LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS



YEAR 20 - NO. 39

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Parents Call for Crackdown on **Bus Passers** On Route 63

By SARAH ROBERTSON

LEVERETT – At Tuesday night's meeting, the Leverett selectboard continued a conversation about the dangers of vehicles passing school buses on Route 63. Since parents raised the issue in June, the community, town, and state have taken steps to crack down on the problem. Leverett erected an electronic sign warning motorists to stop for the bus, and neighbors purchased 22 lawn signs bearing a similar message to place along the road.

Long Plain Road resident Audra Goscenski, who spearheaded the lawn sign campaign, appeared before the board. "The elementary school has changed the bus route for us so our daughter doesn't have to cross the street," she said. "Whatever we can do to raise awareness - signs, police presence, all those aren't longterm answers."

A state Senate bill supported by Jo Comerford would authorize towns to "install and operate live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems for the purpose of enforcing violations," and increase fines and penalties. Video recordings of cars passing the bus would be sufficient evidence to prosecute infractions. A similar bill backed by Natalie Blais, H.4478, is working through the House. However, similar efforts in the past have failed to become law.

Goscenski called for support for these bills, and said that in the meantime, she would like to see more police presence and enforcement. She said the first bus-passing violation of the school year occurred on the third day of school, when a vehicle traveling in the opposite lane failed to stop for the bus even as it extended see LEVERETT page A5

SCENE REPORT **Old Friends, New Friends at the Fair**

By MATT ROBINSON

GREENFIELD - On September 8 through 11, the Franklin County Agricultural Society (FCAS) hosted the 173rd annual Franklin County Fair. Folks were given the opportunity to enjoy racing pigs, pat baby animals, ride the Coleman Brothers rides, watch the demolition derby, and thrill to the Black Cat Hell Drivers Stunt Show.

There were line dancers and belly dancers, and the Skeleton Crew Theater. Children showed off their livestock, dogs jumped for Frisbees, and trolls, fairies, and a pirate worked the crowds. There was a cowboy circus, Grand Illusions, and a Dinosaur Experience.

And of course, there were eating contests: apple pie and fried dough on Saturday, and hot dogs on Sunday. Through it all, the music played on.

The infield was put to good use. On Sunday, September 11, first responders held an emergency services parade to commemorate the victims of 9/11. Then the little kids took over the track to compete in a balloon demolition derby.

And, managing all these activities, there were the workers and volunteers from FCAS, who held





Bradley, of Ashfield's Lil-Hi Farm, leads Ada as Lilian and Isabell look on.

the nightmare of losing their main egress due to ongoing construction. (Wisdom Way was blocked off, so the parking crew had to work twice as hard as usual.)

I met with FCAS president Michael Nelson a week before the fair year's programming. He was busy painting when I arrived. That's when I discovered that Mike is a volunteer.

He put down his paint brush and showed me the flow chart with all the volunteers plastered on it. In addition to this cadre of volunteers, the fair also employs a number of local workers to help with parking, detours, and other fair-related tasks.

Mike said that a big addition to the fair this year is the Black Cat show, in which several stunt men from Hollywood orchestrate death-defying feats, standing on the roofs of vehicles and crashing through walls of fire.

On the first day of the fair, I noticed another difference that set this year apart from previous events: the weather. We've suffered through a devastating drought all summer, and for the first time in recent memory,

teams are doing well: the Thunder

is currently at 2-0 while the Eagles

are 2–1. Inside the gym, the Turners

Falls girls' volleyball team blast-

ed out to a 3-0 record, including one win against Tech. The Eagles

bounced back from that first loss,

and have evened their record at 2-2.

the schools - girls' and boys' soccer, and the cheer team - also saw action

this week. The boys have shot out to

a 4–0 record, and the girls currently

sit at 1-1. Cheer is also made up of

The three hybrid teams shared by

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD 'Concerning' **Rise in COVID** In Montague's **Town Sewage**

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday, September 12 the Montague selectboard was presented with two very different estimates of the number of active COVID cases in town. The selectboard decided to hold a special town meeting "in person" rather than virtually in October. The deadline for articles for the town meeting was set for this Thursday.

Board of health member Melanie Zamojski began the discussion of the pandemic by showing a chart indicating well under ten active COVID-19 cases in the last weeks of August and earlier September.

She stressed that these numbers reflected only traditional PCR tests at established testing sites and reported through the state MAVEN system, and not positive results from the widely-used "rapid" or antigen tests, which are not generally reported.

Zamojski also noted, however, that there has been a "concerning spike" in the number of cases estimated by testing wastewater at the Montague Clean Water Facility. A chart showed an estimate of 80 COVID cases in mid-August, at the same time that the state system was reporting approximately five.

Jack Sullivan, an epidemiologist hired by the regional collaboration, stressed the complexities of the wastewater methodology for determining COVID levels. Wastewater data essentially measures COVID indicators as a percentage of sewage volume, but this is translated into the number of individual cases through a complex formula, he said.

Sullivan said that only 40% or

Holiday Lights, **Public Art Envisioned** for **Recovery Aid**

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – With an eye on two potential sources of COVID-19 recovery aid, Montague's planning department has been seeking input on plans to stimulate traffic and economic activity in the town's village centers, particularly downtown Turners Falls.

Next Monday, town planner Walter Ramsey and assistant planner Suzanne LoManto are expected to request the selectboard set aside \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for a "downtown recovery proposal" that includes holiday lights, new trash cans, as well as welcome signage

see **RECOVERY** page A4



Russ Johnson gives instructions to volunteers from Congregation of Grace Church.

see FAIR page A6

see MONTAGUE page A7 **New Owners For Turners** Maple Syrup

Bottle Plant

By JEFF SINGLETON and MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS - Hillside Plastics, one of the largest employers in Montague, has been sold to the Atlanta-based company Altium Packaging. This is the second sale of the container manufacturer, located across from the Turners Falls Airport, to a large national plastic packaging conglomerate in the past decade.

Hillside began as a small, family-owned company in 1967, operating as an adjunct to Hillside Dairy. Operating out of a Sunderland horse barn, it made containers for milk and apple cider, according to a lengthy history of plastic jugs provided on the website maplesyruphistory.com.

Dick Haas, who worked there as a young man, was often paid in shares, and in the mid-1970s he and his wife Janet bought the business. The Haas family moved Hillside to Turners Falls and made it a profitable operation producing plastic maple syrup containers, a growth industry in the 1980s.

Hillside became known for its

see HILLSIDE page A5

High School Sports: Back to the Field!

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS - The 2022 fall sports season kicked off this week, as Franklin Tech and Turners Falls fielded ten teams in total, with mixed results. So far, this reporter

has only been able to watch two of them in action.

The Franklin Tech field hockey team currently sits at 2-2, while the Turners Field Hockey Thunder has struggled with five straight losses. On the golf links, both Blue



Turners Falls' Brooke Thayer blocks a pass by the Spartans' Grace Rustico as the Thunder hosted East Longmeadow on Monday. The Spartans came up on top, 7-2.

athletes from both schools. They're not keeping score yet. They'll wait until the winter before they start competing for trophies. Lastly, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles decimated the McCann Hornets in their home opener last

Friday. That's the only contest I attended, but I had the privilege of watching both the football team and the cheer team in action.

see SPORTS page A8



A Great Place To Start An Upcycled Art Shop And/Or Religous Commune

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The Montague Reporter

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GUEST EDITORIAL (Nearly) Off the Rails

Recent years have been marked by consolidation, layoffs, and speedup in the US rail sector, badly affecting the workers who move nearly half the nation's goods. Many are always on call, and can tell horror stories about being unable to take time off. Railroads have seen record profits.

In the early hours of Thursday morning, after a 20-hour negotiation session, the White House announced a deal had been reached which may avert a strike expected to begin on Friday by 150,000 railway workers, represented by a dozen unions. This guest editorial had already been laid in, and we were nearly going to press, when the news broke. We hope a good deal has been reached, and think it's still worth a read! - Eds.

By JEREMY FERGUSON and DENNIS PIERCE

CLEVELAND - Late on Friday, September 9, the nation's largest railroads began warning major shippers that they are declaring an embargo on certain types of new shipments five days in advance of the end of the federally mandated cooling-off period at 12:00 AM EDT September 16. They further advised that all rail shippers could be blocked from making any rail shipments well in advance of next Friday's deadline for a lockout or strike. This completely unnecessary attack on rail shippers by these highly profitable Class I railroads is no more than corporate extortion.

Our Unions remain at the bargaining table and have given the rail carriers a proposal that we would be willing to submit to our members for ratification, but it is the rail carriers that refuse to reach an acceptable agreement.

In fact, it was abundantly clear from our negotiations over the past few days that the railroads show no intentions of reaching an agreement with our Unions, but they cannot legally lock out our members until the end of the cooling-off period. Instead, they are locking out their customers beginning on Monday and further harming the supply chain in an effort to provoke congressional action. The railroads are using shippers, consumers, and the supply chain of our nation as pawns in an effort to get our Unions to cave into their contract demands knowing that our members would never accept them. Our Unions will not cave into these scare tactics, and Congress must not cave into what can only be described as corporate terrorism. Rather than gridlock the supply chain by denying shipments and potentially locking our members out next Friday, the railroads should work towards a fair settlement that our members, their employees, would ratify. For that to happen, we must make improvements to the working conditions that have been on the bargaining table since negotiations began.

Penalizing engineers and conductors for getting sick or going to a doctor's visit with termination must be stopped as part of this contract settlement. Let us repeat that: Our members are being terminated for getting sick, or for attending routine medical visits, as we crawl our way out of a worldwide pandemic.

No working-class American should be treated with this level of harassment in the workplace for simply becoming ill or going to a routine medical visit. Sadly, the Presidential Emergency Board recommendation got it wrong on this issue. As we have said from the day that they were implemented, these policies are destroying the lives of our members, who are the backbone of the railroad industry.

These employment policies have forced thousands of employees out of the industry, and make it all but impossible to recruit new workers. With understaffed operations, these railroads abuse their best customers by refusing to provide deliveries consistent with their legal obligations. These self-appointed titans of industry complain constantly about government regulation and interference - except now when it comes to breaking the backs of their employees.



Lia Little works on her soapbox derby car, "Troll Pride." This Sunday's race in Turners Falls will be the eighth-grader's first attempt to conquer that slope. Troll Pride will run as car #4 in the race, which starts at noon Sunday on the Unity Park hill. Little says the event is a "Why not?" kind of thing. Indeed!

Letter to the Editors

Estate Appeals Impacted Leverett Budgets

Bravo to the Montague Reporter and Sarah Robertson for her story "Candle Estate for Sale, Well Over Assessed Value" (August 25, Page A1).

Finally a local newspaper is telling the story of how the Town of Leverett's finances have been constantly in limbo for the last many years as the Kittredge family and estate lawyers have "nickel and dimed" the Town by annually appealing the assessed value of the estate.

As the story notes, the estate is now being offered for an asking price of \$23 million. Only a few years ago the estate's lawyers argued that \$1.8 million was a fair value. While the outcome of the Estate's appeals were unknown, the schools, highway department, police, etc. would never know whether they might face

up to 10% cuts.

The same generosity that led to Mr. Kittredge's name being prominently placed at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Holyoke Community College, and Baystate Medical Center was missing here at home when he and his estate regularly created chaos with Leverett's finances.

When the rich and powerful act in this manner, it is often hard for the local media to tell the story to the public.

So congratulations to Sarah and the Montague Re*porter* for a great story.

> **Tom Wolff** Leverett

Two Fundraisers for the *Reporter!*

By REPORTER STAFF

Thanks, Lis!

It's time for the federal government to tell the CEOs who are running the nation's railroads into the ground that enough is enough. Congress should stay out of the rail dispute, and tell the railroads to do what other business leaders do - sit down and bargain a contract that your employees will accept.

Jeremy Ferguson is the president of the the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART) Transportation Division.

Dennis Pierce is the president Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, a division of the Teamsters Rail Conference.

TURNERS FALLS - A fundraiser called "Local: Poems, Place, and Paper" invites poets from the local community and beyond to read their work online this Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The online event is free for attendees, with a request that they donate to The Montague Reporter.

This effort has been put together by Lis McLoughlin, who served as the editor of the Reporter's Nature-Culture page for several years. She now coordinates the Writing the Land project (www.writingtheland. org), which pairs poets with conserved lands, and creates anthologies sold to support land protection.

McLoughlin was moved to propose the fundraiser because she believes strongly that independent reporting makes a difference. "The Montague Reporter covers the local effects of the global climate



emergency, and it covers the effects of our local decisions on the environment," she writes. "From wastewater treatment to the relicensing of the dams and Northfield pump station, the paper connects the dots. I appreciate articles digging into issues I care about, and would like to give back a little."

Readers include Gary Greene, Marty Espinola, and the Montague Reporter's own Poetry Page editor Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno. Register to attend at www.tinyurl. com/mrpoetfund, and if you'd like to read, use the email on your invitation to register.

The Reporter is also offering a new fundraising premium: the gift of a custom newspaper-printed apron available to donors who make a gift of \$100 dollars or more.

This generously-sized, unisex apron has adjustable ties and two pockets. The cotton cloth was custom printed with a page of the newspaper by Spoonflower, a North Carolina company offering digital fabric printing. Several volunteers cut and sewed the aprons.

