

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 3

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

## Superintendent Sullivan Announces Resignation

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Regional school district superintendent Michael Sullivan announced Tues-



Dr. Sullivan has served as Gill-Montague superintendent since 2013.

day that he will leave his post at the end of June, a year before the expiration of his current contract.

Sullivan said he would be retiring “as a Massachusetts public school educator” as of June 30. “The needs of my personal life are changing,” he wrote to the Gill-Montague school committee, “and it is time for me to turn greater time and energy in this direction.”

A western Massachusetts native, Sullivan taught middle school social studies for 14 years in Northampton before serving as assistant principal at Northampton High School from 2004 to 2006, and principal at Glenbrook Middle School in Longmeadow from 2006 to 2011.

Sullivan was first hired as Gill-Montague superintendent in 2013, at the end of a six-year period

see **SULLIVAN** page A8

## Leverett Co-op Members Brainstorm and Fundraise

By ISABEL KOYAMA

**LEVERETT** – More than 70 people from all around the region showed up to the Leverett Elementary School gymnasium on Tuesday to continue the conversation about the fate of the Leverett Village Co-op, which is in a financial crisis after a long period of declining sales. This followed a meeting at the Leverett Town Hall one week prior, during which the coop’s board of directors voted to dissolve the organization if a viable plan is not devised. They based the decision on advice from their accountant and

attorney, who both said the coop would have to close in a matter of months if nothing changes.

The purpose of the November 5 meeting, announced by board member Pat Fiero, was to brainstorm fundraising ideas and discuss future visions for the store. Attendees were given randomly assigned group numbers at the door, and were initially asked to generate ideas through small group discussions. This was rejected, however, by a majority show-of-hands vote to instead talk as a full group.

Shortly after the meeting began, see **COOP** page A6

## Towns Compare Notes as Wastewater Crisis Deepens



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis tells attendees of last week’s regional wastewater forum about his town’s ongoing sewage and sludge woes.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**WHATELY** – Legislators worried about the looming budgetary and structural problems facing rural sewer and water systems held a forum last Friday with town officials, wastewater experts, and state regulators to discuss the issues and potential solutions.

Around 90 people packed the historic Whately Town Hall for the forum, hosted by state senator Jo Comerford, state representative Natalie Blais, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Problems with aging infrastructure, sewage sludge disposal, a waning industrial base, and climate change were all discussed while representatives from state and federal agencies listened and of-

fered feedback.

“Although this is a state issue, we need our federal partners,” Comerford said. “Since I was elected, this issue has really ratcheted up to the top of the pile.”

Across the country, an estimated \$1 trillion is needed for new water infrastructure, and cities and towns may not be leveraging federal resources effectively to tackle the looming crisis, according to a report by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Locally, problems stem from a lack of finances, as well as the age of many treatment systems and the rural nature of western Massachusetts towns.

Presenters from Greenfield, Montague, Erving, Ashfield, and Deerfield shared case studies on see **WASTEWATER** page A5

## FirstLight Estimated New Hydro License Will Mean 10% Less Water For Canal

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Throughout the six years it has so far spent applying for a new license for its Connecticut River hydroelectric facilities, FirstLight Power has remained tight-lipped about the prospect that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will require it to leave more water in the

river at Turners Falls.

The relicensing process pits the company, which diverts water into a canal and uses it to generate electricity at two power stations, against an array of stakeholders ranging from fish biologists to rafting enthusiasts. It has dragged on along two parallel tracks: one mediated by the government, which requires the company to sponsor research requested by

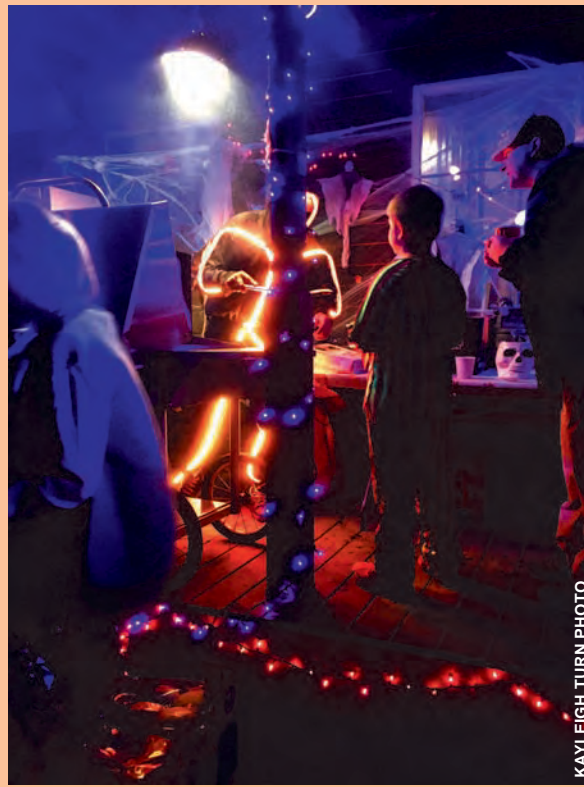
pre-approved stakeholders; and private “settlement” talks in which the parties may negotiate a consensus as to how much river water the power company should use.

The FERC process is now running two years behind schedule, and the settlement talks have apparently stalled a year ago. This spring Crab Apple Whitewater, a rafting see **POWER** page A5

### INVESTIGATION

## So, Who’s in Charge of Halloween?

By JEFF SINGLETON



KAYLEIGH TURN PHOTO

Trick-or-treaters who risked the weather last week in Montague Center received treats at Gary Turn’s house.

**TURNERS FALLS** – This reporter was sitting at the Rendezvous bar and restaurant several days before Halloween, sipping on a Diet Coke, when another customer announced, “They’ve canceled Halloween because of the weather.”

“Who is ‘they,’ and how are ‘they’ in charge of Halloween?” I asked. It had never occurred to me that anyone was in charge of the holiday.

We decided to investigate emerging Halloween policies in the region. We determined three things. First, the role of government in sponsoring various Halloween events – particularly “rag shag” parades and costume contests – may have increased in recent decades. Second, rain and high winds predicted for October 31, 2019 were seen as potentially threatening the safety of participants in these events. And third, these safety concerns caused some local officials to attempt to “postpone” neighborhood trick-or-treating.

But others did not cross this line in the sand.

Greenfield postponed its October 31 downtown events – which were scheduled to include a parade, trick-or-treating at stores on Main Street, and a costume contest – until Friday, November 1. But the city also urged

see **HALLOWEEN** page A5

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Taxes to Rise 2.5%; Split Rate Remains

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard held a tax classification rate hearing at its Monday meeting, and approved a tax split between residential and business property virtually identical to that of the last fiscal year. The residential rate will increase by 44

cents per \$1,000 over last year.

According to Montague’s director of assessing Karen Tonelli, the rate increase to \$17.57, combined with a small increase in property values, would mean the average single-family home’s tax bill will increase by \$111, or 3.1%. The annual property tax on single-family

homes will average \$3,581.

As it has in the past, the selectboard briefly considered reducing the split between commercial, industrial, and personal (CIP) property and residential property. Tonelli explained that the CIP rate of \$26.94 per \$1,000 in assessed see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

The Second Season officially commenced last week for varsity field hockey and soccer. The regular football season ended, and the Great Falls Football Hawks played in their version of Three Game. On Wednesday, October 30 they beat Greenfield 16-6.

On Friday the 1st, the Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder hosted Southwick in the first round of the playoffs, and the Franklin Tech Football Eagles played their own Blue-Green Bowl. On Saturday, the Mohawk Coop Warriors defeated the Devils of Drury, and on Monday the Fourth, Tech went down to Westhampton for the first round of soccer playoffs.

### Volleyball

Southwick 3 – TFHS 1

First off: Hats off to the Turners Falls volleyball team, who have won the league championship three years running. Although the team loses three vets to graduation – Hailey Bogusz, Dabney Rollins, and Lindsay Whiteman – the future is wide open. At least for the next six years, that is: Two varsity players, Taylor Greene and Madison Liimatainen, are in seventh grade, see **TFHS SPORTS** page A6

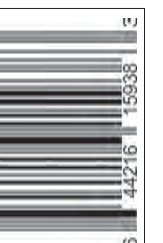


DAVID HOLT PHOTO

Turners Falls senior Lindsay Whiteman dives for a dig, but the Southwick Rams would hold on for a 3-1 victory over the Thunder during the first round of the Division III playoff tournament. Whiteman made 8 digs and 3 aces.

### Wait, There’s More:

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# The Montague Reporter

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## No Spoilers

The sighs of relief heaving from the liberals of the county's shire town were audible this side of the river late Tuesday night as the election results were tabulated.

It would have been quite a story if Brickett Allis, eliminated in September's preliminary election, had come back to win in the general. Fifteen hundred thirty-nine votes in a write-in campaign is a formidable showing; you can't build to that level on sour grapes alone. Hats off to Allis and his supporters for a strong mobilization.

One time-tested way to get people to the polls is to align yourself with other candidates, either down-ballot or up, but it seems unlikely that was the wind beneath Allis's wings. His strongest showings by vote share were in Precincts 9, 1, and 2. City council candidates ran unopposed in 9 and 2, and in 1, Allis garnered 240 write-in votes while only 179 pulled the lever for poor Verne Sund.

(It's hard to imagine many people wrote in both Allis and Debbie Richards, which means a quarter of Allis's supporters in that precinct opted for former deputy fire chief Ed Jarvis over the incumbent.)

No, it's pretty clear that the motivating issues rallying Greenfield conservatives in the contest were Ballot Question 1, for new library construction many are convinced will translate to an onerous tax hike, and Ballot Question 2, a referendum on whether Greenfield officials (read: cops) should be able to act as agents of federal immigration law if a state court ban on such behavior is lifted.

It's interesting to note that nearly 500 people saying "no, thanks" to the library voted for either Sheila Gilmour or Roxann Wedegartner, who both supported the project, but even more interesting that 850, or nearly a quarter of their voters, chose No on 2.

The freaky circumstance of a three-way race with a viable write-in candidate raised progressives' pre-election anxieties that their base might have been sufficiently split — in ways that evoked for some the national polarization between leftist and moderate Democrats post-2016 — that they could lose without a 2/3 supermajority. And indeed, Allis only needed 34% of the vote to become mayor, which means his 28% accomplishment was *more than four-fifths of the way there*.

So it would be the wrong conclusion that Greenfield is 72% left of center. The 39% vote against the

library should be taken seriously as a sign that a sizable number of our neighbors are worried enough about making ends meet that they are willing to sacrifice public goods.

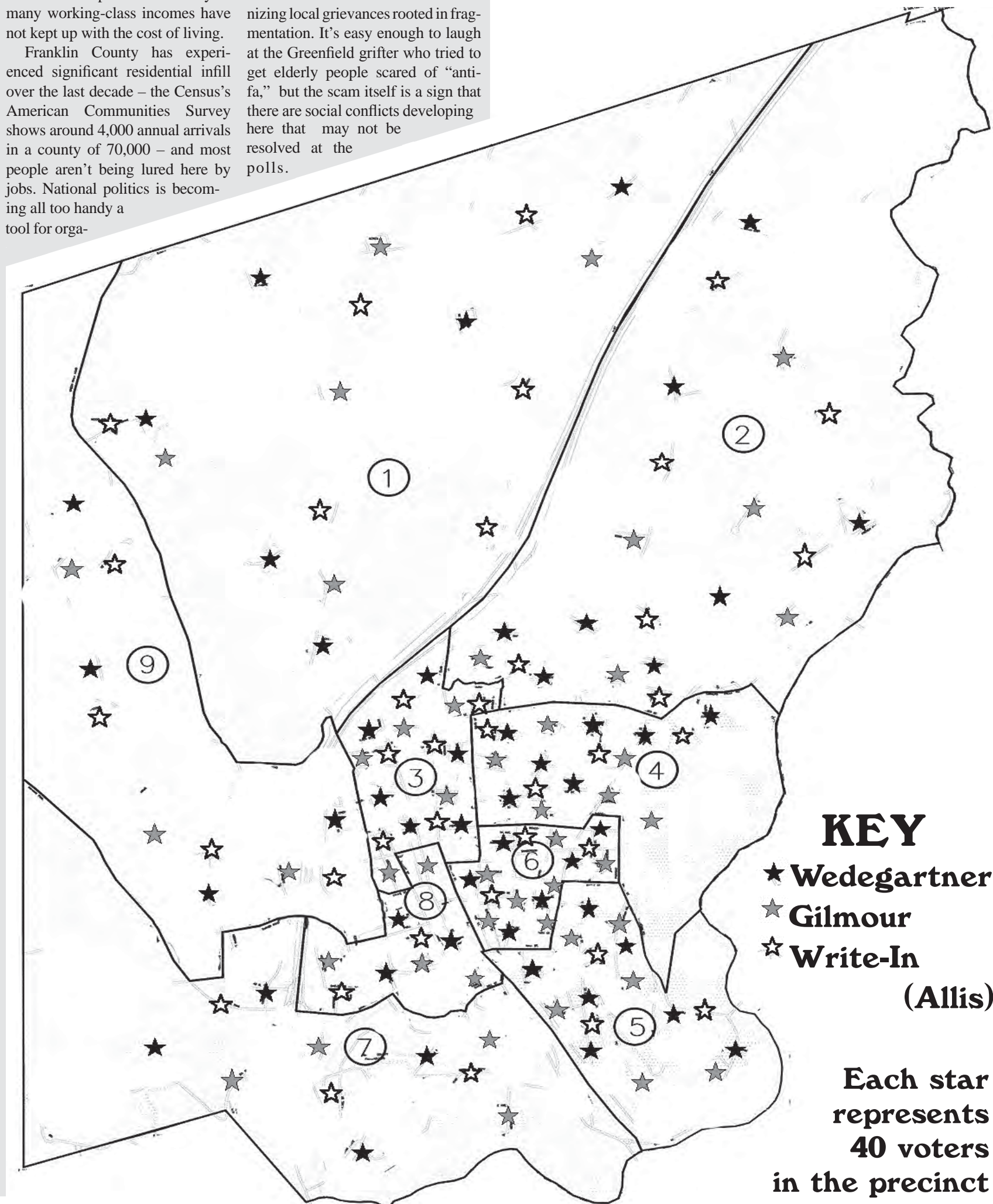
The 44% No on 2 vote, meanwhile, should be a hint that a lot of people haven't bought the standard liberal explanations of why so many working-class incomes have not kept up with the cost of living.

