar store manager reporting that a young kid was in the store and on his way out, his pants looked funny. Manager saw him remove mask from his pants and take it from the store. Last seen headed towards Subway on a scooter. Officer advises that party is about seven years old; will be on lookout.  
7:31 p.m. Caller reporting a male and a female walking on Old Sunderland Road about 1/2 mile south of School Street; caller believes female may not be there of her own will. Area checked; unable to locate.  
10:14 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle parked by the basketball courts at Unity Park playing loud music; there may be a second vehicle playing loud music on the riverbank by the dog park. Officer advises both parties have been moved along.  
10:32 p.m. Caller reporting they received a message that a named male party was beaten and killed last night; they also have a photo that was sent to their phone. Caller called back to inform officer that she spoke again with the person who sent the message, who stated that he did not harm or murder the other male but that he took the male’s crutches to intimidate him.  
**Monday, 9/23**  
1:45 p.m. Caller from Bulkley Street requesting to speak with officer re: a suspicious male who showed up at her house around 6:45 this morning. Caller advises that male asked her marital status and stated that his wife was very sick. Caller saw this male once before, a week to ten days ago, walking on Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.  
2:33 p.m. Microsoft scam call reported. Caller advises male party was vulgar toward her during the call. Advised of options.  
2:56 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road requesting to speak with officer re: a Pekingese dog that came after him yesterday. Confirmed no bite took place, but caller heard from a neighbor that the dog has bitten someone before. Advised of options. Animal control officer will be following up.  
3:33 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street reporting that a male party wearing a cowboy hat and missing front teeth came to their door stating that they were

sent from Rist Insurance to photograph their house and dog; party asked what caller’s husband’s name was. Caller did not give any information, and the party left. Caller called Rist, who said they did not send anyone to her house. Officer went and spoke with Rist Insurance; they confirmed that the insurance company did send someone out to the house. Rist will contact caller and explain situation.  
9:17 p.m. Caller reports that two kids just jumped a male party behind their truck off Second Street. Caller states that he spoke with one of the kids and they pulled a gun out on him. Last seen heading toward F.L. Roberts. Officers advised to be on lookout.  
**Tuesday, 9/24**  
11:25 a.m. Report of beige-colored mutt tied to a post abutting the woods on the back side of Doyle’s Car Wash. No one around. Officer located owner in one of the car wash bays. Owner advises dog gets scared in car wash if he’s inside the car. Owner has since retrieved dog and secured him inside vehicle.  
3:41 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that his camper/RV was vandalized overnight. Investigated.  
5:56 p.m. 911 caller from Grove Street reporting that someone hit her in the face earlier in the day.  
7:19 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue was told by a neighbor that a bobcat has been walking around the neighborhood. Caller has not seen it as of yet.  
**Wednesday, 9/25**  
8:27 a.m. Report of illegal dumping at Transfer Station. Report taken.  
4:11 p.m. A 27-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant.  
**Thursday, 9/26**  
8:06 p.m. 911 call reporting physical altercation between an employee and a customer in front of Family Dollar. Customer described as female with

gray hair wearing a red apron. Caller reports that customer grabbed and attempted to hit her co-worker. Party has since left Family Dollar and gone into Walgreens.  
**Friday, 9/27**  
8:34 a.m. 911 misdial from elevator inside building on Avenue A.  
10:23 a.m. 911 misdial from Greenfield Savings Bank; just a beeping sound coming through the phone. No problems found.  
12:07 p.m. Party into station requesting to speak with an officer; states he is doing work on Burnett Street and a neighbor keeps coming out and yelling at him, causing an issue. Officer advised.  
11:01 p.m. 911 caller reporting being harassed outside Cumberland Farms by a female who appeared to be intoxicated. Caller no longer on scene. Officer spoke with parties at Cumberland Farms. Courtesy transport provided.  
**Saturday, 9/28**  
1:22 a.m. 911 caller reporting twelve people fighting in the street at Avenue A and Third Street. Units en route. Two additional calls reporting same. Officer requesting ambulance for patient evaluation, male with superficial wounds to face. All units clear. Medical attention refused.  
8:02 a.m. Report of piece of metal sticking up in the sidewalk by the statue on Avenue A. Caller concerned for safety of pedestrians who may not see it. Officer put cone over rebar; message left for DPW.  
8:30 a.m. Party into station reporting large amount of trash dumped on Turnpike Road. Officer advises trash is neatly off to the side and marked; appears to have been from a scheduled clean-up that someone will be coming back to pick up.  
10:27 a.m. Officer checking on tents in area of Riverside Drive.  
1:34 p.m. Report of stove

fire on Newton Lane. Occupants have evacuated. Caller advises he turned off the propane. Shelburne Control and MPD officer advised.  
1:39 p.m. Report of possible breaking and entering in progress in rear of old Rod Shop building. Caller reports hearing loud banging as if someone were trying to break in or was pounding on something with a sledgehammer. Caller advises that when he heard this, he called out to whoever was back there and the sound continued, but quieter than before. Caller did not see any people or vehicles and did not hear any voices. Caller advises his neighbor told him that someone broke into that building about a month ago. Upon arrival, officer advised someone inside the building. Officer has three subjects at side of building. Investigated.  
2:13 p.m. Report of two suspicious vehicles near the railroad tracks past Carroll’s Market on East Main Street; possibly railroad workers or illegal dumping. All MPD units tied up. Contacted Shelburne Control; Erving unit en route. Erving officer checked on crew cleaning up trash. No sign of illegal dumping. Additional info: fully-marked FirstLight trucks.  
2:58 p.m. Caller reporting that an elderly male was supposedly pushed down at Food City and is now requesting to speak with an officer. Advised he is fine and now sitting on a bench closer to Walgreens. Officer advises not as reported; states a female party got a TV from the male party and she was going around saying things; words were exchanged and she pushed him, but he did not fall to the ground. Clear.  
5:06 p.m. Officer at Turnpike Road address to investigate stolen marijuana plants.