These are available strictly while supplies last - just mention it when you make a donation. Thanks to our readers for your support!

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you love, and hope to never lose to

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ribbons will be displayed outside of

Leverett's 250th Committee and

the Leverett Library are co-sponsor-

ing a dedication ceremony for the

wonderful ceramic mural Judith

Inglese created for the library en-

trance in honor of Leverett's 250th

Anniversary next Saturday, Sep-

tember 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. There

There's a live concert at Peske-

ompskut Park on Saturday, Septem-

ber 24 at 3 p.m. Ramon & Jessica

will play klezmer, folk, and jazz

music, with Myrtle St. Klezmer

from Greenfield playing Eastern

European Jewish dance music,

and Caroline Davis from New

York City playing experimental

jazz. There's a suggested donation

of \$10 to \$20, but no one will be

turned away for lack of funds. The

rain date is September 25 at 1 p.m.

School will be providing free CNC

training to qualified unemployed

and under-employed adults. Learn

blueprint reading, shop math, pre-

cision measuring tools and how to

operate Computer Numerical Con-

trol (CNC). This free program starts

September 27 and runs for 13 weeks

during late afternoons and evenings.

Larry Martin at the Masshire Frank-

lin Hampshire Career Center, (413)

755-1361.

To see if you can join, contact

The Leverett Library invites

Smith Vocational & Agricultural

will be music and refreshments.

the libraries as art installations.



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Hands Across the Hills is holding a fundraising concert at Leverett Crafts & Arts this Saturday, September 17 at 7 p.m. to raise money for flood relief in devastated eastern Kentucky, the bridge-building project partners' locale. Hands Across the Hills started in 2017 with the goal of meeting face to face in dialogue with people who voted differently during the 2016 elections.

Overwhelming flooding in Letcher County and surrounding areas in eastern Kentucky in late July has devastated this region.

The idea for the event, "Bands Across the Hills," came from musician Mark Gamble, who invited evervone to his home for a memorable evening of making music together when the Kentuckians visited in 2017. Mark organized a concert with the Shop Box Trio, Deep C Duo, Beyond the RALM, and singers Sarah Pirtle and Norma Jean Haynes.

Donations from the fundraiser will go to the Cowan Community Action Group and Hemphill Community Center. Readers may also donate at at gofund.me/eaa879ba.

The Art Naturally Series continues this Saturday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. "Using words and images, instruction and techniques to help you create an art piece inspired by the natural world to take home," promises the description. For adults, teens, and children ages six and up accompanied by an adult. All materials are free. Meet in the Great Hall.

The Discovery Center is also

hosting a book launch for a new photobook by Sandra Matthews, Occupying Massachusetts: Layers of History on Indigenous Land, this Sunday, September 18 at 2 p.m.

Matthews' book includes essays by David Brule (our own West Along the River columnist) and Suzanne Gardinier. Her photos suggest the long presence of Indigenous people in Massachusetts, and illuminate the difficult histories often hidden from view. Matthews and Brule will talk about the project, as well as what we can do now. Meet in the Great Hall courtyard.

The theme for a potluck meetup at the Green River Swimming and Recreation area this Sunday, September 18 is "Transforming Housing in the Valley." The event aims to connect individuals around the issue of working to ensure housing as a human right. All are welcome between 3 and 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share, and your own utensils, cups, and plates if possible.

On Wednesday, September 21 at 6 p.m. local author (and regular MR contributor) Richard Andersen will read from his book A Home Run for Bunny as part of the Montague Center library's local author reading series. Andersen's book tells the story of a little-known but important event in the history of America's race relations that took place in Springfield.

Just Roots invites farmers and others to a free workshop, Attract Native Pollinators to Your Farm, at their farm in Greenfield next Thursday, September 22, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Attendees will hear

OBITUARY Jose Santos Reyes 3/21/1972 - 8/31/2022

TURNERS FALLS - Jose San-

ERVING SELECTBOARD HIGHLIGHTS

By KEITH WATERS

people to a reading by three local Black authors of poetry, fiction, and works-in-progress on Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Reading that evening are Regine Jackson, a Straw Dog Writer's Guild Fellow who writes poetry and young adult fantasy; Dāshaun Washington, a poet and teacher at the UMass Writing Program; and Christopher Sparks, a writer and founder of the Valley Society, a safe space for Black writers to focus on their craft.

The Gill-Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls is starting an early evening exercise class with Laura Rooney for men and women over 55.

The class will include both aerobics and strength training, and will be a bit more challenging than the Senior Center's morning exercise classes. Classes start Thursday, September 29 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The class is free, and advance signup is not required. Call (413) 863-9357 for more information.

Join Mishael Cogehsall-Burr and Nadya Tkachenko as they open a new art show on October 1 in their Montague Center barn called Ukraine: Courage has Two Colors. The exhibit is composed of paintings by Cogehsall-Burr inspired by images collected while the Montague couple was in Ukraine in May.

Come to the opening at 70 Main Street from 5 to 8 p.m. or make an appointment for a private viewing during the first two weeks of October. The art show will travel to Boston later that month; view Cogeshall-Burr's work at www. coggeshallburr.com.

All profits from art show will be contributed to the Project Nadiya, a project run by Tkachenko to provide refugees from the war in Ukraine support they need to rebuild their lives. Find out more at www.projectnadiya.com.

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(413) 772-2531 0 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm



New Highway Wheeler; New Cop; Totaled Cruiser

tos Reyes, 50, a resident of Turners Falls, passed peacefully on August 31, 2022 at Baystate Franklin Medical Center following a period of declining health.

A native of Polorus, El Salvador, he was born on March 21, 1972.

Santos was employed as a cook at The Shady Glen Restaurant in Turners Falls for several years, where he made many lifelong friends and will be missed by all.

Santos leaves his loving wife of 13 years, Holly LaPrade Reyes, and his two stepsons. Additionally, Santos leaves his seven siblings (two sisters and five brothers) and several nieces and nephews.

Services in celebration of his life will be observed on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial to take place at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls with Rev. Fr. Sean O'Mannion, Pastor as the celebrant. Private interment will take place in El Salvador at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations in his mem-



ory are suggested to Holly A. Reyes, c/o The Shady Glen, 7 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

McCarthy Funeral Homes of Greenfield/Turners Falls have been entrusted with Santos' arrangements. Remembrances may be made to Santos' Tribute Wall at www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com.

Erving held both a special town meeting (STM) and a selectboard meeting on Wednesday night. Between 10 and 20 voters attended the special town meeting, which lasted approximately 15 minutes.

All five articles in the STM warrant passed unanimously. They include appropriations to purchase a new loader for the highway department and a new refrigerator for Erving Elementary school, as well as a few administrative odds and ends.

In the selectboard meeting, the board approved an offer to hire a new police officer for the town. They agreed to offer Matthew Ziomek, who has six years of experience working as a police officer in Amherst and Nantucket, Grade 2 Step 6 pay, with the idea being this was commensurate with his experience.

Chair Jacob Smith noted that the town has often started new police at Step 1, but that had changed with the recent hiring of Greenfield police officer Laura Gordon, who came with 30 years of experience.

"We don't have a process for

lectboard member Scott Bastarache said. "There's no rhyme or reason for how we place somebody in anything about [Step] 3."

how to honor that [training]," se-

Police chief Robert Holst was authorized to declare as surplus a 2019 Dodge Charger cruiser, totaled in a recent accident.

"Sorry," said Holst.

"Accidents happen," Smith told him. The town's insurance covers replacement, and Holst said the radios and other equipment can be salvaged.

Jonathan Flis and Elizabeth Donaldson, proprietors of Flis Market, applied for seats on the Cultural Council. The board approved their applications.

The board also approved the application of Michele Turner to the conservation commission.

Finally the board approved a project to pay Tighe &Bond, an engineering firm with offices all over New England, \$119,000 to develop a wastewater asset management project, and authorized them to file the plan with the MassDEP Clean Water Trust.



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RECOVERY from page A1

throughout the town.

And at the end of the month, the town will submit an application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC)'s "Cultural Sector Recovery Grant" program, possibly to fund public art and cultural events. A stated goal of the department is to "increase customer foot traffic."

A Zoom meeting held Wednesday seeking feedback on the plan attracted seven people.

"I'm kind of bummed we don't have some businesses from downtown here," said Mark Wisnewski, who attended the meeting along with his Rendezvous co-owner Chris Janke. "I'd like to know what would directly help them."

"They were invited," said LoManto.

Ramsey outlined an initial proposal for the ARPA spending: \$62,000 for "streetscape enhancements," \$50,000 on welcome signage, and \$20,000 for pole-mounted holiday lighting. as well as meeting two other identified needs: \$10,000 for new signage if the town's winter parking rules change, which has been proposed, and \$8,000 to pay a "farmers market and food security coordinator" over the course of two years.

A public survey last winter regarding the town's "cultural district," Ramsey said, in-

formed these priorities, and the selectboard had indicated a "willingness to entertain" a proposal to put money toward them.

"There's some [trash] cans that are out there that are about as old as I am," he noted. One suggestion is to fund art or decoration on electrical boxes. Ramsey said these improvements could be made in Millers Falls as well as in Turners.

For the MCC application, the officials are proposing requesting \$25,000 for cultural events, \$25,000 for juried public arts projects, and \$15,000 "to secure a lighting engineer to develop plans and build consensus for a public art lighting project on the 'coal silo' of the Indeck plant."

LoManto said the idea to light up the abandoned coal silo by the power canal has appeared already in "five plans" published by the town. "It is a common thing in bigger cities," she said. "There are architectural specialists we can hire to let us know what is out there, and let us know what is possible."

Janke questioned the plan's emphasis on "the fly-by tourist who comes through to view a sculpture, and view a coal silo."

"I understand the desire to bring tourists to downtown," he said. "I prefer an economy that's based on getting the people who live here to come

downtown.... Before the pandemic there was a lot of effort, and a lot of success, to get people who live in the county to shop in the downtowns in the county, and that's been broken."

Springfield, Janke said, was giving ARPA money directly to affected businesses. He suggested paying downtown shops that close early in the winter to cover the "labor burden" of staying open later.

Ramsey said that the "peculiarities" of the method by which Montague is spending its ARPA allotment prevent it from giving direct subsidies to businesses. "They don't make it easy," he added. "That's why you don't see a lot of the smaller towns doing that."

MCC is distributing \$36.1 million statewide under its recovery initiative, with announcements expected in January.

Asked whether Montague coordinates with other communities to avoid sponsoring directly competing events, LoManto replied that there is "no overall time when we all get together and talk about it," though communities know to avoid certain large events such as the Green River Festival.

The topic is expected to be discussed at next Monday's selectboard meeting.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD An 'Ugly Time' to Purchase Vehicles; Hydro Company Deadline Extended

By JERRI HIGGINS

A fire department grant, updates on police and fire department vehicles, gravestones, and settlement talks with FirstLight Power were among the Gill selectboard's business on Monday.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier asked deputy fire chief William Kimball about the timeline for the replacement police department cruiser ordered earlier this year. Kimball said that it is on the lot at MHQ, a vehicle "upfitter" based in Marlborough that contracts with municipalities to build out emergency service vehicles. It is on the company's schedule to be built in November, with a possibility that MHQ could start the process sooner.

"I heard we dodged a pretty good bullet," said Crochier, referring to cost increases.

"We certainly did," replied Kimball. "Three hundred orders were canceled by Ford, including for three other towns that I had ordered for." He said the Ford Motor Com-

was reduced to \$16,000, and the town's share would be \$761.91 which is a 5% share."

Kimball said that the grant would pay for the equipment, but that a four-year onsite inspection and maintenance plan add-on would cost \$5,107. The cost for a three-year maintenance plan had been \$2,050 when he had looked at it that morning, he said, but when he rechecked it that afternoon, the company had switched over to the new four-year plan. The plan is also scheduled to increase by 9% after September 30, due to "rising costs."

Kimball told the board he would not have hesitated to purchase the plan at the former cost, but became less confident in the value at its new price. He added that while he believed that the Greenfield fire departments' two LUCAS devices had not had any unexpected issues so far, he was concerned that if the device fails or is damaged, the replacement cost could exceed that of the maintenance plan.

Kimball agreed to work with town administrator Ray Purington day's meeting. Purington said that he had spoken with Snedeker earlier in the day, and told the other members that Snedeker "was okay with letting this move forward with the two of you to discuss and decide."

"If all three of us were here, I think I would symbolically vote 'no," said Crochier, "but I would like to see it pass, so I will make a motion to sign the letter."

Asked if the selectboard felt comfortable with the settlement agreement about recreation, Purington said that those discussions, as well as talks about riverbank erosion due to the power company's operations, had not yet been held, but would be held soon.

Stones Not Standing

Cemetery commission member Joan Pillsbury told the selectboard that an unnamed donor would provide half of the \$4,000 estimate given the commission by Negus and Taylor Monuments of Greenfield to straighten and re-set some gravestones at the West Gill Cemetery.

"It was the wish of the donor that

said that the cost would be \$398 for casting the bronze ribbon, but the higher amount would apply if holes need to be drilled and tapped to mount the ribbon.

Utility Pole Hearing

Eversource Energy company representative Austin Harpin brought a re-drawn map of the proposed placement of a new utility pole for a hearing that had been continued from the August 29 selectboard meeting.