Franklin County has experienced significant residential infill over the last decade — the Census's American Communities Survey shows around 4,000 annual arrivals in a county of 70,000 — and most people aren't being lured here by jobs. National politics is becoming all too handy a tool for orga-

nizing local grievances rooted in fragmentation. It's easy enough to laugh at the Greenfield grifter who tried to get elderly people scared of "anti-fa," but the scam itself is a sign that there are social conflicts developing here that may not be resolved at the polls.



Dave Ferris works on scraping paint off of the elaborate tin work inside the Amidon Building at 41 East Main Street in Millers Falls. O'Bear Construction is renovating the building, and plans to lease it for offices and apartments.



**KEY**  
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 ☆ Gilmour  
 ☆ Write-In (Allis)  
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# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

The Turners Falls Water Department **semi-annual water bills** were mailed on Halloween. Payment is due by December 1 to avoid a \$20 late charge.

Payment can be made by mail, online at [turnersfallswater.com](http://turnersfallswater.com), or at the water department office at 226 Millers Falls Road. Office hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and there's a drop box to the left of the front door for payment after hours.

Now through December 22 at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, there will be an **annual art exhibit for the Junior Duck Stamps** competition.

Students from kindergarten through high school have submitted artwork for this statewide art contest, and in the process, gain awareness of the importance of preserving wetland habitats. Check out the top Massachusetts youth entries for the 2019 competition!

This Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls, local author Rebecca Daniels will read from and sign her book, *Keeping the Lights On for Ike*. You will not want to miss this truly unique, inspiring and personal look at WWII through the eyes of a young, non-combat support soldier – Ms. Daniels' fa-

ther, Captain Harold Daniels.

The book is primarily his personal correspondence to his bride back home keeping the home fires burning brightly. Daniels, who inherited the letters and photographs, offers a first-hand glimpse into her father's support of Eisenhower and the Allied Forces as they campaigned across England, North Africa and Italy. Ms. Daniels also has theatrical experience, so this presentation will almost "come to life!"

**Great Falls Books Through Bars** will host their monthly volunteer day this Saturday, November 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. at La Mariposa, 115 Avenue A in Turners Falls. They'll be reading letters from incarcerated people, and packing books to send them. No prior experience is needed – all ages are invited, and you can stay for as short or as long a time as you want.

If you can't make it Saturday, you can donate directly to help pay for shipping costs and packing tape at [www.gofundme.com/great-falls-books-through-bars-2019](http://www.gofundme.com/great-falls-books-through-bars-2019).

Mass Audubon offers military veterans and their families **free admission to its 60 wildlife sanctuaries** across the commonwealth on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11. The organization sees "welcoming vets and their families to wildlife sanctuaries at no cost" as "a modest way... to thank the men

and women who have served their country in the military."

Mass Audubon operates a network of wildlife sanctuaries extending from the Cape and Islands to the Berkshires, and attracting more than a half million visitors annually. To learn more and to confirm that a specific sanctuary will be open, visit [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org).

Nearby Audubon sanctuaries include High Ledges in Shelburne, West Mountain in Plainfield, Conway Hills in Conway, Graves Farm in Williamsburg, Road's End in Worthington, Arcadia in Northampton, Lynes Woods in Westhampton, and Poor Farm Hill in New Salem.

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) presents "Legacies of Trauma," a **lecture by Holocaust and genocide scholar Dr. Henry "Hank" Knight**, on Tuesday, November 12, at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

This event is presented in connection with "Fafnir Adamites: Interfere (with)," a sculptural installation at BMAC created from felted wool and burlap that focuses on intergenerational trauma and the emotional turmoil inherited from past generations. Adamites is a **textile artist based in Turners Falls**.

In his lecture, Knight will focus on the concept of "historical trauma": the cumulative emotional harm experienced by an individual or a generation due to a traumatic event, even if the individual did not directly experience the event. The Holocaust and other genocides provide an opportunity to examine the lasting legacy of trauma on entire groups for generations beyond the tragedy itself.

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services will give a **presentation on recent changes to veterans' state and federal benefits** from 2 to 3 p.m. next Wednesday, November 13 at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls.

Veterans and their families are invited to get the latest information, including the Mission Act and Blue Water Law, which can monetarily affect veterans. The seminar discusses upcoming changes that will go into effect January 1. For more information, contact Chris Demars of the UPVVS at (413) 772-1571.

A **Fall Fix-It Event** will be held on Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Montague Common Hall (the former Grange) in Montague Center. This is the third in a series of community repair events sponsored by Drawdown Montague, a group of residents committed to local climate change solutions.

People are invited to bring in broken household items and small appliances and get help on diagnosing and repairing the problem. Volunteer fixers will share their skills and talk with the items' owners to help them understand the repairs.

The Fall Fix-It will feature knife and tool sharpening – just in time for Thanksgiving – as well as simple sewing and mending. Other items that can be repaired include lamps, toys, tools, small appliances, and small furniture.

(Please don't bring computers, microwaves, major appliances, large furniture, items that need welding, or anything under warranty!)

Montague's own Red Fire North will be on hand selling delicious food and beverages. In addition, kids ages 10 and up can learn to use

a sewing machine to sew a patch with Logan McFadden of Build Repair Grow. No experience is necessary; bring your own materials, or use those provided.

The Fall Fix-It is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested to support future events. For questions or more information, email [info@drawdownmontague.earth](mailto:info@drawdownmontague.earth), or visit the Drawdown Montague website at [drawdownmontague.earth](http://drawdownmontague.earth).

For hundreds of years, the Mashpee Wampanoag people have been finger weaving. Elder Marlene Lopez, Rabbit Clan Mother, has been finger-weaving and keeping this art alive by teaching others the knowledge that she has learned for 30 years.

Lopez will give a **talk on traditional native finger weaving** on Saturday, November 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, as part of the Full Beaver Moon Gathering co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Nolumbeka Project.

The designs are those of the Eastern Woodland and Plains people of Turtle Island during the 18th century. The style of weaving is called warpface. 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. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

The League of Women Voters of Franklin County, along with 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. at the Element Brewing Company, 16 Bridge Street in Millers Falls.

"What's happening in Washington DC gets the attention, but the work of our state lawmakers has a more immediate effect on our day-to-day," remarked Marie Gauthier, president of the Franklin County League. "We think it's essential that constituents have the opportunity to discuss that work with the legislators themselves, to share their concerns and stay informed."

This event is handicapped accessible, free, and open to the public, with complimentary refreshments. For more information, visit [hvw-ma-franklincounty.org](http://hvw-ma-franklincounty.org).

Lastly, the United States Department of Agriculture has informed the Reporter that this month is **"No-Till November."** "This fall," their press release reads, "USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service encourages America's agricultural producers to keep the stubble and give their farm a more rugged, natural look. Many farmers till during the fall, but there are so many good reasons to #KeepTheStubble."

Readers are encouraged to hold off on tilling their fields for as long as they can stand it. Abstaining from tilling improves soil health by fostering better soil microbiology, and it can improve the soil's water-holding capacity. It is also believed to help sequester carbon dioxide.

Keep it in the ground, folks!

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Week ending Oct. 25:

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Allysia Corbin

**Grade 7**  
Ella Guidaboni

**Grade 8**  
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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Town Hall Attracts Idlers, Needs Spray Foam

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On October 30 the Wendell selectboard held their regular biweekly meeting an hour early so that they could finish their business and attend the special town meeting at 7 p.m. They finished their meeting at 6:38, and had plenty of time to walk to the town hall and get settled.

To encourage native pollinators, the last mowing of the town common each season should be done in early to mid October, or be left until late May, leaving undisturbed the hollow stems in which insects can overwinter. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she would ask pollinator group member Sylvia Wetherby to ask Adam Kohl, who knows about such things, whether the common can be mown now, or if it should wait until May.

Wetherby's husband Tom has taken the job of mowing the septic mound, on a separate schedule from the other town properties.

At the October 2 selectboard meeting town center resident Alison Wight had asked that the town hall wifi be protected by a password. People park near her house, sometimes late at night, to be near the town hall for its wifi, and watch movies. She said she hears the sound from inside her house whether she wants to or not, and that she often does not.

Robert Heller, who has played a part in almost all town computer and internet issues, said he did not like the password idea, because the town hall wifi was meant to be available for the public.

Selectboard member Christine Heard suggested turning down the wifi speed after 11 p.m. The police internet connection is already password protected, and the senior center and library both have wifi that extends out into places cars can park.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said that idling a vehicle

more than five minutes without a pressing need is illegal – a law that is enforced rather casually – and that winter is coming, so sitting in a car for a full-length movie may become uncomfortable. When the town's new fiber-optic network is complete in town, only people from out of town or who have not accepted a connection will need to use town buildings' wifi.

Since Wendell has not had many insurance claims, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town's insurance company, offered an extension of the town's contract with no increase in premium.

Aldrich said that insurance inspectors recommended fireproof cabinets be installed in the highway garage and fire station for flammable materials. Grants are available for them.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller found out that Tom Chaisson had completed, and been paid for, the first steps of insulating the town hall floor. He cleared earth from underneath, put down a vapor barrier, covered it with sand to keep it in place, and reinforced the floor. What remains is to spray foam insulation between the joists.

The total project was divided into its separate pieces so that its cost could be split between fiscal years and paid for from the regular town building maintenance fund. Bids are old enough to be invalid, and Chaisson's bid was not the lowest. Aldrich will send out a new request for bids on the insulation.

Kenneth Greene met the board in an informal interview for the job of clearing snow from walks around town properties. The job pays per storm, and is mostly operating the town-owned snow blower, but some shoveling is included as well.

Greene said he lives near the town center, so he can get there easily. He has worked in landscaping

and other handy jobs, and does not have a 40-hour scheduled job, so inconveniently timed storms will not be a problem for him. He has snow-blowing experience, but he admitted that the only repair he had made is replacing a shear pin.

He came without a list of references, so Heard told him to give a list to Aldrich. Greene has worked for the cemetery commission.

Selectboard clerk Amy Palmer is leaving town after the next board meeting, and Corrine Baker is expected to take her place.

## Special Town Meeting

Special town meetings in Wendell are often sparsely attended, but Article 10 on the October 30 town meeting warrant, which called for a one-year moratorium on industrial-scale solar installations, brought enough citizens in to fill all the seats and then some.

Town moderator Katie Nolan was away, so deputy moderator Chris Parker ran the meeting.

After 20 minutes of discussion the solar moratorium article passed unanimously, amended to say large and extra large solar installations are "not allowed per the town's temporary moratorium until December 30, 2020," and after that date, "allowed, subject to reasonable regulations..."

During the discussion Parker reminded citizens that discussion was about the zoning bylaw change, and not about the larger question of appropriate siting of solar installations. Concerned citizens were invited to attend planning board meetings, where a new solar bylaw will be crafted over the next year.

Finance committee chair Doug Tanner said that the fin com had not met with a quorum for long enough to make a formal fin com recommendation.

He explained why Article 1 took

\$78,000 from stabilization to reduce the tax rate. If stabilization money is used to pay a debt that's covered by a debt exclusion, that debt exclusion is no longer valid, and payments toward that debt have to fit within the Proposition 2½ limit. Using stabilization to lower the tax rate, as this article did, can effectively pay for a town debt without affecting the debt exclusion.

Voters approved articles to increase the fire chief's salary by \$563.20 and the assistant tax collector's salary by \$126. Tanner said these changes were not pay increases, but were necessary to correct an oversight at the annual town meeting.

Voters approved a total of \$232.59 to pay bills of prior years for the highway department, cemetery commission, and fire department, and \$5,000 for a consultant to help the assessors establish payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements with potential solar developers.


Assessor Anna Seeger said that money would be compensated by a developer, but the town needed it in a fund at the beginning. She said the process of establishing solar PILOT arrangements is more technical and involved than her volunteer board can manage.

Voters approved taking \$19,278 from the town's rehab loan payback account to pay for more attractive fixtures, and structural support for them, at the town hall. The fixtures will hold new LED bulbs that will be paid for with Green Communities grant money and replace the building's current long tube fluorescent lights.

Citizen Lisa Hoag objected that the blue light from LEDs causes permanent damage to eyes, but she did not vote against the article. Energy committee Nan Riebschlaeger said that LED lights that give off a warmer light are available.

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## FACES



State representative Natalie Blais (above, right) was in attendance, and presented a proclamation from the legislature in Boston to Montague library director Linda Hickman (above, left).

The entire event served as yet another piece of evidence of how important the library is to our community.

At right: Special sesquicentennial cake.

PHOTOS BY ROBERTA POTTER

By JERI MORAN

**MONTAGUE CENTER** -- The celebration of the 150th Birthday of the Montague Center Branch Library was a great success. Organized by the Friends of the Library, it was held on Monday, November 4, from 4 to 7 p.m.

As shown in the photos, there were birthday cakes and other refreshments; attendees seemed to particularly enjoy the books and display that gave a flavor of the history of the library through the years. It was interesting to learn that in the library's early years, only the librarian could go and get a book or magazine for a patron; only then they could handle it or take it home.

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**WASTEWATER** from page A1

specific problems facing their towns, then answered questions from the audience. Microphones were passed around the room, with some of the more passionate speakers occasionally evoking applause.

Montague town administrator Steven Ellis discussed the problems facing his town's Water Pollution Control Facility. After the closure of two major industrial ratepayers and the state DEP's suspension of the experimental "Montague Process," a treatment method that had enabled the plant to process sludge from 24 other treatment facilities in the area, the town was forced to hike sewer rates dramatically in 2018.