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**AUTHORS** from page B1

get her to fall in love with him in one day, to prove that love exists. They spend the day together in New York, and gradually Natasha begins to fall in love with him.

I loved this book so much! It was really fun to read, but it was also sad.

I don't want to give too much of the book away, but the part of the story about Natasha possibly getting deported is really sad. I really liked how Nicola Yoon tells the story from Daniel and Natasha's perspectives, so you could see how they were both thinking.

One part of the book that makes it different from the movie is there are chapters told from the perspective of side characters in the story: for example, Irene, a security guard at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and also Natasha's dad. This is really cool because it shows you how other characters besides Daniel and Natasha are thinking.

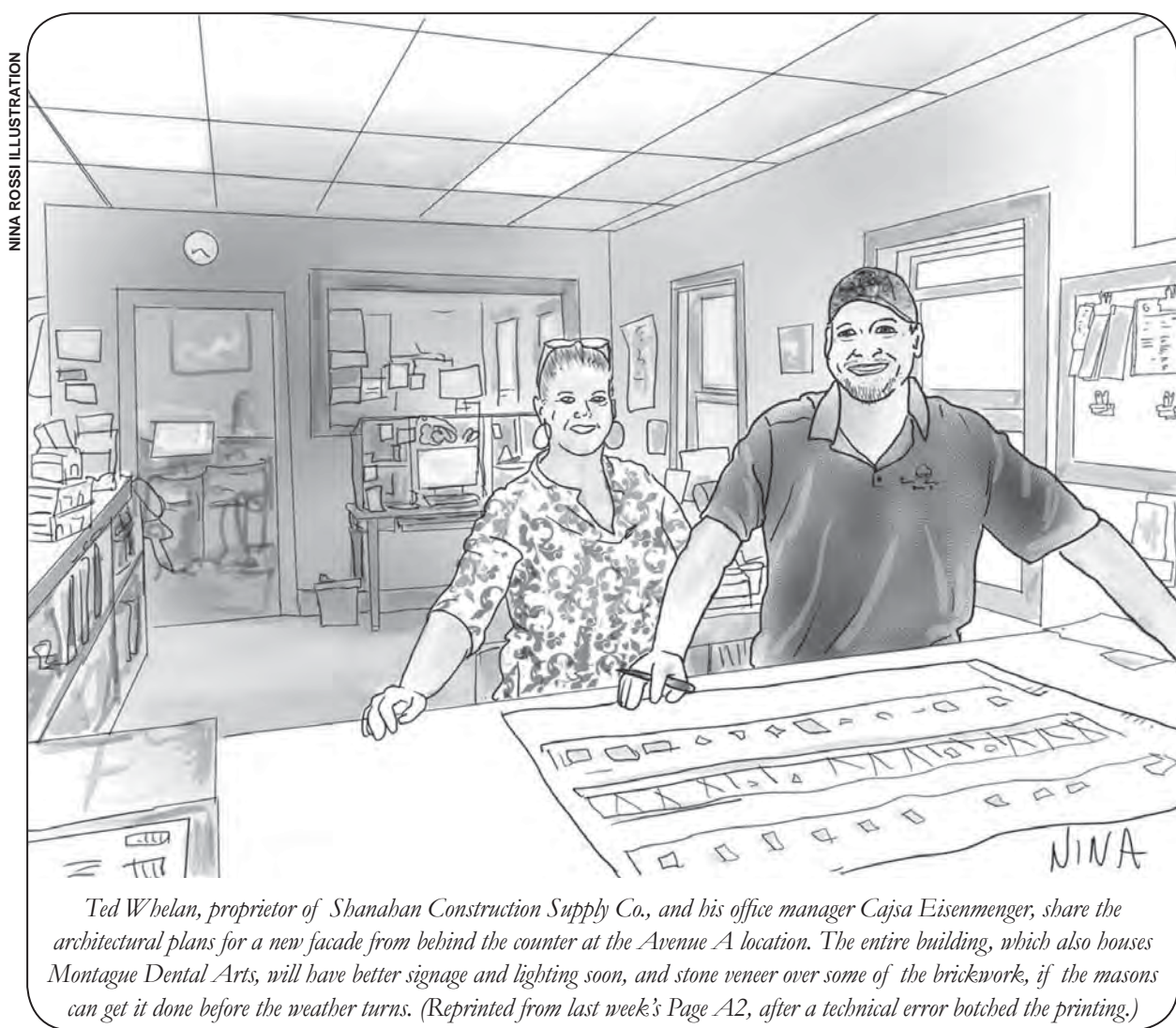
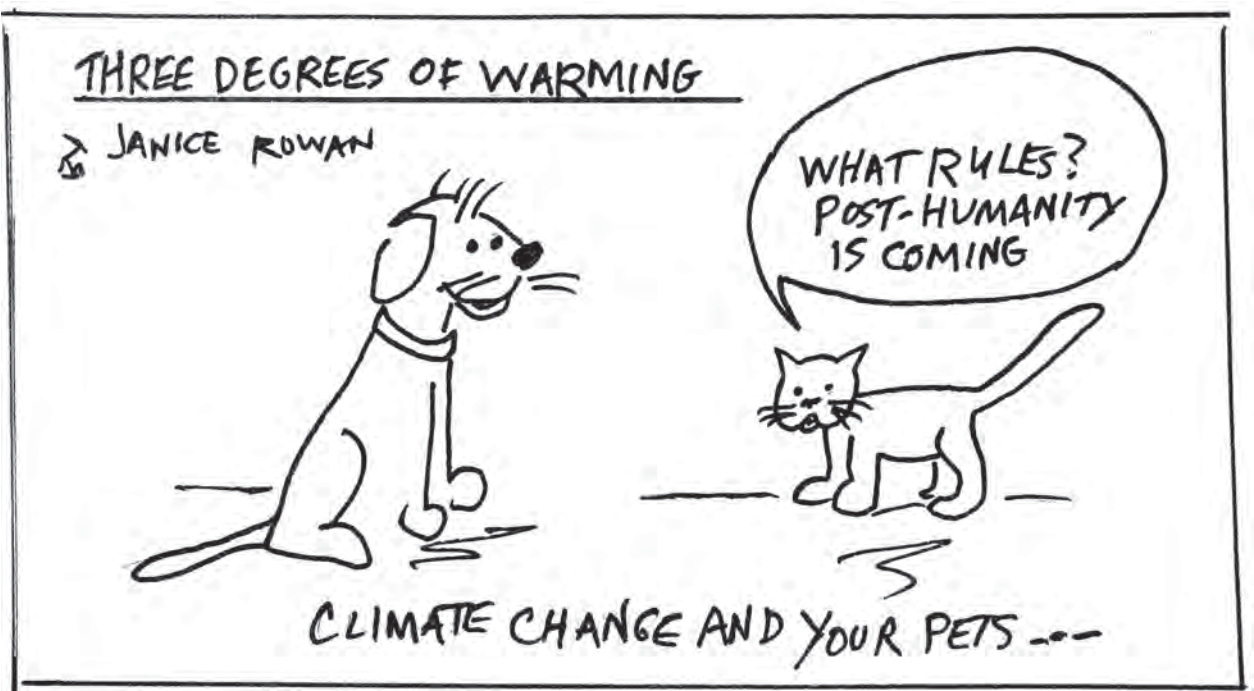
There are also chapters about the history of things, like Black Hair Care, or popular hairstyles from a while ago, which is fun because it relates things that are happening in the book to things in real life.