Harpin said that rather than placing two poles 30 feet apart at the Dole Road property where a new home is being built, the company proposed to place one pole in a new location which would not require any tree cutting due to a nearby wetland.

Garbiel noted that the revised pole placement resolved the issue raised by a contesting resident, and the utility pole was approved.

Other Business

A purchase order from the building and maintenance account for Hartnett Plumbing, LLC of Colrain

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pany told departments to order "the FY'23 version of the same vehicle, at an increase of \$9,000 apiece, with an estimate of 13 months' minimum delivery time to their lot."

Kimball said that if the fire department chooses to order a new brush truck this year, they should expect increased price and delivery date estimates.

"It is an ugly time," he said. "In the ten years I have been ordering cruisers and municipal apparatus for departments, hands down I have never seen it this bad." He added that was true of all areas "top to bottom," from "equipment to vehicles."

The fire department was approved to use \$762 in town funds toward the purchase of a LUCAS automatic chest compression device for CPR. The cardiac assist device, developed at Lund University in Sweden in the 1990s, helps relieve emergency responders of fatigue or injuries while administering CPR.

"We wrote the grant for \$18,000," Kimball told the selectboard. "It ker, however, could not attend Mon-

to figure out how to pay for the maintenance plan if the department decides that its overall value warrants purchasing it.

FirstLight Agreements

FirstLight Power Company recently proposed an extension until December 31 of the completion date for its relicensing and settlement agreements to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The company is applying for new licenses to operate the Northfield Mount Hermon pumped-storage facility and the dam, canal, and hydro stations at Turners Falls.

Gill, which is a party to settlement talks that could shape the new 30- to 50-year license, has agreed to send FERC a letter stating that they do not oppose FirstLight Power's completion schedule.

"This was on the agenda two weeks ago," said Crochier, "and the goal was to wait for the three of us [to be here]."

Selectboard member Greg Snede-

[the other half of the cost] come from the town," said Pillsbury. "That is why it came to me."

Because the donor requested that the matching funds come from the town, Crochier asked Purington to research the wording of the cemetery commission's revolving fund account to determine what is allowed for expenditures, and report back. The board will then decide what town funds might be used, or whether a special town meeting is needed to approve the spending.

Pillsbury said that the Riverside Cemetery and the North Cemetery also have some downed stones.

"I know some of the stones in the cemeteries are old, old ones," said selectboard chair Charles Garbiel.

"Yes, some are Revolutionary War stones," said Pillsbury.

A purchase order for up to \$473 was approved, contingent upon the availability of funds from the veterans' benefits budget, for Negus and Taylor Monuments to cast a 10-inch bronze ribbon to add a name to one of the veteran memorials. Purington

was approved for up to \$4,500. Purington said the work would bypass "two sinks, and six or eight toilet connections" in the Riverside municipal building, in order to try to prevent future sewer backups in the building.

Forester Menson was approved for a year leave of absence from the fire department. Fire chief Gene Beaubien said Menson took a full-time job with the Greenfield fire department, and his situation would be reevaluated next year. "We hope he will come back and serve Gill also," said Beaubien.

This Friday, September 16 is the last day to register for the Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, September 24, at the Greenfield Community College main campus and the Orange transfer station. Pre-registration is required. More information is available at franklincountywastedistrict.org.

The Fall Harvest Festival will be held on the town common on Sunday, September 25, from noon to 3 p.m.

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LEVERETT from page A1

its stop sign and flashed its lights. "When police are following the bus, it happens far less frequently," Goscenski said.

Selectboard member Melissa Colbert suggested additional mitigation efforts, such as brighter lights or larger stop signs on the buses.

"I totally am for a police presence and accountability, but I just wonder if there's something else you can do to get the visibility up," Colbert said. "It's a challenge, because how can you control what people are doing on a very, very busy highway?"

No votes were taken. Goscenski said she would contact the state Department of Transportation to see what kind of assistance they could offer, and Colbert suggested reaching out to the bus companies. The selectboard agreed to take up the issue again at its next meeting.

Municipal Electric Rates

A two-year contract with the town's current electricity provider is set to expire in December, and the selectboard has been deliberating over the terms of a new contract with provider Constellation Energy.

Last year, according to town administrator Marjorie McGinnis, Leverett budgeted \$3,600 for electricity at town hall and \$5,900 at the public safety complex. Electricity prices have nearly doubled since the previous contract, forcing the town to reassess how it will pay the potentially higher bill.

A one-year contract to provide residential electricity was agreed on at the last meeting, and Tuesday's meeting opened with a discussion about locking in a new rate for municipal buildings for one, two, or three years.

Though towns are not required to hold a formal procurement process for such contracts, McGinnis sought bids from four companies. Only one company, Constellation, turned out to be a viable option, because other options either "didn't exist" or the businesses just functioned as energy brokers.

The ongoing war between Russia

and Ukraine has been credited for rising costs of oil and gas globally, and the Leverett selectboard talked about how their knowledge of that war would impact their energy procurement decisions. The question on the table was whether to lock in a rate for the next one, two, or three years, with the longer contracts offering discounted rates.

"My sense is what we should do is maintain flexibility," said chair Tom Hankinson. "I don't think we have a clue what's going to happen....We talk about gas prices, and it looks like Russia is retreating from Ukraine, but is that really going to make a difference?"

Colbert predicted energy markets may be worse next year, and encouraged the town to lock in the current rate for multiple years. The rate typically represents one-third of the town's total energy bill, with delivery charges accounting for the majority of the cost.

After the board discussed their options with energy committee member Richard Nathhorst, they voted unanimously to pursue a two-year contract for two years at a rate of \$0.2191 per kilowatt-hour. According to Hankinson, this is approximately twice the existing electricity rate for the town.

The board opted for a 100% "green energy" option offered by Constellation Energy, agreeing to pay 1.39% more than the standard rate in order to receive power entirely from solar, wind, and other renewable sources.

The selectboard voted unanimously to approve the two-year contract at the increased rate.

Miller Road Bridge

Leverett will hold a special town meeting on November 1 to vote to appropriate money for repairs to a bridge on Miller Road. The bridge serves two homes, and would require easements from three property owners. The town has yet to ask the owners whether they would be willing to donate portions of their property to allow the work to continue.

"If they don't want to, we need to offer them the appraised value," said McGinnis.

McGinnis said that she is still deciding on other warrant articles for the special town meeting, such as a budget amendment to address the dramatic increase in the energy budget, and voting to fill two vacant elected positions.

Field Building Update

Nathhorst, this time as a member of an *ad hoc* committee looking into the potential to repurpose the Leverett Family Museum building, presented an update on their progress researching the building's history and condition. Originally built in 1916 as the Bradford M. Field Memorial Library, the town building still houses local historical artifacts, and is in need of repairs.

Last Saturday some members took a tour of the building, and another is scheduled for this Saturday.

"It's remarkable to me that there is absolutely no water or drain service of any type in that building," Nathhorst said. "There is absolutely nothing. You could not possibly build that building as an occupied building as it is today."

Building a new septic system would be challenging, he reported, as the 1.7-acre lot is considered brushy swamp. The committee plans to consult with the conservation commission and board of health about the possibility of installing a septic system, as well as an architect to investigate the feasibility of moving the building itself to a different location. Nathhorst said the committee recommends the Amherst firm Kuhn Riddle Architects for this work.

"I think the town has something of value in that building," he said, "and I think if we can come up with an adaptive reuse plan that makes it available to a larger constituency of the town, it can really do a good job of serving the community."

In the past the Leverett Historical Society, which manages the building, had wanted to buy it for \$4,000, but was unable to do so, he reported.

Without taking a vote, the selectboard encouraged the committee to continue investigating the property

TOWN OF WENDELL TREE WARDEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Wendell Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application for National Grid to remove public shade trees on September 27, 2022 at 5 pm at 9 Morse Village Rd., Wendell, MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

The program included a tree-by-tree hazard assessment of public and private trees, along three-phase lines which serve the community. The work is recommended to remove hazard trees for additional clearance in order to reduce tree outage problems affecting large numbers of customers served by these main lines. National Grid's arborists have identified **One hundred sixty-three (163) town trees for removal along town roads**, and three (3) town trees for pruning. Town trees located within the public way that are designated for removal have been marked with a small red ribbon and posted with a notice of public hearing in the field. Trees designated for pruning have been marked with a small blue ribbon. The roads with town trees affected by the program are Wendell Depot

The roads with town trees affected by the program are Wendell Depot Rd., Lockes Village Rd., and Locke Hill Rd. A complete list of town trees designated for removal or pruning including information about the location, size and species of the affected trees and the reason for work proposed, is available weekdays from the Town Hall, Library and DPW during normal business hours.

Cliff Dornbush, Tree Warden

and its feasibility to serve a new purpose in the town, and to report back at future meetings.

Other Business

The board approved a temporary liquor license for an event this Saturday at Leverett Crafts & Arts. "Bands Across the Hill," a musical fundraiser to provide relief for victims of floods in Kentucky last July, was organized by the cultural exchange group Hands Across the Hills to benefit two organizations in Letcher County, Kentucky, the Cowan Community Action Group and Hemphill Community Center.

Barbara Kline was appointed to the Council on Aging, and Ruth West to the Leverett Cultural Council. The terms of four other Cultural Council members were extended.

Shelley Hicks, who works at both the fire department and elementary school, was unanimously approved for special municipal employee status to allow her to hold both positions.

The board turned its attention to an abandoned and unregistered vehicle near 1 Dudleyville Road, which could be on town property. Dudleyville Road resident Brian Blinn attended the meeting to say that if the car is on his property he would get rid of it, but if the town finds it is on public property he has no problem with it being removed.

McGinnis said she will check with highway superintendent Matt Boucher to confirm the exact rightof-way on the road, and whether the vehicle is on public property.

Hankinson, bearing photos, reported that several personal boats are being stored at the Leverett Pond boat launch, crowding the shore. As the public boat loan program has been growing in popularity, Hankinson said, notices could be sent to the owners that if they choose to keep personal boats at the public launch area, that the public may start using them.

McGinnis cautioned that could invite liability on behalf of the town, and suggested the town instead post a sign discouraging personal boat storage.

At the end of Tuesday's meeting, the board entered into executive session to "discuss strategy

with respect to collective bargaining or litigation."



HILLSIDE from page A1 Sugarhill Containers, which fea

Sugarhill Containers, which featured an exterior coating that sealed out air and moisture, and gradually expanded its product line to include containers for other food, automotive, and industrial products. After Dick Haas, who was inducted into the Maple Hall of Fame at the beginning of the millennium, died in 2010, Janet and children Peter, Greg, and Kate took over the business. In 2015, however, Hillside was sold to Carr Management, a conglomerate based in New Hampshire specializing in plastic packaging. Carr was financially controlled by the private equity firm Behrman Capital, which had acquired it the previous year. Although the initial business plan kept the Haas family in control of the operation, the change in ownership almost immediately proved controversial locally when the Country Creemee, an iconic soft-serve ice cream destination after Turners Falls softball and Little League games, was abruptly evicted from the property. (The Creemee eventually landed on Avenue A downtown.) During the next few years, Carr Management renamed itself as Plastic Industries, after another container-manufacturing chain it had purchased in 2012. The Plastic Industries website advertises that the company promotes "corporate sustainability" by, among other factors, "lowering transportation costs and carbon emissions while boosting product reuse and recycling rates - all while strengthening our entire supply chain to reduce waste.

"We also believe it's our responsibility as industry leaders to educate our consumers, the broader public, and policymakers about the benefits of plastics," the site continues, "such as plastic's ability to decrease food waste by extending product shelf life."



Late last month Plastic Industries – including the Hillside facility – was bought for an undisclosed sum by the Atlanta-based Altium Packaging. It joins with over 60 other plastic container plants currently owned by Altium across North America.

Altium was formerly called the Consolidated Container Company, an entity assembled in 1999 by the private equity firm Vestar Capital by merging the assets of two other companies, Reid Plastics and Franklin Plastics. Vestar sold the conglomerate in 2012 to Bain Capital, who in turn sold it in 2017 to the publicly traded Loews Corporation.

Though older readers may associate Loews with its chain of movie theaters, the company sold them off long ago, and its major subsidiaries now specialize in luxury hotels, commercial insurance, offshore drilling, natural gas pipelines – and blow-molded plastic containers.

In 2020, Loews "rebranded" Consolidated Container as Altium, and in 2021 it sold 47% of the company to GIC, the sovereign wealth fund of Singapore, while maintaining a majority stake.

Attempts to reach Hillside Plastics, Plastic Industries, and Altium Packaging for comment were unsuccessful as of press time.



Above: Robert Quinn-O'Connor of Wendell and Diane Parton vacationed with us on Osawa Island, Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, Canada.



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FAIR from page A1

it didn't rain on the opening day parade.

Other differences I noticed included the absence of a mask mandate, the Roundhouse's second floor being open, the lack of giant pumpkins and squashes for people to pose on, and that the fowl enclosure had wooden decoys. This last one is because of the avian flu

- there were no live birds clucking and chirping in their enclosures.

I made a point of walking the fairgrounds just to absorb the sights, sounds, and smells. As I walked I saw many familiar faces.

