

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 4

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

NEWS ANALYSIS

Towns Revise Bylaws to Limit Solar Growth, Habitat Loss

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The town of Wendell has established a moratorium on “large and extra-large” solar installations until the end of 2020, to give the town a chance to review its solar zoning regulations. After that, according to a motion approved at an October 30 special town meeting, such projects “will be allowed, subject to reasonable regulation.”

But what constitutes “reasonable regulation” in a state which has been aggressively promoting solar development over the past decade to meet its climate change goals, and in a town where there appears to be widespread support for that policy?

The issue involves the trade-off between large solar projects, gener-

ally built by corporations that seek to profit from state incentive programs, and the iconic forests and fields that attract many residents to small western Massachusetts towns.

Large-scale solar projects have been central to the impressive – one might call it revolutionary – growth of solar power in the state over the past decade. But critics have begun to argue that they are counterproductive because forest-cutting undermines “carbon sequestration,” the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

At the local level, the debate over large-scale solar also intersects with highly technical zoning issues. State law and court decisions have limited the degree to which cities and towns can restrict or regulate

see **SOLAR** page A5



EVERSOURCE PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTAGUE PLANNING DEPT.

As part of a state mitigation agreement, Eversource donated 70 acres to MassWildlife when it built this 6-MW solar array off Millers Falls Road on the Montague Plains.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Prepping For Disaster

By MIKE JACKSON

Erving officials have been reviewing a draft of a townwide Hazard Mitigation Plan, a 231-page document outlining possible sources of future emergencies that could help the town access funding for preparedness. Scenarios include the failure of the dam on Northfield Mountain, which would threaten the village of Farley; an increase in severe winter storms, which pose a particular safety threat to the elderly; ice jams and flash floods; and hazardous spills due to train derailment.

Jacks and Keyup brooks, which carry water through Erving Center into the Millers River, have become

see **ERVING** page A6

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Seven Year Itch

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The regional school committee met Tuesday night for the first time since superintendent Michael Sullivan announced he will resign in June, seven years after his hire. “The average superintendent now stays in a district three and a half years,” reported chair Jane Oakes, who learned that fact at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference (MASC) last week. “We’re way ahead of the curve.”

The committee discussed a timeline for the new hire. Bill Tomb of Gill suggested looking into a shared superintendency, but said he found the idea unlikely.

see **GMRSD** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Tax Rate To Fall in FY’21, But Bills to Rise

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Leverett selectboard voted to keep a single tax rate for residential and commercial property in FY’20, reducing the tax rate from \$20.89 per thousand dollars of assessed value to \$20.49. Selectboard member Julie Shively clarified that tax bills wouldn’t be going down, just the rate.

“Yes,” replied associate assessor Jeff Reynolds, who added that the rate would mean “a little over a hundred dollars on the average tax bill, going up, for this year,” or about a 3.5% increase.

Keeping with past years, the board opted not to shift the tax burden from residential toward commercial, industrial, and personal property (CIP).

“In Leverett the vast majority of your taxable income comes from the residential class – 93.92%,” Reynolds said. “It would take an enormous shift into the CIP to give even a minor bit of relief to the residential class.... It would be quite the burden on the few industrial properties that you have in town.”

“There are ways to address that,” said selectboard member Tom Hankinson. “You can increase the amount of property available for commercial development. It’s a question of the horizon we’re looking at, when you get a one-year view...”

Reynolds said the tax rate was lower because “all land values in town were raised” – by up to 15%, for the “prime sites” in every

see **LEVERETT** page A7

New Hands, Used Books At Federal Street Store



Hillary Hoffman and Neil Serven, the new owners of Federal Street Books in Greenfield, behind the counter at the store.

By TRISH CRAPO

GREENFIELD – On a blustery November day, Federal Street Books in Greenfield provides a welcome shelter from the wind. Dried leaves scuttle by on the sidewalk and people hold their coats closed, keeping their heads down as they walk by. But inside, a few people browse among the well-lit stacks, and new owners Hillary Hoffman and Neil Serven take a few minutes to talk about their fledgling business venture, the treasure trove of books passed along to them from previous owners Tom Swetland and Patti Williams, and some of the surprising things they’ve discovered about being used booksellers.

Hoffman and Serven took over ownership on August 30, then closed for six weeks while they took inventory and made some changes to the store’s layout. They removed some bookshelves from the front section, opening up the entry space and letting in more natural light. When some wall-board at the front of the store fell down accidentally, they discovered small tiling behind it, which they spray-painted black and adorned with their new logo, designed by graphic designer and Nova Motorcycles owner Pete Chilton.

“The first thing I want to note is how impressed we were with the collection that was here. There are so many books in this store,” Hoffman says, gesturing at the rows of stacks, “and we have a kind of terrifying overstock situation in the basement as well. But as soon as we got our hands dirty and moved things around, we discovered a lot of things that we didn’t know were here. And I think as customers are coming in, they’re starting to see some of the same things that we saw, so it’s a lot of fun.”

The collection of books at the

store has always been abundant and eclectic. There’s something for everybody. For instance, Hoffman says, the store features an entire case of Nora Roberts’ novels, but also has “deep” poetry and essay sections, a diverse fiction section, and a section of paperback classics. There are sections for sports, history, foreign language, mystery, health, art, and graphic novels. (If there’s a genre you don’t see listed here, it’s because I forgot it, not because Hoffman and Serven don’t have it.) They also sell local author books on consignment, and there’s a children’s section at the back with a colorful new rug.

Serven says he’s been surprised at the demand for classics. “People come in looking for Austen, or looking for Brontë,” he says. “We’ve sold three copies of the *Iliad* since we’ve been open. And I don’t know of any movement to read the *Iliad*. I think that was just an individual curiosity in each customer.”

Hoffman adds that a customer told her there’s a revival of interest in Carl Jung, so she’s been reading about Jung in order to be able to acquire more titles of interest. Both she and Serven enjoy this educational aspect of being booksellers.

“We each have subjects of knowledge that are deeper than others,” Serven says, “but to have access to other areas that we’re not reading ourselves, that’s important. Hearing from the customer, that’s important. There’s a lot of give-and-take.”

Hoffman and Serven both used to work at Merriam-Webster in Springfield, and Serven still works there as a lexicographer full time, arranging to have Fridays off to help at the store. Hoffman worked a 20-year

see **BOOKS** page A6

The Week in Turners Falls Sports



DAVID HOITT FILE PHOTO

Powertown’s Liam Driscoll is one of many weapons in the Mohawk Trail Warriors’ arsenal as the Warriors travel to Orange this Friday to face the Mahar Senators.

By MATT ROBINSON

Last week marked the first round of the MIAA football non-qualifiers’ Second Season. On Thursday, November 7, the Mohawk Co-op Warriors splashed through the Green Wave, and on Friday, the Blue Eagles of Franklin Tech iced out Pathfinder Tech. The New England Patriots rested on Sunday, and a 20-hour rainstorm gave way to an Arctic front.

Football

Mohawk Coop 24 – Greenfield 6

First of all, thanks to the Football Fates for scheduling a Thursday night game. That allowed me to go to both Mohawk and Franklin Tech games. My sources are great, but I prefer watching the action firsthand – even though my feet got a little muddy and my nose froze in the process.

On November 7, the Blue and Gold Boys of Mohawk

see **SPORTS** page A4



Science fiction is a particularly strong section in the store, and includes many first-edition pulp paperbacks, Hoffman says.



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The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

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Here Come The Suits

Michael Bloomberg, the 6th-richest American and the 9th-richest human being, has begun filing papers to run for president in 2020 as a Democrat. (He has not yet officially confirmed he is running, and as of press time it appears he will not file for the New Hampshire primary by Friday’s deadline.)

Bloomberg has \$55 or \$56 or \$57 billion – numbers that big are a moving target, hard to really count. He served as mayor of New York City for 12 years, first as a Republican and then as an Independent.

A spokesperson for Bloomberg confirmed to *Vox* over the weekend that the businessman was asked to run earlier this year by Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, the 1st-richest American and 1st-rich-est human being.

Bloomberg was an upper-middle class kid from Medford who went to Johns Hopkins and Harvard, and headed on to Wall Street. He became partner at Salomon Brothers, cashing out with \$10 million in 1981 when the firm changed hands.

From there, he started the company that would become Bloomberg LP. Its main product was trading-floor computers that came with subscriptions to live market information. Today, over 325,000 work stations around the world have Bloomberg terminals, with \$2,000/month subscriptions – that’s \$650 million a month total, or \$7.8 billion a year.

Bloomberg himself owns 88% of the company. That’s a hell of an income stream, even ignoring the sidelines (Bloomberg News, etc.), and it indicates that this man, more than any other human, is a walking, talking beneficiary of the financial-ization of the global economy.

Bloomberg’s personal wealth swelled from \$5 billion to \$33 billion during his twelve years as mayor of New York City. His policies supported Wall Street’s growth, and the conversion of a significant portion of Manhattan itself into a pile of overheated real estate assets.

A quarter million of the island’s rental apartments now sit empty. The homelessness rate grew by nearly 70% under Bloomberg, who eventually funded a program that purchased houseless New Yorkers one-way plane tickets to other states. As mayor, Bloomberg also criticized proposals to cap CEO bonuses at firms that had received federal bailout money, and oversaw the police crackdown on the Occupy Wall Street protests.

The idea that Michael Bloomberg should run for presi-

dent is hilarious, and indicates that the Democratic Party’s pro-bus-iness wing is losing its mind over the campaigns of Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

Bloomberg, of course, would only help those candidates make the case to voters that the American political process must be purged of the corrupting influence of money before we can enact policies that benefit the country’s working class majority. But if one of them se- cures the nomination, Bloomberg could do serious and lasting dam- age as a third-party spoiler.

Two other names have been floated this week to carry forth the project of centrist triangulation: Hillary Clinton, and our own for- mer governor Deval Patrick, who confirmed Wednesday he is throw- ing his hat in the ring.

Since leaving office, Patrick has become managing director at Bain Capital, the private-equity firm co-founded by Mitt Romney. Bain is attempting to distance itself from its slash-and-burn reputation, and the fund Patrick helps manage, Double Impact, claims to “help mission-driven companies scale and drive meaningful change.”

Double Impact’s \$390 mil- lion portfolio includes a number of healthcare companies: Aro- sa+LivHome, which seeks profit in home care; HealthDrive, which provides dental care and podiatry to extended-care residents; Rodeo Dental; biopharmaceutical compa- ny SpringWorks Therapeutics. Pat- rick has described impact investing as “the laboratory where capitalists work to reform capitalism.”

Impact investment is a trendy idea among socially liberal finan- cial executives, but it has yet to show either positive social out- comes or much profit for investors. It seems like the perfect hobby for a politician taking a break from public life, determined to show he believes that, damnit, healthcare *should* be a commodity, bought and sold in the pursuit of profit.

The rise to power of the finan- cial sector in the 1980s has had devastating results for the econo- my here on Main Street – or Ave- nue A – and Americans’ life expec- tancy is now declining for the first time since World War I.

Medicare for All is finally a real possibility, and Wall Street will fund any candidate it thinks can stop it. If it’s not Deval Patrick, it’ll be Michael Bloomberg.

And if it’s not Michael Bloomberg, it’ll be Donald Trump.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Lawrence Douglas of Sunderland reads a book from the stacks at the Montague Bookmill, where he can frequently be found working on writing books of his own. His 2016 book The Right Wrong Man: John Demjanjuk and the Last Great Nazi War Crimes Trial was recently adapted into a Netflix documentary series, The Devil Next Door. Douglas is currently writing a book about what would happen if Trump were to lose in 2020, but refuse to leave office.

Letters to  the Editors

Correcting Coop Comment

Comments attributed to me in the November 7 *Montague Reporter* article “Leverett Coop Members Brainstorm and Fundraise” need to be corrected. I did not say “We are not going to rebuild the grocery.” What I did say is that, being that the café/bistro operation is, by its nature, more profitable, we should focus on that first, and then rebuild the grocery.

The benefit is that the café/bistro could enliven the co-op and bring in new customers. As the grocery side of the business expands there will be new customers in place. There is no question that a grocery outlet in Moores Corner is a real asset to that community, and should not be abandoned. However, the co-op needs to expand its appeal and revenue; the café/bistro has already done that.

I tend to be a regular for the Friday night pizza and was rewarded with great music by Silverback Swing a few weeks ago – folks were dancing, pizza, beer and wine were in abundance, and it seemed that everyone was having a good time.

What is really needed for the survival of the co-op is people pulling together for the sake of the business, which is what the co-op is first and foremost. When Dan Bennett and I worked on the construction and management of the co-op we based our work on the concept of Sympathy and Mutual Aid.

I would like to see that continue and to be able to get my eggs, milk, almonds, soap, etc. at the co-op, along with pizza, beer, lunch and any other prepared food offerings.

Julie Shively
Former Manager,
Leverett Village Coop

Covering Cash For Education

The Gill-Montague Education Fund (GMEF) is a non-profit organization established by the parents and citizens of the towns of Gill and Montague to provide programs and resources for the schools that would enrich the educational opportuni- ties, and to encourage advocacy for public education.