*The Sun Is Also a Star* was made into a movie in May, which stars Yara Shahidi as Natasha and Charles Melton as Daniel. The movie was really good, and I think the actor and actress who played Daniel and Natasha both did a really good job. But I loved the book, because I think you find out more about the characters when you read the book, and the little side stories were really interesting.

Some of my favorite parts of the book are the scenes where Daniel and Natasha are beginning to fall in love. Their relationship is really sweet, and it's funny because of how set Daniel is on making Natasha fall in love with him, and how Natasha kind of likes him, but acts like she doesn't, or thinks he's being ridiculous.

I really recommend both the book and movie, because they're so good, and I love them so much! I reached out to Nicola Yoon, and she hasn't responded yet, but if she does, then I will interview her and review *Everything, Everything*, which is another one of her novels that I'm reading now.

Thank you so much!



*Here's the way it was October 1, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

### Repair Planned for the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge

On Tuesday, the long-delayed bid opening for the renovation of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge finally took place. At \$40.7 million, SPS New England out of Salisbury, MA was the apparent low bidder, according to Adam Hurtubise, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation.

The project first went out to bid a year ago, on September 20, 2008, with an expected price tag of \$42.3 million, but Hurtubise said the bid opening kept getting pushed back to allow contractors more time to respond.

Further repairs to the surface of the General Pierce Bridge between Montague City and Greenfield are scheduled to be completed prior to the start of construction on the Turners Falls-Gill bridge. Those repairs are needed to handle the expected increase of traffic leaving Montague to the west, once the four-year renovation of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge gets underway.

### Leverett to Discuss Regionalization, Affordable Housing

Which school district will be responsible for our children's education, and will they be able to afford to live in town in years to come? These are two of the long term questions Leverett will consider at an upcoming town meeting.

At present, the Leverett Elementary School is part of the Union 28 school district, along with the elementary schools of Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell, and Erving. But with the topic of school regionalization heating up, Leverett has decided to take advantage of an

upcoming special town meeting to allow townspeople time to discuss the possibility of regionalizing with another school district.

The topic of school regionalization will be followed by another informal discussion in response to a plea for guidance from the town by the Leverett Affordable Housing Committee (LAHC).

After working for more than a decade on a plan to provide 10 units of affordable housing, LAHC member Barbara Carulli told the selectboard in September, "the impression the Affordable Housing Committee gets is that the selectboard is not particularly supportive of this project."

At present, the town of Leverett has zero affordable housing, as determined by the state, which seeks a minimum of 10% affordable housing units in each city or town, as one measure for awarding state grants.

### Community Leaders Discuss Homelessness

As part of a statewide initiative to end homelessness, Father Stanley Aksamit, pastor of Our Lady of Peace parish in Turners Falls, called together community leaders and service providers last Tuesday to discuss ways of supporting people at risk of being homeless.

These include pooling resources to provide first month, last month, or security deposit rental supplements for families or individuals at risk, but also, and more immediately, developing an overflow emergency cot shelter, possibly in Greenfield, to handle the unmet need of a population already homeless in the county as winter approaches.

It was the latter proposition that Greenfield mayor Bill Martin took issue with. "I want to support a permanent solution," he said. He claimed that if a new shelter were opened in Greenfield, it would just lead to an influx of more homeless people, a strategy he called more of a band-aid than a permanent solution.