"This is an area where we need to make noise, and it's not outrage at lack of investment – it's an acknowledgement that at some point, this needs to become a priority," Ellis said. "We're at a crisis point."

**Regional Solutions?**

Jan Ameen, director of the Franklin County Solid Waste District, expressed concern over the state's shrinking capacity for sewage sludge disposal, another reason costs are rising.

Greenfield director of public works Marlo Warner spoke about his city's intent to build an anaerobic digester to combat the rising costs of disposing of sludge. During the 2016 fiscal year, the last year that solid sewage waste was trucked from Greenfield to Montague's water treatment facility, disposal costs totaled \$169,000. After the DEP ordered the Montague Process to end, Greenfield and other municipalities began to send their sludge to an incinerator in Lowell instead.

Last fiscal year, sludge disposal cost the city \$439,000, and Warner estimates it will cost \$540,000 this

year, out of his department's annual budget of \$1.3 million.

"This is a problem that is unsustainable in western Mass," Warner said. "Greenfield is a good case study for what this is costing us."

State DEP officials have said municipalities should look for regional solutions to these large-scale problems. The anaerobic digester would cost the city about \$4.1 million, Warner said, but building the public support and political will to pay for the project has been challenging.

"Looking at a local model for how to handle sludge management is critical," said Brian Harrington, deputy regional director at the state Bureau of Water Resources.

Small towns trying to solve these problems on their own can place a heavy burden on residents by raising sewer and water rates. Homeowners in Gill paid \$1,337 for sewer bills last year, according to selectboard chair John Ward, while the eateries like the Wagon Wheel Restaurant paid nearly \$10,000.

Other presentations addressed the need for more qualified wastewater treatment plant operators in western Massachusetts. In Ashfield, payroll costs account for 56% of the annual sewer budget, according to town administrator Kayce Warren.

After the presentations, attendees grabbed their boxed lunches and broke off into discussion groups. Some town officials learned of state and federal grants they never knew existed. The USDA left informational packets on various water infrastructure grant programs available to "rural" municipalities, defined as towns having less than 10,000 residents.

"We don't have the capacity," Rep. Blais said. "We need to be making it easier for our small communities to get funding, not

more difficult."

Bob Dean, director of regional services for FRCOG, said the high cost of maintaining outdated water treatment infrastructure makes it hard for towns to meet federal and state standards, and even harder to plan for future investments.

Stephanie Cooper, deputy commissioner of policy and planning for the state DEP, praised Greenfield's progress towards building a digester. She said state programs like the Recycling Loan Fund could help fund the project, but admitted her agency could do more education and outreach to let municipalities know about these programs.

In Irving, the lack of a sufficient and sustainable public water supply for everyone in the town's three village centers has been on town administrator Bryan Smith's mind for years. "The town has been looking at this issue since 1960, with no clear path forward," he said.

Planners have identified three potential locations for a drinking water cistern on Mountain Road, Swamp Road, or near Riverside Park, but building public support for the estimated \$5 million project is a challenge. Several wells in town do not meet modern standards, and sewer rates are already high.

**Climate Change Preparedness**

In 2011, Hurricane Irene flooded the water treatment plant in Old Deerfield, releasing untreated sewage into the river.

"We are having more frequent and intense [weather] events," said Deerfield selectboard member Carolyn Shores Ness. "Our aging infrastructure does get overwhelmed, and it just comes down to 'we need more money.'"

Deerfield selectboard chair Trevor McDaniel called the town's



A pump station at the Montague water pollution control facility.

MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

water treatment plants "woefully inadequate," and said the estimated cost of fixing both is around \$36 million. The town has already secured an \$11.4 million loan and a \$2.6 million grant from the USDA for the projects, but sewer rates are still increasing.

Being located along a river heightens the risk of flooding and accidental sewage releases, and engineers will have to plan for more frequent and severe high water events caused by climate change.

Comerford praised the pending \$1.3 billion "Greenworks" bond bill (H.3846), calling it a "pragmatic" approach to disaster preparedness.

To better prepare for these weather events, Vandana Rao from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs suggested towns try reducing impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, and work to preserve water recharge areas.

Representatives of regional planning organizations, including the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and Hilltown

Community Development, also attended the forum, and aides from the offices of US Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman Jim McGovern, and Congressman Richard Neal were on hand, listening in on different discussion groups.

"We're trying to weave a huge web of support between our planning agencies and our towns," Comerford said.

"Some of these things are going to require joint solutions to get the visibility they need at the state house," said PVPC program manager Eric Weiss.

"This is just the beginning," said Blais, addressing the room. "We saw these issues crystal clear because you helped us see them – and people on the ground, you all made us tune in in a way that is incredibly authentic."

**HALLOWEEN** from page A1

residents, through its "reverse call" emergency network which contains over 8,000 phone numbers, to postpone neighborhood activities as well. This decision was made by public safety officials and the Mayor's office.

At 4:16 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, the Greenfield police department posted a notice on the recreation department's Facebook page that "all city Halloween activities have been postponed until November 1, 2019. This includes house to house 'trick or treating' and the Rag Shag parade."

The downtown events on November 1 were well attended in Greenfield, as trick-or-treaters began knocking on the doors of local businesses just before 5 p.m. An employee of Green Fields Market bagging groceries was armed with a bowl of vegan candy.

Up the street at the thrift shop Goose, owner Astranada Gamsy was struggling to load candy into a large, 1970s-vintage bowl. She said she felt postponing Halloween had helped small business owners, because "I was able to get candy this morning at half price."

The effort to convince residents that door-to-door trick-or-treating in neighborhoods had also been "canceled" appears to have been effective. According to Dorothy McCormack, who lives on Congress Street, only five families came to her door on October 31, despite the fact that "the weather was fine until eight o'clock." The next night, she ran out of candy.

McCormack said she thought it was "weird" that the city felt it had the power to cancel Halloween, "although I understand that the downtown events are under its authority." But she said she thought it was "even weirder" that most residents went along with the decision. "I am generally a progressive who supports government programs, but this is overreach," she said.

That seems to have been the attitude in Montague. Here, the annual Rag Shag Halloween parade, which is organized in Turners Falls by the Soldiers Memorial Committee, was delayed until Sunday, November 3. But when asked if the

committee had "canceled Halloween," member Al Cummings responded with an emphatic "No."

"I gave out candy at my house Halloween night," he said.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis said that he had consulted with selectboard member Michael Nelson, who follows the weather closely. They decided there was enough of a "window" of acceptable weather forecasts to not issue warnings for October 31.

Nelson then posted the following on the town's Facebook page: "The town of Montague will host Halloween activities on Thursday, October 31 as is tradition. Like the many years it has rained on Halloween in the past, just be sure to bring an umbrella with you."

Ellis, who lives on Stevens Street in Turners Falls, said he actually ran out of candy on October 31, and started handing out "cauliflower cheese-its."

"I wonder if people from other towns who had canceled Halloween came to my neighborhood," he joked. "But to tell you the truth, towns don't generally run Halloween, *per se*."

Attitudes and policies varied from town to town. Erving town administrator Brian Smith said his town did not try to discourage trick-or-treating in the neighborhoods, but did cancel an event organized by the parks and recreation department, due to the small numbers of residents signing up. A costume event was held inside the Erving public library on Halloween night.

On the other hand, the Deerfield selectboard attempted to postpone not only the Halloween hayride sponsored by the fire department, but also door-to-door neighborhood trick-or-treating, according to Pat Kroll, the town's administrative assistant. She said town officials had been "bombarded" with calls about the weather as October 31 approached, but when the selectboard chair, Trevor McDaniel, postponed Halloween until Saturday, November 2, his office was "bombarded" with complaints.

Kroll was laughing so hard on the phone that she had difficulty finishing the tale of Hallow-

een policymaking in Deerfield. "I just think it's amusing that the selectboard would postpone the holiday," she said.

The website for the Needham, MA-based television station WCVB posted a formidable list of 42 cities and towns in the state that had postponed Halloween. The report did not indicate which of these localities had attempted to reschedule traditional neighborhood door-to-door activities as well as official events. Elsewhere on the website, the station carried video purporting to show "thousands" of trick-or-treaters on Beacon Hill in Boston on the traditional October 31 date. The station reports that "organizers" of the Boston event had considered postponing it, but felt that families would descend on the neighborhood seeking candy anyway.

Montague Center is famous for the massive crowds it draws each Halloween. Gary Turn of Main Street, who has been offering candy, music, and barbeque on his front porch for nearly 25 years, decided to roll the dice on the last day of October.

Turn put a giant tarp over the barbeque area in front of his porch. The wind, which started gusting at around 7:30 p.m., actually helped push off the rain which had been pooling on the tarp, he reported.

"The number of people was definitely down compared to previous years, but it was still fun," he told the *Reporter*. "The point being that what makes Halloween such a tradition is that it's always on the same night. If the weather gets really bad, I understand canceling it, but walking around the neighborhood in a little rain is what makes Halloween unique."

Peter d'Errico, Leverett's selectboard chair, said he was not aware that his town had ever had a policy about Halloween. "We're too spread out," he said, noting that many Leverett families go to Montague Center for the holiday.

"I took my kids to Montague Center," he said. "It's a classic. I hope it keeps going on there. It's an ancient thing. It's the Day of the Dead."



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**TFHS SPORTS** from page A1  
and the rest of the team is pretty young too. Of course, the league champs lose Izzy Farrick in 2020, but that's a story for another day.

Last Friday, November 1, the Southwick Lady Rams traveled to Turners Falls High School in the first round of the playoffs. Their fan base was small, but pretty vocal. Southwick's JV field hockey coach sat near me and as the Southwick Team was introduced, she said, "Lady Rams? There's no such thing. We should be the Ewes."

To which I replied: "You have your pick of any animal in the Southwick Zoo."

A few rows back, an old-timer piped in, "The farmers picked the name, lots of sheep."

But whatever their mascot is called, Southwick came to play. One of the adjustments that Lady Blue had to make was the soft kill. When the Ewes set up a shot, there were no high velocity spikes shot at Powertown's defense. Instead, one of the Rams would gently tap the ball into the gap. This was a hard adjustment for Blue, and several miscommunications led to Ram points.

In the first match, Turners overcame an early deficit to win easily 25-12. In the second battle, the play turned fiercer. Much of the play was at the front court and Southwick benefited from the bounce. In this match, Turners never led; the closest they came was to tie it at 10. But with the score 12-11, the Rams went on a tear and ran up the score to 19-11.

In a game to 25, reaching 20 is huge, and when Southwick increased their lead to 22-15, Turners coach Kelly Liimatainen called time. The Sheep increased the deficit to 24-17 and only needed one more point to win. Blue went on their own run, pulling within 24-20, but Southwick finally managed to get that last point to knot the contest at 1 all.

Blue started out on top 4-0 in the third match, and held that lead until Southwick tied it at 11. After that, Powertown couldn't buy a point. Southwick's off-balance hits always seemed to stay in bounds while Turners' hits went errant. At one point, the ball hit a Southwick player while she was facing the other way. She blindly swung her arm toward the net, and the ball landed fair.

The Rams again hit 20 first, and built their lead to 21-13. Blue fought valiantly but the Ewes held on to win 25-19 and take the 2-1 edge.

Early on, the final match was anybody's game. But Southie unraveled the 10-10 midgame knot and sprang ahead to 17-11. Not to be deterred, Blue dug in, and clawed within a point, 18-17. But the miscommunications continued, and Southwick capitalized in their endgame. They went on to defeat Powertown 25-18, and eliminated them from the playoffs and ending Blue's season.

#### Soccer

##### Hampshire Regional 8 - FCTS 0

On Monday, the Franklin Tech Soccer Co-op Eagles lost in the first round of the MIAA D-3 tournament.

In the regular season the Franks fought to a 8-7-2 record to qualify for the playoffs. The only problem was that they were kicked up a division. The Eagles played tough against D-4 teams all year, but competing against larger teams in the playoff is a tough row to hoe. To add to the challenge, they were ranked last in D-3, and had to travel to Westhampton to play fifth-ranked Hampshire. Needless to say, Tech was overrun, but they took the loss the same way they took their wins: as a team.

In 15 regular season matches, 10 different Techies scored goals. Sam Lashtur led this Convocation of Eagles with 13 goals and four assists, followed by Tony Barilone (6, 2). Goalkeep Matt Regnier saved 102 kicks on goal.

Next year, expect more competitive team play. Although Tech is losing seniors Kyle Brunelle, Jake Burnett, and Garrett Cole, there are 21 varsity underclassmen ready to step into their cleats.

#### Football

##### GFMS 16 - Greenfield 6 Greenfield 36 - FCTS 12 Mohawk 23 - Drury 7

Blue, Green, and Gold. Within 10 days, there are three football games between Greenfield and students from Turners. On October 30, the Great Falls Football Hawks beat Green 16-6, and on Friday the First, Franklin Tech took on the Green Wave varsity.

Next Thursday, the Mohawk Co-ops play Green in the first round of the second season. Thursday's matchup is not Thee Game, and it's not being played on Thanksgiving, but it's a start. It's nice that the students get to uphold a tradition that has lasted for generations.

I went to Greenfield after Friday's volleyball game to watch Tech play the Green Wave. This was the first really cold game of the year. Everybody was bundled up, and one fan lamented that she missed Saturday afternoon games.

The score was 6-6 when I arrived. Green scored with 2:31 left in the half to go up 14-6. In order to stay in the game, Tech was determined to score before the whistle.

Donte Rosewarne returned the kickoff to Green's 42, and coach Joseph Gamache instituted his two-minute offense. One minute and 27 seconds later, Tech scored a TD. The 2-PAT failed, but Tech was back in the game.