How do we do this?

- **The Annual Gala:** The GMEF hosts an Annual Fundraising Gala to support student enrichment.

On Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 7 p.m., at our 16th Annual Gala, Philip Bauer brings the sound and charis- ma of the “Man in Black” to life with “The Legend of Johnny Cash.” At this 90-minute stage show, backed by his four-piece touring band, Bau- er performs Cash’s songs in the cas- ual, seemingly effortless way that made the “Man in Black” such an important musical icon. Songs fea- tured in the show will include “I Walk The Line,” “A Boy Named Sue,” “Folsom Prison Blues,” and “Ring Of Fire.”

Don’t miss this incredible op- portunity to relive the music and magic of the one and only Johnny Cash. Advance tickets are \$25, and are available on the GMEF website, www.thegmef.org.

- **Enrichment Grants:** The GMEF seeks to enrich district and school educational programs through the funding of mini-grants and special project grants. Each year when our Annual Report is filed with the attorney general’s office, we are proud and excited to learn that more than 99% of the revenue earned is returned to our students. To date, we have awarded nearly \$124,280 in grants; bringing enrichment to the arts, academics, or athletics for every Gill-Mon- tague student.
- **Scholarships:** Each year the GMEF presents three scholarships to pursue a degree, technical school, a certification program, or military service. We have awarded 21 schol- arships since 2013. We have also awarded seven “Certificates of Ap- preciation” to students in recognition of their years of community service as representatives on the GMEF Board of Directors.
- **Roses for the Graduates:** Annually, at the awarding of diplo- mas, the GMEF presents each se- nior with a single rose in their class color. Following the diplomas, each senior brings their rose to someone special in their life who is attending their graduation. The surprise, warm hugs, and tears remind everyone of the joy in celebrating our young peo- ple as they go forward in the direc- tion of their dreams.

Thank you so much for support- ing our efforts. We are truly humbled by the financial support we receive from our communities for student enrichment. For more information about our Annual Gala, Enrichment Grants, Scholarships, and more, visit our website: www.thegmef.org.

Joyce Phillips
GMEF Gala Executive Producer
Turners Falls

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Music, fairs, children’s activities, nature walks, crafts, food, conversations with local representatives, and a thought-provoking film by area high school students will keep you busy this week... read on!

The **Kiddleoscope** program continues through the Fall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River watershed.

Each program meets in the Great Hall, and includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. For ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends welcome. The theme for Friday, November 15 is **Ducks**.

Montague Common Hall hosts its **Open Mic Night #36** this Friday, November 15, 7:30 to 10 p.m., 34 Main Street, Montague Center.

Forest Avenue opens from 7:30 to 8 p.m.: eccentric, dramatic, and hilarious interpretations of traditional music and new tunes performed by Andy Van Assche, guitar; Désirée Lowit and Eveline MacDougall, fiddles; and Dan Frank, mandolin and hurdy-gurdy. Open mic starts at 8 p.m.

Your generous donations are gratefully requested and appreciated. Proceeds are shared between the featured act and the Common Hall to keep this lively place alive!

The Montague Congregational Church’s **Fall Festival Fair** takes place this Saturday, November 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 4 North Street, Montague Center.

Arrive early for coffee and homemade muffins, then enjoy crafts, candy, a straw pull table, regifts, tin can drawing, lottery wreath, food basket drawings, a pet table, Christmas decorations, and gently worn winter clothing. Stay for a hearty lunch of corn chowder, sandwiches, and pie. Proceeds from the fair benefit local and global mission programs.

The League of Women Voters of Franklin County, along with its co-sponsor the Hampshire-Franklin Commission on the Status of Women

and Girls, will host a “**Legislative Coffee**” with state legislators Representative Natalie Blais, Senator Jo Comerford, Senator Adam Hinds, and Representative Paul Mark on Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m.

The event will be held at Element Brewing Company, 16 Bridge Street in Millers Falls. This event is handicapped accessible, free and open to the public, with complimentary refreshments.

Got broken stuff? Drawdown Montague wants to remind you that its **Free Fall Fix-It Event** is on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring your knives and tools that need sharpening, simple sewing projects, lamps, toys, tools, small appliances or furniture that need repair. (Please no computers, large furniture or appliances, or items under warranty.) Suggested \$5 donation for successful repairs. Food for sale by Red Fire North.

The **Farley String Band** will play a free concert on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. GSB has been extremely fortunate to feature them when their numbers were smaller, and they were known as the Farley Five. The music will be pleasing to your ears, and the group itself is very personable and entertaining. Light refreshments courtesy of GSB and the music generously donated by the Farley String Band!

Nik Perry, who plans to open a new bike shop in downtown Greenfield, will host a **bicycle flat fix class** at 170 Main Street at 11 a.m. this Saturday, November 16.

The class is \$10, sliding scale, and no one will be turned away. RSVP to nik@sadiesbikes.com.

At 2 p.m., there will also be a **free group bike ride** down the canalside bike path in Turners Falls.

Also on Saturday, attend the Full Beaver Moon Gathering: **A Talk on Traditional Native Finger Weaving** by Mashpee Wampanoag Elder Marlene Lopez, Rabbit Clan Mother, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Lopez has been finger-weaving and keeping this ancient art alive by teaching others the skill for 30 years. The designs are those of the Eastern Woodland and Plains

people of Turtle Island during the 18th century. The style of weaving is called warface, and the designs are variations of the diagonal, chevron, arrowhead, diamond, flame and lightning. Items woven with these designs include ceremonial sashes, belts, garters, armbands, headbands, and hair-ties. Co-sponsored by DCR and Nolumbeka Project. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Wendell State Forest Alliance will hold a National Take a Hike Day event on Sunday, November 17, at 1 p.m. This short hike stops at the half-way point to hear a brief presentation by Bill Stubblefield on the **Wendell Ghost Forest Project**. The round trip walk to the Ghost Forest from the parking area is approximately 1.1 miles on a gently rolling woods road. An optional four-mile hike, led by Alliance members, will follow.

The Alliance’s Ghost Forest Project presentation showcases this past summer’s logging activities in the Brook Road area of Wendell State Forest by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Participants in Take a Hike Day at Wendell State Forest are encouraged to carpool to the Carlton Road entrance (shown as “Marshes Road” on Google Maps: bit.ly/2PQvz1I) to the forest on Montague Road in Wendell. Park well off the roadside. An orientation meet-up will begin shortly after 1 p.m. where maps and information will be shared. For more information, email savebrookrdforest@gmail.com.

The **Census Bureau** is recruiting people in Franklin County to assist in the 2020 Census count. Census jobs provide flexible hours, weekly pay, and paid training.

Elaine Arseneault, of Census2020, will be at the Greenfield Public Library, 402 Main Street, Greenfield, on Monday, November 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to answer questions, offer employment information, and accept applications.

On Wednesday, November 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Cohn Family Dining Commons at Greenfield Community College, the Interfaith Council of Franklin County and Greenfield Community College are collaborating to create a **community meal celebrating the cultures**, traditions, and ethnicities of our region.

This family-friendly event will include games for children, music, dance, information tables, food representing Guatemalan, Egyptian, Thai, Puerto Rican, Korean, Mexican, Jewish, Senegalese, Tibetan, and Indigenous Peoples cultures! There will also be an opportunity

for people from different communities and ethnicities to offer blessings or share traditions. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP at gcc.mass.edu/supper.

At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, the North Quabbin Energy citizens group, in collaboration with the Sierra Club and Friends of the Athol Public Library, will offer a one-time free screening of the **award-winning film “Under Pressure”** at the Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol.

This original film, created by a team of seniors from the Four Rivers Charter Public School in Greenfield, describes and analyzes the September 2018 Merrimack Valley gas explosions that severely affected three eastern Massachusetts communities. The costs were high: one death, 25 injuries, thousands of residents in three towns evacuated, over 100 structures destroyed, and around \$1 billion in damages.

The students researched, wrote, and filmed in teams, interviewing explosion victims, first responders, business owners, elected officials, scientists, utility representatives, and activists. Greenfield Community Television partnered with them for equipment and training.

Discussion after the film will be led by special guest Nathan Phillips. An expert interviewed in the film, Dr. Phillips is a professor at Boston University’s College of Arts and Sciences. His research was the first of its kind to map gas leaks in a major city (Boston). Lilly Lombard, Sierra Club activist and mother of one of the student filmmakers, will also attend the showing and discussion.

The event is free and all are welcome, but to ensure space on a first-come, first-served basis, the library requires advance registration by phone at (978) 249-9515.

Looking ahead...

The **Friends of Gill** will hold an **Apple Pie Sale** on Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Gill church. Frozen, unbaked pies sell for \$12. Perfectly timed for Thanksgiving, this sale benefits their scholarship fund for Gill high school seniors.

The Gill-Montague Senior Center’s **Christmas Bazaar** is Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Get a jump on your holiday shopping! The bazaar features food, raffles, crafts, and gifts. The senior center is located at 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

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After being closed for a year, Nash’s Mill Bridge in Greenfield — a crucial east-west connector between Leyden and Colrain roads — has reopened. The old bridge was demolished and a wider one built in its place. Remaining work can be done with the road open. Readers in our core coverage towns should now have a quicker drive to Greenfield Community College, the Greenfield Swimming and Recreation Area, or the William Turner memorial discussed by Gary Sanderson in our October 31 edition.

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FACES & PLACES



Our correspondent Joe R. Parzych sent this photograph from the Veterans Day memorial service held on Monday inside the Montague Elks Lodge #2521.

"Thank you to everyone for remembering all vets who have served in the past, also those who are presently serving our country," Joe writes. "Also, many thanks to the Montague Elks Club and Boy Scouts for everything that they do."

JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

SPORTS from page A1

hosted the Green Wave of Greenfield in the pouring rain. It was cold and wet up in North Buckland, but not freezing – cold enough to see your breath, but warm enough not to need long johns. The rain decreased to a light drizzle at times, but most of the game was played in a cold, steady rain. The Boys played through the storm, and a cloud of exhaust hovered above the action.

The Cheer Squad also made the trek. They were adorned in lightweight plastic ponchos, and their own breath hovered over them in clouds as they cheered. Some of the girls got a little overheated and took down their hoods, and spent the rest of the night cheering with soaking wet hair.

Greenfield won the toss and elected to kick. This was a good decision because Mohawk proceeded to fumble, giving the rock and the opportunity back to Green. Greenfield is a good team, and they weren't about to squander the opportunity. Taking over at the Warriors' 35, they cracked ahead to the 20 and scored on a perfect pass. But Mohawk's short-yardage D stepped up; Liam Driscoll knocked through the Green wall and made the tackle-for-loss on the 2-PAT. With 8:59 left in the first, the Wave was on top 6-0.

Mohawk is also a good team. On the kick, Jaden Whiting found a lane and made it all the way to the 40. Last week Mohawk coach Doug McCloud used his West Coast offense to success, but on Thursday, the ball, the field, and the receivers' hands were a little too wet; Gold was unable to move the ball further, and punted.

This is where the tide turned. Green fumbled it away, and Whiting recovered it, giving Mohawk a first-and-10 at the Wave's 30. Evan Shippee banged ahead to the 10, and Shawn Davenport ran two keepers: the first was to the 3, and the second was for the TD. Cullen Brown kicked the PAT with 4:04 left in the quarter, and Mohawk nosed ahead 7-6.

I've often wondered what a group of Warriors should be called. The announcer used terms like "a number of Warriors" and "a pack of Warriors" when they made gang tackles, but I prefer "gang" as in gang tackle. A "gang of Warriors" also gives homage to that '70s movie with all those surrealistic gangs. Plus, if they ever change their mascot to "The Buffalo," Gang would still fit.

Greenfield tried to run the ball, but were stopped in their tracks by a Gang of Warriors. On third down, Ryan Duclos stopped the drive with a sack. Both defenses dug in throughout most of the second quarter, but with 2:27 left in the half, Brown, now a receiver, sprinted past his defender into the end zone.

Brown looked over his shoulder and made the grab. He then kicked the PAT. And then he kicked off.

Last week against Franklin Tech, Greenfield scored with 19 seconds left in the first half, so anything was possible. On the kick, Brown booted the ball over everyone's heads. The returners sprinted backwards just to make sure it landed in the end zone. It wasn't a 77-yard field goal, but it was deep enough for a touchback.

The Gang stopped Greenfield again, and Mohawk took over on the Gold 42 with 42 ticks on the clock. After an unsuccessful first down Davenport faded back to pass. He was almost sacked, and saw a seam. He charged ahead, got hit a couple of times, stayed on his feet, and fi-

nally splashed down at the 15. But by then, time had run out, and the teams headed to the locker rooms to dry off with the score 14-6 Gold.

Greenfield's strategy of kicking off first was put to the test. Green is a 2-PAT team so if they could score on their opening possession, they could potentially tie it up and steal the momentum.

But the Blue Gang had other ideas. Shippee intercepted the ball, and Mohawk set up camp on the Green 31, but then Mohawk shot themselves in their collective feet: three huge penalties, and they had to punt on fourth and 30.