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# Dinosaurs Return To Greenfield

**GREENFIELD** – Celebrate western Massachusetts’ dinosaur history on the Greenfield Common next Saturday, October 12 during DinoFest 2019.

Shelburne Falls’ Piti Theater Company, and Deerfield’s Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and the Second Congregational Church are coming together again in collaboration to host this fabulous family event.

Blending science, arts, community building and sustainability, DinoFest 2019 will feature Piti’s musical, “Greenfield’s Grumpiest T-Rex, Episode 2: Very Big Sister Blues,” plus a dino parade, dino movies with live music, interactive dino exhibits, games, and more. Events start shaking at 9:30 a.m. right outside the Second Congregational Church on the Common, and it’s all free.

The Jurassic Road Show will be on the Common all morning, offering interactive exhibits by PVMA on geology, fossils, local history and dinosaurs. Activities include fossil finds, face painting, chalk drawing, dino crafts, dino photo-ops, and dino games.

Join the dino parade at 10:45, open to all children and adults, too. You may want to prepare for the parade by making masks and learning some dance moves at the Greenfield Library on Tuesday, October 8 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Check out “Greenfield’s Grumpiest T-Rex, Episode 2: Very Big Sister Blues,” a musical theater performance by Piti Theater’s Youth Troupe, at 11 a.m. at Hawks & Reed. The performance features Northampton singer-songwriter Carrie Ferguson, whose song “The Grumpytime Club” is one of the musical numbers.

Episode 1 featured a group of

dinosaurs who discovered some ingenious ways to make Sue, the local T-Rex, less grumpy. In Episode 2, Sue sets off on an epic journey across Pangaea to find her long-lost sister, Grumpy, owner of the Grumpy Time Club, and make amends for being so mean to her. Dino-themed drinks (like pickle brine) and snacks will be available.

Following the theater presentation at 11:45 will be dino movies with live music at the same location. Media artist Lysha Smith’s clips from dinosaur movies as far back as 1914’s *Gertie the Dinosaur* are combined with a live score by adventurous local musicians, including Smith, Carrie Ferguson, pianist Laura Josephs, and guitarist Eric Lemm.

Of a more studious nature? You might enjoy the opportunity to check out some of the local fossil finds and learn more about local paleontology pioneer Dexter Marsh at the Greenfield Historical Society from 2 to 5 p.m. The Festival is particularly indebted to the extraordinary life of Marsh, a day laborer who noticed some unusual tracks in the flagstone he had dragged from the Connecticut River to lay sidewalk in front of Town Hall in 1835 – seven years before the word “dinosaur” was invented.

Marsh’s keen eye led to the identification of the tracks by Amherst College professor of geology Edward Hitchcock. Hitchcock died believing the tracks had been made by giant prehistoric birds, but the pair nevertheless played important roles in the birth of the new science of paleontology. Marsh was also the custodian at the Second Congregational Church for several years.

More at information on the DinoFest is available at [ptco.org/dino](http://ptco.org/dino).

# Photography Project Holds Annual Exhibit

**BRATTLEBORO** – World-class photographers have donated their work at an annual benefit auction exhibit for the In-Sight Photography Project. The show runs from October 4 to the 27th at the Vermont Center for Photography on Flat Street in Brattleboro.

In-Sight’s salute to the art of photography has become a much-anticipated event, thanks to the scores of local, national and international photographers who have graciously donated their work to support In-Sight’s programs. In-Sight Photography Project is a non-profit organization, offering financially accessible after-school visual arts programming to youth ages 11 to 18 (including youth from Franklin County). Youth engage with visual arts, mentors, and peers in a safe and supportive environment that encourages asking questions and making good choices.

This year’s auction holds special significance as In-Sight celebrates its move to a splendid new facility on Main Street, providing greater access and resources for area youth as well as new opportunities to offer community events that are also open to the public, such as artist talks, movie nights, and classes

available to all ages.

“Through the generous contributions of renowned photographers, In-Sight is able to continue providing meaningful programming for all interested youth,” said Victoria Heisler, In-Sight’s executive director. “When you place a bid, you’re not just entering to win a wonderful print, you are helping our youth thrive through access to the arts.” During 2018, 99% of In-Sight students received a full or partial scholarship to participate.

Donated works vary widely, from fine art to documentary photography. There are vintage prints as well as those using alternative and experimental techniques. All proceeds from the auction go to the In-Sight Scholarship Fund. All artwork in the exhibit is available for online bidding starting October 20 at [insightphotography.org/auction2019](http://insightphotography.org/auction2019) and at the Vermont Center for Photography. A “Buy It Now” option is available starting October 4 at 5:30 p.m. to coincide with the opening night during Brattleboro’s monthly Gallery Walk.

For more information, contact In-Sight at [info@insight-photography.org](mailto:info@insight-photography.org) or by calling (802) 251-9960.

## VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Enter Joe Graveline, who’ll turn 70 in December and grew up in the neighborhood. He fished Mill Brook for trout above and below the pond it fed, and he also fished the pond itself for pickerel and bullheads on lazy summer days. “They used to stock trout in the pond, too,” said Graveline, a young teen at the time of Interstate 91 construction through the site. So, yes, he remembers the removal of the pond and falls and the destruction of a village square, where some buildings were moved, others destroyed.

Graveline met me late one afternoon at the base of the falls he remembers, now replaced by two arched concrete tunnels exiting under the north side of Nash’s Mills Road onto what looks like a walled, 45-degree concrete spillway and horizontal tailrace flowing into the stream bed. The spillway appears to be about 40 feet long, the tailrace a bit shorter.

“This was the bottom half of the falls,” Graveline said. “There were actually two steps of falls, with a pool and a settling pond at the base of each. I fished the one in the middle, and the one at the bottom.”