Certain key plays can change an entire game. In this game, one came 19 seconds before halftime. Greenfield was facing fourth and 10, and instead of taking a knee, they ran a play. They scored the TD and the 2-PAT to take a 22-12 lead going into the second half.

There was no scoring in the third quarter. In the fourth, Tech attempted a fake punt. It was intercepted, and Greenfield ran it all the way back to the Tech 20. This set up their next touchdown and Green went up 30-12. Another interception, and another touchdown, and they were at 36-12. Greenfield picked it off one more time, and finally took a knee to end the game.

Ian McClure led Tech's ground attack with 79 yards, followed by Hunter Wozniak with 18. Owen Bashaw completed two passes for 33 yards. Wozniak had 23 receiving yards, and Colby Maillox had 33. McClure and Wozniak scored Tech's two touchdowns. Defensively, the score did not reflect the Eagles' effort. Dylan Demers made 11 solo tackles and recovered a fumble, while Noah Fuess had eight unassisted tackles.

The Franks host Pathfinder RVT on Friday, in the first round of the Second Season.

On Saturday, November 2, the Mohawk Co-op Warriors trekked over the mountain to take on the Drury Blue Devils of North Adams.

There were actually two treks to the field. The first one was over the mountain and down the hairpin turn. The second was a long hike from the parking lot to the school, then up another hill to the field. At the summit,

volunteers were making apologies to the out-of-breath fans. It was nice seeing the Cheer Squad at the game, though they had to carry their banners up a couple small mountains.

Drury needed to win on Saturday to make the playoffs, but the devil was in the details. (I've always had difficulty with a school named for a Devil - maybe it's my Judeo-Christian upbringing. I know, I know, Duke is the favorite team of at least one of the Turners' coaches, and I guess their mascot makes as much sense as the mythical Lady Ram; but still...) It was warm and sunny on Saturday afternoon, and I have to admit that I, too, miss daytime games.

In this game, the Devils excelled on special teams. They blocked a punt, recovered a fumble on a kick-off and had long run backs. But Mohawk dominated on every other aspect of the game.

Mohawk instituted their own version of the West Coast offense - short little passes, supplemented by Evan Shippee carries - and at 5:14 of the first quarter, Shawn Davenport completed a pass to Jaden Whiting for the TD and Mohawk was up 7-0.

Mohawk got the ball back after a failed fourth-down attempt, and with 8:33 left in the first half, Whiting made a diving circus catch in the end zone to put the Co-ops up 14-0.

A sack by Matthew Pollen returned the ball to Mohawk, and another diving catch by Whiting set up a first-and-10 from Drury's 13. On the next play, a personal foul moved the ball all the way back to 24, eventually setting up a fourth-and-24 from the 27 and denying the Warriors a third touchdown of the half. As time ran out, Brendan Driscoll made a key sack, taking away any hope Drury would score before the whistle.

Drury did score early in the second half, thanks to their special teams. On the opening kick-off, Mohawk miffed the catch, and the Devils came up with it. They marched down the field, and with 8:41 left in the third, they halved the deficit to 14-7.

With the margin reduced to one score, it became a battle of wills. The Devils pushed the Co-ops back and back again, until Mohawk faced a 4 and 21. But they converted, and went on to score their third touch of the afternoon.

In the fourth quarter Drury was forced to punt. It was short, and Tech got the ball on the 20, banged ahead to the 6, and went for the field goal on fourth down.

The kick was blocked, and Drury ran the ball back all the way to midfield, but this inadvertently sent up Mohawk's next score. Driscoll knocked the ball loose, and Logan Platek recovered it. On first and 10 from the 43, Davenport heaved the ball toward the end zone. It was intercepted, but the Co-op receivers made the tackle on the 5. Then the Mohawk linemen charged through the gaps, forcing an intentional grounding in the end zone. It was ruled a safety. Mohawk was up 23-7.

Mohawk received the punt, and chewed up the clock. By the time Drury got the ball back, it was too late, and Mohawk came out with a big victory.

At the beginning of the season Mohawk started 3-0, then lost three in a row. Last Saturday's victory doesn't qualify them for the playoffs, but it does put them in the position to take on the Green Wave of Greenfield.

Next week: Football.  
Just football.



Much of the session ended up focusing on immediate fundraising initiatives.

#### COOP from page A1

coop member Danielle Barshak took the floor to summarize a letter she and two other members, Ann Ferguson and Tom Wolff, had written, addressing a series of questions to the board of directors. The authors also distributed a petition, which they and three other members had signed, calling for a special member meeting on December 3 to "discuss and take appropriate actions on matters of concern to the members."

The letter asked the board to answer the questions during the meeting, which included clarifying whether donations would go toward a sustainable survival plan for the store, or simply settle debts before closing. It also called for the board to consider accepting free advice from the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA), a previously untapped resource.

Board members did not provide answers to the group's questions during the meeting, instead moving on to facilitate the planned conversation about fundraising and members' vision for the coop.

"We have to have something else that gets people in the door," said Tim McNerney, praising the store's cafe. "The coop is not going to survive on a slice of pizza." He added that he felt the solution was not likely to come from "one-size-fits-all" strategies.

"We're not going to rebuild the grocery," said Julie Shively, one of the coop's original founders. Shively said she thought it should "increase the restaurant aspect, and double back on grocery." Other attendees responded that they liked the grocery aspect of the store.

One audience member suggested that the coop update its listserv to streamline communication and share fundraising ideas more easily.

"We need to know what the ceiling is," said a man named Sean, who said he lived in North Leverett and was a new member of the coop. He called for the organization to be more transparent about its finances.

Another man suggested forming a music committee.

"Nickels and dimes add up," said Cheryl Howland, a former board member. She suggested leaving buckets in gathering places around the region to collect donations.

"I have an 'if pigs could fly' idea," Howland said later in the meeting, wondering aloud if the business could sell marijuana. "You want traffic?" she asked rhetorically, to laughter.

A high level of commitment seemed to be on display at Tuesday's meeting, as many attendees offered creative fundraising ideas, and some gave generous donations on the spot.

Howard Wein, owner of the Montague Center restaurant The Alvah

Stone, announced that he would give \$100 gift cards to his business to the first five people who donated more than \$500 that evening. This incentivized people to whip out their checkbooks, and before the night was done, the coop management had a handful of checks in hand, and at least three attendees were granted gift cards. Donations were announced live on the microphone every few minutes, each time to a round of applause.

Supporters have been pulling out all the stops in their fundraising initiatives. Lake Wyola resident Alexander Phillips unrrolled an enormous, vibrant sign reading "GO FUND ME," directing people to an online donation platform ([www.gofundme.com/project-coop-thrive](http://www.gofundme.com/project-coop-thrive)). Phillips, who said \$25,000 has recently been raised, set up the GoFundMe page last week with the goal of raising an additional \$25,000 by December 1.

At an emergency meeting at the coop on October 15, it was disclosed that the store is over \$200,000 in debt, the bulk of that owed to vendors, and that an ongoing capital campaign had raised around \$30,000. Board of directors member Jono Neiger called for people to join the board in his presentation of an "emergency plan."

During the October 29 meeting, community members viewed a slide show about the store's financial status and options to sell off the property, and raised concerns about its recent business model. 700 of the coop's roughly 800 members spent under \$100 at the store in the past year, according to the slide show. Members were asked to pledge to spend more.

"One of the reasons we are calling a special member meeting is to hopefully get more people on the board," Ferguson told the Reporter. "Another is to answer people's questions and hear their opinions about the state and direction of the coop."

One of the founding members of the coop, Ferguson served as board president until last fall. She now acts as chair of its membership committee.

"We have to keep members involved, and make them feel like they can vote," she said. "The board does have a right to make a lot of decisions, but the members have a right to hold them accountable.... People have not been really involved in the ongoing running of the coop in the way that they could be - and really should be - if it's going to survive."

Tom Wolff, the third coauthor of the letter, lamented that the questions it raised were not addressed on Tuesday night. "I love the coop," said Wolff. "But if we are going to save it, we not only have to raise money... We have to make sure the money is spent responsibly."



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

valuation means businesses will pay a rate approximately 30% higher than if there were no split between residential and CIP property.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson, serving as chair in Rich Kuklewicz's absence, asked Tonelli to calculate what the two rates would be if the split were slightly reduced, in order to avoid raising CIP by such a large amount.

After a 20-minute delay, during which the selectboard retired into executive session to finalize contract discussions with town administrator Steve Ellis, Tonelli returned armed with four pages of options for the split.

The small reduction in the CIP rate Nelson suggested produced a corresponding residential rate of \$17.73 – 16 cents more per thousand dollars, or \$32 more per year for the average home, than Tonelli's original proposal.

That was the end of the discussion of reducing the split, and the board adopted the assessors' original proposal.

"I think what people say," said Steve Ellis, "is that once you go to a split rate, it's very hard to walk that back."

The board also rejected three other tax classification options allowed by the state. The first was a discount of up to 25% on land "maintained in a natural condition." (The assessors said there is no land in Montague under this classification. The second was a discount for taxpayers whose

property is their personal residence. (The assessors said only 14 towns in the state have adopted this provision, which would shift the tax burden to "multi-family and second home owners.") The third was an exemption for any property that houses a business of fewer than ten employees. (Tonelli said this benefit would generally go to commercial landlords, not the small businesses themselves.)

According to data collected by the state Department of Revenue, Montague's average single-family property tax bill of \$3,470 in 2019 ranked 296th of the state's 351 municipalities.

By comparison, Greenfield's average family bill was \$4,172, Leverett's was \$6,375, Gill's stood at \$3,624, Wendell's at \$3,739, and Erving's at a mere \$1,395, one of the lowest in the state.

However, unlike residents in most cities and towns, Montague's property owners receive additional bills from the town's two fire districts, which are not considered in the DOR data. These could increase that average tax bill by nearly \$600 in Turners and Millers Falls, and \$263 in Montague Center and Lake Pleasant.

**Ellis Retained**

After the tax hearing, the board approved a new three-year contract for Steve Ellis which it had just voted on in executive session.

"I just want to say that it's amazing how quickly three years can pass," said Ellis. "And I am very

gratified that you want me back. I enjoy this job, and enjoy coming to work every day."

The three-year contract pays Ellis \$114,221 for this fiscal year, and provides for step and cost-of-living increases in the future "granted by the selectboard to other non-union personnel."

Ellis will be paid for 37.5 hours a week, "beginning on Monday and ending on Thursday... including the hours required by mandatory attendance at selectboard meetings," and will be given "compensatory time off" for other night meetings he may be required to attend.

The town will also cover the costs of his "professional development," including attendance at annual meetings of organizations like the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The contract requires an annual performance evaluation by the selectboard, "in accordance with specific criteria developed jointly by the Board and Employee."

**Other Business**

The selectboard approved a \$2,130 change order for work on the Shea Theater roof that, in Ellis's words, "will allow the roof to breathe, as well as do some sealing on the Shea's lower roof."

"I thought you promised us that you were never going to talk about the Shea roof again," said Nelson.

Ellis replied that he would be "honest" that the lower roof should have been completely replaced, but "this will insure that it

has the best life possible."

"I was joking, of course," said Nelson.

"It's one of my roles," responded Ellis, who next updated the board on the plan to rebid the Millers Falls sewer repair project. A single bid for the project recently came in over \$50,000 above the appropriation approved at a recent special town meeting.

Ellis said that the engineering company, Wright-Pierce, had rewritten the specs to the bid at no cost to the town, and that he expected the project to go out to bid again next week. Ellis said he would not be at the next selectboard meeting on November 18, but he hoped the board would be able to award a contract on that date.

"The worst delay would be until the 25<sup>th</sup>," he said.

Ellis announced that the town was selected to be part of a federal study called the "Healing Community Study," which tested "proven approaches to avoid opioid-related overdoses and deaths."

Greenfield, Orange, and Athol will also be part of the study. Ellis said he believed the "interven-

tions" in these towns would not take place until December 2021.

"The town was not notified prior to finding out that we were part of this study," Ellis said, "so I have a lot of questions, but given the scope and nature of these problems... I'm excited that we may be included in an intervention."

Ellis gave a brief report on the regional water and sewer summit which took place in Whately the previous week. (See article, page A1.) He said he presented a case study "on what it means to lose your industrial sewer user base."

He then updated the board on the process for hiring a new superintendent at the town's Water Pollution Control Facility. The hiring committee plans to interview two candidates this week, and has received three additional applications it is "going to assess."

Ellis said the committee hopes to have "a couple of strong candidates" to present to the selectboard by the end of this month.

Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the selectboard's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18 at 7 p.m.



**LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

*Here's the way it was November 5, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

tion, as they disproportionately affect rural communities.

**Gill-Montague Budget Meeting**

On October 28 the upstairs meeting room of the Montague town hall was packed with town and school officials from Gill and Montague, grappling with the expected impact of Governor Deval Patrick's impending mid-year cuts and discussing prospects for the upcoming budget cycle.

The selectboards and finance committees of both towns were there, as were members of the school committee and Carl Ladd, superintendent of the Gill-Montague school district.

Ladd made an important point in an attempt to reassure town officials worrying over budget shortfalls present and future. He said if the state were to cut aid to schools for the present budget year, he expects the commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Mitchell Chester, will "adjust our budget accordingly. I can't imagine he would keep the 1/12th budget where it is now."

Following the meeting, school district business manager Lynn Bassett said the mid-year cuts would deduct \$90,000 from the GMRSD's regional transportation reimbursement. Representative Steve Kulik and Senator Stan Rosenberg have written to Governor Patrick, asking him to reconsider the mid-year cuts to transpor-

**Protest March Planned Over Library Cuts**

On Friday Greenfield citizens will gather for a march and rally protesting Mayor Bill Martin's proposed \$30,300 cut to operations at the public library.

If the budget cut goes through as proposed, the library would cut four more part-time staff positions, in addition to the three cut earlier this year, and close eight more hours a week, in addition to the 3.5 hours already lost.