The Franklin County Fair has become a place for people to reconnect and get news and updates on people we haven't seen in a year. For those of us from Turners and Greenfield,

the Thanksgiving football game used to be the place for these reunions.

Some of these updates we're prepared for; others, however, sadden us. I saw Priscilla Gordon at the Leyden Church pavilion, and she informed me that her beloved Ralph had passed away. Ralph Gordon always had a booth in the Dole Building where you could win prizes if you could sink a putt.

The booth is still there, complete with the putting green. The volunteers manning the booth reminisced about Ralph and shared their memories with me.

Other volunteers that I ran into were the kids from the Congregation of Grace. As they were filling their garbage bags, Russ Johnson lifted their spirits with a dad joke: "The thing about trash duty is, it's always picking up!"

Another group I met with were the students and faculty from Franklin Tech. Heather Poirier informed me that her son Brian was supposed to be in the first responders' 9/11 tribute parade, but a fire in New Hampshire prevented the Turners Falls Fire Department from participating.

These were just a few of the familiar faces that I interacted with, but the greatest rewards I received were from the strangers that I met.

As I was waiting in line for breakfast, an 88-year-old veteran struck up a conversation with me. He told me he couldn't fight in the Korean War because his father died, and he had to work the farm. He went on to say that he has been to multiple fairs throughout New England and Upstate New York but hasn't been able to go to any in years.

When I told him I'm from Turners Falls, he told me that Turners has the reputation as a football town. Even though he had to leave school in the seventh grade, the high school kids always said how tough it was to play Turners.

As we got closer to the pavilion, he said his wheelchair buggy would not fit inside, and he asked me to order for him. Inside, a fair worker in back of me said, "Let me pay for his breakfast." She wouldn't tell me her last name, but her first name is Catherine.

I then forgot to order coffee, but at the cash register, one of the Leyden Church volunteers said, "Don't worry. It's on the house." And he proceeded to give me two free coffees.

Sometimes, the smallest acts of



FCAS president Mike Nelson, about to be surprised.



Clare Wasielewski and her sheep.





Balloon bumper cars.



Katie Adams and Shannon Steins show cows as Nate Wooldridge looks on.



One of Skeleton Crew Theater's trolls.

kindness bring us the greatest joy.

I saw Tony a few more times that day. The last time was at the Black Cat Stunt Show. His wheelchair shorted out, and it began to rain. I approached the Black Cat mechanics to see if they could figure it out and they all said they know Tony. Apparently, Tony has been going to their shows since before most of them were born.

Yes, sometimes the greatest rewards we receive are from the strangers we meet along the way.



The Crescent Dancers, "the Pioneer Valley's premier Middle Eastern dance troupe for more than 40 years."

Sammi Riopelle, Amanda Goodfield, Clare Wasielewski, and a young fair fan.



The triple horn of Odin.







MONTAGUE from page A1

50% percent of infected individuals "shed the virus in their fecal matter," and that the trends may also be influenced by how far from the sewer plant the source is. "It takes time for the matter to migrate down to the wastewater plant and settle into the sludge," he said.

None of this seemed to influence the decision of the selectboard, made much later in the meeting, about the venue for the upcoming fall town meeting, scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m.

After some concerns about reaching a quorum were expressed by member Matt Lord, the board informally decided to hold an in-person meeting, and set September 15 as the date for closing the warrant.

The location of the meeting was not discussed, although town administrator Steve Ellis told the Reporter that it had previously been pegged for the Turners Falls High School.

Sewage Inflation

In preparation for that town meeting, Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little reviewed the status of the current fiscal year's sewer budget, and its potential impact on sewer rates. Noting an increase in the cost of sludge disposal, a 25% decline in revenue from Lightlife, a manufacturer of plant-based foods in the industrial park, and increased revenue from processing septic system waste, Little estimated a potential increase in sewer rates of 16.72%.

However, she estimated, if the budget "overage" caused by unaccounted-for inflow into the Millers Falls sewers processed in Erving is eliminated, the potential rate increase will fall below 14%. The problem is being addressed by the town. Increased revenue from processing out-of-town sludge may also reduce the necessary rate increase to under 11%.

Little estimated that the lower rate hike would increase the biannual sewer bill that the average household pays from \$562.03 to \$623.82.

After a lengthy discussion of these estimates, the board decided to delay a final vote on sewer rates until the following week. Ellis pointed out that a decision needed to be made on rates in time to be reviewed by the finance committee prior to the fall special town meeting.

Finally, the selectboard discussed meeting regularly as the sewer commission, which is the formal status of the selectboard when it discusses sewer issues. Member Rich Kuklewicz suggested either starting regular board meetings an hour earlier, or scheduling commission meetings separately. Kuklewicz and Little agreed to hold a dedicated meeting this fall.

Career Trajectory

The board discussed the process for appointing a new town planner to replace Walter Ramsey, who is "moving up," in Kuklewicz's words, to the newly-created position of assistant town administrator (ATA).

Ellis requested that the board allow him to "post the [town planner] position internally," consistent with the town's contract with the National Association of Government Employees union, though he added that the town was "not aware of anyone who is expected to express interest" who is currently on staff.

At Ellis's recommendation, the board approved a hiring committee consisting of three staff members, conservation commission chair Mark Fairbrother, planning board chair Ron, former finance committee chair Jen Audley, and incoming fin com chair Francia Wisnewski.

Ellis said he would probably bring Ramsey's new contract to the selectboard next week, and that he hoped Ramsey would make the transition to the ATA position on October 3, so he would be "juggling two roles" until the new planner is hired. He added that Ramsey will move into the current retirement board office in mid-October, and the retirement board will move into a renovated space in the town hall annex.

Paving, Draining, Capping

Ramsey then appeared in his current role as town planner to give updates on three infrastructure projects.

The first involved requesting that the board sign a "contract amendment" involving a state grant to help pay for a pedestrian bridge across the Turners Falls power canal, which is no longer needed given state plans to replace both the canal and river bridges in coming years. Some funds targeted for the bridge were reallocated to sidewalk

agreement with the town to build solar arrays on the property. Ramsey said the design for changes required by state and federal regulators, which are being funded by the town, is now complete, but will require an additional appropriation at the October special town meeting.

Other Business

For the third time in as many meetings, the board embarked on a discussion on bids for natural gas contracts presented by consultant Ken McCance of Yolon Energy. After reviewing the most recent bids and projections, the board decided to authorize a oneyear contract with Sprague Energy, followed by a 24-month aggregate contract with Direct Energy in collaboration with the town's two school districts.

Library director Caitlin Kelley updated the board on an upcoming series of programs on the Turners Falls power canal, sponsored by the libraries in collaboration with the Great Falls Discovery Center, the town of Montague, RiverCulture, and the Montague Historical Society. The series consists of six events between September 22 and October 29, including a walking tour of the canal next Thursday, September 22, and participation in the Source to Sea river cleanup next Saturday, September 24.

The board appointed Abigale Buedinger as library assistant at the Millers Falls branch and approved the appointment of Lillian Moss as library trustee, replacing Liz Swihart, until the next town election in May.

Ellis reported on the need to appoint a new representative to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District advisory board. The entity, whose board meets "at least two times a year" according to its bylaws, advocates for services and assists veterans and their families in obtaining federal benefits. "They're right in Greenfield, so it's pretty convenient," said Kuklewicz.

The board authorized the transfer of \$3,000 from the town's "community development unallocated" account to the Shea Theater maintenance account, which has been depleted by the need to address damage to the building caused by a recent lightning strike.

Ellis reported that the initial low bidder for the town hall roof project had withdrawn, and he intended to award the contract to the Connecticut company K&G Remodeling Inc. The board did not take a formal vote, as it had already authorized him to award the contract to the lowest viable bidder. The cost for state provision of "sealer of weights and measures," Ellis reported, has suddenly tripled. The service monitors the accuracy of a wide range of scales and other measuring devices, including bar codes, in commercial establishments. Ellis said a decision did not have to be made until December 1, but the cost now required by the state will appear on the fall town meeting warrant. The board authorized Ellis to submit a grant under the Americans with Disabilities Act for sidewalk improvements near Montague's two elementary schools. He seemed unsure whether the paperwork could be finalized by the end of September, when the grant application is due.



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

Here's the way it was on September 13, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Dunk's Comes to Erving

Dunkin' Donuts opened in Erving, and the world has not come to an end. The sun shone brightly as cars entered and exited the long disputed drive through, causing no visible traffic problem of any kind. Kevin Gray of Northfield began construction in April and had the building completed by July 30.

"The Dunkin' Donuts part is up and running," French King Entertainment Center owner Erik Semb said. "We've got a full liquor license and we're just waiting for the state to get the paperwork done and get it to us so we can finish up stocking the adjoining convenience store. The coolers are all ready for beer and the shelves are ready to be stocked with wine and liquor. The state is dragging their Stories," to be followed by Polish, French Canadian, and Irish stories in subsequent weeks.

Sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture and coordinated by town manager Frank Abbondanzio, the first presentation in the "Tales and Legends of Turners Falls" series offered a wealth of historic photographs, ephemera, and displays on exhibit for audience members to explore. The series promises a similar exhibit for each program.

Major Redevelopment Obstacle To Be Removed

Montague town meeting agreed to spend an additional \$35,000, on top of the \$130,000 previously allocated, to remove an asbestos tainted 900-ton debris pile left over from the 2007 arson fire that destroyed Building 10 at the Strathmore Mill.

Town planner Walter Ramsey told town meeting that bids to remove the pile, perform minor repairs, and install a fence at the site had come in higher than anticipated due to rising fuel and disposal costs. But he said if the town did not act now, it was in danger of forfeiting a \$200,000 grant from the EPA to assist with the removal of the debris. Precinct 4's Dave Thompson reminded town meeting that Montague had already invested \$300,000 in roof and sprinkler repairs at the abandoned mill complex. "Year after year you keep coming back for more money. You ought to just leave it and let it fall down. It's useless," said Thompson, who tried and failed to pass a measure to ban the town from spending more money on the Strathmore at a previous town meeting.

Little reviewed the progress of funding the replacement of the treatment plant's screw pumps, which lift sewage up an incline. Little said the whole project, which begins with a design phase, would cost \$2 million. Potential sources of funding include \$850,000 in federal COVID relief funds already allocated by the selectboard, and a grant from the federal Department of Agriculture (USDA) of up to 75% of the total cost.

Ellis said that the USDA "wants to work with Montague as a community," because the Turners Falls census tract is considered an "environmental justice area."

Montague's sludge removal contract with Casella Waste Systems is due to expire in December. Little said she planned to either negotiate a cheaper contract with Casella, in light of reduced solids in the town's sludge, or put the contract out to bid. Board members did not take a formal vote on the issue but expressed strong approval of the idea.

and paving work along Canal Street and adjoining streets, most of which has been completed. The board approved the amendment.

Ramsey said the town plans to put up a "gateway sign" where vehicles enter Turners Falls from Greenfield.

He next discussed the project to address perennial flooding on Montague City Road, which has become "bogged down" due to delays in state and federal permitting. He said that the grant earmarked for the project is due to expire in the spring, so this fall could be Montague's "last shot" at bidding the project for construction over the winter, although permits could change the scope of work.

The board authorized him to begin the bidding process in the next few weeks, but not authorize a contract until all permits are in.

Finally, Ramsey updated the board on the capping of the former burn dump off of Sandy Lane, financed primarily by the company Kearsarge Energy as part of its

feet with the lottery, too; they waived the training since we're already selling lottery tickets at the bowling alley [next door], but the permit hasn't come yet."

While Erik's dad, Ralph Semb, owns the building and will operate the convenience store, Dunkin' Donuts franchise holder John Nadeau of Leominster leases the donut shop part of the building. He operates 16 or more Dunkin' Donuts outlets.

German Tales from Turners

The Great Hall was packed on Friday, September 7 as the Great Falls Discovery Center hosted the first of four talks on the immigrant populations that shaped the village of Turners Falls during the industrial period between 1850 and 1950.

Friday's topic was "German

Ramsey called the debris pile a major obstacle to redevelopment at the mill complex.



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BUILD, REBUILD, MEND, -

R. SKELTON, WALLER (413) 367-2435 _ skelton.rob@gmail.com SPORTS from page A1

their 2022 home opener.

from the home crowd.

of the regulars quipped.

three quarters to play."

"And we got Chicopee next."

to go up 8-0.

Last Friday, under a blood-

Tech scored in the first minute

This led to some quiet optimism

"We may look good tonight, but

This sentiment was shared

we have Chicopee next week," one

throughout the game by multi-

ple fans. Even as the Eagles were

building a huge lead, no one on the

home side got over-confident. With

Franklin up 24-0 in the opening pe-

riod, someone cautioned, "Let's not

get ahead of ourselves. We still have

And another dad chimed in:

The team itself was focused on

this game, not on Chicopee. They

fought in the trenches and won the

battle on both sides of the ball. The

On offense, the linemen opened

final stats reflect this domination.

red moon, the Franklin Tech Na-

vy-Blue Eagles trounced the Green Hornets of McCann Tech 44-0 in

FCTS 44 – McCann 0

THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drivers Needed

FRANKLIN COUNTY - Make a big difference in someone's day by delivering a hot noontime meal and a wellness check in your own community. Stipend and mileage reimbursement available.