There's an interesting dynamic up at Mohawk High School. The field is high, probably as high as the clouds are down in Turners Falls, but it doesn't sit on the highest peak. You can hear echoes bounce off other mountains. Throughout the game, the announcer's voice echoed back and forth, and even noises from the field ricocheted against the hills.

A third-down sack by Robert Goodwell gave the ball back to Mohawk. They grinded out a long drive, and the third quarter ended on two long Davenport keepers. Nine seconds into the fourth quarter, Matthew Pollen scored the touchdown, and after Brown did his thing, Gold was up 21-6.

Greenfield is tough, and has the potential of scoring multiple touchdowns in just a few minutes. But Duclos, Pollen and Brendon Driscoll didn't allow them the chance. In the fourth quarter, they all made tackles for losses, and Green was unable to get anything going.

The Warriors had one last long possession. With three minutes left on the clock, they lined up for a field goal attempt. Last week, up in Drury, a blocked field goal attempt almost changed the game. But that was then. The O-Line held, and Brown booted it through the uprights to seal the game, 24-6.

As the players shook hands at midfield, the fans sloshed their way to their cars. Those same fans will make the trek down Route 2 to Orange next week to watch their Warriors take on Mahar. The victory improves Mohawk's record to 4-3.

FCTS 42 – Pathfinder 0

On Friday, Pathfinder Tech battled the Blue Eagles of Franklin Tech in the first round of the second season. Coming into the game, both teams thought they could win. Both the Eagles and Pioneers had played inconsistently in the regular season and both were looking for redemption.

The skies had cleared in the valley by Friday, but the temperature had plummeted, and it was below freezing for the entire game. By halftime fans were covering their mouths because the air was too cold to breathe. Although it was frigid on the field, the Boys came out to play.

Both teams banged pads in the first quarter, and even though Franklin scored early twice, P-Tech denied them both PATs. In fact, both teams battled for every single yard throughout the entire cold first half. It wasn't until the outcome was certain that both teams relaxed.

In the second half, both sides had fun. Joe Gamache sent in the second string in the final quarter, which is nice. There's a lack of JV teams, and those kids don't get a lot of playing time. Football has their own mercy rule, and the clock ran unstopped in the fourth.

The Birds set the pace early, forcing a 4-and-out and scoring immediately. I won't go into

detail about all their accomplishments on offense, defense, and special teams, but the Blue D forced a shutout, the line opened up holes and protected the QB, and the backs and receivers opened up the field.

One of the Techies summed up the victory in two words: "Speed kills." It's wasn't just speed, however. Hard-banging linemen opened up holes to the tune of 301 rushing yards. Eight different Franks carried the ball, with Hunter Wozniak leading the pack (90) followed by Ian McClure (86). Sophomore Chad Adams chopped out 47 rushing yards, Donte Rosewarne ran for 44, and Dominic Bowden-Smith got 31. Under center, Bashaw went 3 for 6 for 78 yards and a touchdown.

Wozniak caught two passes for 70 yards, and Colby Mailloux made the TD reception. McClure scored three touchdowns while Rosewarne, Bowden-Smith, and Mailloux scored the other three. Bashaw, Bailey Young, and Bowden-Smith, added on the 2-PATs.

Defensively, 11 different Franks made solo tackles, with Rosewarne, Austin Demers, and Bowden-Smith tallying five each. Brooks Medeiros and Kyle Snyder recovered fumbles, and on special teams, Dylan Demers kicked the ball seven times for 306 yards.

The win gives F-Tech a 3-6 record, and this Friday, the McCann Green Hornets buzz into town.

NE Patriots: Bye

On Sunday, the New England Football Patriots got a week off after losing their first game of the season. But it's not the end of the world – losing a game or two during the regular season takes the pressure off. As we all know, it's better to lose during the regular season than to remain undefeated and lose in the Super Bowl.

Round Two Preview

Next Friday, in Round Two of the second season, the Warriors head east down their Trail to visit the Senators and the Franks get into another Tech battle when McCann comes into town.

Both Mahar and McCann are tough teams, but have cracks in their armor. Mahar is a playoff team that was knocked out by powerhouse Ware. The Senators go into Friday's matchup with a 6-3 record. Two of those losses were against the top two teams in D-8 West, while the other loss was a 58-13 blowout by Frontier.

McCann dropped two early games against playoff teams Mahar and Ware, and dropped a close one against Drury. Since then, they've won three straight. And the last time the Hornets came to Turners Falls, they shut out Mohawk 12-0.

Both F-Tech and the Warriors can play against these guys. I'll reserve my thoughts as to who will win these contests because winning isn't everything... (Apologies to Coach "Red" Sanders!) Having fun and making memories, that's what's important.

And it won't be the last game for either squad. Mohawk goes against Frontier on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and on Turkey Day, the Franks battle the Smith Vikings.

By the way, I'm glad Tech is playing on Thanksgiving. It gives me something to do before the feast!

Next week: Preparing for Turkey Day.



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SOLAR from page A1

economic development on private property. This is particularly true with regard to solar development, which the state has been trying to promote.

According to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3, “no zoning ordinance or bylaw shall prohibit or unreasonably regulate the installation of solar energy systems.”

Does this mean that a town cannot prohibit large-scale solar on fields and farms? The state Attorney General, who has tended to approve restrictions on such projects, has stated that there is very little case law “to guide [towns] or this Office in determining what qualifies as an unreasonable regulation of solar uses.”

State law on solar zoning is still a work in progress. Local communities can refer to a 2014 advisory from the Department of Energy Resources, “Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems.”

In Wendell, the planning board will be the committee charged with sorting these issues out. The *Montague Reporter* has reviewed the current status of solar bylaws in towns that we cover. The following summary focuses on regulations impacting forests and farmlands in Wendell, Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, Gill, and Montague. Pour yourself a cup of coffee, and read on.

Wendell

The existing Wendell zoning regulations, dated March 16, 2017, state that “the purpose of this bylaw is to facilitate the creation or expansion of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Electric Installations and Extra-Large Ground Mounted Solar Electric Installations.”

This language was sharply criticized during a planning board hearing on the moratorium, and will no doubt be revisited during the review process. However, it is not inconsistent with the language of several other bylaws the *Reporter* reviewed, and is probably a product of the time when large-scale solar was viewed as crucial to addressing climate change, but its land use impact had not been thoroughly considered.

Wendell’s moratorium comes amid widespread opposition to a 2.7-megawatt array Sunpin Solar Development has proposed to build on 14 acres of land on the corner of New Salem and Morse Village roads. A September 16 planning board hearing was flooded with opponents of the project, who argued, in the words of one, that “industrial solar is completely inappropriate to what I believe we hold dear in Wendell.”

At that meeting, one planning

board member indicated that he felt the project did not conform to the town’s existing bylaws, but a lawyer for the project developer cited state law which he claimed prohibits “arbitrary” or “capricious” denial of special permits. The planning board has not made a decision on the project.

The 2017 bylaws defined “large-scale” solar arrays as those producing between 10 kilowatts (kW) and 2 megawatts (MW) of power, and occupying up to 10 acres of land, and “extra large scale” arrays as those producing over 2 megawatts (MW) or occupying over 10 acres. The towns we reviewed varied a great deal in defining these categories.

The town has defined a small “solar overlay district” on two former landfills, where such projects are allowed “by right,” meaning they need no special permits from the planning board. Large and extra-large solar is, in theory, also allowed in most of the rest of the town, subject to special permit approval.

The planning board has the authority to reject a special permit if it does not meet certain criteria, including that “[p]roposed uses should be harmonious with the existing wooded, rural, and agricultural character of Wendell and preserve views and open space.” Whether this allows the board to reject proposals such as the one that prompted the current moratorium remains to be seen.

As to a project’s environmental impact, Wendell’s current bylaws state that “Solar Electric Installations shall be designed to minimize land clearing and fragmentation of open space areas, and shall be located so as to avoid significant negative impacts on rare or protected species in the vicinity. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Solar Electric Installation or as otherwise prescribed by applicable laws or regulations.”

This is common language in local bylaws, but unlike some others we reviewed, there is no requirement that tree-cutting be balanced by retaining or planting trees on the project site.

Shutesbury

The town of Shutesbury significantly revised its solar bylaws in 2016 amid opposition to a proposed project on wooded land owned W.D. Cows Company of Amherst. The company, the largest landowner in the state, sought to construct a 5-MW solar facility on a 30-acre parcel on Pratts Corner Road.

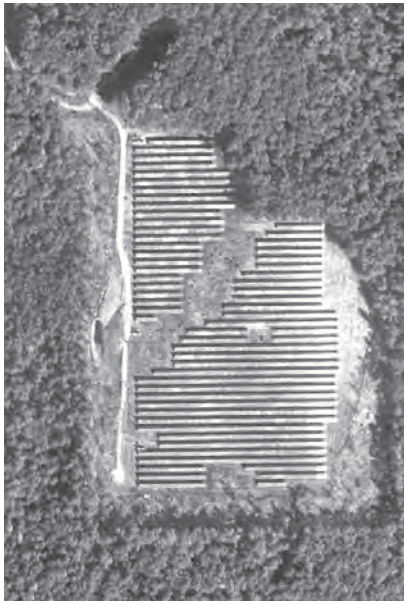
After numerous contentious meetings and a legal challenge,

the planning board approved the project, with conditions, but also proposed significantly revising the zoning bylaws. The new bylaws, initially proposed by a citizen petition and then revised by the board, were approved by town meeting in May 2016, and by the Attorney General that September. The local process took less than two months, but involved at least five planning board meetings.

The revisions define “small scale” ground mounted solar projects as those occupying 1.5 or fewer acres of land, and “large scale” as those occupying between 1.5 and 15 acres. The criteria do not refer to the amount of electricity generated by the array, or the total area of solar panels. “Small scale” arrays are allowed in all zoning districts – with the exception of Lake Wyola – pending a special permit by the planning board.

On the other hand, large-scale projects are prohibited in all zones except “forest conservation” land, which actually comprises most of the town area, and in the “town center” district. They must be sited more than 500 feet from a public way.

None of these restrictions appear to apply to rooftop solar panels, and there appears to be no category for ground-mounted systems adjacent to a primary structure.



Shutesbury revised its zoning bylaws after this 5-MW array was built on formerly wooded land off Pratts Corner Road owned by W.D. Cows Company.

Shutesbury’s bylaw revisions explicitly refer to the “carbon sequestration” impacts of forest cutting, and propose that if “forest land is proposed to be converted to Ground Mounted Solar,” the developer is required to designate within the project an area of unprotected land “equal to four times the area of such installation.”

To compensate for the loss of “forest habitat,” the bylaws also call for the creation of a “wildlife meadow habitat within and immediately around” the solar array.

Leverett

In 2016 Leverett changed its restrictive solar bylaws after the town planning board’s rejection of a proposed array on North Leverett Road. In the fall of 2015, Barry Oberpriller requested that the board approve variance for a 500-kW array on a field next to his house. Planning board members expressed sympathy for Oberpriller’s project, but unanimously rejected it as inconsistent with the zoning bylaws.

Oberpriller threatened to go to the state Attorney General to complain about the “grievous injustice,” but eventually worked with town officials to revise the zoning bylaws. The process significantly liberalized the bylaws, but in the end they

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were still too restrictive, including a required 100-foot setback from the road, to make his project viable.

The new bylaws, approved at the 2016 town meeting, distinguish between small, medium, and large ground-mounted solar projects by measuring the total area of the panels. Small arrays are defined as those with less than 1,750 square feet of total panel space; medium arrays as having between 1,750 and 40,000 square feet, and large arrays as those that exceed 40,000.

Medium-sized solar installations now require a special permit in several zoning districts, which prohibit large-scale solar. However, large-scale arrays are allowed in so-called “rural outlying” districts, which comprise much of the town, by a special permit from the planning board.

The bylaws do not require mitigation of tree cutting or wildlife habitat reduction, but stipulate that “[c]learing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the medium or large-scale ground-mounted solar electric installation...”

Erving

Erving defines large-scale ground mounted arrays as those generating a minimum of 250 kW. For such installations on “all parcels of land under single ownership that contain 40 contiguous acres or greater,” solar development is allowed as a matter of “right” with only a site plan review.

For such arrays on parcels of land between 20 and 40 “contiguous” acres, the bylaws require a special permit from the planning board.

As in Leverett, Erving’s bylaws do not require any mitigation for the elimination of forests or wildlife habitat. The bylaws do, however, have lengthy requirements for the “landscaped buffer strip” between the project and adjacent properties.

Gill

Gill’s solar zoning bylaws define large scale solar as any ground-mounted systems larger than 15 kW. The potential location of these arrays is influenced by the existence of a “solar overlay district” that coincides with a commercial district along the north side of Route 2 and the west side of Main Road.

Proposed projects between 15 and 250 kW on one acre of land in this district do not require a special permit, but only a site plan review. Projects of over 250 kW, or those on more than one acre, require a special permit.

Outside the overlay district, large scale projects in most areas of town are allowed, but require a special permit from the zoning board of appeals (ZBA).