Protest organizers note the cut to the library is meant to offset increases elsewhere in the budget, including an \$8,000 expenditure for furnishing and fixtures in the mayor's office spent when Martin was elected.

**UFOs in Wendell**

On Sunday, November 8, the Wendell Free Library Cinema will present a showing of Richard Dolan's keynote address to the 17th annual UFO Congress in Laughlin Nevada, titled *The Future Held Hostage: How UFO Secrecy Keeps Us in Bondage*.

Dolan maintains, "Other intelligences are operating objects and technologies far in advance of what our own civilization has. The cover-up is real, and active." Dolan recently released a 500-page study, *UFOs and the National Security State*, the first of a two-volume historical narrative.

**POWER** from page A1

company that had planned to renovate an abandoned downtown building and lead tours below the dam on the assumption that more water would soon flow there, pulled out of its purchase and sale agreement.

The public remains largely in the dark as to what this stretch of the Connecticut might look like for the next forty years, in part because FirstLight required all parties to the settlement talks to sign non-disclosure agreements barring them from any public discussion of proposed flow rates.

But there is at least one clue on the public record as to what the company expects under the new license. This week the *Montague Reporter* reviewed transcripts of testimony by an energy industry expert contracted by FirstLight to estimate the market value of the power stations during a 2017 hearing related to the company's appeal of its Montague property tax bills.

FirstLight and Montague recently settled that dispute. The company withdrew its objection to a 2013 assessment that affected its FY'14 through FY'16 bills, and reached a compromise deal with the town over payments for FY'17 through FY'21.

In 2017, FirstLight had brought Ann Bulkley of the Marlborough, MA-based firm Concentric Energy Advisors, Inc. to argue before the state Appellate Tax Board (ATB) that Montague had overassessed the properties in question – chiefly the Cabot Station and Turners Falls Station No. 1 plants – at \$114,183,603.

Bulkley provided an alternate assessment of \$104,500,000 using an approach known as "discounted cash flow," which she wrote was appropriate "because the income from the asset is not stable from year to year."

The ATB ultimately ruled against FirstLight, rejecting Bulkley's approach outright and criticizing her methodology. Nevertheless, her tes-

timony may provide a rare insight into future projections otherwise closely held by the power company. The *Reporter* obtained a 308-page appendix of the case's records last month from Montague director of assessing Karen Tonelli.

"The FERC licensing can have a significant effect on the value of a facility," Bulkley testified on June 5, 2017. "The license for this plant is expected to expire in April 2018."

"There's a drop in the number of megawatt hours that's expected beginning in 2018 going forward," she went on to explain. "And that is related to the relicensing process at FERC. In my site visit and my discussions with the plant manager at that time, the expectation was that going into relicensing that there would be restrictions placed on the river, and it would likely be [that] the generation would decrease."

Bulkley estimated the power that might be generated at Turners for the anticipated license period of 2018 through 2058 by taking the average "capacity factor" the plants were able to operate at between 2009 and 2012, and then reducing it by 10%.

"Plant operating personnel expect that the use of the river flow will be more restrictive in the renewed license," she wrote in her appraisal. "Those restrictions are expected to result in a reduction in the amount of generation of at least 10 percent."

"I think that's consistent with what's been going on across the country with hydro relicensing," she later testified at the ATB hearing.

"FERC's mandating in new licensing across the country is restrictions on use of the river," Bulkley reiterated on the hearing's second day. "They are saying you need to restrict your use of the flow of the river, and that is happening across the country in relicensing efforts. In discussion with the plant manager, the expectation was that would reduce the output of this facility by 10 percent."

Concentric's analysis predicted

that the losses to the company caused by limitations to the water it would be allowed to remove from the river would soon be more than offset by rising energy prices.

The *Reporter* sought comment this week from FirstLight on the 10% figure, and received a statement from director of government affairs and communications Len Greene.

"Because we have signed a non-disclosure agreement with stakeholders as part of our relicensing," Greene wrote, "we unfortunately cannot comment, beyond stating that, every time our property is appraised by the town, both the Town of Montague and FirstLight make some assumption regarding the amount of power that will be generated in the years covering every appraisal, as one way of establishing the value of the property."

Multiple other sources we contacted who have been party to the settlement talks also declined to discuss the figure.

"The markets for electricity have significantly changed since the relicensing began," Andrew Fisk, executive director of the Connecticut River Conservancy, told us when we asked about Bulkley's appraisal, "and revenue in certain categories has significantly increased. Therefore, it would mitigate losses in generation that were imposed as a result of these conditions."

Andrea Donlon, who has been monitoring the relicensing process as a river steward for the Conservancy, noted that FirstLight's pre-application documents filed in 2013 included recent data about the company's revenues, as well as estimates for how much water has been left flowing through the river's so-called "bypass stretch": typically between 120 and 400 cubic feet per second (cfs), she said, "and that goes down to zero sometimes, such as in the winter."

By comparison, Donlon said that between its Millers and Deerfield tributaries, the Connecticut River's

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# MONTAGUE REPORTER



Whoa! Elsie Gilman of Montague brought the October 17 edition of the Reporter with her to the Great Wall of China in Beijing...

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## ON THE ROAD

SULLIVAN from page A1

during which the district was managed by five successive superintendents or interim superintendents.

His initial three-year contract was renewed in 2016, and in February 2018 the school committee voted to extend his second contract through June 2021 by a vote of 8 to 1.

Following that vote, Montague member Michael Langknecht told the Reporter that he was "thrilled... to keep this superintendent on track," adding that he felt the extension was in the best interest of the district and that he had "seen what happens when superintendents come in and use this district as a stepping stone."

Langknecht expressed frustration at the news of Sullivan's early resignation on Wednesday. "Before we go headlong into a superintendent search, I think we need to take a sober and serious look at what our education system needs," he said. "Let's get the central office together and say, 'okay, what would actually work?'"

"We need to involve the teachers," he added. "They've been left out of this bigtime in the past."

Neither school committee chair Jane Oakes of Gill nor Gill-Montague Education Association president Karl Dziura could be reached for comment as of press time Wednesday night.

Vice chair Heather Katsoulis of Montague said she anticipated the district would start advertising for the position soon, and guessed that the committee would begin discussion of the hiring process at their



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November 26 meeting, as it is not on the agenda for November 12.

Gill and Montague are in the early stages of a study process with the Pioneer Valley Regional towns of Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick to review the potential benefits of forming a new six-town school district, an effort aimed at addressing the long-term effects of declining enrollment on the two existing districts' curricula and finances.

Gill-Montague's enrollment has recently grown at the elementary school level, but continues to decline at the middle and high school, and the district continues to struggle with standardized testing

scores. State Chapter 70 funding increased significantly for the first time in nearly a decade this year, reflecting recent changes to the state's method of calculating districts' foundation budgets.

"I don't really have much to add," Sullivan said on Wednesday, after the public release of the letter. "This isn't about the district, or how things are going in the district, which is pretty good now -- it's about priorities in my personal life."

He added that he would be "supportive of any process" the school committee creates to hire his successor, but that he did not expect to be available in July to help train an incoming superintendent.

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Above: The kitchen entrance at Great Falls Harvest restaurant in downtown Turners Falls.

# Bud's War, Part 1

Jerry "Jinx" Collins wrote about his youth growing up in Turners Falls in his memoir "Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin's Life, the Depression through 1952," which we have excerpted from previously. This season, Collins will be sharing with us the experiences he and his brothers had during active duty in the armed services in excerpts from his latest memoir, still in progress: "Transition: A Journey From Youth to Manhood."

By JERRY "JINX" COLLINS

**TURNERS FALLS** – In my lifetime I have been a witness to eight wars.

A multitude of stories of heroes in battle have been written pertaining to the United States since the days of its founding. Stories of leaders like George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Patton, and so many others appear in volumes of books. Also, individual efforts of heroism by the common soldier, sailor, marine, or airman have been immortalized through motion pictures. Men like Sgt. York in World War I, Audie Murphy in World War II, are two such soldiers, and then there were the Sullivan brothers, who all went down together on the same ship in that war.

Unlike those stories, these are written about four ordinary brothers who served in the armed forces during several different conflicts. They were not heroes, but they represent what the ordinary young American did, when called upon, in service to their country.

My three brothers and I all served in active duty. We each had different experiences, and what follows are the stories of their wars as seen through my eyes, or as related to



The author's brother "Bud" Collins, with an unidentified woman.

me by my brothers. My stories, of course, are what I actually experienced. Although I was not involved in combat, I am a veteran of the Korean War, which took me from youth

to manhood through almost two years on active duty in the US Army.

I begin with my memories of my oldest brother Bud's war.

## The Beginning: 1941

In our small apartment on Third Street, one of many within the long row of a brick building housing similarly out-of-work, poor families, the usual Sunday evening ritual had begun. Dinner was over, and Mom was in her old easy chair crocheting away; Dad was reading his paper while swaying back and forth in his stuffed platform rocker; I, along with my three older brothers, were sprawled out on the living room rug loudly arguing over who would get to read the "funnies." We were all settled in for the long cold winter evening.

Turning on the dark mahogany, floor model Philco, we anxiously awaited the large vacuum tubes to flash to life, preparing to listen to our favorite radio programs: "Fiber Magee & Mollie," "Jack Benny" and "The Shadow." (The "Boob Tube" would not loom on the home horizon for another seven years.)

see BUD'S WAR page B2



"Bud" Collins (right) and an unidentified ship mate.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### NOVEMBER STATE OF MIND

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – Old Jack Frost has threatened his worst, and coated every branch and leaf this morning. All is silvery and glistening at 6 a.m., the first morning of Daylight Saving Time. Up at the same hour out of habit, writer and dog are outdoors with a jump on real time.

Bird bath is frozen. Its surface is questioned by sparrow and jay wondering: where did this hard shiny surface come from? Only yesterday it was a small shimmering drinkable mirror, and now...

The month of November seems to be taking great bites out of our calendar, one week out of the allotted four already gone by. It seems like only yesterday that it was mild October, the burning bushes blazing and the oak leaf hanging on as it should. Should have known what was in the offing.

The passage of Halloween to All Saint's Day was one wild night.

Kids made it to the front door in 70-degree temperatures, all the while dodging rain squalls. Once the smaller witches, goblins, and pirates finished appearing, and the late adolescent teenagers started showing up in cars, off went the porch light, and the candle inside the pumpkin, carved in the likeness of Donald Trump, was snuffed out. Now that was scary enough. The early evening ended just in time, as the wind rose higher and higher, and it got wilder and wilder.

We left the upstairs bedroom window open to the warm south wind to enjoy another night of fresh air, before having to button up the house for good in the face of the coming cold season. But as the storm picked up, and the strong shifting winds sent rain and mist onto the pillow and the sleepers' faces, it was time to jump up and shut the windows tight. The wind rattled down the chimney and

fireplace keeping the dog awake and restless, too restless to sleep on the wool rug in front of the hearth. He moved upstairs with us, where there seemed to his ears to be less of a racket.

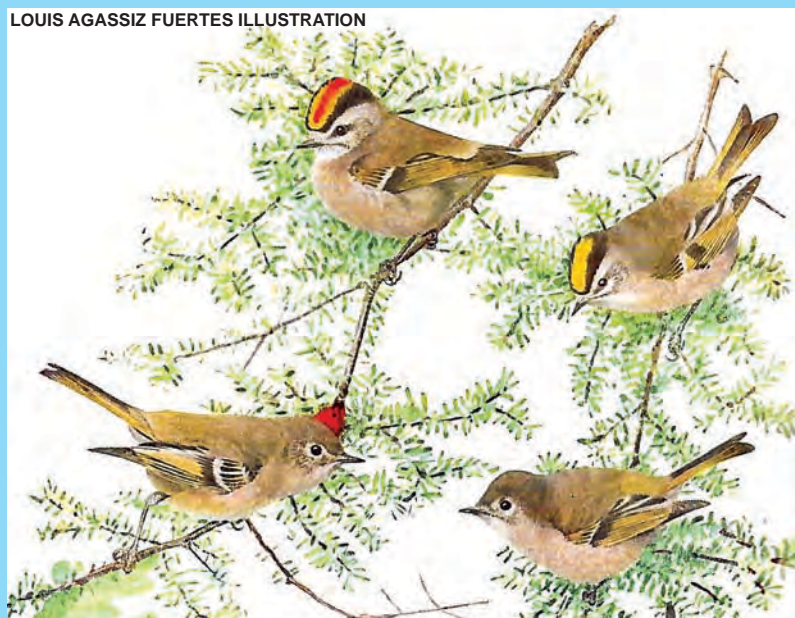
The morning of *la Toussaint*, November 1, opened out onto the aftermath. The day was calm, cold and clear, but most trees were shorn of leaves. The oak had held on to its bronze foliage, but the maple, birch, and dogwood stood barren, their bare branches exposed.

Just the same, the dauntless little ruby-crowned kinglet, hardly bigger than a hummingbird or a large bumble bee, resumed his endless search for a meal in the spindly apple tree. We call it spindly because the shoots are all that is left of an ancient McIntosh tree that turns up in all the black and white family photos taken in the '30s and '40s. Whenever household members posed for a photograph, it was always under the old apple tree. All kinds of friends, neighbors, boyfriends and girlfriends, soldiers, sailors and the like are stored away in albums kept upstairs in the nooks and crannies of the spare room on the north side.

Now that tree has broken down, fallen, and probably burned in the wood stove years ago, but the ancient roots send up shoots and even some sturdy stems with enough heft to produce leaves and a good crop of small, round and hard crabapples. Like that tree, I've put down deep roots in my great-grandfather's yard.

The kinglet has found those hardy branches ideal for his breakfast table. He does his particular pirouette dance in the spindly branches, never stopping, pulling microscopic insects and their eggs from beneath leaves and in crevices in the bark. He's been working that tree for a week, oftentimes hardly visible except see WEST ALONG page B5

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION



Golden-crowned kinglets (top), ruby-crowned kinglets (bottom); males on the left, females on the right.