Although uncertain of the process, Graveline surmised that the construction crews reduced the bedrock by blasting before capping it with the concrete ramps fed by concrete tunnels channeling the brook under I-91. The destruction

of a special, picturesque spot had a devastating impact on Graveline and other neighborhood teenagers, not to mention the many fishermen who had frequented it for years.

Graveline was also the source who said he believed the stairs leading from top to bottom of the falls had been the work of the CCC. It makes sense. A 1936 Greenfield newspaper photo shows a new concrete dam that had been finished that summer, which would have fallen during the days of CCC projects. Plus, there was a CCC camp stationed a mile or two north of Nash’s Mills, near where Plain Road converges with Green River Road today.

Also, the last factory at the site had been razed in 1931, leaving a peaceful and scenic waterfall.

Graveline didn’t recall the bedrock falls as red, but he did remember red bedrock above and below, citing an outcropping with initials carved into it along the bank of the Green River below Nash’s Mills Bridge. Corroborating evidence of red sandstone there is found in a May 23, 1903 *Greenfield Gazette and Courier* blurb announcing that “[t]he Red Rock bathing club had control of the swimming pool at Red Rock in the Green River near Nash’s Mill again this year.”

Also, I myself can say with certainty that all the outcropping of ledge I pass in the river bed less than a mile upstream is the same red sandstone with which I grew familiar on

the Pocumtuck Range as a boy.

Buttressing my argument in favor of red sandstone from top to bottom at Nash’s Mills is found in the *History of the First Church, Greenfield, Mass* (1963). North Parish Church was built in 1831 on land donated by parishioner Eber Nash, whose nearby brickyard also made the bricks for Northampton architect Isaac Damon’s crowning achievement. North Parish was the last church Damon built, leaning heavily upon design elements of Asher Benjamin.

According to the book, published the same year the church was demolished, “Our second House of Worship was built in 1831 on a plot containing solid rock,” a site that offered “a sure and appropriate foundation.”

It sure does sound like a continuation of the same red bedrock on which Anna Butynski laced her skates many years ago across the street from the brick church, on the shore of the pond behind the Parish Hall. That traprock spine runs all the way from the top of the escarpment where Leyden Road climbs out of the flood plain near the Pumping Station and follows Leyden Road, Conway Street, and Elm Street to the dog park currently located along Colrain Street.

Not sure if or when I’ll follow up on this topic, but I do still have a few feelers out that could bear fruit. So, stay tuned. We may not be done yet.



The Nash’s Mills neighborhood in 1954. Note the bridge, the Turner Monument, which was moved down by the swimming pool when I-91 was built, and the top of the cement-and-stone stairs built in 1936, likely by the CCC.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# Common Good Launches “Food Fund” Pilot

**AMHERST** – Common Good, a western Massachusetts-based local payment system, together with Simple Gifts Farm in Amherst, has launched a pilot project that aims to increase food security in the Pioneer Valley. Even in a region with an abundance of rich farmland and a thriving community of food growers and artisan food-makers, one in eight people faces hunger. The Food Fund addresses this paradox, testing the impact of direct support from one resident to another.

Launched through the Common Good platform, the Fund enables Common Good members who opt in to the program to pay a little extra on food-related purchases to provide fellow members who struggle with food security with a monthly credit to buy local, nutritious food at Simple Gifts’ farm store.

“Ending hunger and poverty in the Pioneer Valley and elsewhere

is the original inspiration behind the Common Good system,” says Common Good executive director William Spademan, “and I hope the Food Fund we are piloting is just the beginning of many solutions we can apply for ourselves, right here.”

Simple Gifts co-owner Jeremy Plotkin agrees. “The Common Good payment system is a powerful way to encourage our local economy,” he says. “The Food Fund is a great example of the kind of work that a local payment system can support, so we are happy to participate.”

During the six-month pilot phase, the Fund will provide up to ten food-insecure Pioneer Valley residents with a monthly credit of \$20 for use at Simple Gifts’ farm store. Currently, there are eight recipients.

Spademan envisions the pilot Food Fund evolving into an ongoing program that will include more food and farm markets, more recipi-

ents, and more communities.

Local anti-poverty advocates support that vision. Lev Ben-Ezra, executive director of the Amherst Survival Center, says she and her team “appreciate any community effort that seeks to alleviate hunger, and that does so in ways that foster dignity and well-being. Common Good’s pilot project is such an effort, and we are hopeful to see it take off and grow, supporting more and more of our neighbors in need.”

Ben-Ezra says the Center serves over 6,000 individuals yearly from Hampshire and Franklin counties.

Spademan notes that, in addition to the Food Fund, the community payment system is planning a “Carbon Offset Fund” for its members to support locally, and is in discussion with several other efforts working to improve our communities using the Common Good platform. Find out more at [CommonGood.earth](http://CommonGood.earth).

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WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

# NatureCulture: The Science Page

GREENFIELD  
SOLAR STORE

Contributions to NatureCulture are welcome. What are you interested in? Would you like to write about birds, weather, science of any kind? We need your input. Send articles for consideration to: [science@montaguereporter.org](mailto:science@montaguereporter.org). Thank you!  
— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

# A Holistic Approach

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

**NORTHFIELD** — When Julia Blyth and Charley Eiseman bought their house in Northfield six years ago, it was set within a typical grassy yard behind a thick hedge of arborvitae. While the hedge turned out to be useful to block the scant traffic along their road and was full of bird and small creature life, the short, sterile lawn is now all but gone. Instead, they have replaced it with extensive gardens and patches of native plants, part of a larger plan to be more self-sufficient in food production and live in harmony with the earth. Solar panels, a woodshed, and a chicken coop complement the small homestead’s hoop house, fenced crop gardens, and most recently, a substantial grape arbor.