Gill’s bylaws do not explicitly require mitigation for forest cutting or the elimination of habitat, containing virtually identical language to those of Erving on this issue.

Montague

Montague has undertaken an extensive revision of its zoning bylaws,



Borrego Solar and Kearsarge Energy finished this 2.7-MW array on Gill’s Northfield Mount Hermon campus in 2017, after Borrego received a special permit and site plan review in 2016 from the town’s zoning board of appeals. Gill’s solar bylaws, last updated in 2011, designated a special “solar overlay district” at the opposite end of town, but no arrays have yet been built there.

which became effective in February 2019. While solar zoning was not the primary driver of that process, important changes were made in regulations affecting its development.

One of the reasons for this is that the town has approved five large-scale solar projects over the past few years, totaling over 12 MW of electric generation. Large solar arrays on the old town landfill off Turnpike Road, built by Kearsarge Energy, and on land zoned as a potential industrial park off Millers Falls Road on the Montague Plains, built by Eversource, are now online.

The rationale of the new bylaws, which are said to “encourage solar energy collection on roofs, over parking lots, and on degraded areas and to minimize the environmental impact when that is not otherwise practical,” suggests a potential move away from large-scale solar.

They distinguish between ground-mounted solar projects which are “accessory” to other structures, and “solar energy facilities,” which are not. The latter, which are essentially large-scale arrays, are defined as any with more than 2,000 square feet of panel surface area. These large-scale arrays are now prohibited in all zoning districts, except those designated as “industrial” and “historic industrial.”

The bylaws also require mitigation of the impacts of forest cutting: “For every mature tree cleared for construction, measured in board feet of wood; at least an equivalent mass of living mature trees shall be retained on-site.”

The solar zoning bylaws reviewed for this article show a remarkable variation in the definition of “large scale” solar, and in where such projects are allowed. But overall, towns seem to be moving away from an uncritical acceptance of large-scale solar as a revenue generating source and solution to climate change, and more aggressively requiring developers to mitigate their impact on woodlands and wildlife habitat.



ALL MAP IMAGES © 2019 GOOGLE

Kearsarge Energy had to apply to the Montague planning board for a special permit and site plan review for 6 MW of generation capacity it is developing off Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. These two arrays, sited on former landfills, are now online.

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BOOKS from page A1

design and marketing. She worked at Stoneleigh-Burnham School before she and Serven purchased the bookstore business.

The couple live about six blocks from the store. Hoffman was a two-term precinct councilor in Greenfield, and continues to serve the town on its downtown cultural district commission.

“So I had an idea about the downtown, and hopefully where it’s going,” she says. In addition to the efforts of what she describes as some “scrappy entrepreneurs” in Greenfield, Hoffman says, “There are a lot of folks who are working really hard behind the scenes to do some creative investment in the downtown.”

Hoffman says she’s heartened by the recent “yes” vote on a new library, as well as the HIVE maker space under development at the old World Eye Bookshop storefront on Main Street.

“It’s nice to fit into that community,” Hoffman says.

Matchmaker, Matchmaker

One of the books Hoffman sold recently was *The Conservative Rebel: A Social History of Greenfield, Massachusetts*, a 1982 book by Paul Jenkins.

“I don’t think there are a lot of copies floating around,” Hoffman says. “And without divulging who

I sold it to, it was someone who is doing some investment in the downtown. They walked out and I thought, ‘Now that’s a perfect match,’ because they can get some context about how the town was formed, some insights into the politics and the different ways people came together here.”

Hoffman says she’s done “a surprising amount” of matchmaking.

Serven cites another example. A man came in looking for “those Time-Life Books they used to advertise on television: alien sightings, the pyramids, and things like that.”

The bookstore happened to have some in stock, but Serven also knew they had a copy of *In Search of the Rose Notes*, a novel written by his former Merriam-Webster colleague, Shelburne Falls writer Emily Arsenault, in which the Time-Life Books played a role in the plot. The customer walked out, happily, with that too.

One particularly strong section in the store is science fiction.

Hoffman says, “The interesting thing about this science fiction section is it’s not just overflow from things that people didn’t want. There are some collections that I think were bequeathed to the prior owner.”

So, in addition to sci-fi books that are tie-ins to films or television series, there are pulp paperbacks that are the very first in their series,



The newly organized shelves at Federal Street Books hold an eclectic array of books, from romance to classic literature. (The editors add: The new owners aren’t only dictionary nerds – they’re both former Montague Reporter volunteers, too! Hoffman served on our board in 2010, and Serven penned a column on language usage, “The Rogue Editor,” from 2008 to 2013.)

Hoffman says. “And they literally say, ‘Volume 1,’ and have a little 95¢ sticker on them.”

Hoffman hopes to reach out to the local sci-fi community and perhaps host an event in the rental space next door, bringing fans together in February before an annual sci-fi convention in Boston. She also hopes to bring two local author readings or other events a month to that space, beginning in December.

“A couple of nights a month to get us through the long winter,” she says with a smile.

With roughly 18,500 books on the shelves upstairs, and another 12,000 or so in the basement waiting to be categorized and re-organized, it may be a while before Hoffman and Serven accomplish all the goals they have for the store.

But they both seem eager to dive in.

Federal Street Books is located at 8 Federal Street in Greenfield. Hours are Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with expanded hours coming soon for the holidays.

Visit federalstreetbooks.com for more info on this and other questions you might have, such as book-buying policies, what types of books they are looking for, and local author consignment.



ERVING from page A1

increasingly susceptible to flooding in recent years. Town administrator Bryan Smith told the *Montague Reporter* that last December, due to beaver activity and a manmade dam, water backed up on Keyup Brook, created an ice sheet, and then released in a flood.

“When that flood of water comes through with the ice sheets, we’re seeing the brook crest its banks,” Smith said, adding that ice sheets tearing through village backyards posed a threat both to safety and property. “We assume this is going to take the expertise of several agencies... The costs of mitigating this are going to be extensive.”

The state’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, which supports towns “planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects,” is a key source of aid to local towns seeking to protect themselves against such hazards. A number of local communities are working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to map out their hazard mitigation priorities.

“We’re getting stronger precipitation, so we’re getting a faster amount of rain, and our brooks and tributaries are funneling all this water to these collection points and then hitting these dam structures, either man-made or natural,” Smith explained. “Or we have brooks with retaining walls in need of repair, that can’t handle this level of flow. It calls into question the entire infrastructure.”

Smith said Erving plans to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to repair culverts and stream crossings, and is working with FRCOG to identify a “patchwork” of state and federal funding opportunities to help contain its brooks.

A separate state Community Compact grant recently paid for FRCOG to map out 412 culverts in the town, and make visual assessments of their condition, so that the

town can schedule maintenance. A similar inventory of bridges was also produced.

“None of our bridges are deemed critically at risk, but they’re definitely showing some signs of age and wear,” Smith said. “There’s probably some preventative maintenance that we, ourselves and neighboring towns, should be making a plan for.”

Sewer Boondoggle

Another major infrastructure repair project is an aging sewer main through which Erving Center’s wastewater is pumped eastward to POTW#2, the public treatment plant operated by Erving Industries, Inc.

Smith said the Arch Street sewer main, which crosses under the railroad tracks twice and runs through a fully-designated wetland between Route 2 and the Millers River, is made of half-century-old concrete and has breached twice in recent years. “We know it’s at the end of its useful life,” he said.

Engineering firm Tighe & Bond has been working on a new design that would run the sewer line along new path, because the town would be unlikely to secure environmental permits to dig up and replace it in the wetland.

“We really don’t have a ton of options,” Smith said. Two plans have been devised, and both would run the main closely along Route 2. “Neither option MassDOT is particularly thrilled with,” he added. Tighe & Bond’s scope of design work for the project is increasing.

Paper Mill Cleanup

The ongoing rehabilitation of the long-shuttered International Paper (IP) mill complex in Erving’side has hit another speed bump. Six transformers need to be removed, containing oil and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), along with about 20 cubic yards of oil-contaminated soil.

Erving has 120 days to complete the work. On October 28, the selectboard authorized the remedia-

tion project to go out to bid. Smith said that since the cost is expected to be under \$50,000, the town was allowed to simply approach four vendors with the proposal, of which two submitted bids by deadline. The bids were scheduled to be reviewed Wednesday night.

Other Business

Progress is still being made on the newly constructed Erving Public Library. The selectboard and library building committee have been meeting regularly to pick out the building’s furniture and approve change orders for the work, which is running slightly behind schedule.

According to Smith, open questions include “colors, selections of fabric, and things of that nature,” as well as procurement of televisions, a refrigerator, and the building’s security system. Smith said he expects the project to be completed in February, in time for a March 1 opening.

The selectboard has been in negotiations with Comcast over the installation of internet drops in town buildings, which would allow for live cable TV broadcast of meetings and other events. Town hall, Erving Elementary School, the senior/community center, and the new library were the town’s priorities, and on October 28 Comcast offered to absorb the cost of building new fiber-optic infrastructure.

“By ‘absorb,’ I think we all understand that means it’ll be in the monthly operating cost,” Smith said. “We would be paying a little bit more for services... The board was trying to wrestle with ‘well, if we’re going to put four buildings on fiber, why not all of our town buildings?’”

So far, the selectboard has agreed to fiber installation at town hall and the library, which will include voice-over IP. The town hopes to launch a local cable station, either independently or through a partnership with Montague or Greenfield community access organizations.

Erving’s contract with the county Solid Waste Management District to

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Controlled Burn on Wendell Depot Road

WENDELL – On this coming Saturday, November 16, the Wendell Fire Department will be conducting live fire training, and then burning the structure at 120 Wendell Depot Road.

Traffic on Wendell Depot Road will be one lane in front of the property during the day as there will be multiple trucks, vehicles and personnel at the scene.

Operations will occur between 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The morning will involve small training fires for newer members to practice skills under live fire conditions. The afternoon will involve standing by as the department “disposes” of this condemned, town-owned structure via the element of fire.

haul sludge is not expected to change much, but as with everywhere else, recycling fees are due to rise significantly. Erving has full curbside pickup, and is negotiating to extend a two-year contract with USA Hauling & Recycling, Inc. for a third year.

Though most departments have been issued a 2.5% growth guidance in drafting their FY’21 budgets, Smith said the highway department, which includes the solid waste account, is expected to budget for higher increases due to the recycling cost hikes, which can be covered by the town’s cash reserves.

“We probably have the ability to continue to offer free curbside trash and recycling, which most towns no longer have the capacity to do,” Smith told the *Reporter*. “But there is a concern that, as these costs continue to increase all around us, even if we are able to contend with them, we may continue to be a site where people bring their trash to dispose of it.”



T-Shirts

Our fundraiser t-shirts, designed by Emma and Charlotte Kohlmann, are about half gone; sizes M to XXL are in stock. We’re asking \$15 to \$30 for them, sliding scale.

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LEVERETT from page A1

neighborhood. Leverett’s valuations, he told the board, have previously been on “the low end of the spectrum – barely into the [state] Department of Revenue’s allowable limits.”

Reynolds said the assessors looked at what has been happening over the past few years to real estate prices in the region as a guide. “We were seeing a good 3 to 5% increase, year over year, in property values,” he said. Leverett’s new assessments amounted in “...an average value increase on improved properties of 3.5% for this year.”

The average single-family home in the town will rise in assessed value from \$305,159 to \$316,415 in FY’20, Reynolds said, and its tax bill will rise from \$6,375 to \$6,483.

Cops and Cannabis

Shively spoke to concerns about unclear wording regarding caregivers in the Leverett police department’s marijuana policy. Police are not allowed to use marijuana, even prescribed medical marijuana, but they can receive special permission to act as caregivers for patients.

“I feel like [the caregiver policy] is all over the place, and it would be good to have that whole ‘caregiver’ definition and section, and bit about permission, in one place,” said Shively.

“The easiest thing to do is take all the pieces about ‘caregivers’ out,” selectboard chair Peter d’Errico suggested, “and then put them in a separate section saying ‘notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, the following shall apply to caregivers,’ or something like that.”

Police chief Scott Minckler explained that the main policy for police officers is that “you can’t

use it, because you have to carry a firearm.” Minckler said federal policy bans police from using anything containing even trace amounts of THC, including CBD products.

Tenacious Beavers

Shutesbury Road resident Laszlo Tikos and his daughter Tatiana Koski came before the board to request reimbursement of about \$5,000 that Tikos has spent trying to remove beavers from his property, and to seek guidelines in hope of a permanent remedy to the persistent problem.

For over a decade, Tikos said, beaver dams have caused flooding problems, and they have recently made the water in his well unsafe to drink. “Around May of this year, the water started to taste badly at our house,” Tikos said.

Tikos obtained an emergency certificate by the board of health to alleviate the well’s bacterial contamination, and the highway department partially relieved the dam flooding, but couldn’t remove the entire dam because beavers were present in the water.

The conservation commission and board of health will be consulted for resolution of this ongoing issue. D’Errico said he wasn’t sure how Tikos could be reimbursed, but that the selectboard would look into it and get back to him.