# Pet of the Week

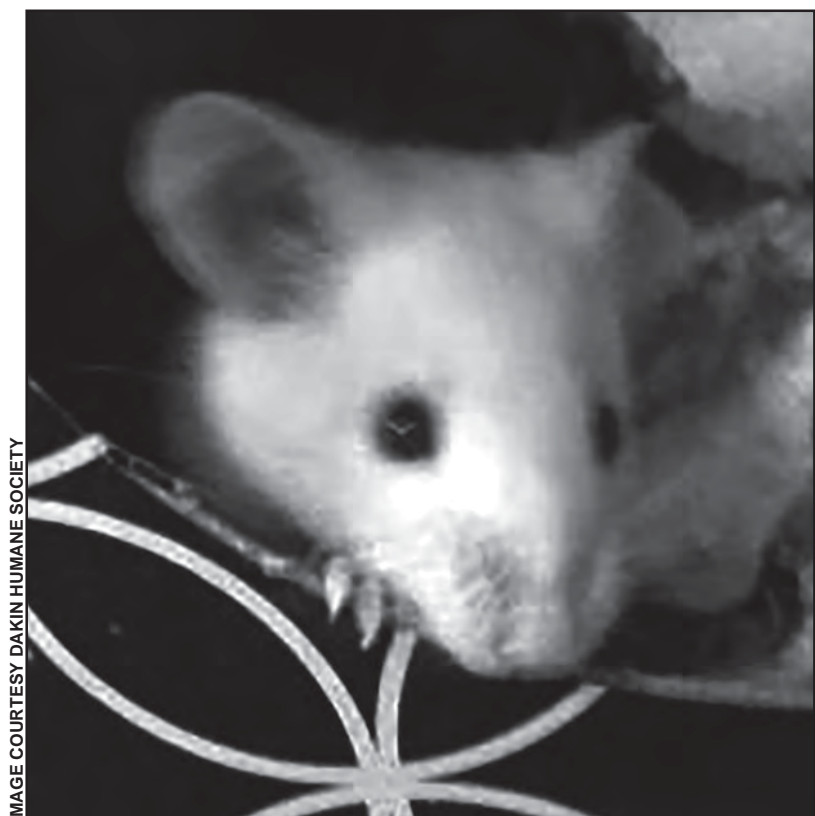


IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

## “ROOSTER”

Cock-a-doodle-doo! That’s “hello” in Rooster-speak. My true “hello” to you is more like “squeak squeak,” but I figured I should learn to speak some “fowl” language in honor of my name.

I was found in a chicken coop. I’ve had quite a few adventures in my young life, and while I’ve enjoyed the excitement, what I’d real-

ly like to do now is to settle down with someone who will love me.

I like to run on my wheel and build a fluffy nest. Cheerios are my favorite snack. I’ll save some for you to munch on when you come to visit. Hope to see you soon!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

### BUD’S WAR from page B1

Instead of the delightful broadcasts, a sullen, grave voice boomed across the airways announcing that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor at 3:53 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. It was Sunday, December 7, 1941.

“That’s a hell of a way to end the Depression!” Dad loudly pronounced. Forever altered would be the lives of every American, including that of six-and-a-half-year-old me.

Since my oldest brother Bud was sixteen, and ten years older than I was, when World War II broke out, I have relatively few memories of him prior to that time. Therefore my views of what I’ve come to call my brother’s war, are reflected only through the eyes of a youth of six through eleven years of age. My war was yet to come.

I can still see him, sitting at his desk in the upstairs bedroom of our apartment in “The Block,” meticulously cutting out the balsa wood structural parts for his model bi-wing airplanes. After gluing them together, he would cover the various sub-assemblies with a special,

very thin paper, then wet the paper and let the parts sit for a day, allowing the paper to shrink giving the parts a smooth, sleek look.

However, prior to covering the body, the propeller was attached inside at the front to a rubber band which extended to the back where it was hooked to the inside rear of the body—when wound tightly, the plane could fly a short distance or taxi on the ground as the band unwound. After he put all the parts together, he’d look admiringly at his finished work, and then hang them from the ceiling above the desk using a thumb tack and long pieces of Mom’s thread. He then would gruffly say to me, “And you leave them alone!” And I did!

Bud really loved airplanes, and wanted to be a pilot when World War II broke out. His small stature (he was only 5 foot, 6 inches tall and less than 125 pounds) would aptly meet the military flying requirements. However, when he went to join the US Navy after graduation from high school and apply for flight training, he was found to have a heart murmur, and was rejected for service.

### War Games

No longer would I just be a happy-go-lucky kid playing cowboys and Indians in the cindered alley behind The Block or on the streets. I and my friend “Lits” – our town had always been famous for people’s nicknames – would now build “forts” on the steep banks of the Connecticut River.

Fashioning make-believe rifles and pistols from scraps of wood scrounged up from wherever we could find them, we’d shout “Attack!” as we charged up the hill throwing hand grenades made from dried pine cones that had fallen from the surrounding trees. On occasion, feigning being shot, we’d fall down groaning, “I’ve been hit.”

But we’d always get back up to resume the fight against the bad guys, like the “Nasty Nazis.” Of course, unlike reality, we never lost a battle. We had no fear: we never realized what real war was like, and pictured it only as it was portrayed in the movies.

Continued next week.



## cedar and rose: insights from naturopathic practice Communities that Care and Share Build Health and Resiliency

By DR. NITYA EISENHEIM

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – I started writing this article upon returning from an African dance and drum festival in Burlington, Vermont. Some of the highlights of this festival, besides dancing as much as I wanted to, was the culture of sharing and community that the Africans shared with us.

Most of the dance and drum teachers are from West Africa: Guinea and Senegal, in particular.

The artists who teach at this festival have the desire to share the richness of African culture with the students and participants. One elder who was there, who danced in the National Ballet and teaches internationally, spoke about how dancing makes him happy and that he wants to share the beauty and the richness of African culture with anyone who is open to it. He said he wants to break down the myths and stereotypes of Africa being only a place of poverty, destitution, and war.

I have learned so much from being involved with multiple African dance communities over the last 17 years. I have learned about what real sharing means: the idea that among family and friends, what I have, you have as well. People will look out for one another as well, so if you get into trouble, there is someone who has your back.

One of the communities that I grew up in, the Jewish Modern Orthodox community, had many similar elements to this culture of caring and sharing. People would call you, or stop by with chicken soup if you were ill, or drive you to a doctor’s appointment, or watch your child if you needed to take care of something.

Middle class, white, and Protestant values dominate our culture, including our health care systems. It’s not that the values are bad, it’s that there is not much room for other perspectives or ways of thinking.

In the US, health care is individualized, and run as a for-profit system. You only go to the doctor when you’re so sick that many times, the only options are drugs and surgery. Most of the time people go to the doctor alone, don’t talk with anyone about how they are feeling (physically or emotionally), get a diagnosis, and then have to deal with the treatment by themselves.

The values that dominate our culture, such as independence and self-sufficiency, can leave us very much alone and sick. Any real prevention, such as nutrition, exercise, clean water, healthy food, safety from persecution or violence, and healthy relationships and community, are not emphasized, taught, or practiced in this country – or they are inaccessible because of cost. Having a community of caring and sharing builds resiliency and safety networks; it can decrease illness, as well as provide a space for healing. It makes the whole community healthier.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Nitya Eisenheim, ND

I am building this type of community of caring and sharing into my own naturopathic practice through support groups, workshops, and classes. One thing I have learned from being in the re-evaluation counseling community for 15 years is that it is so important to listen to each other. When another person fully listens to us without judgment, advice, or interruption, and we feel connected, a lot of healing can happen.

The mission of my practice is that in order to truly heal, we need to be in a supportive community and environment. Poor health is mostly a result of isolation, poor nutrition, toxic environmental exposures, living in an oppressive society (dealing with classism, racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.), and mental or emotional patterns – often developed in childhood for good reasons – that have become habitual and self-destructive.

Cedar Rose Heals is about gathering and healing in heart space: a place where people and plants collaborate to create health and healing of mind, body, spirit, relationships, family, community and Earth. Cedar represents the gathering part, and rose the heart space. As humans, we cannot heal alone, and it helps to facilitate the healing process if we are in heart space. I believe that in order to truly heal, we need a society based on reciprocity, community, and gratitude for the Earth’s healing gifts.

*Dr. Nitya Jessica Eisenheim, ND is a Naturopathic doctor and herbalist, specializing in Lyme Disease, chronic digestive concerns, and chronic pain. She lives in Wendell, practices in Greenfield, and is founder of cedarroseheals.com.*

## Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 11 THROUGH 17

### 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 11/11**  
8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic by appt.  
12 p.m. Knitting Circle
- Tuesday 11/12**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. You Must Have a MOLST
- Wednesday 11/13**  
11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Bingo
- Thursday 11/14**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
4 p.m. Gentle Yoga
- Friday 11/15**  
12 p.m. Breakfast at Lunch  
1 p.m. Writing Group

### ERVING

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

meal information and reservations.

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

### Monday 11/11

Closed – Veterans Day

### Tuesday 11/12

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
1 p.m. Blanket Making

### Wednesday 11/13

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. M3 Class  
12 p.m. Home made Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

### Thursday 11/14

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

### Friday 11/15

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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).  
Wednesday 10 a.m. Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

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

### WENDELL

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

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**THE SPIRIT SHOPPE**

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Week of October 31 to November 6

By MICHAEL SMITH

Halloween has come and gone, but you can still enjoy the fun of the Great Falls Festival on *montaguetelevision.org*. Our producers are working on assembling all our footage of this memorable tradition into a video for you to enjoy; as soon as it's ready, you can see it on TV and online!

While you wait, check out the latest episode of "Bobby C's Franklin County Varsity Sports" to stay up to date on local high school

sports. And speaking of local sports, keep an eye on *montaguetelevision.org* for Turners Falls High School Varsity volleyball taking on Southwick-Tolland.

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

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

PREVIEW

A Veteran's Ball in November

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – This November 9 from 7 to 11 p.m., there will be a Veteran's Ball at the Greenfield Elks Lodge.

The Elks Lodge #1296, which was instituted on January 4, 1913, is at 3 Church Street. To learn more about this ball, I talked to Chad Wright, who has served as the Inner Guard at the Greenfield Elk for almost 6 months.

"This is the first ever Veteran's Ball," Chad told me. Chad himself has been a member of the lodge for almost three years. He told me that a man named Scott Reese "decided to do the theme of the event, the '60s experience." A band will play music from the '60s.

I asked Chad his opinion of the Ball. "I think it's nice," he said, "for some of the veterans from other branches of the services who weren't able to have a ball. So this is a chance to get dressed up in their dress uniforms, even though it's not required." In connection with different branches showing up at this, Chad spoke of "probably have Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy, and maybe even some Coast Guards."

I thought to ask him which veterans from what wars would be showing up. "We're going to have World

War II, Korea, Vietnam and hopefully from more recent conflicts," he answered. "Money from this will go to the Elk Veterans Committee, to be spent on veterans' events."

One of these events is a lunch for veterans that they have every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. I know of this from writing an article previously on Building Bridges, the place that organizes the lunches. The Greenfield Elks is one of the places that does this in Massachusetts. The others are in South Deerfield, Northampton, West Springfield, Chicopee, and Leominster.

As for whether there will a second Veteran's Ball, Chad told me that "probably depending on the success of this, we'll do another Veteran's Ball next year."

Sounds like this is going to be a very nice sight to behold, with these men in their dress uniforms. I hope it's successful. If the number of veterans that I saw one of the times they were having lunch go, then it will be that.

When Chad and I spoke a few weeks ago, he mentioned that there were "about 40 tickets we sold," and that they "probably have 110 tickets left." The tickets are \$15. Contact the Elks for info about this ball: email *elks1296@comcast.net* or call (413) 774-4909.

Play Reading: *Fall With Me*

**GREENFIELD** – Local author Jared Eberlein's play, *Fall With Me*, will round off Silverthorne Theater Company's 2019 reading series. The last "Theater Thursday" will be held on November 21 in the Franklin Community Coop meeting space at 170 Main Street, Greenfield at 7 p.m. The reading is free and open to the public.

*Fall with Me* tells the story of J.J. Johnston, the once charismatic captain of the 369th Infantry Regiment (a.k.a. the Harlem Hellfighters, known for their bravery) during World War I.

Unlike many of his fellow black veterans during the Great Depression of the early 1930s, Johnston has steady employment as a steelworker. Some less fortunate members of his unit ask him to join with thousands of other veterans in a march on Washington, DC to demand compensation for service promised to them in 1924 which they have not received.

This massive protest became known as the Bonus Army. Johnston's choice between his job and

family and the cause of justice for his fellow vets has tragic consequences.

Under the direction of Trena Loftin, the cast of readers will include Bessie Jones, Shae Shae Quest, Tobias K. Davis and Tony Jones. Loftin directed Silverthorne's fall play reading *Campus Unrest*, and recently staged *What Our Voices Carry* with the Voices from Inside women's poetry project.

Eberlein is a prolific playwright who currently heads the Theater Program at Northfield Mount Hermon School. *Fall with Me* is the 2019 winner of Dayton Playhouse's FutureFest, was chosen for the 2019 Garry Marshall Theater New Works Festival, and was a finalist for Capital Repertory Theatre's Next Act! Summit 8 (Albany).

The purpose of these readings is to give a platform for new work to be heard, and when possible to give playwrights direct audience feedback. It also gives Silverthorne a look at plays that they might consider producing in future seasons. Complete information may be found at *silverthornetheater.org*.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Street Lights Get Wet; Wind Blows Down Trees; Kids Shoot BB Guns; Neighbors Annoy Each Other

Sunday, 10/27

11:22 a.m. Walk-in requesting to speak to an officer about his issue with panhandlers on Avenue A. 1:27 p.m. Officer advising that there is a large rubber piece sticking up through the railroad tracks at the Lake Pleasant crossing. Railroad notified. 2:09 p.m. Officer advising that traffic lights at Avenue A and Seventh Street are blinking. DPW advised; they tried to reset, but reset is not working. They will continue to work on the issue.