LifePath is looking for volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers in many communities, and especially Greenfield, Athol, and Orange. Call (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259 x. 2216, or visit *LifePathMA.org/volunteer*.

Sawmill 10K

MONTAGUE CENTER - The date of Montague Parks and Rec Department's annual Sawmill River 10K Run has switched back to New Year's, and will be held Saturday, December 31. The road race will begin promptly at 10 a.m. near the Village Common on Main Street.

Race Day registration will begin at 9 a.m. at the Montague Common Hall at 34 Main Street. Divisions include Youth, Open, Master, Senior, and Senior+. The entry fee is \$30 if paid by noon on December 30, or \$35 thereafter.

Hot and cold refreshments will be provided. This event benefits MPRD's Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program.

The Sawmill River 10K Run is a USA Track & Field sanctioned event. Online registration available www.runreg.com/sawmill-river-10krun, or log onto www.montagueparksrec.com or call MPRD at (413) 863-3216 to receive a registration form and additional information.

up holes, allowing two different runners to surpass the century mark.

Sophomore workhorse Josiah Little carried the rock 13 times and amassed 119 rushing yards. Not to be outdone, Captain Ryan Demers also hit triple figures with 126 on the ground.

Co-captain Gabriel Tomasi ran four keepers for 35 rushing yards, while Nathan Sabolevski (21), Zaydrien Alamed (7), and Ethan Smarr (2) also carried the ball for Tech.

Under center, Tomasi only attempted six passes, two of which hit. Demers caught one for 22 yards, and William Ainsworth the other for 7.

Defensively, the Eagles set the tone early. Already leading by 8, the Blue D forced a second down and 25 yards to go. Two sacks later, the Hornets were facing fourth and 42 and were forced to punt. Co-captain Charlie Boyden blocked the punt, leading to a quick TD and a 16-0 early lead.

Franklin got back the ball and scored again, and the first quarter mercifully ended with the Birds up 24-0. McCann never gave up - they made the Eagles fight for every yard - but they were simply

det in which appendices we with the

Franklin Tech's Josiah Little, downed after a long run during last Friday's home opener against McCann Tech. Little ran the ball for 119 yards during the game.

Jet Bastarache made two sacks, four players. Demers scored three pushing the ball back 14 yards, touchdowns, Little had two TDs and while Demers had one for minus-9. a conversion, Tomasi had a touch-Ainsworth, Levi Halla, Alamed, and down and ran in two 2-pointers, and Hardy all recovered fumbles, and Nathaniel Fuess scored a 2-PAT. Charlie Boyden blocked a punt. The Eagles cannot rest on their The Birds scored early in the seclaurels, however. This Friond period, to go up by 30 points, day they host Chicopee.

Again, the final stats show how

well Tech did defensively. Sixteen

different players were in on tack-

les, with Landen Hardy leading the



Steph Peterson watches as Keira Richardson Meattey sends the ball over the net during the Turners Falls Thunder's 3-0 win Monday over the visiting Pioneer Panthers.

then scored another 6-pointer to inout-hit. While Green mounted a crease the lead to 36-zip. The half few good drives, gang tackles and ended on another Blue sack. forced fumbles ended the threat

After the home team put one more score in the bank, going up to 44-0, the mercy rule kicked in. The last quarter sped by in real time as the clock never stopped for incompletions or out-of-bounds plays.

Tech's 44 points were scored by



each time.

pack with 10.







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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022



Above: Jan Atamian took this photo of Lake Pleasant on her way across the Bridge of Names to get her mail.

By DAVID BRULE

CHAUBUNAGUNGAM-AUG TERRITORY - A twohour journey through central Massachusetts, skirting the Quabbin, brings us through towns like Petersham, Barre, New Braintree, and Brookfield, and all the way to Holland. We take this circuitous route to avoid the madhouse and dead-stop jam of traffic in Brimfield, one of the biggest flea markets in the Northeast. We are on the way to the powwow of the Chaubungungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians, a state-recognized Massachusetts tribe.

Once and for thousands of years one of the most powerful Indigenous nations in the Northeast, the Nipmuck took the lead in resisting and fighting the English to a standstill in territory claimed by Massachusetts Bay Colony during King Philip's War in 1675-76.

The Nipmuck have survived and persisted, regardless of the epthat endures to this day. They are now numbered in the thousands, just a shadow of their former population, but they have succeeded in maintaining their customs, traditions, culture and language. Their celebrated leaders of the past include men like Matoonas, Monoco, Mettawmp, Shoshanin. These sachems led men and women throughout our region from Northfield to Deerfield and Northampton in challenging the colonizers and their armies in the fight to protect their homelands. Indeed, those Nipmuck homelands extended from the outskirts of Boston to the falls at

Peskeompskut. They overlapped in fluid coexistence with the lands of the Pocumtuck and the Abenaki here at Peskeompskut Falls. Their Nipmuck descendants are still here, and we were entering their midst this past Sunday, as their guests.

The powwow was taking place beside a lake, in a region of numerous lakes, still brimming with life in spite of the drought. We here in this region can be grateful that we are still surrounded by the bright greens of forests and fields, blue waters. Others are not so fortunate.

We arrive at the powwow space, an opening in the midst of a grove of great 90-foot tall white pines.

In the center of all is the place for dancing, pauochaúg. Smoke rises from the fire pit at the center of the dancing space, the huge drums echo the deep sound of what the Nipmuck call the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

A dear friend and colleague, Liz Coldwind Santana Kiser, is one of the powwow organizers. idemics and the colonizing process Liz is active in representing her family, tribe, and cultures. She is often present in Montague - at Peskeompskut - as a member of the National Park Service Battlefield Study Advisory Board, and has often served as a spokeswoman for her tribe at events in Peskeompskut Park, the Discovery Center, and the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. Liz took over that public role as ambassador to our town when she replaced David Tall Pine White. Tall Pine passed away at a too-young age after years of sharing cultural and spiritual guidance with the public at multiple events at the Pocumtuck Festival, on the Battlefield Advisory Board, and at public information sessions at Turners Falls High School. This powwow, the first such event since his passing in 2020, was dedicated to him. In their welcoming remarks, the Nipmuck Council reminds the attendees that the venue of Lake Siog is a historical landmark of local Nipmuck history. "A native powwow is a spiritual legacy which should be treated with respect and honor," they further state. "It is a time for tribal members to come together in peace to honor the past and reinforce the future generations." Local Nipmuck representatives and key figures of the Ohkateau Center in Ashfield, Larry Spotted Crow Mann as MC and Andre Strongbearheart Gaines as Nipmuck culture keeper, share stories and announce the dances over the two-day gathering.

The Joy of Twine and Rope

By PEGGY HART

TURNERS FALLS - Chris King's Weaving With Wood exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center is a skilled and playful exploration of textile materials and natural wood. It invites visitors to engage with the materials in a number of ways, and the artist has brought some of his tools and materials as well as finished work.

On the day of the opening reception, a young visitor from Hadley wrestled with an enormous rope - it would have served to tie up an ocean liner - to make a knot. Earlier in the week, Joe Parzych, a Montague Reporter photographer, twisted rope and worked a loom during one of the exhibit demonstrations.

The exhibit is curated to include a combination of knotted and woven pieces. "Large Xylophone" and "Maple Stick Blind" were made by knotting natural wood sticks left by an arborist. The arborist could have put them through the shredder, but the artist chose to cut them into lengths, sort them by size, and then knot them. After making the first piece, Chris made the happy discovery that it also functioned as a xylophone. He freely confessed to this being a labor-intensive pandemic activity, the pieces being dated 2020.

Chris King's training is as a materials engineer, and he has worked in factories making products as diverse as wire and mattresses. However, in an interlude during his engineering career he worked as a bus and then an Uber driver. He drove the bus for a university class



Chris King incorporated pieces of discarded rope he found on the beach into this net, now on display in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center as part of his Weaving With Wood exhibit.

this rope appears in "Circular Net with an Aluminum



The author, left, with Liz Coldwind Santana Kiser, Nipmuck, and Dolores Flores, Taino, at last week's powwow in Holland.

see WEST ALONG page B3

time waiting for the class by salvaging rope and stashing it in the luggage compartment of the bus. Some of

visiting a beach in Rhode Island, where he spent his Pole," a large knotted piece surrounding a resonant pipe. (Visitors should feel free to hit the pipe – it makes see TWINE page B2

HISTORY A Murder on Bear Mountain

By PAM RICHARDSON

WENDELL - Stories - and follow-up stories – about the murder of a woman living in Wendell in 1892 were reported in newspapers across New England. What follows is a synthesis of those many articles - but, be forewarned, the details are grim.

On Sunday, September 4, 1892, after a night of drinking, a young lumber camp worker named Edward Begor of Orange went with his cousin Arthur Begor to visit 58-year-old Mrs. Abigail Rogers in SUBMITTED IMAGE

her one-room hut on the north slope of Bear Mountain, facing the village of Farley. Arriving around 3 a.m., the two men continued their carousing with Mrs. Rogers, who had an "unsavory reputation."

When the sun came up, Edward built a fire in the stove and Rogers cooked a breakfast of potatoes, pork and eggs, griddle cakes, and tea. Edward complained about the griddle cakes and quarreled with Rogers. Arthur went home, but Edward stayed for a while before setting off to spend the day with the hermit



The view of Farley, the Farley Mills, and Rattlesnake Mountain that Abigail Rogers would have had from her hut on the north slope of Bear Mountain.

James, whose well-kept hut was located part way up the side of Rattlesnake Mountain.

Nothing more was known until the following Thursday, September 8, when Fred Dudley, a 14-year-old boy employed by the Orange Knitting Company in Farley, was sent up to Mrs. Rogers' hut to pick up mittens that she had been "finishing." There, Dudley found the dead body of Mrs. Rogers buried under a heap of old clothes on the floor, and he raced back to the mill to report the horrible news. In Wendell's death records, Mrs. Rogers is listed as having died that day and the cause given was "shock caused by fracture of the skull, resulting in rupture of the brain and hemorrhage."

The local police went to work immediately and on Saturday, September 10, Edward Begor, the suspected murderer, was arraigned in an office at the Greenfield jail – an unusual proceeding prompted by the large crowd that had gathered at the courthouse, hoping to catch a glimpse of Begor.

The Boston Globe of that date embellished its report with the following description of Begor: "He looks like the typical brigand in

see MURDER page B8

Pet of Week



"WALLACE"

of Second Street in Great Falls. She just celebrated her second birthday – she is a Leo – and is beloved locally, making occasional appearances at downtown businesses. (No restaurants, though!)

Wallace's hobbies are interior decorating, stealing your dinner, and shredding old copies of the Montague Reporter to make nests

Wallace, a fancy rat, is a resident out of. She lives with, mentors, and tolerates four other fancy rats, and blesses all she meets with gentle grooming and good humor.

> Want to see your sweet animal friend here? Sometimes we feature our readers' pets! To submit, email jae@montaguereporter.org and include a high-resolution image of your pet, along with their name and a description of their personality.

Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH 23

WENDELL

Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

Info Session Foot care clinic the first 10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (by subscription) 1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 9/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics 12 p.m. Pizza Party

TWINE from page B1

you think of buoys in the ocean.)

Another stint behind the wheel introduced him to someone who knew the owner of a mattress factory, resulting in another engineering job at Jeffco Fibers. The mattress factory job had the side benefit of providing him with more materials: factory waste in the form of mattress cover scraps. Some of this appears in "Woven Twine Panels."

King's materials explorations with textiles began with knotting, but he is now also using small looms for woven construction. He uses upcycled fabric in two woven pieces: "Hems, Seams, and Twisted Fabric" and "Hems, Ropes, and Seams." The fabric in these pieces are tailoring byproducts, hems and seams cut off when pants are shortened and other clothing alterations made. At the opening, a visitor looking at one piece remarked that it "puts me in the shoes of a man," responding to the palette of khakis, browns, and grays from the scraps.

Other woven pieces include two that are styled after Tibetan prayer flags, one woven of natural materials and the other of synthetic. They are recognizable for their familiar colors: blue, white, red, green, yellow. Blue represents the sky, white represents the air, red symbolizes fire, green symbolizes water, and yellow symbolizes earth. All five colors together signify balance.

The artist explained that Tibetan prayer flags are meant to decay in outdoor environments and blow away, sending prayers on the wind. Making one as he did from nylon and Kevlar is both a materials engineer's experiment and a tongue-

in-cheek comment on permanence.

Even the way the show is hung is a demonstration of engineering and construction. Because the hall is used during the month for events, it was necessary that some of the pieces be able to be moved during the show. They are hung from the wood beams with pulleys and cleats, so that they may be hauled upwards out of the way. For extra credit, he made all of the rope that is used to do this.

The show is up through September 28, with a demonstration Sunday, September 18, from 11 a.m. to noon, when you can see Chris King explore rope making, knot tying, and weaving. You can see examples and try techniques that can help transform waste into useful items. Make rope and try macrame and weaving on September 18 – World Knot Tying Day!

The Great Falls Discovery Center is at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m to 6 p.m. Admission is free.



Top: Montague Reporter 'Photo Beat" guy Joe R. Parzych participates at one of Chris King's workshops about weaving with wood on a table loom.

Left: A youngster tries to tie a knot at the opening reception for Weaving With Wood.