While it might be impressive enough that this couple manages to grow enough to feed themselves about 75% of their food, and to produce about 95% of the electricity they use from a yard not much larger than normal, the transformation of their lands has had another effect, and that is the rich array of bird, mammal, and insect life that is supported.

### Some Animals More Welcome

Julia and Charley may rue the intrusion of deer and raccoons (kept away from corn and other produce by electric fences), porcupines (kept out of fruit trees by a mélange of hanging buckets), and rabbits (still finding their way in despite a variety of fencing), they welcome another group of animals most of us wouldn’t even notice — insects. Specifically, they are enthusiastic hosts of leafminers.

Leafminers are tiny moths, flies, beetles, and sawflies who start life eating out tunnels in between the epidermal layers of leaves. They then pupate within the tunnels or in soil, emerging as adults to fly out, mate, and lay eggs.

About 10% of the 12,000-plus described species of moths and butterflies in North America are leafminers. Usually, insects are

studied by being captured with nets or traps in their flying adult stage, which means they are described in the literature only as adults with little other context or understanding of their life cycle.

But Charley and Julia take a different approach. Trained as a plant biologist, Charley thought that it’d be interesting to learn what was making all those trails on the plant leaves, so he started collecting leaves marked with the “tracks and signs” of leafminers, and raising the occupants of these leaves.

Julia was taken in right away by this project and together they collected insects on Nantucket and across the US. They were married three years later. Their methodology has led to new understandings of known leafminers. For example, Julia found one species, *Calycomyza michiganensis*, previously known only from adults caught in Michigan, while weeding her strawberry patch in their front yard. It was munching on hawkweed, so now the scientific world knows both that it lives outside Michigan, and what it eats; in another case they found a leafminer moth, *Parornix spiraeifoliella*, thought only to live in British Columbia, on meadowsweet here in Northfield.

But even more amazing is that they have found scores of completely new species of leafminers unknown to science, some right in their newly revitalized back yard.

### A Complementary Team

While Charley’s expertise started out in wildlife conservation and then expanded to a Master’s degree in botany through the University of Vermont’s field naturalist program, Julia’s English major with a minor in biology is complemented by her hands-on professional work as a museum collections manager. She started working with biological collections in college, and now does it professionally for the Maria Mitchell Association museum on Nantucket, and for the New England Botanical Club at Harvard University.

In the field, Julia and Charley

work together collecting the larval specimens on epic camping trips across the country, and basically whenever they go outside. Then when they bring the samples home, they share the work of checking hundreds of vials every day for new emergences. If some are found — two emerged just during our two-hour interview! — they are chilled in the refrigerator so they slow down, and then are photographed by Charley in a special set-up he created to contain any insects that attempt to escape.

After Charley photographs them, the specimens are preserved; most are placed into vials of alcohol, and the 2 to 5 mm long moths are pinned and mounted by Julia in a painstakingly delicate process that makes full use of her expertise as a museum curator and her manual dexterity. At the end of the season, the specimens are organized and sent to taxonomists who specialize in each group.

Insects are classified as new species mostly by their genitalia, and only a few people in the world have the expertise to dissect the tiny bodies. The taxonomists make painstaking ink drawings of the insects, and the “19th century work” of writing the description of the species: what it eats, where it’s found, and the “macro” description of the tiny creature — and this is hard to imagine — such as



*Profenusa julia.* (Charley Eiseman photo)

the stripes on its wings, etc.

Charley has written some of these descriptions for new-found moth species, and once described, he generally gets to name them according to their place in the genealogy of related insects. Because many taxonomists are also unfunded and often have years-long backlogs, it can be hard to find an expert willing to put the time in to describe a new species. Because of Charley and Julia’s rare approach of rearing specimens — which brings with it valuable life history information — they have been able to develop collaborative relationships with several taxonomists, co-authoring many papers describing new species.

In honor of their work, which is housed in museums all over the world, including the Smithsonian and Canadian National Collection, Julia and Charley each have a leafminer named after them. Charley’s is a beetle, *Orchestomerus eisemani*, that mines the leaves of Virginia Creeper in pairs, and Julia’s *Profenusa julia* (see photo) is a sawfly which she found on a rose in Colorado, and hasn’t seen since.



MCLOUGHLIN PHOTO

*Charley Eiseman and Julia Blyth at their Northfield home, with its naturalized lawn you can still walk around on.*

### Serendipitous Finds

Sometimes, the leafminers they collect have already been parasitized, and instead of an adult leafminer, a tiny wasp emerges. Some of these have been either undescribed, or their hosts have been unknown, so new information can come from even this unfortunate (for the leafminer) event. Another way they find new information is growing the plants the leafminers are found on. On their deck they are currently growing a grass that hosted a leafminer, but to identify the grass they need to wait until it makes seeds; just another example of their holistic approach to the insect-plant system.

### Holistic Science and Politics

While there are fewer and fewer funds for narrowly-defined species collection and taxonomy — indeed, most of Julia and Charley’s groundbreaking insect work is done as an unpaid hobby — this basic science is essential for our understanding of species diversity and its changes over time. Insects pollinate our plant food, feed our animal food, and are essential to the balance of life on earth.

If you look at aerial photography of the earth, it’s not a mystery why we are currently experiencing an “insect apocalypse.” There are fewer and fewer wild places left, and we are poisoning much of our unpaved land with pesticides. No pesticide is insect-species-specific, and the balance of insects tends to get thrown

off where it is applied. For example, there are some leafminers in corn leaves that didn’t damage the crop, but because insecticides killed off the parasitoids that used to keep the leaf miners in check, they now are considered pests.