Other Wells

Lyons Whitton, a hydrogeologist from OHI Engineering’s Amherst office, stated that about 15 gallons of residential fuel oil was recently pumped directly into the basement of another Shutesbury Road residence due to a disconnected tank.

According to Whitton, most of

the oil was cleaned up from the basement, but a “minimal amount” leached out of the house drain – a quantity “deemed to be non-reportable” by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The home’s owner will likely be responsible for any costs associated with the cleanup.

Virginia Goodale and several other Teawaddle Hill Road residents also attended the selectboard meeting to discuss a new hitch in the ongoing effort to address wells contaminated by a town-owned landfill.

The engineering firm Wilcox and Barton is testing the wells, but low water flow made testing of Goodale’s well difficult. The residents and board discussed the need to frack the well to improve flow, along with some concerns that fracking might create new issues.

Hankinson said that Wilcox and Barton would be on site continuing the work as scheduled, and that he expects to see a report within two weeks of its completion.

Other Business

The Massachusetts Community Compact grant Leverett received to improve IT will fund a cyber-security training for town employees and other officials. The training will include a webinar, as well as security breach simulations conducted by the state Executive Office of Technology Services and Security and a company called Proofpoint, Inc.

Leverett’s network security will be tested by several types of security attacks, such as phishing, malware links, and other hacking techniques, in order to teach staff how to avoid such security breaches, and respond to them should they occur.



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TOWN OF MONTAGUE

FY20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Request for Proposals for Social Service Programs

The Town of Montague requests proposals for public social service programs that will meet the needs of Montague residents for possible inclusion in its FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. All proposed programs must address needs identified by the Town’s Community Based Planning Documents and the MA Department of Community Development.

The Town will accept and open all proposals received at Montague Town Hall (1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA) on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. Postmarks will not be considered. Proposals submitted by fax or email will not be considered. Five (5) copies of the proposal are required from each agency. The envelope containing the proposal shall be marked “TOWN OF MONTAGUE – FY2020 PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL”.

For a copy of the RFP, please contact Sharon Pleasant, HRA, by phone at (413) 863-9781 x 156 or by email: spleasant@fcrhrra.org. For additional information, please contact Steven Ellis, Town Administrator, at (413) 863-3200 x 110 or by email: townadmin@montague-ma.gov.

Town of Montague Selectboard

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was November 12, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Native Culture On Display

Leverett Affordable Housing Project

More than two dozen Native Americans from Northeastern tribes gathered for a “mini pow-wow” at the Turners Falls High School on Saturday. According to Friends of Wissatinnewag president Cris Stormfox Carl, they came “to thank the school, and to thank the community for their support,” in ending the use of the Tomahawk Chop fight song at TFHS football games. The event was co-sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture.

But only six of the 18 students in William Matthews’ Native American Studies class at the high school showed up to join town and school officials and community members at the event.

By the end of the afternoon, as Doug Harris, Preservationist of Ceremonial Landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, stood in the center of the gym facing a cardboard sign on the wall saying “We’re the Indians. We’re #1!” to speak about the Native history of the area, only one Turners Falls High School student remained in the room.

Last year, when the issue of whether to allow the Turners Falls football team – named the Indians and featuring the profile of a Native American as the team mascot – and their supporters to continue using a hand motion imitating a tomahawk at football games, the “overwhelming majority” of high school students supported the Tomahawk Chop, according to former student council president Josh Gammon.

In speeches before the school committee on January 12, many other Tomahawk Chop supporters, cheerleaders, and team members

spoke of their intent to “honor” Native Americans by use of the team mascot and the fight song.

The Leverett selectboard slammed the door on a planned affordable housing project on Montague Road on Tuesday, declining to approve a \$500 expenditure to hire consultant John Ryan to conduct a builders’ feasibility tour of the nine acre project site south and west of the intersection of Cave Hill Road.

Had the builders signaled an ability to construct ten units of clustered homes on the sloping lot, despite the impediments of nearby wetlands and protruding ledge, and bring those houses in at a price between \$180,000 and \$225,000, with at least some of the units at 80% of prevailing area market rates, Fenna Lee Bonsignore, co-chair of the town’s affordable housing committee, told the selectboard her committee would then have gone forward with the project.

The next step would have been to ask the town’s community preservation committee to commit approximately \$600,000, borrowing against the town’s future funding through the local-option Community Preservation Act, to install infrastructure at the site, including an access road, a shared septic system, and water supply.

According to the proposed deal with landowner Cowl’s Lumber, the land would have been donated to the town, or to a non-profit entity established by the town, to administer a lottery and determine qualified buyers for the homes, with preference given for local residents and seniors.

In return, Cowl’s would retain two building lots, presumably to sell at market rates, and be able to access the infrastructure improvements on the parcel.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Sewer Forum Recapped; Chief Returns

By GEORGE BRACE

At their November 12 meeting, members of the Gill selectboard and town administrator Ray Purington discussed a recent meeting in Whately organized by state senator Jo Comerford and state representative Natalie Blais to discuss municipal water and sewer issues facing small, rural towns. The board also conducted a utility pole hearing, and approved a number of service contracts and agreements.

The Whately forum was attended by Purington, board chair John Ward, and board member Randy Crochier, along with state and federal officials, municipal leaders, and water and infrastructure experts. Purington estimated attendance at 90 people, and said he was “surprised, impressed, amazed” at the number of people, organizations and agencies in attendance.

He said Montague talked about the challenges they face in dealing with a system losing some of the user base it was designed for with the closing of the paper mills; Greenfield discussed their plan to build for a methane digester; and Erving talked about the need for municipal water in Erving Center, as well as problems involved with creating micro-water districts.

Crochier said Ashfield spoke about problems they have with staffing, due to the demands of the jobs involved, and the tendency of part-time employees to move on to other jobs once they have acquired skills and certifications.

Purington said that he noticed something missing from a discussion on climate change: the potential effect of higher water tables on septic systems. Crochier commented that he was surprised by the number of recent requests for upgrade approvals to septic systems.

Purington said that it seemed like the meeting’s main takeaway was the development of a resource list for municipalities and water and sewer districts. Crochier said it seemed clear to him that every town has unique concerns, so there would need to be flexibility in legislation or assistance, rather than a “one size fits all” solution from the state or federal level.

The board held a utility pole hearing and approved a request for relocating a utility pole at 26 Oak Sreet. The hearing was brief, but board members took the opportu-

nity of having Eversouce Energy field technician Nick Creigle on hand to inquire about a long-standing issue of the timeline for removing duplicate utility poles.

“We’re in a lot better shape than we were a year ago,” said Purington, but Crochier reiterated dissatisfaction with the slow pace of removal, and the board’s lack of recourse for speeding up the process.

Purington informed the board that the lone applicant for a position in the highway department had withdrawn his name after receiving a better offer from his current employer. He said the position had been re-advertised, and he and highway superintendent John Miner would begin reviewing applicants this week.

Purington also reported that he received official notice from police chief Christopher Redmond that he has returned from his medical leave of absence as of November 4, and is back on duty full time. “It’s good to have him back,” said Purington.

The board commended Sergeant Jason Basset for stepping in as officer in charge during the chief’s absence, along with part-time officers and officers from other towns who helped out.

The board approved a series of service agreements and contracts, including: a proposal from the Massachusetts Municipal Insurance Association for renewing the town’s insurance for FY’21 and FY’22 with no change in rates; a three-year renewal of the CodeRed Reverse 911 service for \$1,500 per year; and a memorandum of agreement between FRCOG, the town of Gill, and the Franklin County Emergency Communication System.

The board also approved renewing the loan for the Mariamante property through the Easthampton Savings Bank at 1.78%, on \$50,600 in principal.

The board reviewed a “disclosure of financial interest in a municipal contract” filed by Patricia Crosby due to a Cultural Council grant application by Sorrel Hatch, who is her daughter.

The meeting closed with announcements, before moving into executive session to conduct contract negotiations. There will be a Christmas Bazaar at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Saturday, November 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. State senator Joanne Comerford will bring her “People’s Office Library Tour” to the Slate Library from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 7.

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GMRSD from page A1

“We have a very good story to tell. I’m not desperate about this one,” said Mike Langknecht of Montague. “I’ve been desperate the last four times. We have an engaged community.... We don’t need someone to come in and build a culture.”

An extra meeting was added to the committee’s schedule on December 10 for a working session on the topic. Oakes said she would see if a representative from MASC would be available to advise the committee.

Information technology director Tina Mahaney and director of pupil services Diane Ellis gave reports.

Mahaney said the schools’ network infrastructure and wireless coverage were rebuilt from 2015 to 2018, and that the 1:1 Chromebooks program now covers all 7th through 9th graders. The district relies on Google for Education products such

as Classroom, one feature of which is that parents can monitor students’ grades in real time.

“By the numbers,” Ellis said, “our district’s need has gone up.” 211, or 22.5%, of Gill-Montague students receive special education supports, as compared with 17% statewide. 78 students receive occupational therapy, up from 53 last year.

One strong point is among English-language learners, as that population has much lower “churn” than others statewide. The district works with the MA Migrant Education Program to provide summer tutoring. Seventeen students are from families that reported homelessness in the past year, a number Ellis attributed in part to more accurate counting.

The committee voted to approve an official priority list for capital spending requests of the towns of Gill and Montague, topped by a new

tractor, roof replacement at Gill Elementary, facade work at Hillcrest, and floor sealing at Gill.

Business manager Joanne Blier presented a breakdown of Erving residents’ enrollment at the middle and high school. It has risen from 53 to 68 in three years, but the increase was due partly to fluctuations in cohort size, and Blier pointed out it is likely to fall in 2021 after a large class graduates.

The school committee approved a one-day middle and high school field trip in May to New York City to catch the Broadway adaptation of the modern film classic Mean Girls.

Representatives of six towns appointed to study the feasibility of a new, larger district were scheduled to meet Wednesday night. The district has applied for \$68,000 in funding from the state to support the study.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Lake Pleasant: Historical Walking Tour

LAKE PLEASANT – A walking tour and digital slide show tracing the history of Spiritualism in Montague’s youngest and smallest of five villages is scheduled Saturday, November 16 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., beginning and ending at Thompson Temple, across from the Post Office.

For almost 150 years the roots of the Village of Lake Pleasant have been intertwined with the waxings and wanings of American Spiritualism. The village’s formal founding occurred in 1874 with formation of the Massachusetts Liberalist and Spiritualist Association, which five years later incorporated as the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association.

For a quarter-century before and after 1900, Lake

Pleasant was the largest gathering place in the United States for Spiritualist believers in “continuity of life” and communication between human souls in the material world and immaterial souls in the world of spirit. Although the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association disbanded in 1976, the National Spiritual Alliance (TNSA) – based in Lake Pleasant since 1913 – makes the community the oldest continuously-existing same-site Spiritualist center in the nation.

The event will be conducted by David James, a village resident, TNSA member and co-author of *Spirit and Spa*, an illustrated portrait of a small community with a large reputation in Spiritualist history. \$20 suggested donation. Rain date is Sunday, November 17.



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* From “My November Guest” by Robert Frost

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Above: The Bridge of Names unites Lake Pleasant across the ravine.



Unearthing the Archives

By Charlotte Kohlmann



PART VII: BARBARA KAMUDA AND THE TITANIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Barbara Kamuda at the Titanic Historical Society's Museum in Indian Orchard.

INDIAN ORCHARD, MA – The outdated fluorescent sign hanging overhead a faint muted pink-and-blue storefront on Indian Orchard's Main Street reads *Henry's Jewelry: diamonds, watches, sales and repairs, jewelry, cards and gifts*.

Tucked away in the back of this 88-year-old establishment in this suburb of Springfield – past the sun-bleached window displays, the dead stock greeting cards, vitrines of jewelry for sale, and a remote-controlled handmade 8-foot replica of the Titanic, sitting indiscriminately in the middle of the stationery aisle – is what just happens to be the headquarters of an internationally renowned, 4,000-member society and museum.

The Titanic Historical Society is dedicated to the history and preservation of artifacts and survivor recollections from the ship's fateful 1912 voyage, as well as objects from its respective White Star Line sisters,

the Olympic and the Britannic.

The objects in the back of this Springfield store include: a drawing of the iceberg sketched by the lookout crow's-nest crew member Frederick Fleet, who was the one to first spot it; a square cut from the green carpet that covered the first-class dining hall; a wireless message the Bridge, or command deck, never received, which might have changed the ship's disastrous fate; the pocket watch of a first-class passenger from Springfield; and a life jacket worn by millionaire Madeleine Astor. Most of these acquisitions were either donated by survivors or by maritime history buffs and collectors.

This museum and historical society, the first of its kind, inspired clusters of Titanic and nautical enthusiasts across the nation and abroad to form their own organizations. It was established in 1963 by a maritime-obsessed 24-year-old named Edward Kamuda. He saw the need

to preserve the stories of survivors and artifacts from the disaster after finding out they were being thrown away in dumpsters.

I recently took a visit to the Titanic Historical Society and spoke with Edward's sister, Barbara, who runs both Henry's Jewelry and the museum since her brother's death five years ago at age 74. He passed away on April 13, 2014, one day before the 102nd anniversary of the ship striking the iceberg.