PROFILE The Black Cat Hell Drivers

IMAGE FROM BLACKCATHELLDRIVERS.CO

it drove through a literal ring of fire. The crowd really enjoyed that one. The same man also stood on a car while it drove over the ramps.

I was told the vehicles involved are Dodge Avenger, a Dodge Dakota pickup, and a 1937 Dodge Sedan. That one does the jumping. "It's an 85-year-old car doing the jump," he said. John mentioned the others in-

ERVING

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 9/19

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Knitting & Handcrafts Tuesday 9/20 10 a.m. A Matter of Balance 1 p.m. Chair Yoga Wednesday 9/21 Foot Clinic (by appointment) 9 a.m. Veterans' Agent Hours 1:30 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Thursday 9/22 10 a.m. LifePath Home Share

Erving Senior Center is open through Fridays. Open for cards,

coffee, and snacks daily. Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 9/19

9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout **Tuesday 9/20** 9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Line Dancing Wednesday 9/21 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo Thursday 9/22 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion Friday 9/23 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have never done an article on a stunt car show, so I thought it would be fun to do one on the one at the Franklin County Fair in Greenfield. They are called Black Cat Hell Drivers.

I interviewed John Wiser, the owner of the show. He told me that he had been the owner "since 2010." John himself started in 1972 on another show, when it comes to how long he has been behind stunt shows. He said he enjoys doing this particular show, which has been around since 2010.

The Black Cat Hell Drivers is actually a very good and cool show to

see. I saw the cars ready to be used, along with the ramps they were going to jump off of. A guy dressed as a clown came out in a clown car of sorts – it was a little pickup truck – and he gave away free t-shirts to the audience. He also encouraged the servicemen in the crowd to stand up so they could be applauded for their service. They sang The Star-Studded Banner.

The vehicles drove around the track. Then two of them did a stunt that consisted of driving off the ramps at the same time. They then did stunts involving the ramps a couple more times. One that they did was very cool; it had one man holding onto a car until he let go while

volved are named Rob, Joel, Chris, and Rick. Rick is the announcer, and always has been. The rest do stunts.

John has known Chris since 1996. "I have known Rob since he was a baby. I used to work with his dad in the '70s and '80s," he said. "It was on the Kochman Hell Drivers." He also gave me some background about Chris's stunt work. Chris is excellent, and does movies and TV. He has done stunts on the show *Blue Bloods*, which I think is very cool.

As for the equipment I mentioned, they bought all of it from another company in Canada. "They happen to have Dodges in their show at the time," he said, explaining that all the cars are Dodges because of the company. "I think they were called Imperial Hell Drivers."

The Black Cat Hell Drivers usually draw a lot of people to the show, according to John, and the show usually performs at fairs -"basically, the grandstand shows." Their official website address is blackcathelldrivers.co. I found this to be a reasonably enjoyable thing to write about.





The Walking Bear Singers and the Blackstone Valley Singers trade turns as "featured drums." Their chants and steady drumming push the dancers further and further



David "Tall Pine" White (July 18, 1972 – August 17, 2020) on the set of PBS's "We Shall Remain."

into their trancelike favorite steps. Some act out in gestures the careful secretive stalking and taking of an animal in the hunt, others weave their arms in alternating circles like soaring birds of prey; some are fancy steppers, others advance with purposeful dignity in careful steps around the dancing space.

Shadows lengthen already at 5 p.m. The final intertribal circle dance - open to all attendees, inclusive of tribal and non-tribal alike brings the two days to a close. Hand in hand they form a circle of 80 people. The ring linking all dancers circles the ceremonial fire in rhythmic steps before all break camp and each go on our separate ways.

We leave, and carry the sound of the throbbing drum, the heartbeat of the earth, in our minds as we take the long trip back through the tall pines and winding roads of

back-country Massachusetts on our way home.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS Local Flicks at the LAVA

GREENFIELD – The LAVA Center, a community arts space in downtown Greenfield, will host its second annual Film Festival from Thursday, September 15 to Sunday, September 18. It is a showcase of exclusively Massachusetts filmmaking talent, from students to professionals and everyone in between. In 2021, LAVA hosted its first film festival entirely online; hence, this year's festival is being called "In Reel Life."

The festival kicks off with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday. Audience members can meet the filmmakers whose work will be screening over the weekend, and filmmakers can network with each other. Films will be screened Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday.

In addition to the screenings, the festival will host several events with local filmmakers who will share their insights into making films in this region. These include a Regional Filmmaking panel with local filmmakers at 4 p.m. on Sunday, hosted by Wally Marzano-Lesnevich and featuring Wade Wofford, Nathan Graham Davis, and Melissa McClung.

The festival includes films by: Shane Butler; Allison Chaves; Exploded View members Trish Crapo, Edite Cunhã, Nina Rossi, and Samantha Wood; Ned Daly; Matt Demko, Catherine Argyrople, and Janet Maslow; Brendan Egan; Samarah Hasan-Kepes; Duncan Hatch; Viktor Herrmann; Althea Levin Rieff Keaton; Porter Justus; Lucretia Knapp; Lynne Yamamoto; James J. LaBonte; Niles Larson; Mark Majeski; Robert Markey; Zoe Jane McClelland; Melissa McClung; Michelle Melnik; Olin Meyers; Lance Pinkman; Ezra Clemens Prior; Matthew Scipione; Nicolas Andrew Silva; Frank A. Smith; and Kohei Takeda and Shumile.

For more details and a complete schedule, go to localaccess.org. For tickets, go to thelavacenter.brownpapertickets.com. The LAVA Center is at 324 Main Street in Greenfield.

Dr. Rigoberta Menchú Tum **To Deliver Keynote Lecture**

AMHERST – Throughout the

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Loud Noises Found Valid; Skunk Seems Rabid; Catalytic Converters Stolen; Cat Maybe Just Meowing

Saturday, 9/3 ized again.

Street is concerned about nystagmus. apartment. Investigated. wold Street reporting ter. Involved female was ther assistance. that someone vandalized walking away from Uni- Thursday, 9/8 call back yet, but wanted officer's arrival. it documented with PD as 6:27 p.m. 911 caller from Friday, 9/9 some paint on the back of states there were eight loud to be malicious.

4:23 p.m. Calls reporting spoke to involved party and location and appear to while parked outside his a large group of people confirmed he was shooting be grabbing items; call- residence. Report taken. velling and possibly get- on his property and has a er states location usually 3:18 p.m. Caller reporting ting ready to fight at Av- valid license to carry. enue A and Fourth Street. 7:01 p.m. Caller from FL site at this time. Caller behind a Fourth Street One detained. Parties sep- Roberts states there is a described one individual address; suspects suspiarated; situation mediated; male inside the store who wearing a black hoodie cious activity going on. all verbal.

that they have a permit.

loud noise from Montague for the other customers to ceived from another male broken front door win-Retreat; states special per- leave. Party has left store; party. Does not appear dow on Second Street. mit states they cannot dis- officers will be on lookout to be as reported. Male Report taken. turb the peace. Officer on in area. Cashier advised transported to hospital. scene for a medical event of options. advises music is all indoors; Monday, 9/5 party was still going on. 9:06 p.m. Caller states that in her garden. having what looks like a ing a transformer blew on from road by PD. a motorcycle. There are a few people on the corner, but they are not loud, and other people in the area 8:25 p.m. A 25-year-old state they have not been

down by worker at F.L. Wednesday, 9/7 7:46 a.m. Caller from Old Roberts, who is advising 10:12 a.m. Party into stamailbox has been vandal- gas pumps. Officer noted stolen over the weekend.

states male is back trying Gill Bridge. Unfounded.

while he was there, and the nue A reporting more van- on Unity Street. Officer small neighbor dispute.

men are back and entered 12:24 p.m. Caller con-skunk is in some pallets area and did not observe the property; caller be- cerned about a random bi- that are in a large ware- anything suspicious. lieves female is not home cycle sitting at the begin- house. The doors to the Saturday, 9/10 at this time. Second caller ning of the Turners Falls- warehouse are open; they 9:08 a.m. Caller advising to force his way into the 5:26 p.m. Caller states that hopefully the skunk will trian bridge on bike path. a female was threatening run away. Advised to give Officers advised. 3:24 p.m. Caller from Gris- her 13-year-old daugh- us a call if they need fur- 9:45 a.m. Caller reports

his car during the day by ty Park wearing a long 1:36 p.m. Walk-in request-verett Road and Federal putting paint on it. Call- green shirt and red heels. ing assistance with an un- Street. Female party is with er attempted to contact Caller advised of options; wanted party at an elder- car and appears distraught. landlord; hasn't gotten a involved party gone upon ly person's residence on J Vehicle towed; courtesy

well. Officer did observe West Chestnut Hill Road 6:16 a.m. Security com- 12:14 p.m. Caller from Lake the vehicle. Doesn't appear blasts; believes that they Farmacy location advises was struck and damaged came from a gun. Officer two individuals are inside between last night and now requested the cashier to and another wearing a Referred to an officer. then he would be unable to he open the cash register. 6:54 a.m. Caller from checked; nothing showing. watch TV. Advised caller Cashier denied him again. Third Street advises he Sunday, 9/11 Male party is still in store needs an ambulance for 9:44 a.m. Caller states his 8:35 p.m. Caller reporting and appears to be waiting defensive wounds he re- tenants alerted him to a

no disturbance happening 9:15 a.m. Caller from Ave- broken glass in the road Officer advises it was a dalism to small structures advises no glass, but there All neighbors on scene a large group of people is 9:46 p.m. 911 caller report- the road. Debris cleared of options.

candlelight vigil at Ave- Prospect Street and there 11:51 p.m. E-911 caller that a window was just nue A and Fourth Street, are sparks; no power in from Fifth Street states he smashed at his mother's but they are yelling and the area. Conferenced with is being hacked by some- apartment on Avenue A. causing a disturbance with Shelburne Control. Officer one or multiple people; he Person took off. No injuadvises flames showing. works out in LA and gets ries. Investigated. hacked a lot out there; be- Monday, 9/12 lieves someone is near his 1:49 a.m. Caller reports a

anti-corruption, and stated the LAPD, LA Sheriff, Northfield Road would that someone fell asleep tion to report three vehicles and FBI are upset with like it on record that her behind the wheel at the having catalytic converters the work he has done; believes hacking is from no signs of impairment; 2:25 p.m. Caller from Red those people as he has 1:59 p.m. Caller from J zero on PBT; no signs of Fire Farm stated that there had the same thing hapis a skunk on the property pen out in LA. Caller rean elderly tenant; it ap- 12:14 p.m. Employee at that appears to be rabid; it quests patrol car to check pears that homeless people Montague Retreat report- is running into things and Fifth Street for electronic are trying to take advan- ing ongoing harassment trying to attack a cat. Call- work and/or surveillance; tage of her and move in from a neighbor. Both er concerned for employ- states he does not want to without her consent. Call- parties spoken with and ees. Animal control officer speak with an officer. Ofer called back to state the advised of various options. unavailable. Officer advises ficer checked surrounding

will keep an eye on it, and of black bear near pedes-

car off road with airbag deployment at North Le-Street. Advised of options. transport to Deerfield provided to operator.

pany who monitors 253 Pleasant states that his car

does not have anyone on a fancy white car parked

8:10 p.m. Caller complain- exchange a \$100 bill for red hoodie. Officer advises 3:39 p.m. Caller reporting ing about noise from music smaller bills; the cashier individual on camera was a possibly intoxicated male festival at Millers Falls Rod denied his request, and an employee who wore his trying to cook something & Gun; states he can't have the male party became black hoodie to work and outside on Avenue A; bewindows open because upset and demanded that changed into a red hoodie. lieves that it is unsafe. Area

10:30 a.m. Caller reports 12:56 p.m. Caller advis- an argument of some ing of a large amount of type on Farren Avenue. are some nuts and bolts in spoken to and advised

7:30 p.m. Caller reporting

twentieth century, the United States trained and financed military regimes to crush reformist and revolutionary movements. In Central America alone, US intervention from 1960 to 1996 led to the deaths of over 300,000 people. US-backed dictatorships in Guatemala and Indonesia killed more than a million people accused of revolutionary activism. At the same time, throughout the Global South, rural workers led powerful movements against USbacked regimes to win basic rights.

Next Monday, September 19 at 7 p.m. via Zoom, the keynote event of the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series at UMass Amherst will explore the devastating consequences of US-backed state terror in Central America and Southeast Asia.

The keynote presenter, Dr. Rigoberta Menchú Tum, participated in the farmworker movement as a young woman. Her seminal testimonial, I, Rigoberta Menchú, An Indian Woman in Guatemala, denounced Reagan's support for government attacks on Mayan communities. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her social justice work.

Journalists Vincent Bevins and Amy Goodman will join her. Bevins will outline a global history of US terror against civilians during the Cold War, based on his book The Jakarta Method: Washington's Anticommunist Crusade and the Mass Murder Program That Shaped Our World. Goodman, the host and executive producer of *Democracy* Now!, recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, and co-author of six New York Times bestsellers, will moderate the event.

Spanish interpretation and closed captions will be available.