An account of the variety and number of different types of insects, birds, animals, plants etc. should be the basis of our science policy, but because that research is not invested in, we have little information on which to base scientifically-sound policies.

Politics work holistically on the local level too. Julia and Charley have both worked with municipalities to help make good policy decisions. They continue to volunteer to help create the kind of society that shares resources and relies less on fossil fuels and man-made chemicals.

An example related to their work is pesticides. We could live with fewer pesticides. The herbicides used to keep down vegetation under power lines could be replaced by goats eating the plants; wetland sprays used to reduce mosquitoes in Massachusetts is also toxic to all invertebrates.

It is not a good time for insects, or for nature, or even for people, as we eat the poisons spread over our foods and drink contaminated water. For lack of a holistic mindset, we are in danger of destroying a complex natural system we do not understand, and losing a complex rural social system in which we help one another. We are lucky that at least a few scientists and citizens are taking a holistic approach.

### Further Suggested Reading

To join in the hunt for new leafminers, see [inaturalist.org/projects/leafminers-of-north-america](http://inaturalist.org/projects/leafminers-of-north-america).

For more information, see Charley’s blog at [bugtracks.wordpress.com](http://bugtracks.wordpress.com).

Charley Eiseman and Noah Charney, *Tracks & Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates* (Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2010). This first book is in its fourth printing, having sold over 8,000 copies. Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award and the Choice Magazine academic book award. 582 pp.

Charley Eiseman, *Leafminers of North America*. Self-published e-book, available as a series of searchable PDFs through [charleyeiseman.com](http://charleyeiseman.com). This second book is over 1,857 pages, with too many photographs and illustrations to print, and he keeps finding new things to add to it, so it may also be bought as a subscription.

If you are interested in learning more about building a society less dependent on pesticides and fossil fuels, this website may be useful: [transitionus.org](http://transitionus.org).



*Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar on Spicebush in Julia and Charley’s yard.*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

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

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

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. 6:30 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Super Collider Hafia Edition* with *47 Soul* and *Les Filles de Illighadad*. Synth-driven new wave Arabic music by *47 Soul*, and *Filles* is an innovative, ground-breaking Tuareg female band. \$. 8 p.m.

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

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

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Old 78 Farm Festival, Warwick: *Rebel Alliance*, *Start Making Sense*, *Lunar Carnival*, and more. Tenth annual festival, with a lineup of bands too numerous to list. See *simonsaysbooking.com* for information. \$. 11 a.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Stone Coyotes*. With special guest *Peyton Pinkerton*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

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

**CALL FOR VENDORS**

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Morning Vodka with Mr. Drag and Karl*. Comedy cabaret with a special musical guest. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Movie, *The Blob*. Alien blob threatens small town despite warnings by teens about the jelly's destructive powers. 7:30 p.m.



Edward Hines will perform "Soft Sounds for a Loud World" at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. Hines is a composer, performer, music educator, and multi-instrumentalist. His "Soft Sounds for a Loud World" is a program of Middle Eastern folk, classical, and original music performed on old-world lutes. It features Hines' own creation, the American Oud: part Middle Eastern lute, part classical guitar. By donation, with funds going to support programming at the Center. Refreshments available, and the museum will be open during intermission.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Gypsy Lane Cabaret*. \$. 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

First Church of Hatfield: *Dixieland Stomp*. High energy performance and good old fun. 3 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Now Ensemble*. Flute, clarinet, electric guitar, double bass, and piano ensemble. Performing brand new work by *Michi Wiancko*. Indoor concert. \$. 3 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wholesale Klezmer Band*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Morning Vodka with Mr. Drag and Karl*. Comedy cabaret with a special musical guest. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*. 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Song, move-

ment, laughter for young children and their caregivers. *Marcy Gregoire* and *Hilary Lake* bring puppets, costumes, instruments. \$. 10:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy with Monk Kelly and Woozy Kurtz*. In the Wheel-



house. 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Orphan Wisdom: Night of Grief and Mystery*. *Stephen Jenkinson* and *Gregory Hoskins* return to tell their stories with musical accompaniment. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Shamarr Allen & The Underdaws*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Gunter Valentine, broken/gnrtr, J. Mygan, J. Meginsky*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

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

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

*Great Falls Word Fest*. Spoken word, poetry, stories, and more. \$. 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

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

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

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

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

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Word Fest*. More Word! See Saturday listing, or see [greatfallswordfestival.com](http://greatfallswordfestival.com) for schedule. \$. 11 a.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Gabriela Lena Frank Premieres*. An evening of world premieres by 6 composers from the GLF Academy of Music, a California-based mentorship program fostering diverse composers. Indoor concert. \$. 3 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Hung Trucker Ensemble, Lauri McNamara Ensemble*. Former members of Flaming Dragons and Egg, Eggs. 6:30 p.m.

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**CALLS FOR ART**

Nina's Nook in Turners Falls invites artists to submit erotic art for Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut. Submit up to three jpegs to [eroticart2020@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:exploded-viewma@gmail.com) by December 15 to be juried into the show, scheduled at the *Great Falls Discovery Center* during *January and February 2020*.