Edward and Barbara Kamuda are the family's third generation to run a local business in Indian Orchard. Henry's Jewelry was started by their father, and originally stood across the street, directly next to their grandfather's Grand Theater. Now home to a local church, the theater once showed early 1900s vaudeville acts then transitioned to silent films, talkies, and eventually modern motion pictures up until it closed in the 1990s.

As young kids, the Kamuda siblings helped with daily operations of both businesses, and would work the theater after school and on weekends. Cinema's hypnotic effects on popular culture became a powerful force inspiring Edward's passion for the Titanic story. His lifelong commitment to its history and preservation started out as nautical

see **UNEARTHING** page B5



A tapestry hanging in the museum.

Trish Crapo's Collages: Deconstructing and Reconstructing Meaning

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

WENDELL – When Trish Crapo designed a postcard to announce her upcoming show “[not necessarily] BY THE BOOK,” with an opening reception this Saturday, November 16th at the Wendell Free Library, she inadvertently typed that the reception would be on “Saturday, Dec. 16.” As the entire run of cards had been printed, she simply used a sharpie to cross out “Dec.” and replace it with a handwritten correction: “Nov!”

While she claims she did not purposely bungle the date, it seemed to me absolutely perfect, as this remarkable exhibit is all about alterations of the printed word.

While many in the Valley know Trish for the art and literary columns that she's been writing for years, or for her photography, performance art, or poetry, the collages in this riveting exhibition will be new to most.

According to Crapo's artist's

statement: “This exhibit brings together many curious works I've never shown, or haven't shown for a long time. Altering books or making collage have long been activities I did mostly for myself.”

Some of the works in the exhibit are framed collages beginning with images she originally began not long after September 11, 2001 when she was an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center. On the day she arrived she discovered her laptop was not working. Rather than cave, she decided to create collages from the material readily available to her, most notably words related to the Twin Towers attack. Narrow strips of words, mostly from the pages of the *New York Times Book Review*, veer across and diagonally cascade down the surface.

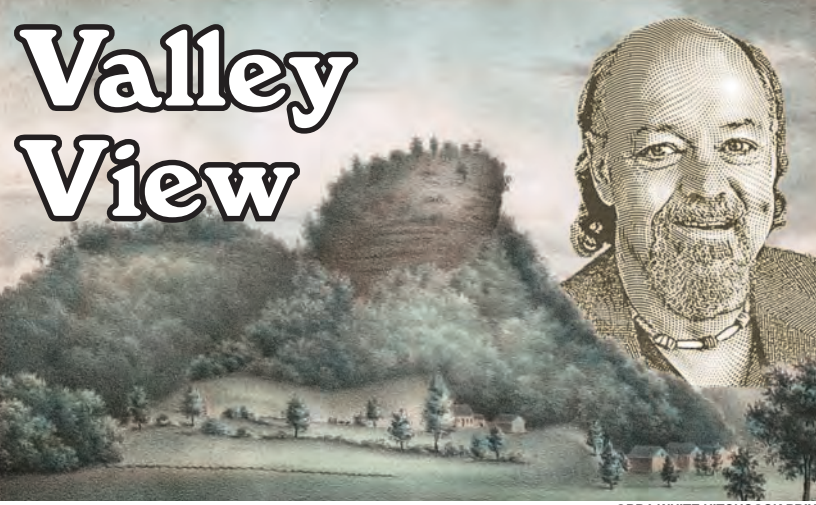
“It's about things falling, about gravity,” says Crapo. The effect of the fractured words is that of an explosion, a graphic rendering of the confusion and chaos of that

see **TRISH CRAPO** page B4

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



A spread from Crapo's altered book, Remembrance of Things Past by Marcel Proust. An homage to her sister Susan, who died in November, 2008, the book makes use of letters from and to her sister and other ephemera.



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Based on natural obstructions and a lack of physical evidence, lead battlefield-reconstruction archaeologist Kevin McBride has rethought an old hypothesis about “Falls Fight” soldiers' retreat route through the lower Greenfield Meadows fol-

lowing their predawn, May 19, 1676, King Philip's War attack on a sleeping Indian fishing village at Peskeomskut Falls between Gill and Turners Falls.

The University of Connecticut professor has concluded that the fleeing troops did not, as previously assumed, follow the Green River's west bank back toward Deerfield

after crossing the ford below Mill Brook falls, and a Green River crossing. From there, the trail likely passed through the floodplain some 2,000 feet, roughly following today's Nashs Mill Road to the 20-foot shelf looking back over the Greenfield Pool.

There, atop the escarpment, was a major, often-cited Indian trail that may have escaped McBride. Using contemporary reference points, this ancient trail from Old Deerfield to Brattleboro, and beyond, left Old Deerfield village by Old Albany Road Cemetery, dropping down in the North Meadows and crossing the Deerfield River at Red Rocks before climbing the hill to Clarkdale Orchards. The trail then went north, following Upper Road to Colrain Road to Plain Road to an upper Green River ford at the pumping station.

It then climbed into the Leyden uplands along the western periphery of Leyden Glen to a site that in the

1720s became Fort Dummer, and eventually Brattleboro. From there, the main trunk line paralleled the west bank of the Connecticut River to Canada, with western fingers following the corridors of major tributaries like the West and Black rivers toward the Hudson Valley. Another higher western trail branched off up the White River along the eastern base of the Green Mountains to Lake Champlain, St. Francis, and Canada.

South of Clarkdale, this trail would have followed Upper Road to a Deerfield River crossing near Stillwater. There the path hooked into the so-called Mahican-Mohawk Trail, which followed the Deerfield River to Charlemont and the Hudson Valley, as well as the so-called Pocumtuck Trail, which led to Hatfield and Northampton, then on to Springfield through Easthampton, Westfield and West Springfield.

That doesn't even address all the

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY
CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

“MERV”

Prepare to fall in love. Once you walk into the room and Merv nuzzles you, there’s no turning back. Merv is a sweet and gentle soul who came to Dakin from a hoarding situation. He loves attention, purrs up a storm, loves being petted, and places his front paws on your leg when he wants to be picked up. Now how cute is that? Merv is a keeper. Come down and meet this boy in person. To meet him is to love him. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

TV REVIEW

Supergirl: Season 5

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I asked my editor if I could review the fifth season of The CW’s *Supergirl* because at the end of Season 4, Lena Luthor finally finds out that Kara is Supergirl. I was interested to see on screen whether she and Lena would end up like Superman and Lex. Well, I can tell you from the premiere that she resists the urge to kill Supergirl. It kind of adds to the statement, which I read somewhere, that this season will be a battle for Lena’s soul. Kara does, in fact, finally tell Lena she’s Supergirl, which makes Lena at least choose not to make a decision which would involve the new owner of CatCo, someone also known as Acrata. When I looked her up online, I found that Acrata is a superhero of some kind in the *Superman* comic books. She’s going to be some kind of media mogul, thanks to a technology called Obsidian. It

looks like this is going to be a major part of this season. To quote an article I read about what is happening with the technology this season: “This season will be about how technology impacts us, and how people use it to escape what happens in our lives.” One of the producers said that. The article also mentioned Supergirl and co. will try and save people after the bad guys try to use that as a weapon. As for technology being a big part of this season, as of the first episode, it has kind of already started being around. We will also get a better idea who the other Green Martian is that showed up at the end of Season 4. I already knew that he has a grudge against J’onn J’onzz, the “Martian Manhunter.” The thing is, this is not just some Green Martian who has a grudge against him – J’onn doesn’t remember who he is, but he kinda should. I am interested in seeing

what has happened to this other Green Martian that makes him want to go after J’onn. Another individual that shows up who is connected to J’onn is a villain called Midnight. When you watch the first episode, you can learn what this person’s connection is to J’onn’s past. Sometimes TV shows stick pretty well to what was originally done with comic book characters to begin with. *Supergirl* has at least done that so far, putting Mon-El in the exact same outfit he had on in comics I have seen. I know that the Acrata character is supposed to look like a black shadow of some kind, so it could be kind of cool to see if they are going to make her look like that on TV. I’ve heard they will have their own take on it. Besides Lena Luthor finding out Kara, her best friend, is Supergirl – through the worst possible person, her brother Lex Luthor – Supergirl gets a new suit to wear, with pants instead of a skirt. I can’t wait to see the 100th episode of this show when it comes around.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

On Sexual “Personality Styles”

By STEPHANIE BAIRD

This month I’d like to share a concept called “Sexual Styles,” which can help you figure out your own sexual style, and possibly those of any partners. Most of you are probably familiar with personality tests and styles. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test helps us nail down our level of introversion versus extroversion, thinking versus feeling, judging versus perceiving, etc. The Enneagram of Personality helps us figure out a main personality style, whether “helper,” “leader,” “peacemaker,” “individualist,” etc. So, why wouldn’t we have unique sexual styles? Turns out, we all likely gravitate to one of these three categories: “Sexual Trancer,” “Partner Engager,” and “Role Enactor.” Let’s examine these styles in the categories of setting, mood, sexual techniques, style, role expectations, sex talk, fantasies, ideas of sex, and orgasms. Sexual Trancers are a bit like the “Introverts” of the Meyers-Briggs test. They tend to like privacy and freedom from distractions. They enjoy a calm, relaxed, and serene mood. They like slow pacing and repetitive movements, and can be passive, sensual, and inwardly oriented. They prefer less frequent talking during sex so that they might be absorbed more easily into sensations. Their own fantasies may revolve around about visual or sensory images. The Partner Engager enjoys being psychologically engaged with their partner, preferably in what they consider a “good” relationship. They relish a romantic and loving mood, lots of kissing, eye contact, and full body contact. Affectionate sharing, mutual pleasuring, romantic endearments, and love songs can be important parts of their repertoire. They expect their partners to act lovingly towards them, enjoying

a flowing, harmonious union with their partner. Their fantasies may include the face of their partner, memories of union with their partner, and other romantic images. Role Enactors are more like the “Extroverts” of the Myers-Briggs, and enjoy interaction. There is a tendency towards dramatic, possibly even slightly exhibitionist elements, bringing a very playful mood, pride in variety and skill of sexual techniques, and lots of active movement, sound, and facial expressions. Lusty sex talk, dramatic orgasms, novel situations, role plays, and interest in ecstasy also show up in this style. The Northampton Sex Therapy Associates developed a wonderful short survey about this that folks can take if they are interested. If you email me at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org, I can email you the PDF. More simply, as you read through the categories above, if one sticks out as your main jam, then you’ve probably identified where you fit. Most folks, just like in the Myers-Briggs, demonstrate flexibility in their sexual personality style. You might mostly be a Trancer, but if you have a Role Enactor partner, she may brings out more playfulness and variety. Or perhaps your main style is Partner Engager, with a side of Trancer. You need to feel connected and mutual with your partner, allowing some trance action for orgasm. There is no right or wrong to sexual styles, similar to how being an Introvert is perfectly as valid as being an Extrovert. Where trouble can brew is when you have, say, a Trancer matched up to a Role Enactor. Those are pretty different styles, which means you both might have to work fairly hard to make sure everyone’s needs are met. This could look like the Role Enactor coming up with an elaborate role-play scenario, bringing in toys, props, blindfolds, etc. The Trancer may need to

engage in this active style for some time to fulfill the emotional and sexual needs of the Role Enactor. Once fulfilled, the Role Enactor can more easily provide the distraction-free, sensual-focused zone for the Trancer to get into their sensations. Also, just like in life, sexual opposites can attract. So instead of thinking, “we’ve got such a big river to cross,” think about how fun it can be to build that sexual bridge. This is a great exercise in creative thinking, coming up with ways for different-styled folks to feel satiated together. Lastly, long-term couples can notice a waning sex life over time, and might jump to a few dozen conclusions about this, when it could be as simple as different sexual styles. In the beginning of romance, folks easily cross all the bridges of differences, and can show high flexibility in moving back and forth in sexual styles. However, as time goes on and life gets in the way, folks tend to stratify back to their main style. A couple complaining of reduced sex life, or very different interests in frequency, might actually be grappling with very different styles. The Role Enactor isn’t getting their curiosity piqued, and so has given up on sex. The Partner Engager hasn’t felt emotionally connected to their partner in some time, and turns to Netflix instead. Learning about your own style and asking for your needs can go a long way in correcting the ship’s course. In short, it’s never too late to identify your sexual style and start asking more for what turns you on! *Stephanie Baird is a certified OWL facilitator and an EMDR psychotherapist and consultant who encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.*

Senior Center Activities

NOVEMBER 18 THROUGH 22

GILL and MONTAGUE
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.
M, W, F: 10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch
Monday 11/18
8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic by appt.
12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo
Tuesday 11/19
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 11/20
9 to 11 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry
Thursday 11/21
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Gentle Yoga
Friday 11/22
12 p.m. Bazaar Set Up
Saturday 11/23
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday Bazaar

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 Betters, 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 11/18
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Tuesday 11/19
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:45 p.m. Friends Meeting
Wednesday 11/20
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 11/21
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Friday 11/22
9 a.m. Quilters Workshop
9:15 a.m. Walkers
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Wednesday 10 a.m. Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).
Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

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JAZZ

at the

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Sun 11/17 Jazz Brunch with Andrew DiRuzza

Sun 12/1 Jazz Brunch with John Lentz Trio

Thu 12/12 John Lentz Trio

Thu 12/19 Half Shaved Jazz

Thu 12/26 Andrew DiRuzzio Trio



The Wendell Craft Fair Is Back!