The 2022-23 Feinberg Series is exploring histories of US imperialism and anti-imperialist resistance. The series is presented by the UMass-Amherst Department of History in collaboration with the Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy, and is co-sponsored by more than three dozen community and university partners. Visit blogs.umass.edu/ *feinberg/* for more information.

causing a disturbance. 9:18 p.m. Caller would like

to file a complaint about the noise from the music festival at Millers Falls Rod & Gun; states it is ruining her quiet Labor Day weekend. Advised caller that they have a permit. Caller stated whoever signed the permit should have thought about how it would affect the neighbors. 10:14 p.m. Caller states that a party on Federal Street is entertaining the neighborhood again. Loud music could be heard through the phone. Advised of complaint. Sunday, 9/4

1:45 a.m. Officer flagged

Eversource on scene. Tuesday, 9/6

Millers Falls woman was arrested on a probation warrant.

house currently hacking cat meowing somewhere him. Caller advises he is on Third Street. Caller is involved in "clinical activ- unsure if it needs help or ism" out in LA, along with if it is just meowing.

Montague Community Television News Follow Along

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Summer fun is cooling off, but there are always new meetings to watch on MCTV! This week, catch the Montague selectboard in action, and follow along with the GMRSD school committee Zoom meeting, both available on the MCTV Vimeo page.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. MCTV is always

available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

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 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com.

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MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN



Interview by J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS – Wow! This week we are talking to the famous Ann Charters. She and her late husband Sam were very influential music writers, field recorders, historians, and photographers in the '50s through the '70s in the blues, folk, jazz, and rock fields and recording realms.

They were involved with the Folkways label, and helped discover and record many music visionaries and pioneers from a very rich time period in the American histories; they even discovered important folks like Joseph Spence!

Ann was also a musician, and has been a writer and teacher her whole life; she wrote the first biography of Jack Kerouac.

We got her to talk about Spence, her childhood, her piano records on Folkways, and other music adventures. There is a lot of information online about Ann & Sam, so we recommend punching them into Google and spending a while learning about their rich lives, and time in the library, *We All Played Ragtime*, and wow, I adored it.

When I was 17 I went to Berkeley and met Sam Charters in a music class. We were talking, and he asked me if I ever played music. And I said yes; at the time I was playing more classical music. Then he asked if I played ragtime, and I told him "sure," and right away he got me more ragtime sheet music for me to play.

Thanks to him I started to play a lot of Joplin, because that was his favorite, but also other ragtime composers too. Sam had collected the music. Some of it was still available in print, and if you went to a music store you could order it – by individual composers, I recall. But most of it was sheet music that was junked!

He would spend hours looking for sheet music and records in junk stores, and that's how he had it. He gathered all this richness for me that wasn't in books, and I didn't have to look for it again. This was in 1954. It was a lot more limited, the older American music available at the time. ly enough, Sam had been booked for a recording session in NYC just at the date that I had my concert, so he never heard me in public, but I think I did okay. There were a lot of people there and flowers, and I enjoyed it, but would never do it again.

MMM: You had records on Folkways. Was that Sam's idea?

AC: Yeah! So, Sam had this dream. He wanted to produce 4 LPs. And the first record he wanted to produce as a record producer was what he called a "Scott Joplin Bouquet," which was a record of all the flower rags that Joplin composed, and I started to practice those.

That was when I got a fellowship, and started going to Columbia University. They had practice rooms there and I could practice a lot after my own classes in English. They had an auditorium, and allowed us to record there in the auditorium.

It was the hardest thing I've ever done, and he recorded them for that first Folkways album in 1958. That was our first record. It was on our own label first, and then it went to Mo Asch at Folkways.

And we were really lucky around that time to meet the amazing Joseph Lamb, who had gone deaf early on, and heard ragtime early and could play it the way he heard around Joplin's time! This was before jazz, and before pop music. He was a great guy, and I felt blessed to have that connection.

Our friend Dave Van Ronk had a saying back then, that "the earliest jazz players were trying to play ragtime, but they couldn't... that's how they started playing jazz." Which I think is a marvelous way of putting it.

Then we moved to Sweden in 1970, and we did records there for a Swedish company

MMM: What did you think of the ragtime players who came later, like Rifkin?

AC: Well, he played "well," but not at the right speed. I would try to play at the correct speed that Lamb recommended. Other commercial

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Weaving With Wood.* Chris King, a scientist, engineer, and artist from Worcester, up-cycles and repurposes found materials into art. (See article, Page B1.) Through September 28. Special rope-making and weaving workshop this Sunday, September 18 at 11 a.m.

players would "jazz it up."

MMM: Can you talk about Joseph Spence? He is one of my favorite musicians! Did you like his playing? It's so different...

AC: Are you kidding? It was the summer of 1958 that we spent on Andros Island in the Bahamas. We went to record mostly vocal music, but just by chance we stumbled upon Spence. We had rented a small stone house with one light. There was no electricity or bathrooms on the island. We had gone swimming, and we were waiting for singers to show up.

We had heard a bit of recordings from this area from some Alan Lomax recordings for the Library of Congress recorded in the '30s or '40s. Really early! And Sam said we have to go there. We found that the island hadn't changed much. It was very primitive, and we would fry a fish for dinner.

Just by chance we stumbled upon Spence, sitting outside a house, playing his guitar for these women who just clustered around him, he was irresistible.... Sam and I had gone swimming, and we heard the most enchanting music, and it couldn't have been the radio. Must have been live! We followed the sound to a house, and there was this long, lanky man sitting there on the porch, and these women just circulating around him, circling, listening and dancing and swaying, and having a hell of a good time.

We thought there were two people playing, we didn't believe there was just one. And I remember Sam said, "why don't you sneak around to the back of the house to see if anyone is accompanying him." And I did, and there was nobody, it was just Spence making all that music himself. It was really quite an afternoon! And that's how we met Joseph Spence. We also recorded Joseph McQueen there, in Andros, who was wonderful as well.

I started taking photos in Andros. Sam said "I need photographs," so I had this very cheap Kodak that I bought in Berkeley, and I took photos for the album covers. That's

in collaboration with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office programs. More than 70 pieces from men and women who are or who have been incarcerated and the community artists from the Weekly Watercolor group who represent a welcoming bridge toward healing after release. Through September. Closing reception Friday, September 30 at 5 p.m. how I began my career as a photographer – I took pictures of the musicians and the terrain. I didn't stop doing photographs until 1967 when we had children.

MMM: Did you travel a lot with Sam for music?

AC: Yes I did. I helped with his movie, *The Blues*, in 1962. That was a major trip. He ran out of tapes, and it took a month to get the tapes for us to finish....

MMM: Did you ever spend time in Western Mass?

AC: My mom was born in Massachusetts and my father in Connecticut, and when she married him they settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and we only had trips in Massachusetts to Boston to visit her family and friends. She missed them so much and never liked Connecticut, and her dream was to come back to Boston.

Her life in Connecticut, with my father's family, was very difficult. And finally my mother and father decided to leave. My dad thought he had more of a chance to make money elsewhere. He was middle-aged, he thought at that point, at 36. And when they got to California he started a new career.

And when he started he was a painter, a house painter, because that's all he could muster up. To pay for a brush and all, and cans of paint. We were very poor. We lived in the projects. They loved each other, but it was hard.

She should have had an easier life. She gave everything for me to have an easier life. Like piano lessons. She was very special. My dad, too. He made a living, and then became a wealthy man after painting and then getting a contractor's license. LA was under construction at the time – we got there in '48, after the war – and he did very well. He worked himself to death, quite literally.

He left my mom quite comfortable, but I wish he had gone back to Boston. Because I like it. And I *love* Northampton – I would go to Northampton every week if I could.

Shelburne Falls: *Color, Light, Reflection.* Coop members Sandra Denis, Flo Rosenstock, and Sally Chaffee present colorful paintings, jewelry, textile art, and collage. Through September.

the amazing things they helped save for us all into the future times.

MMM: Hi Ann, thanks for talking to us! When did you start playing piano, and how did you come to record albums of ragtime music?

AC: Well, ragtime is all about sound. But I started playing piano when I was maybe 5 or 6 years old, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where I grew up in my early childhood. I started with all the standard stuff that everyone starts with, and I enjoyed it a lot, so I continued.

And my mother had always wanted to be a singer herself, so she encouraged me. It was thanks to my mother that I got the music lessons. My mother loved classical music and easy pop, and she thought ragtime was just music played for silent movies – she never got over her, I wouldn't say distaste for it, but she never would have listened to a rag herself.

I went to high school in Los Angeles, moved there when I was 12, and I discovered a book about rag*MMM:* Did you play live concerts?

AC: I played once in public. My mom wanted me to be a concert pianist and I had a really good teacher in Los Angeles, and I had been playing for years before I moved there. I had a great teacher there, and I played two to three hours a day, but I realized after hearing other students give their recitals that there were a lot of people who played better than I did, and I realized I wouldn't be able to have a major career as a pianist.

So I decided not to be a concert pianist. Not because I was second tier, but because I got so nervous in public. I got super sick to my stomach, and had a real sense of not wanting to do it. So of course a career in music wasn't going to be my thing.

It was Sam who brought it back. I gave it up in my last year of high school. I never got nervous with him. When I played in public I played in Sweden, in Stockholm. I practiced up a storm, and I played in a wonderful pub that was downtown. Sad**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Interotine*, mixed-media work by Turners Falls resident Desi Lowit. Through November.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: The ROY G. BIV of Fungi, illustrations by Annaliese Bischoff. *Travels and Botanicals*, oil paintings by Lori Lyn Hoffer. Through September, with a reception this Sunday, September 18 at 3 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Ocean House* by Stacey Pea. Through September 30.

GCTV Studios, Greenfield: *Alternative Abstracts,* paintings by Drew Hutchinson. Through September.

LAVA Center and Looky Here, Greenfield. Art Beyond Four Walls, from the Salasin Project **Memorial Hall, Deerfield:** *Robert Strong Woodward,* landscape paintings by Woodward (1885-1957). Through September.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Sticks & Stones.* Artists interpret the whimsical theme of sticks and/or stones in sculpture, mixed media, mosaic, fiber art, and more. September 23 to November 6. Reception Thursday, September 29, includes a farmers market on site.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *William Hays*, color-reduction woodcut and linocut prints of the New England landscape and architecture. *Carolyn Webb*, drawings and prints using patterns surrounding grief, colors, reflections. Reception Sunday, September 25, at 2 p.m. Through October.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, th

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Then and Now.* Ron Maggio's mixed-media series "Grid: Point of Departure," and Rochelle Shicoff's painting series "A Day Such as This." Through September.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: Owlen Dowling, monotypes, intaglio, and drypoint. *Eliza Jane Moser*, paintings. Dean Nimmer and Unique Fredique, fluxist art. Through October 1.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Mundane Monsters.* Kristoffer Ørum combines augmented reality, 3D printing, video, wireless transmissions, and sculpture to summon forth everyday beasts from the cracks between the real and the imagined. Through October 7.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: Felt Experience, group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. Through October 10. www.brattleboromuseum.org.



GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – And just like that, it's mid-September, and the growing season is slowly turning the bend towards the finish line. As I sit writing this I can hear the rain that has fallen on the road being churned up by car wheels, a welcome sound after such an arid summer.

While just one of my sungold cherry tomato plants is thriving, the rest of my annual vegetables, if they made it through, are only starting to show signs of vigor and life. If this summer has proven anything to me, it's that perennials are unshakable, and will bloom and thrive even in the most adverse conditions.

This season has been a low-key one for us here at the Great Falls Apple Corps. Just like a farmer rotating their fields, this summer we have left our programming arm to lie fallow. Our gardens continue to grow, but after five years of seemingly constant events and workshops, we needed some time to recharge and reevaluate.

Five years is a lot of time to grow and change – just take a glance at the maturing trees and berry bushes we've planted. And while the changes may not be as obvious, the human elements of this Apple Corps are also growing and changing. Our priorities and interests are not necessarily the same as they were when we started, and so, with a goal of keeping joy in the work, we are taking time to reevaluate, and to breathe.

We've spent five years getting the lay of the land here in town, finding where the good planting spaces are, and who has certified kitchens, and which business owners are down to help with a project. We've pestered countless town hall officials asking who is in charge of this and who owns that, and how we can get our work done with official approval. Now we're taking the time to sit down and figure out how we can incorporate this collection of knowledge into our next phase.

While our calendar may lie fallow, this Apple Corps co-coordinator's brain never stops whirring and thinking about what we could do in the future. I've been thinking about GFAC's goals, and I keep coming back to three ideas, both big and small, that I want to see become a reality as we go forward and find ways of night, when the kitchen is lying unused? working together to feed our neighbors.

My biggest and most ambitious idea would need state and potentially federal funding, but makes so much sense that I want to include it here in this column. I've been working up at the middle school since April, and I realized that while we've been searching for a certified kitchen to be able to make prepared meals for the community, the middle/high school has had a cafeteria! A cafeteria with equipment made for large batch cooking, and plenty of room for folks to eat.

Thanks to government funding, all children now have access to free meals out of this cafeteria. If we acknowledge the importance of feeding kids for free - how it makes them healthier, happier, and better suited to learning – wouldn't it also be true that feeding these children's parents and neighbors might make a happier and healthier community? What if we could serve a free dinner for the community at



An example of some of the seasonal abundance at the Wednesday Great Falls Farmers Market.

This would be a complicated endeavor, but the infrastructure is already there, and with some funding and coordination help coming from above, this could make a huge difference in feeding the community and bringing us together. Let a girl dream!