Monday, 10/28

1:07 p.m. Officer requesting DPW be contacted to pick up a microwave dumped near Railroad Salvage. 1:38 p.m. A 51-year-old Gill man was arrested on a default warrant. 6:37 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer regarding receiving phone calls, mail, and other items for another man who has the same name as him. Caller is not sure what is going on, but wants it to stop. Officer advised caller to contact Post Office. 7:46 p.m. Caller reporting that a vehicle is parked in front of the Millers Falls Library; no one is in the vehicle, but there is a dog in it who is continuously barking. Officer advises windows are cracked for dog, who is not in distress; has food and water. Advises owner is homeless and is probably at the pub. 10:43 p.m. Caller reports that she just hit a deer on Millers Falls Road near the airport; unsure if the deer is alive or not. Officer clear; unable to locate deer. Report taken.

Tuesday, 10/29

2:27 p.m. Caller from Brick House requesting to report two past breaking and entering attempts and BBs scattered around their building; believed to have occurred over the past two nights. Report taken. 3 p.m. Report of two horses grazing in a yard on Turners Falls Road. Caller concerned they will make their way into the road. Owner brought horses back to yard. 5:09 p.m. Motorist locked inside gate at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Employee came by and opened gate. 6:48 p.m. 911 caller states that a couple of kids are driving a golf cart on Lake Pleasant Road with no lights on. Area checked; nothing found.

Wednesday, 10/30

12:02 a.m. Walk-in reports that while downtown in the area of Avenue A and Third Street, he observed a male who threatened the clerk at the liquor store, then assaulted [redacted] with a large stick or branch. Caller stated [redacted] had injuries to his face and that he is now downtown somewhere. Caller did not witness possible assault but heard about it after the fact. Officer reporting possibly involved male appears to be sleeping inside the laundromat on Third Street; door is locked. Officers spoke with male; believed to be the same male described by the reporting party. Involved male declined assistance from officers; was advised he is not allowed to sleep in the laundromat. 4:24 a.m. Loud noise complaint on Griswold Street. Officers spoke to party, who advised they had been singing. Quiet on arrival. Party advised of complaint. 9:10 a.m. Report of low-hanging wire on East Chestnut Hill Road. Determined to be communication wires. Verizon and Comcast advised. 3:23 p.m. Medication reported stolen from Power-town Apartments. Advised of options. 4:09 p.m. Caller states there is a sick-looking dog lurking in the area near the skatepark on Second Street. Seems homeless. Animal control officer will look for dog in the morning. 5:40 p.m. Caller states that a man was pushing a dolly cart with large pieces of a telephone pole in it headbound southbound on the bike path. Officer advises male party had cut up an old discarded piece of a telephone pole for firewood. Not suspicious. 5:47 p.m. Neighbor reporting that there are three or four people fighting in front of a Chestnut Hill Loop address. Two brothers were arguing loudly. Parties had separated prior to officers' arrival. 6:25 p.m. Neighbor complaining of loud noise from the sanding of a pickup truck on Federal Street. Parties told to shut it down for the night.

Property owner was not home; however, he did call in to say that when he got home he was going to continue sanding the truck despite the police telling his roommates to shut it down. 8:06 p.m. Caller from Main Street states that a vehicle drove off the road and slid through his property, doing some damage to the yard. Report taken. Officer will follow up in the morning to take photos of damage during the daylight.

Thursday, 10/31

7:32 a.m. DPW out with pile of needles found while mowing roadside on Canal Street. Officer disposed of needles. 8:03 a.m. Traffic lights blinking at Avenue A and Seventh Street. DPW superintendent advises water got inside the lights last week, but they are in the process of getting them rectified. 9:19 a.m. Smoke detector activation at Highland School Apartments. TFFD and MPD officer advised. TFFD advises a bunch of ladybugs in the detector caused the activation. Maintenance on scene taking care of it. 6:53 p.m. Report of wind blowing tree branches onto wires and causing arcing on George Avenue. TFFD advised; contacted Eversource. 9:45 p.m. First of several reports of trees and wires down; locations included Millers Falls Road, Highland Avenue, and Federal Street.

Friday, 11/1

12:03 a.m. First of several additional reports of trees and wires down; locations included Swamp Road, Millers Falls Road (twice), Greenfield Road (twice), Federal Street, West Mineral Road, East Mineral Road, and Taylor Heights. 9:31 a.m. Caller from Highland Street states that a Home Depot delivery truck did some damage to their yard while deliver-

ing items to a neighbor's home. Homeowner advised of civil options. 9:45 a.m. Caller from Maple Street states that there is an unknown motorcycle in their backyard. Vehicle owner lives on Chestnut Street; officer left note on his door. 4:06 p.m. Staff supervisor reporting patient-on-patient assault at Farren Care Center. No police service needed. 5:15 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that landlord was in her apartment without permission and now cash is missing. Report taken. 7:01 p.m. A 45-year-old Turners Falls woman was issued a summons for possession of a Class B drug.

Saturday, 11/2

1:53 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that neighbor is playing loud music or TV and caller cannot sleep. Officer advises no answer at door, and no noise coming from residence. 1:11 p.m. Caller states that an ATV and a dirt bike are driving up and down Fosters Road without mufflers. Very loud. Homeowner advised of complaint. 5:41 p.m. Motorist locked behind gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

Sunday, 11/3

12:30 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that her neighbor is being extremely loud again; advises that she spoke with her around 10:30 p.m. and asked her to keep it down. Officer advises no answer at door; lights off; no sound coming from apartment. 12:48 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that neighbor is now in the alley yelling with another male party who is trying to leave. Officer drove past area; nothing seen. 3:07 a.m. Noise complaint on Griswold Street. Officer advised resident of complaint; stated she is going to bed.

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**

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# As You Write It

These short memoirs were among those written by local authors who take part in a monthly writing group led by Laura Rodley at the Gill-Montague senior center. They publish their reflections periodically in the anthology series *As You Write It*, which is available at local libraries. *As You Write It VI* was released last spring.

## Too Much Green

By ESTELLE CADE

A scene from my childhood pops up as we think about Green today. I'm six or seven years old, visiting our country relatives. My boy cousins, a bit older than I, say "Come on over here to the corn field." It's not a huge field, just my great uncle's corn patch I suppose, but the stalks are high, corn to be harvested soon, and the leaves are an extremely dark, healthy green – with nasty sharp edges, close together.

In a wheedling voice – "Estelle, come on over," I hear one of the kids call, and I enter one of the rows. Suddenly I'm surrounded on all sides by towering corn stalks. The leaves clash together as I walk, hesitating, down this narrow path, and the leaves slash the tender skin on my arms. I no longer hear the voices of my cousins and begin to feel like the lost child from one of my story books.

Tears come to my eyes, but I'm determined not to cry and then be la-

beled a baby or a scaredy cat. I walk on, turning at the end of a row, having no idea where I might be. At last I hear the gentle voice of my eldest cousin (she is sixteen or so) saying, "Just turn left, Estelle, and go straight ahead. I'll be at the end of that row to meet you." Saved!

There she was, smiling and saying, "Good for you! Here I am. Let's go in the house and get something cold to drink and a cookie, just out of the oven." Hot and tired as I was, it all sounded wonderful to me.

And later, my other cousins, as we sat down to enjoy a summer supper of new potatoes and sweet corn, seemed much subdued. Evidently they had been "spoken to" about playing a mean trick on a younger relative (and I never "told" on them, either).

As for the adult me, I avoid "Fun Houses," mirror mazes and will never, ever, put a foot in one of the currently popular Corn Mazes! Adrift in a corn patch is not my idea of a fun time!

## My Boat

By ALICE THOMAS

I still remember, all those years ago, when late August came and I said *goodbye* to summer, the campfires, the rocks over mud, bugs, and the lake. The lake and all its shady inlets stay with me in their perfect architecture for fishing. Enchanting, it was composed of oaks, fussy bugs, roots, and shade. The bug-eating fish, the royal cropy were waiting there. It all was such a natural occurrence.

So, in early autumn, I winched my boat, a mossy-green tri-hull, 16-foot Ouachita Bass, on to the trailer, wiped her down, disentangled the prop, cleaned the empty well, and made my final inspection. I pulled her forward, onto the off-ramp onto one of the holding spaces.

I walked back and listened to the waves that splashed and sprang onto the sandy shore like drum-brushes that circle around a

tympani in some dark bar. Bubbles of foam crept toward my feet and so... I closed my eyes.

This busyness became noisy as I listened, as though I wanted the sounds of the battering wake to carve deeply into a vinyl record's groove; there, waiting for me to listen whenever I choose. I hear it even now.

It wasn't just the sounds of summer that I so cherished. Its touch was always there, like the hardness of the ladder-rungs as I climbed back in my craft after wiping out one last time that day. It was the wiggle of fish against my hand that meant *Put me back*, and the ever-present velvet of the moss, green and slick against my palm... sometimes muddy as it clung to the surfaces that remained out of sight; those places where turtles sleep on the bottom or rear of it all.

All this is still with me: memory's touch and play, their embellishments as they fold, one into the other; that one great sensory summer.

## Breakfast at The Stables

By BARBARA WATER

On Sunday morning our family ritual begins with breakfast at The Stables (route 9, Hadley) for a hearty, old fashioned and good priced breakfast before shopping. We try to arrive at just the right time between the early birds and second shift of later arrivals. Nine-thirty a.m. was our plan to slip in and avoid a long line.

As we pull up this morning to The Stables, its red cottage-diner design front lined with plaster farm animals that are just right for a child to sit, an anachronism from the '50s; we drove into the disorganized dirt parking area, with no parking guidance, resulting in cars and trucks just trying to park next to each other and all along the edge of open area.

We realized "bad timing" as arrivals rush in to get in line. We peer in the windows to gauge the length of the line and see them filled with people standing; experience tells us that it will be 15 to 20

minutes before seating.

Behind the door is organized chaos, handled with aplomb by older waitresses taking orders and serving, while white aproned cooks keep pushing out every breakfast dish imaginable to be snatched away to the tables. Everyone is either in line talking to complete strangers and smiling at little children; or eating pancakes, eggs of every imaginable kind, homemade corn beef hash, homemade toast, also French Toast with walnut, apple caramel topping.

The well-worn stools with their split seats at the counter are seldom empty and in the booths one is never sure how far down your seat will sink. The walls are lined with murals reflecting The Stables theme of farm animals warning that the "coffee is cold," "service shaky," and "lousy food."

So why do we all come back and wait our turn? A traditional breakfast at The Stables is worth it.

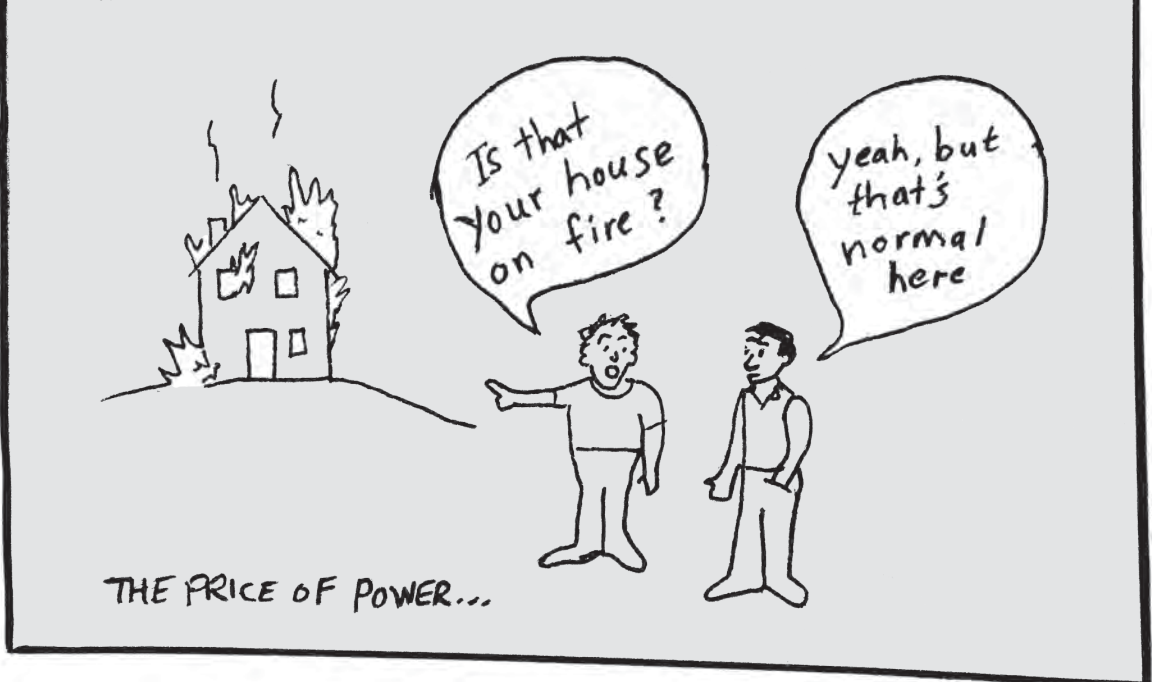
# COMICS

by denis f. bordeaux



## THREE DEGREES OF WARMING

BY JANICE POWAN



## OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



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## The Loon's Call

By BARBARA WATER

A yellow shaft of light pierced its way between the heavy blue curtains of my room's window. I struggled up from my sleep and pulled the curtain open to look out from the cabin window onto Limekiln Lake tucked in the North West corner of the Adirondack Mountains. A blue mountain could be seen in the distance as the sun appeared. Along with the rising sun came the haunting cry of a loon welcoming the sunlight edged with rays of many shades.