**THURS 10/3 8 pm**  
**Falltown String Band**  
  
**FRI 10/4 6:30 pm**  
**Drew Paton**  
  
**WEDS 10/9 9:30 pm**  
**Owsley's Owls**  
(Grateful Dead music)  
  
  
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## EXHIBITS

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

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

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Fabrications II*. Textile creations, both wearable and fine art. Through November 2.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Fourth Annual *Migrations Festival*, a celebration of human and natural diversity of

the Americas and Upper Connecticut River Valley. Art exhibit on view October 1 through 21, with a celebration at 2 p.m. on October 13. Followed by *25 Years of CiderDays*, an exhibit of historic cider presses and images, from October 25 to November 6.

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

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

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

*cial Potholes*. Photographs by *Geoff Bluh*. Through November. Reception, October 27 at 1 p.m.

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

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

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *From Sunrise to Moonrise*. Color photographs by Amanda Quinby. Through October. Reception this Saturday, October 5 at 5 p.m.

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**FLIGHT** from page B1

aluminum separated us from the outside air, and the only armor plating was below – “to protect the future generations,” according to Gray. It was sprinkling, and they had almost cancelled the flight.

Suddenly the pilot pushed the throttle to the floor (the origin of “balls to the wall”) and we raced down the third-longest runway in New Hampshire. The air inside felt thick with sound as the vibrating, incredible power of the four 1,200-horsepower Wright Cyclone engines pulled us upwards.

As we took to the air, sound disappeared and was replaced with a blanket of white noise, and friction and bumpiness were replaced by the smoothness of flight. In the strange stillness I noticed crew chief Jeff Martin had begun an undulating gesture. Mute passengers unbuckled and began to move in slow motion around the plane.

There were just three rules aboard *Aluminum Overcast*. Rule number one was: Do not pull on the exposed control lines. Although these wires ran from front to back and were positioned like handholds on a city bus, they moved the flaps that controlled the plane. One could theoretically steer the plane by tugging on these wires.

Rule number two was: Do not go down into the bomb bay. You could be dropped, like a bomb, from the plane. Martin explained during our brief ground school session that “it’s designed to open with 100 pounds of weight.” Rule number three was that everyone is responsible for their own vomitus. “If you make it, you take it,” Gray explained.

I stood from my seat and walked into the bomb bay, between the cabin and the cockpit. It was a floorless, empty space, crossed by a skinny metal gangplank. In this chamber, where bombs hung in the air on either side, you could see the entire tubular form of the aluminum fuselage, and the doors below through which the bombs would exit the aircraft.

## Bombs Away

During the interwar years, different theories of air power were developed. In the US, military visionaries like General “Hap” Arnold, who trained at the Wright Brothers’ flight school in Simms Station, Ohio and would later help found the RAND Corporation, developed the concept of “strategic bombardment.” This theory posited that the key to winning the next war would not involve air strikes on enemy forces, but the bombardment of infrastructure, industrial capacity, and civilians.

Theories of aerial bombardment led to the vision of a force of long-range heavy bombers that could protect themselves from enemy fighters. During the 1930s the US military made it clear that it would award a contract to a manufacturer that could make a multi-engine bomber that could carry 2,000 pounds of bombs 2,000 miles at 200 miles an hour. The competition was won by Boeing, and their winning experimental bomber became the B-17.

I climbed through the cabin, where Gray's muscles handled the hydraulic-free steering, and dropped down into the plexiglass nose cone, where the bombardier had once sat with his famously accurate Norden Bombsight.

A small round window was open, allowing a constant waft of misty air. I felt glad as I stared at the grey pyramidal presence of Mount Monadnock, our Lonely Mountain, looming ahead through the misty shower. I had been told that if you can see the mountains, it was safe to fly. The view was superb – it was like being in the front seat on the second story of a Megabus. I could relate to crewmember Larry Wunsch's provincially Midwestern statement on his favorite part of the experience of flight: "[It's] what I see – the scenery – the White Pine Mountains – it was extraordinary – the forests, there's probably no farms here."

Next, I climbed into the top turret. The Flying Fortress was named after its many defense tur-

rets, which include a chin turret, a rear turret, top and bottom turrets, and two side turrets that give it the look of a flying pincushion. During combat missions, each turret was equipped with a nine-yard clip of ammunition: hence the expression “give ‘em the whole nine yards.” This amount of ammunition could be fired in sixty seconds.

The ball turrets did in fact feel familiar – the plexiglass balls in which the gunner sat were most likely the inspiration for the *Millenium Falcon*'s turrets in the film *Star Wars*. I believe that space combat in science fiction uses one of two precedents: World War II-era naval combat involving fighter planes and aircraft carriers, or Napoleonic naval warfare involving majestic and slow ships-of-the-line.

Much of the informational talk given to us by the crew involved celebrating World War II as a mythological Golden Age. During this time of innocence and morally justified war, B-17 crew members are characterized as “heroes” – youthful men committed to a just cause. A 2% desertion rate, and the fact that most crew members were teenagers, contributed to this characterization.

Most importantly, they had made a great sacrifice, explained in a way reminiscent of the way some people mention that Jesus died for your sins. According to Gray, “12,000 were built, one-third were shot down. The Eighth Air Force alone had a higher casualty rate than all American forces in Vietnam.”

Regardless of one's opinions on the political uses of war mythologies, the experience of flight can be fun. The gracefulness of the aircraft, the ability to comprehend the pattern of the landscape below, and the loud silence of the engines put me in a dream-like state. Beth Bendel, owner of Monadnock Aviation as well as four small aircraft, describes why she flies: "Peace. It's peaceful, it's beautiful. I don't mean out *there*" – she gestured away from her body – "I mean in your *personal zone*."



*The view of southern New Hampshire from one of the B-17's side turrets.*



*The Flying Fortress's chin turret, complete with a nine-yard clip of ammunition.*



*The radio operator's tools of the trade, including headphones and the oxygen gauge.*

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