My second idea for 2023 is much more attainable, but would still make leaps towards feeding our neighbors, and that idea is a free fridge downtown. Free community fridges have been popping up around the country, and they provide a no-judgment, 24/7, way to both access and donate food for the community. Anyone can add food to these fridges, and anyone can take some out.

This is not a new idea in town, but there have been quite a few obstacles and roadblocks in the journey. Discussions about how to get a fridge up and running next year are currently ongoing, and will hopefully bear fruit come spring.

In the meantime, GFAC was offered the old pantry unit from the Shelburne Falls community fridge this past spring, after their fridge broke. It has finally found a home at the corner of L Street and Fourth, in front of the former bakery which is now a new community space run by Great Falls Books Through Bars, the Finders Collective, and the Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

Since the folks at the new community space installed the unit a few weeks ago, the shelves have been stocked at various times with gleaned cherry tomatoes, water bottles, candles, and at least one very nice pair of leather ankle boots. With the Apple Corps free table in hiatus, it's been nice to have another spot offering similar mutual aid.

The last idea I've been chewing on concerns the Great Falls Farmers Market. When I'm not penning this column, one of the hats I wear is as market manager. I've been at the position since 2019, and after a few years of experience, one thing has made itself clear over and over: Wednesday is not the best day for the market.

Our goal as a market is to increase access to local food and goods to those who may not be able to access these items elsewhere, and it seems like the biggest obstacle standing in



This pantry at the corner of L and Fourth streets in Turners Falls offers food and other items for free.

our way is our schedule. While the market has been traditionally happening on a Wednesday since the mid-1990s as a way to not compete with Greenfield, it has gotten to the point where I wonder if it may be worth a little competition in order to give us the space to grow and attract new vendors and customers.

As the schedule now stands, we miss a lot of the nine-to-five working crowd and families with school-age kids. This applies to customers, vendors, and potential performers and programming.

What do you think about a Saturday market here in downtown Turners Falls? Would you attend? If you've got feedback, please reach out via any of the market's social media, or come find me at the manager's booth on Wednesdays in the park. No changes will be made until significant community input has been received.

Lastly, while GFAC are not currently offering workshops or events, we are still involved with a gleaning group out of Temple Israel in Greenfield, who glean on most Sunday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. at a local organic farm. We glean for distribution and personal use, and could always use more hands. If interested, please get in touch with us via social media, or via email at greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Kids' Science Podcast Kicks Off Season With Event at Greenfield Bookstore

of its eighth season this Friday, September 16. To cele- Science News, and has been recommended by countbrate the launch, Tumble co-hosts and recent Greenfield transplants Lindsay Patterson and Marshall Escamilla will host an in-person event on Saturday, September 24 at the Imaginary Bookshop in downtown Greenfield. All are invited to this free, family-friendly event. Guests of the "listening party" will get to hear the premiere of Life Lab, Tumble's miniseries about synthetic biology. Afterwards, there will be a question-and-answer session with Patterson and Escamilla. Since its creation in 2015, Tumble has been among the most popular science podcasts for kids. The show explores stories of science discovery, often starting with kids' own curiosity.

GREENFIELD - Tumble, an award-winning sci- positive, lasting impact on society. It won the AAAS/ ence podcast for kids, is thrilled to announce the start Kavli Science Journalism Gold Award for Children's less media outlets. Co-hosts Patterson and Escamilla are a married couple who decided to make Greenfield their home after living abroad in Barcelona for four years. Lindsay's background is in science journalism, and Marshall spent 14 years as a classroom teacher. They chose western Massachusetts as their family's new home for its combination of urban environs and natural beauty. Tumble was the first podcast ever featured as part of WSRI's Family Music Meltdown in March, and will be performing at the Cambridge Science Festival on October 9.



Tumble has recently received the Common Sense Selection seal for its potential to spark family conversations, entertain families of all kinds, and have a

Tumble's Season 8 launch event at the Imaginary Bookshop will take place on Saturday, September 24, at 11 a.m. The Bookshop is located at 365 Main Street in Greenfield.

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

CONTINUED





FROM EAR TO EAR. THE SEASIDE, THE BIG CITY ...





The Reporter is looking for volunteers to help us curate this listing. Interested? Contact us at editor@montaguereporter.org!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Stone Church, Brattleboro: The Devil Makes Three, JP Harris. \$.6 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: Will Dailey, Scott Meyers. \$.7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Enter the Haggis, \$, 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Frozen Corn, Spectre Folk, Wes Buckley. Free. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Mamma's Marmalade, Eric Lee, Moon Hollow. \$. 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: Meshuggah, Converge, Torche. \$. 7 p.m. Parlor Room, Northampton: Deep River Ramblers. \$.7 p.m. 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Windborne. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Ruth Garbus, Chris Weisman. \$. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: FAT Featuring Mitch Chakour and Scott Murawski. \$. 8 p.m.

Tillis Hall, UMass-Amherst: Blind Boys of Alabama. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton: Arcadia Folk Festival, feat. Bonny Light Horseman, Heather Maloney, Sunny War, Twisted Pine, Cloubelly, more. \$. 9 a.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: Bev Grant, Carolann Solebello. \$. 4 p.m.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: Roger McGuinn. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Sugar Biscuit, feat. DJ LeFox. "Femmes to the front." \$. 8 p.m. Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Wiliam Basinski, Lea Bertucci. \$. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Popa Chubby. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Tim Wolf. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Elizabeth Chang, Jiayan Sun. \$. 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Choke Out, Mammothor, Cortez. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: They Might Be Giants. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Stone Church, Brattleboro: M. Ward, Courtney Jaye. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Wes Brown with Matan Rubinstein. Free. 8 p.m. Stone Church, Brattleboro: Felice Brothers, Will Lawrence. \$.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Steve Koziol presents Beetle 7, Kevin Smith, Leo Hwang. \$. 5 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Kimaya Diggs, Naomi Nye, King Manzi. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

FreshGrass Festival, North Adams: Trampled by Turtles, Old Crow Medicine Show, Billy Keane, more. \$. 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Heaven for Real, others tba. \$. 7 p.m. Nuxx Vomica, Clock Serum, Orange Peel Mystic, DJ Heartbal*loon*. \$. 10 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: Noise Nomads, Matriarch, Kjostad, Underwear. \$. 7 p.m. Nova Arts, Keene NH: Caroline Davis, Forbes Graham, Steve *Cady*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Emma Ayres, Jocelyn MacKenzie, Zoe Boekbinder. \$. 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: David Wax Museum. \$. 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: Guided By Voices. \$. 8 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: Richard Thompson. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

FreshGrass Festival, North Adams: The Del McCoury Band, Gary Clark, Jr., Skip Marley, Jerry Douglas, more. \$. 11 a.m. Palladium, Worcester: NOFX, Descendents, Face to Face, *TSOL*, more. \$. 1 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Ramon & Jessica, Myrtle Street Klezmer, Caroline Davis. Free. 3 p.m.

Florence Night Out, Florence: Sunset Mission, Tang Sauce, StompBox Trio, Gaslight Tinkers, The Basement Cats, High Tea. Free. 4p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hollow Teeth, Tides, Capo Kong, Riverbed, Rakefire, Shortest *Life.* \$. 6:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Green Heron. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Whiskey Treaty Roadshow with Dan Blakeslee. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Cloudbelly, This Could Be it, Grammerhorn Wren, Jaguar Stereo. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Track Meat, The Baxbys, The Lights. \$. 8 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Olivia Nied. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

FreshGrass, North Adams: Tanya Tucker, Taj Mahal, Yola, Thee Sacred Souls, more. \$. 11 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Speedy Ortiz. \$. 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: 311. Tropidelic. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Nova Arts, Keene: Yo La Ten*go*. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Masala Jazz. Free. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Eggtooth Productions presents Deus Ex Machina. \$. 7 and 9 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: Haley Heyndrickx, Illegal Son. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Bella's Bartok, EIEIEIO. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: Groove Prophet. Free. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth presents Deus Ex Machina. \$. 7 and 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Donna the Buffalo, Gary Douglas Band. \$. 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

Shea Theater: Deus Ex Machi*na*. \$. 7 and 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Carnivora. Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean, Coma. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Bombyx Center, Florence: Shawn Colvin. \$. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Montague Village Store, Montaque Center: Lexi Weege & JJ Slater. Free. 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Daily Operation, Easthampton: billy woods, Breeze Brewin'. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: Bill Stone, Wednesday Knudsen, Junk Orbit, Shannon *Ketch*. \$. 6 p.m.















MURDER from page B1

facial appearance. A Capt. Kidd mustache of jet black droops at the long, wavy ends, just enough to give him a most savage appearance, and a swarthy complexion, low brow and flashing black eyes go to make up an appearance which is anything but prepossessing." He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge against him, and the judge ordered him returned to jail to await a hearing.

With Begor in jail, the police continued their investigations. Adding to the mystery surrounding the crime was the matter of the suspect's name. As it turned out, he was born Edwin O. Beauregard in 1871 in Ellenburg, New York, where his mother died when he was only a year old. His father's people were from Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. As an adult, Edwin Beauregard became Edward Begor, a last name used also by his father, John, and his father's brother, Ezra, who died in Wendell in 1898.

The French-Canadian lumber camp workers wouldn't talk about Begor, but by the time of the hearing on the last day of September at the Greenfield courthouse, the prosecution's main witness was Edward's cousin Arthur, who related not only the events as he knew them, but also certain subsequent conversations that he had with Begor.

The prosecution attempted to fix the time of the murder as the morning of September 4 and to show that not only was Begor the last person to see Mrs. Rogers alive, but also that he had quarreled with her, that he was heavily intoxicated, and that he wanted to get even with her for his having done jail time some time back for an offense reported by her. Arthur supplied the prosecution with a motive for the murder when he explained that Begor had told him that Rogers had \$55 wrapped up in handkerchiefs and stored in a salt box.

"The entire case," opined the Greenfield Gazette and Courier, "is a presentation of the lowest side of country degradation. The woman's hut was a house of the most filthy order; she was a character of the toughest and most immoral sort; the errand of the boys in going to her house in a state of half intoxication at two o'clock at night was to keep an engagement of the grossest immorality, and there is from beginning to end no redeeming feature in the disgusting story."

ance before a grand jury. But after a few months in prison, Begor made a tactical error: he told his story to a fellow convict in hopes of getting some tools with which to break out of prison. The other convict reported Begor to the authorities, and worked with them to trap Begor into giving a full confession which was overheard by detectives.

Here is my paraphrasing of the content of his confession, which was written up in the Boston Globe on April 20, 1893: Edward and Arthur, after drinking for hours at Wendell Depot, walked the seven miles to Abigail Rogers' hut, arriving there early Sunday morning, September 4. (Rogers' hovel was frequented on Saturday nights by young boys, some only fifteen years old. Plenty of liquor was consumed "and then the old woman would execute a skirt dance with exceedingly limited skirts.") When the boys got to Rogers' hut, they drank more and then all three slept.

In the morning, Arthur was sickened at being there and left, but Edward stayed. Rogers and Edward drank more and quarreled. She called him a vile name and he struck her with his fist. Then, "wild with passion," he grasped an iron skillet and struck her twice over the head. She fell to the floor. He began searching for her money, but when he saw her eyes following him around the room, he "went out to the woodpile, took from it an ugly club, went back into the house and with one deadly blow killed the helpless old woman."

With Begor's confession, the grand jury had no trouble indicting him for Rogers' murder, and he was later sentenced to hard labor at the Charlestown state prison for life.

"It was liquor that made me do it," Begor told a Globe reporter on his way to prison. "It was not money that made me kill her. My only motive was that she made me angry and I was so ugly drunk that I did not know what I was doing." But, he added, "I shall do the best I know how at the prison. If I show the officers that I can be trusted, I may get a pardon some time. God knows I hope so."

Over a decade later, in May 1905, the Greenfield Gazette and Courier reported that efforts were being made by Miss Ethel Farley, on behalf of her late father, state senator Joseph B. Farley, to secure a pardon for Begor. Begor had once been an



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good man and had been sufficiently punished for the crime he committed while under the influence of liquor.

Miss Farley's attempts were apparently in vain, because eight years later the same newspaper wrote of another appeal to the governor to pardon Begor, citing his perfect behavior in prison. This time the appeal was successful: the governor pardoned Begor on March 12, 1913.

However, Begor's freedom was short-lived. The next and last word about him is his death certificate, recorded on April 11, 1915 in Keene, New Hampshire – the home of his brother, Horatio, where he had

berculosis. Edward Begor was 44 years old, and had spent 23 of those years behind bars.

And what of Abigail Rogers? Who was she? Who were her people? Where was she buried?

All we know is that she had a son, loving letters to whom were found among her effects after her death, but we do not know his name. The 1890 US Census burned, so we cannot look for her there. Thomas Sawin, who made copious notes about the residents of Wendell in the mid-19th century, mentions an Artemas Rogers, but he appears to have been single. Sadly, adding insult to



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as anyone doing both would be driven made with power

The presiding judge ordered Begor back to jail to await his appearlieved that Begor was essentially a cause of death was pulmonary tu- record of this poor soul.

employee of Farley's, and Farley be- been a resident for five months. The injury, history has left no