WENDELL – After a year hiatus, the Wendell Craft Fair has come roaring back, with an impressive array of local craftspeople offering their handmade items just in time for the holiday season.

The Fair, organized by the Friends of the Wendell Free Library, will be held this Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wendell Town Hall.

Among the offerings will be a wide variety of handmade products including jewelry, pottery, fabric art, stationery, visual art, maple syrup products, soaps, American Girl doll clothes, one-of-a-kind clocks,

wooden toys, and much more.

Library Friends Mez Ziemba, Ruth Flohr, and Johanna Bartlett are chairing the event, and featured vendors include Macle Designs, Take Your Time, Swift River Glass, Hey, Dolly, WEAVINGARTcetera, Sugarbush Farm, North Quabbin Photography, and many others.

Also available will be the new Wendell Town Flag T-Shirts. There are samples of the artists’ works in the display case at the Wendell Free Library. For more information, check out the “2019 Wendell Craft Fair” Facebook page, or call Mez Ziemba at (413) 522-0283.

TRISH CRAPO from page B1

horrific day without ever resorting to an image of the Towers.

Also on display is a selection of vibrant collaged fans. Crapo credits the poet and collagist Alice Notley, who began collaging fans in the 1970s, for inspiring her to begin working in this medium. Unlike Notley’s fans, which are stationary, Crapo’s are fully functional. Each contains snippets of story, openings and closings, and numerous possibilities for interpretation.

Another series of images, entitled “Unlocking Her Voice,” depicts as a base photos of women torn from the pages of fashion magazines, overlaid with word fragments and, in all but one, vintage keys. The one image without these keys is that of a woman in a burka, her torso crisscrossed with barbed wire. At the bottom of each image is a paper cut-out die that serves to number the images consecutively.

Commenting on the series, Crapo notes that using dice for the numbering “was partly just for fun, and because I liked the look of the transparent-backed dice stickers I had found. But there may be some meaning wrapped up in there about ‘the roll of the dice’ in terms of culture and privilege and how easily a woman *can* unlock her own voice, even if she wants to.

“My sister had given me a small cardboard box of vintage keys she’d found at a secondhand shop, and I think it was the combination of having been recently given those very

interesting-looking keys and looking at how women are portrayed in fashion magazines that led to combining those elements in the first collages I did for that series. It occurs to me that in some of them the key is a subversive element – the woman’s voice.”

Perhaps the most intimate pieces in the show are a series of altered books. Since 2006 Crapo has been working diligently to transform earlier works into new forms. Although akin to the practice of ancient and medieval scribes who blanked out older writings on parchment to create new works, Crapo’s contemporary version of palimpsests do not entirely erase the original texts, but repurpose them by calling attention to particular words or phrases.

Each page in each book has been reworked. On some pages, thin gesso translucently covers parts of words, but some phrases are left unaltered.

In one example from her reinvention of *History of Science: Ancient and Medieval Science*, gesso and colored gouache cover most of the page but Crapo leaves some phrases unaltered. Toward the top of the page this fragment stands out: “Another fact worth stressing is that;” further down on the page is the single word “hands.” On the next page she follows the same principle, this time allowing “while substantially true, are not, however, the whole truth” to achieve clear prominence.

Crapo is quick to point out that her initial inspiration for creating

altered books came from seeing the work of the British artist Tom Phillips, who pioneered contemporary book alteration in the mid-1960s. But Crapo has long since developed her own sense of what she is doing and why. “Altering books frees me to deconstruct and reconstruct meaning,” she says, “and to posit new relationships between books and readers.”

The first book she altered is *Wuthering Heights*, which she jokingly refers to as her “Heathcliff Notes.” On some of the pages most of the original text is blacked out, but arrows and lines and open spaces with a fragmentary phrase reinvent the text, so that it becomes both a new object and a commentary on Emily Brontë’s novel.

The most personal book is her alteration of Volume One of the Moncrieff translation of Proust’s *Remembrance of Things Past*. An homage to her sister Susan, who died in November 2008, the book makes use of letters from and to her sister, as well as word strips culled from other sources. It is a beautiful and truly moving object, made even more so by Crapo noting that *Remembrance of Things Past* was one of her sister’s favorites.

Another altered book is the *Selected Papers of Professor Kazuhisa Tomita*. Again, this work has particular personal meaning for Crapo. Her father was a physicist, as was Tomita, so in collaging this text Crapo felt that she was directly addressing her father, who never quite understood why

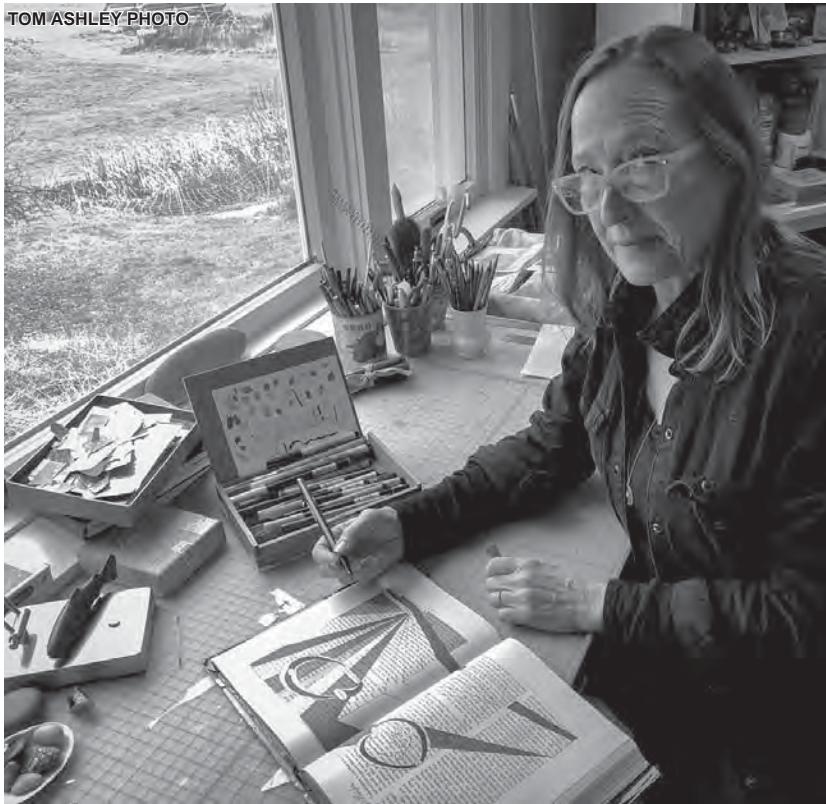
his daughter did not follow in his scientific footsteps.

As for altering books, Crapo acknowledges that people sometimes ask if altering isn’t “disrespectful” to books. Her answer is that “altering gives books new lives, rescuing them from mouldering in used book stores or on 99¢ library sale racks, or being stranded on the same person’s bookshelf for decades, unread. Collage allows me to recreate the world from broken bits and disparate scraps, a welcome super-power in troubling times.”

As the books are fragile, and some (such as the Proust) are still in

progress, they will only be available for full view at the reception this Saturday, November 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. On other days, they will repose inside a glass case.

“[not necessarily] **BY THE BOOK**” runs from November 7 to December 31 in the Herrick Gallery at the Wendell Free Library, 7 Wendell Depot Road. Hours at the library are Mondays, 12 to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays, 12 to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Trish Crapo at work on one of her altered books.

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UNEARTHING from page B1
dreamscapes in his childhood bedroom. At 12, Edward stumbled upon a 1938 book of short stories by Hanson W. Baldwin called *Sea Flights and Shipwrecks*, and became enthralled with a chapter entitled “A Great Ship Goes Down,” based on the Titanic.

A tragic event of human conceit, this ship was billed as an “unsinkable” steamer, appointed with the most opulent amenities of its time and boarded by some of the most lavish members of society when it left the dock. But in just 2 hours and 40 minutes, it was all gone: only 30 percent of passengers and crew members survived. A confluence of arrogance and errors stopped the ship that had been deemed unstoppable.

Edward became engrossed with histories of maritime wreckage. “He saw there were far too many discrepancies between the movies and the books,” says Barbara. “Edward just wanted to know the truth about the tragedy. He needed to find out what really happened, and no one could do that for him but himself.”

This early curiosity was grounded in a desire to revive the tragedy, which had languished in discrepancies for far too long. The son of a watchmaker and later one himself, Edward meticulously read all there was to know about the trio of White Star Line passenger ships. He was committed to debunking the mythologies and discrepancies in their stories. Later in life, as a self-trained expert, he would help to uncover rare photographs and never-before-discovered information about the disastrous accident and the fate of its two sister liners.

“When we were little, he would sit in his room for hours reading and doing research on everything there was to know about the ship,” says Barbara. “I would knock on his door from time to time, and see if he needed help – it always seemed like he was seriously working a job which he made for himself,” she continues.

A few years after Edward read Baldwin’s book, the melodrama box-office hit *Titanic* (1953) was featured at the Grand Theater. Starring Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Basehart, and Clifton Webb, *Titanic*, a forerunner of the disaster-cult movie genre, served a mythological take on the event.

Edward was surely frustrated by the film’s misleading dramatization.

Fortunately for him, two years later the author Walter Lord published the book *A Night To Remember*. Just like Edward Kamuda, Lord had become enamored with the Titanic story at 10 years old. At 38, he wrote the most conclusive book of its time on the Titanic, and was able to interview 63 surviving passengers as part of his research.

Edward wrote a letter to Lord and asked all the questions he had conjured up from his own years of research. He was finally in contact with a reputable source to share his maritime theories and ideas. This correspondence cemented a lifelong friendship of shared fascination, and joint efforts to preserve the remnants of the passengers’ belongings.

In 1958, when Edward was 19 years old, a film adaption of *A Night to Remember* was released; once again, the blockbuster was featured at the Grand Theater. The promotional package Edward’s grandfather received with the film included a booklet listing the names and home addresses of 87 Titanic survivors who lived in the United States,

Canada, and Great Britain, intended to allow local movie theater operators to invite them to attend screenings as honored guests.

Edward wrote to all 87 and asked if they could recount their personal stories from the disaster. Miraculously, almost all of them responded: he received 75 replies. Many wrote back with gratitude that someone – and someone so surprisingly young, at that – was interested in their stories. He found out most of them were on Social Security, so he used his modest allowance to include a few dollars for their return letter postage.

The postal system gave Edward a chance to connect with authors, directors, and ultimately, many survivors. He became close confidants with lookout Frederick Fleet, third-class passenger Frank Goldsmith, and many others – even the scientists who had found the Titanic wreckage. “Once survivors understood he wasn’t trying to manipulate them or get money from their possessions, they gave him everything they had, and felt he was someone who could safely preserve it all,” says Barbara. “Everybody loved him and trusted him.”

When Edward was about 20, he started a correspondence with Walter Belford, one of Titanic’s kitchen staff. He was the head night baker aboard, and was preparing bread rolls for the following day when the ship hit the iceberg. Belford told *The New York Times*, in a 1962 article on the 50th anniversary of the sinking, that he remembered seeing Captain Edward J. Smith standing very still on the bridge as the ship was going down.

After the last lifeboat hit the water, Belford said, the captain told the crew members who were left aboard: “Well, boys, I’ve done the best I can for you. Now it’s in your own hands. Do the best you can to save yourselves.” Belford was able to get hold of a lifejacket and jumped overboard from the well deck, which was thirty feet above sea-level. After floating in brutal water conditions for five hours, a rescue boat found him.

Belford’s obituary mentioned that his property owner threw out all of his possessions, including the few that were with him while aboard the Titanic. The owner even used his annotated copy of *A Night To Remember* as a supporting block for her birdcage.

A few months after the article in the *Times* was printed, Edward Kamuda formed the Titanic Historical Society and its in-house publication, *The Commutator*. He promised “to do everything in his power to form a group that would reserve these precious artifacts and mementos for future generations.” Thirty of the survivors he had befriended agreed to become “Honor Members.”

After years of collecting stories, photographs, ephemera, and other artifacts from the White Star Lines, Edward was able to assist in the search for both the Britannic and Titanic wreckages. In 1976 Dr. Bill Tantum, then the current president of the Society, searched the Aegean Sea with explorer Jacques Cousteau for the Britannic, which sank in 1916 after hitting a mine. With help from documents Edward had collected, they were able to locate the wreck.