The still water and loon's cry beckoned me to the dock with its canoe below. I felt very much at ease with the well-worn grip of the brown and yellow stained wooden paddle. The rear seat of the canoe was high so I could kneel and control the canoe on the calm lake with a gentle sweeping "J" stroke. The cool morning mist is dancing on the warmer lake water. The Day is coming as the sun rises higher scattering yellow diamond specs over the mirror surface of the lake. As I paddle into the misty curtains, they parted, allowing the canoe to slide through.

I stop in the middle of the lake to observe that the loon appears to be curious about my movements. In turn I observe the loon's movements in the quiet and peaceful water bathed in the many colors of the sun's light and reflected trees and hills. The loon continues to call, becoming more insistent in sound. It glided right up to the canoe and swam beneath revealing a well-adapted and flattened body of dark green, black and white with a touch of dark blue. The loon's large, black padded and webbed feet paddled it swiftly after the small fish fleeing before it.

Then I heard another loon cry across the lake coming closer and closer until the two loons faced each other beak to beak. They both rose up in greeting with only the webbed feet splashing mightily in the water. As they rose, they faced each other flapping wings to stay upright. It appeared to be greeting rather than a challenge. The loons then swam off, side by side making quiet cooing sounds; I imagined them exchanging news of the morning.

The wind came up and gentle waves rocked the canoe. The day had begun.

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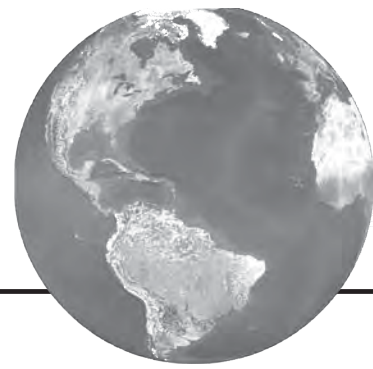
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# Aquí se habla español

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



## Las recientes protestas en Latinoamérica: Bolivia y Chile

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

En Bolivia se celebraron elecciones el pasado 20 de octubre y como la mayoría de las encuestas vaticinaban, Evo Morales fue el candidato más votado con un 47.08% por delante de su rival más votado, Carlos Mesa, que alcanzó un 36.51%. Esto significa que no será necesaria para Morales una segunda vuelta como desempate en diciembre para llegar a ser presidente. Evo Morales lleva en el poder desde el año 2006 y con estos resultados podría ser presidente hasta el año 2025.

Las voces que hablaban de pucherazo no se hicieron esperar, y el candidato Mesa expresó su indignación denominando "robo" a la victoria de Morales, y conminó a sus seguidores a las manifestaciones en la calle apelando a la "acción democrática". Los partidarios de uno y otro bando se enfrentaron violentamente en las calles coreando diferentes lemas en contra de sus opositores. El escrutinio de los votos fue muy lento lo que provocó que durante unas horas el candidato Mesa llevase la delantera a Morales.

Debido a la violencia en las calles y a los actos vandálicos cometidos en la ciudad de La Paz, la Junta Electoral decidió suspender el recuento de votos, proclamando también el estado de excepción. La renuncia del vicepresidente de la Junta horas después no hizo sino agravar la sospecha de fraude electoral. Por su parte, Morales calificó las protestas de la oposición como un golpe de estado interno. Por su parte la OEA (Organización de Estados Americanos) exigió transparencia electoral y calificó de muy graves los acontecimientos registrados, así como el parón del conteo de votos.

Más de una semana después de los comicios los enfrentamientos en las calles, el uso de gases lacrimógenos por la policía, paros indefinidos se siguen sucediendo en las calles de las principales ciudades del país andino lo que ha provocado un muerto y decenas de heridos.

La credibilidad de Evo Morales se ha desplomado, aunque sus bases siguen confiando en él. El descontento ha crecido entre los jóvenes y también el de algunas comunidades indígenas que fueron afectadas por los incendios en la región del Amazonas. Hay que recordar que Evo Morales es el primer presidente indígena elegido en Bolivia.

La confrontación de los adversarios políticos del presidente del partido M.A.S. (Movimiento al Socialismo) viene de atrás, exactamente desde febrero de 2016 cuando Morales organizó un referéndum que le garantizase una cuarta reelección, aunque la constitución boliviana solamente permitía una reelección.

La pregunta que se les hizo a los ciudadanos fue la siguiente: ¿Está usted de acuerdo con la reforma del artículo 168 de la Cons-

titución para que la presidenta o presidente o vicepresidente o vicepresidente del Estado puedan ser reelectos o reelectos dos veces de manera continua?

El resultado de este plebiscito fue del No con un 51.3 % y el Sí con un 48.7% de los votos. La derrota en este referéndum no frenó a Morales que llevó la pregunta ante el Tribunal Constitucional cuyos miembros habían sido elegidos por él mismo y declaró inconstitucionales 5 artículos de la ley electoral boliviana lo que permitió a Morales presentarse de nuevo a la reelección.

La situación en Chile no es mucho mejor y no tiene visos de solucionarse en un futuro próximo. Las protestas se suceden desde hace ya más de dos semanas y crecen cada día debido al descontento de la población con los recortes de medidas sociales por parte del gobierno. La diferencia con Bolivia es que las protestas en Chile se parecen mucho a las que sucedieron en Francia, Alemania y España en que una indignada clase media que se ve cada día más aprisionada sale a la calle para mostrar su descontento.

El germen de todas estas protestas fue la subida desproporcionada de los precios del billete de metro que pasaron de costar 30 pesos a 830 pesos. Los primeros en mostrar su descontento fueron los estudiantes que organizaron saqueos, barricadas cortando el paso e incendios provocados en distintas partes de la capital.

Las protestas después se extendieron a otras ciudades del país. La respuesta del gobierno de Piñera fue imponer el toque de queda desde las siete de la tarde hasta las seis de la mañana lo que provocó caceroladas desafiando al gobierno y nuevas situaciones violentas que dieron como resultado unos 20 muertos, cientos de detenidos y más de 1.000 heridos. Las fuerzas de seguridad fueron acusadas por las oficinas de Derechos Humanos de abuso de autoridad con resultado de 5 personas muertas.

Ante la difícil situación, el 19 de octubre Piñera decidió volverse atrás en cuanto a la subida del precio del transporte y tres días más tarde dijo que revisaría otras medidas que había tomado en cuanto a recortes en salud y pensiones de jubilación.

El presidente Sebastián Piñera dijo el 20 de octubre que el país se encontraba en guerra. Esta declaración no sirvió para calmar a la población, sino todo lo contrario. La expresidenta Michele Bachelet mostró su contrariedad ante esta afirmación del presidente Piñera y trató de llamar a la calma a la población.

La respuesta del gobierno a lo dicho por Bachelet llegó en forma de ataque descalificando a la izquierda por su permisividad a la violencia ejercida en las calles que el gobierno llamó crimen organizado.

La televisión estatal chilena no dejó de emitir escenas violentas, al-

gunas verdaderas y otras falseadas, robos masivos en los supermercados, quema de coches y muchos ante las palabras del presidente Piñera se dirigieron a los centros comerciales para aprovisionarse de alimentos y enseres básicos en caso de una posible guerra.

El viernes 25 de octubre un millón doscientas mil personas salieron pacíficamente a la calle en Santiago de Chile portando banderas y entonando canciones. La convocatoria nació a través de las redes sociales con el hashtag #*lamar-chamasgrande*.

Se podían ver diferentes tipos de banderas desde la multicolor del colectivo LGTBI hasta las de las asociaciones indígenas pasando por los colores de los principales equipos de fútbol, pero no había símbolos de partidos políticos. La gente hizo pancartas a mano con lemas para pedir la renuncia de Piñera o para protestar contra la violencia del ejército y de la policía. Una protesta así no se había visto en Santiago desde la organizada en 1988 contra Pinochet y su intención de seguir en el poder que alcanzó la cifra de un millón de personas marchando pacíficamente por las calles.

Unos días más tarde sacó a algunos miembros de su gabinete ministerial que fueron reemplazados por miembros más liberales y dispuestos a hacer concesiones. Otra de las decisiones tomadas fue descon-

ROSARIO PEREZ TORRES PHOTO



Protestas ciudadanas para pedir mejoras sociales en Santiago.

## Tablón de anuncios

**Food Bank de Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. La próxima distribución de comida será el miércoles 20 de noviembre de 1:30 a 2:30 p.m.

Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con **The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts** en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

vocar dos cumbres internacionales que iban a celebrarse en Santiago, la primera es la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Clima y la segunda una reunión de alto nivel de países de Asia y del Pacífico, añadiendo que necesita tiempo para restaurar el orden en Chile.

Semanas después la violencia ha disminuido pero las protestas siguen sucediendo de una forma más o menos organizada. El descontento de la población crece a todos los niveles ya que no creen en la clase política del país y la clase media desconfía de cualquier tipo de medida adoptada ya que consideran que serán ellos los que paguen los platos rotos al final.

El problema es que los ciudadanos no creen que su presidente lo esté haciendo bien, pero tampoco hay una oposición política unida y en la que se pueda confiar. La ciudadanía quiere soluciones para los problemas que afectan su bolsillo como el sistema de salud, la educación o la subida de las pensiones y la mayoría no consigue identificarse con ninguno de los líderes

políticos ya que estos les llevan dando la espalda con falsas promesas desde hace años.

Según las encuestas, la popularidad del partido socialista y otros partidos de izquierda tampoco es mucho mejor a excepción de una coalición recién nacida llamada Frente Amplio con ideas renovadas que atraen mayoritariamente a la población joven de Chile.

Al fin y al cabo, el estallido de la violencia por la subida de los precios del metro fue solamente la gota que hizo rebosar un vaso que ya estaba lleno por el incremento de las diferencias sociales, el bajo poder adquisitivo de la clase media debido a los bajos salarios que no les permiten pagar facturas como la del transporte o servicios básicos como el agua y la luz.

Y, por último, no hay que olvidarse de otro sector de la sociedad que son los jubilados y que reclaman mejoras en el sistema del seguro de salud y las pensiones. Así pues, Piñera no tiene una salida fácil a esta crisis social que ha descendido, pero no ha terminado.

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# THE GARDENER'S COMPANION End of Season



## Reluctance

*Out through the field and the woods  
And over the walls I have wended;  
I have climbed the hills of view  
And looked at the world, and descended;  
I have come by the highway home,  
And lo, it is ended.*

*The leaves are all dead on the ground,  
Save those that the oak is keeping  
To ravel them one by one  
And let them go scraping and creeping  
Out over the crusted snow,  
When others are sleeping.*

*And the dead leaves lie huddled and still  
No longer blown hither and thither;  
The lone aster is gone;  
The flowers on the witch hazel wither;  
The heart is still aching to seek  
But the feet question "Wither?"*

*Ah, when to the heart of man  
Was it ever less than treason  
To go with the drift of things  
To yield with grace for reason  
And bow and accept the end  
Of a love or a season?*

— Robert Frost

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – It is with reluctance that we welcome the new season.

November dawned with bright skies but sharp winds. Now, after a stunning foliage season and an extended Indian summer, we know it is truly late Fall.

Ken's grandson plays soccer. It is a blustery day, chilly day on the soccer field. Grandparents, siblings, parents, friends all attend, keeping warm in air-filled parkas, lined boots, and hats. The kids play vigorously; even the ones not immediately in play do push-ups on the side. All are in shorts and short-sleeved T-shirts with their team numbers. The sun warms us briefly, and then it is followed by thickening clouds.

It is Sunday, and sitting at the soccer game is a penance. The sky is full of large clouds which permit only brief peeks of sun. The overheated young folks race up and down the field, impervious to the temperature. We sit, and then pace. And then the end comes. The grandson's team wins, preserving a winning season. We stand and cheer, clapping and smiling. It was

worth it, we think, as we scuttle to the car and turn up the heat.

Later, we celebrate with one last steak cookout before the dark closes in. It is no longer Daylight Savings Time.

This concept was first conceived in the US by Benjamin Franklin, was used by the railroads in the 1830s, but never really took hold until the Germans put it to use in World War I and it was retired again after the war until World War II.

It has always been controversial, this tampering with the clock. Studies have shown that the practice has saved energy and led to fewer pedestrian fatalities; other studies have indicated just the opposite.

Farmers have always preferred running by Mother Nature, as did the Romans who used a solar clock. Either way, the year winds down towards its end with short days and longer nights, and the new year brings the opposite.

We've never been that good at corralling nature. Apparently, weather prediction has not improved since WWI despite the existence of satellites and studies of the movements of weather fronts using high tech-

nology. The accuracy of weather prediction remains limited to the range of three days.

We report extensively about the dramatic events of extreme weather, but know not that much new about them. Mother Nature can still throw us a curve.

Is there any reason to expect life to be predictable? Now in our mid-seventies, we'd like to turn back the clock and slow down the time; yet, when we were small, birthdays and special holidays never came fast enough.

It's only at the end of life that people can sometimes count the days and still, this is no gift. There is no joy in knowing the end of one's life, except perhaps for the release from pain or imprisonment. Yet we want the power of that knowledge, and consult with horoscopes, fortune tellers, and palm readers.

Life in general is an immense gift, and we do not want to know the end. Treat each day as an immeasurable gift, and pay attention to every precious moment.

We wake this morning to the beauty of an extravagant sunrise of pink and gold. The day will likely end with a similar sky just before dark, which falls too early.

For some, this minute change of an hour one way or the other is nothing; for others this minute change is felt deeply in the body.

Take notice but do not be afraid. For every new day there may be new sorrows but also new, glorious joys.

## CALL FOR EVENTS!



RiverCulture is compiling a Holiday Calendar of cultural events happening in Montague between November 23 and December 31.

The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website, in social media, and circulated in the *Montague Reporter* on November 21.

To list your exhibition, craft fair, holiday concert, musical performance, theater performance, or gift drive, please submit the following details to [riverculture@montague-ma.gov](mailto:riverculture@montague-ma.gov) by Friday, November 15: the event name, location, address, time, price, a brief description, and media links.

Call Suzanne with any questions at (413) 863-3200, ext. 126.

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