In 1985 Dr. Ballard, this time with a group of French and American scientists, discovered the Titanic itself – yet again, with help from Edward Kamuda. A year later, during their second expedition, the team affixed

Right: Frederick Dent Ray, who worked in the Titanic’s Victualing Department, saw a workman trimming green wool carpet inside a bedroom on board the ship, and asked what he was going to do with the leftover pieces. “I’m gonna throw it away!” the man said. Ray decided to take this piece home to pad the seat of a piano stool for his wife. In 1969 he wrote to Edward Kamuda: “While moving out of our house, I came to a music stool which I made for my wife some fifty odd years ago. The carpet was under the upholstery, so yesterday it came out as good as new. I am the only living man who saw the launching and sinking of that ship...” The piece of carpet is now part of the Titanic Museum collection.



KOHLMANN PHOTO



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Left: Frederick Fleet, the first crew member to spot the iceberg, notified Captain Edward from the ship’s crow’s nest. He became a friend of Edward Kamuda, and eventually donated his drawing of the iceberg, his notebooks, and his discharge book to the Society.



KOHLMANN PHOTO

Right: Madeleine Astor’s life jacket was donated to the Society by Gottlieb Rencher, senior assistant to the doctor on the rescue ship Carpathia. Rencher helped survivors board the Carpathia, and kept Mrs. Astor’s lifejacket after she got to shore.



WIKIPEDIA PHOTO

Left: The Grand Theater, circa the late 1970s. The building still stands today across from Henry’s Jewelry on Indian Orchard’s Main Street.

a bronze memorial plaque to the sunken ship’s stern, on behalf of the Titanic Historical Society, in memory of those who died in the tragedy.

Edward himself had mixed feelings about these discoveries, worrying that they would attract unwanted individuals taking artifacts from the bottom of the oceans, and wishing in part that the grave sites had remained undiscovered.

Since his death, Edward’s wife Karen Kamuda has solely edited and published *The Commutator*, the Society’s quarterly magazine. It was the first publication to focus on the history of the Titanic and other shipwrecks, and after 56 volumes, it remains the oldest. Its topics range from survivor recollections to recently discovered nautical information related to the Titanic and other major passenger lines, articles by experts, historians, and scientists, and rare photographs. *The Com-*

mutator will transition into being an online publication starting in the first quarter of 2020.

Edward’s own story might resemble a movie script, but decades after he first watched *Titanic* in 1953 in his grandfather’s theater, he and Karen become extras in James Cameron’s 1997 blockbuster *Titanic*. He was a lead consultant on Cameron’s movie set, where the director himself introduced him to the cast and crew as “the guy who made the *Titanic* possible.” Without Edward, many of the accounts we know today would have been lost over time. Appearing as part of a movie that was the subject of his whole life’s work, he had come full circle.

“I was never interested in the Titanic, even as a little kid, but little did I know this is where I would be” says Barbara. “My job is to keep my brother’s legacy alive, just like how I am keeping my par-

ent’s legacy alive with the jewelry business. It’s just me and my sister-in-law running the Society. No younger generations in the family want to keep these operations going.”

“Actually, my real passion is cacti,” she continues. “I have 70 of them at home, and counting. At one point I was a part of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.”

The Titanic Historical Society’s Titanic Museum, 208 Main Street, Indian Orchard, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. Closed on Sundays. Admission is \$4, and free for Society members.

Check out titanichistoricalso- ciety.org for more information on the collection and the Society’s magazine.



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The Children's Page

YONERD ILLUSTRATION

Constellations in the Winter Sky

Perseus beheaded the Gorgon and turned others to stone with her head!
Now that's not a very good story to hear right before bed!



Aries was a heroic ram, but the gods
made him into a Golden Fleece.
So look up at him grazing in the sky
and you'll see he's found a little peace.



Search the sky this November night
and Cassiopea may appear in your sight.
This constellation
is named for a vain and ancient queen.
And very bright stars make it easily seen.



So gaze at the stars in the midnight
sky above your town tonight,
and see if you can learn to tell the
myths in the starlight!

Pictures by: Hannah Brookman & Words by: Beverly Ketch

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Horn from the Heart: The Paul Butterfield Story*. Feature-length film about Butterfield and his music, hosted by *Tom Reney*, host of the New England Public radio show *Jazz à la Mode*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Show Me the Body, Urochromes*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *James Blonde*. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. Classic musical set in 1930s New York City, with a cast of over 70 members, ages 7 and up. \$. 6 p.m.

Hallie Flanagan Studio, Smith College, Northampton: *A Color Music Concert*. Collaborative art installation light show, and piano concert. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wilde Irish Women*. With *Rosemary Caine*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro: *In Style Moderno: Lute Songs*. The whimsical and melancholy lute songs of *John Dowland* and his contemporaries. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic #36*. Big-town performances in a tiny village. Featured performer: *Forest Avenue*. Donation. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Lucas Brode, Majd Ariam, Brittany Brideau, Toppus Bottomus*, and *Hollow Deck*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lobsterz from Marz*, Grateful Dead tribute band. \$. 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*, with *David Kaynor, Annika Amstutz, Ellen Mathews*, and the *Back Row Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Fall Fix-It Event*. Bring in small items in need of

repair; knife sharpening and simple mending available. Food for sale by Red Fire North; fixing is free. 10 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Native Finger Weaving*. Mashpee Wampanoag finger weaving demonstration with *Marlene Lopez*, in a style called warface. 1 p.m.



Dom Flemons is a music scholar, historian, record collector, and multi-instrumentalist. He is presenting work from his Grammy-award-winning solo album, Black Cowboys, at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield on Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. Flemons is an expert player on banjo, fife, guitar, harmonica, percussion, quills, and rhythm bones, and was a co-founder of the Carolina Chocolate Drops.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wilde Irish Women*. With *Rosemary Caine*. \$. 3 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. Classic musical set in 1930s New York City, with a cast of over 70 members, ages 7 and up. \$. 6 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance*. *Sarah Gibson* calls, with *Phil Watson's House Band*. Kid friendly. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dom Flemons: The American Songster*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meeting, Leverett: *Tom Juravich, Teresa Healy*. Singer-songwriter duets about work, life, struggle, and love. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall, Wendell: *Gaslight Tinkers*. Full Moon Coffeehouse benefit for the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse. Traditional melodies and con-

temporary grooves. Donation. Dessert-o-rama. 7:30 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Ona Canoa, Kamaya Diggs*. Album release for *Ona Canoa*. \$. 7:30 p.m.



10 Forward, Greenfield: *Close Body Talent, When the Sun Sets We Will Sing to the Darkness, Jake Meginsky & Paul Flaherty, Sarah Lass*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Two Day Jean, Sedagive*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. Classic musical set in 1930s New York City, with cast of over 70 members ages 7 and up. \$. 2 p.m.

Polish American Citizens Club, South Deerfield: *Festibal: Danse Cafe*. Live music and dance with hors d'oeuvres potluck. Donation. 4 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Grist; Land, Man; Scorpion Porch*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Eavesdrop, Hannah Rose. \$. 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Rubberband Dance Group*. 7 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Via Intercom*, rape release show. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Children's music series, with musician and educator Marcy Gregoire and movement specialist Hilary Lake. Puppets, costumes, musical instruments. 10 a.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Holy Basil, Weird Year, Golden Repair*, and *Wendy Eisenberg*. \$. 8 p.m.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Contact Improv Dance Jam*, with live music by *Ricardo Frota*. Preceded by a class at 6:30. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Yonder Mountain String Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam 2*. On the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Traci Hercher* (films), *Bill Dreen* (readings and music). \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Eamon Fogarty, Brian Gillig, Jake Klar Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont, Wanda Houston*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Millers Pub, Millers Falls: *Little House Blues*. Chicago-style, harmonica-driven blues quartet. 7:30 p.m.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Glacial Potholes*, photographs by *Geoff Bluh*. Through November.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Michael Tillyer and the Anchor House Artists*. A curated show of work by artists who have been members of the Anchor House, a studio and workspace for artists who live with mental illness. Also on display, works by the Vermont Glass Guild artisans. Reception on Saturday, December 7, at 3 p.m. with saxophone music by Loren Feinstein. Through December 31.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *All Creatures Great and Small*, group show, through November 25.

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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 from *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.

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

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*.

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EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Oh Beautiful Glass*, an eclectic group exhibit by glass artists, plus Julie Lapping Rivera's woodblock prints in the hallway gallery. Through November.

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

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Season of Light*. Member holiday show. Through December.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Duck Stamps*: Students from kindergarten through high school submit artwork

for a statewide contest. Come see the top entries for the 2019 Junior Duck Stamp competition. Through December 22.

Greenfield Gallery: *Paul Hoffman, Paintings and Illustrations*. Poetic dreamscapes informed by a lifetime of world travel. Opening reception Friday, November 22, at 6 p.m. Through January 18.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Catherine Lee, Landscape Photography*. An artistic study of the changing effects of light on scenes throughout the Valley. Through November. Closing reception Monday, November 25, at 5 p.m.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Altered Books by Trish Crapo*. See feature story on B1 for details. Reception Saturday, November 16, at 1 p.m.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

local tributary trails leading into the western uplands, many of which became town and county roads that led pioneer settlers into new territory and defined hilltown settlement patterns.

And we shouldn't digress too far into the old trail system that existed here, a similar network of foot trails also existed on the east side of the Connecticut River, which was itself a superhighway for quicker canoe travel. The main trail east of the river would have run from Springfield through Hadley, Sunderland, Montague, Erving, Northfield and on to the White Mountains and upper Merrimack Valley. But that's a topic for another day.

For now, let's stick to Greenfield, or at least to the early Deerfield boundaries that extended north into Greenfield, Gill, and Colrain and west into Shelburne and Conway.

Historians cite the previously described (Greenfield) Meadow trail as the one French and Indians used to hustle captives out of town and on to Canada in wake of the infamous Old Deerfield attack that leveled the isolated, fortified village on February 29, 1704.

Some have opined that this group's first-night campsite was located in the upper Meadows, near where Punch Brook meets Hinsdale Brook. At daybreak, they continued their northern trek, leading their captives across Green River near the present-day pumping station and on to the Connecticut River and Canada.

What these historians don't both-

er to describe are the many tributary trails branching off this main trail to Brattleboro. Even the extensive network of trails through 17th-century Deerfield alone is still largely unknown and unexplored. No definitive work on the subject has ever been published – not even one about the so-called Mohawk Trail, an iconic ancient trade path connecting New England to the Hudson Valley, the Great Lakes Region, and beyond.

Too bad a book about the Mohawk Trail wasn't written to complement Harral Ayres' scholarly 1940 work *The Great Trail of New England*, written about the Connecticut Path that led Massachusetts Bay Colony settlers from the Boston area to Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield and Springfield in the 1630s. Ayres provides the reader a detailed description of this southern trail system that carried Rev. Thomas Hooker and his congregation to the Connecticut Colony they founded. Barely wide enough to accommodate a horse, these foot paths were not much wider than game trails, following the path of least resistance. For, lest we forget, we too are animals, as difficult as that is for the civilized world to fathom.

Though our early pioneers followed these Native paths, they may have never fully understood them. Today, some 350 years later, that chore only gets more difficult.

So, let's return to McBride's federal battlefield study. During the past two years, his metal-detecting sleuths have combed about three miles of the marshy retreat path along White Ash Swamp and down

the wetland corridor of Cherry Rum and Mill brooks, which converge about a quarter mile east of the Leyden Road Interstate 91 overpass. Thus far, the research team has uncovered more than 600 associated musket balls and 100 battle-related objects, such as buttons, lead beads, iron tools, folding knives, and other yet-to-be-identified items.

Last year, with similar success, the research team searched an old trail off Meridian Street overlooking Green River Park on the east and Deerfield's North Meadows to the north, across from the confluence of the Green and Deerfield rivers. So, they have been able to map at least some of the scattered retreat route, although some wonder why retreating soldiers would have fled over the prominent Meridian Street trail they had intentionally skirted a mile to the west due to fear of Indian detection on their midnight march to the Peskeomskut Falls.

McBride's team were unable to find evidence defining the beginning of the retreat path through Factory Hollow, probably due to disturbance from roads and development. Now, the researchers have run into another void in the lower Greenfield Meadows, which is thickly settled and has been tilled for centuries.

We may forever have to settle on the hypothesis that the soldiers used existing paths on their incoming and outgoing treks, including the so-called Meadow path that followed Colrain Road through the lower Meadows. The likelihood of picking up a musket-ball trail through a residential neighborhood and crop-



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land is not great, even if permission to search is obtained by landowners.

It appears that scouts Experience Hinsdale and Benjamin Waite took a chance that the troops could secretly backdoor the Peskeomskut fishing village by avoiding the major trails that led directly to the site through Cheapside, over Highland Park, and onto what became High Street. Also, they knew it would be wise to stay away from the major path that became Silver Street, one that would have been in use during the annual spring fishing season. They hoped to be safer on the secondary path past Mill Brook falls and onto Cherry Rum Brook, White Ash Swamp and Factory Hollow.


The scouts' plan worked well on the way in, and not so well on the way out, when their retreat became a mad dash for survival under attack from a foe that knew the terrain much better than they did.

The rest is history, now under the professional scrutiny of scholars and hobbyists alike, funded by a federal Battlefield Grant. When their sophisticated study is complete, we'll know a lot more than we ever have about the daybreak attack that turned the tide of King Philip's War.

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