

# The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

ANALYSIS

## Some People Like to Vote In Midterm Elections

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – As of press time early Thursday, national political power still hangs in the balance, with a number of states and districts still counting ballots in key US Senate and House races. Closer to home, Tuesday’s midterm election showed decent turnout locally, with our coverage towns all sending their favored candidates to Beacon Hill.

In the 7th Hampden district, which last year came to include Wendell, Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) edged out James Harrington (R-Ludlow), 53% to 47%.

In the 2nd Franklin, which includes Erving and Gill, incumbent Susannah Whipps (I-Athol) handily defended her seat against challenger Jeffrey Raymond (R-Athol).

Leverett and Montague are still in a reshaped 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin, where incumbent Natalie Blais (D-Sunderland) ran unopposed. And on the state Senate side, our five towns are in the Hampshire, Franklin, & Worcester

see **ELECTIONS** page A2

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## District Naming Field for Coach, Avoiding Big Capital Projects

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The Gill-Montague regional school committee met October 25 and November 8 via Zoom, getting through regular business before budget season begins in earnest. October 25 was a rare session in which all nine members were present, and they voted to name the high school softball field after coach Gary Mullins. At the November meeting they reversed a no-nut policy, setting a new course for being a “nut-safe and allergy-aware” district.

Athletic director Adam Graves came to the October meeting to discuss the proposal, announced last spring, to name the softball field after Mullins.

“Coach tries to find the good in each and every player, and then figures out a way for how he can make that person a better human being,” Graves said, adding that Mullins had helped set him on his own career path, “back in the day.”

Mullins’s string of championship softball teams was also mentioned. The committee voted unanimously to name the field the Gary Mullins Softball Field on the Eddie Bourdeau Athletic Fields.

Graves was also authorized to accept turkeys on behalf of the district for distribution during Thanksgiving by the Athletic Leadership

see **GMRSD** page A6

## Fast-Moving House Fire Proves Fatal



JAE SOUTHERLAND PHOTO

*The residential building was engulfed in flames before firefighters could reach the scene.*

By MIKE JACKSON

**MILLERS FALLS** – A fire at a Bridge Street residence Tuesday afternoon spread quickly and left one 66-year-old woman dead, according to fire district and state officials, who say the origin of the blaze is still under investigation but not considered suspicious.

“We were there in under five minutes from our notification,” said Turners Falls fire chief Todd Brunelle. Video shared on social media shows the front of the building was completely engulfed in flame for at least several minutes before the arrival of the first engines from the nearby department.

see **FIRE** page A5

## Library Returns Artifacts to the Lakota

By DAVID DETMOLD

**BARRE, MA** – The ancestors have gone home.

That is the word from the town of Barre, where on Saturday, November 5, at 7 o’clock in the evening, eleven archival boxes were loaded into the back of a black Suburban while the smell of burning sage, the keening cries of Violet Chases, a Lakota grandmother, and the prayers of traditional Oglala medicine man Sam Moves Camp rose toward the heavens.

Inside those boxes – according to Aaron Miller, associate curator and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) coordinator at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum in South Hadley – were approximately 150 items considered sacred by the Lakota that had been kept in the private Founders Museum on the second floor of the Woods Memorial Library, just off the Barre town common, for the past 130 years.

Once the Barre Museum Association board decided to return them to their tribes of origin, Miller, who has a PhD in archeology from Me-



SUZANNE WEBBER PHOTO

*Wendell Yellow Bull greets members of the Barre Museum Association board of directors (left to right) Lucy Allen, Elizabeth Martin, and president Ann Meilus.*

morial University in Newfoundland, was called in to guide the board and consult with tribal representatives on the repatriation of the artifacts. Eight were clearly labeled as originating from the site of the massacre at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, and Miller said many of the unlabeled items are likely associated with the massacre as well.

On December 29, 1890 at the village of Wounded Knee, hundreds of disarmed Lakota, camped under a white flag of truce, were surrounded by troops of the US 7th Cavalry under Colonel James Forsyth, and slaughtered in a rain of exploding shells and rifle fire. Their bodies were left lying in the

see **RETURNS** page A8

## High School Sports: Win Thrown Out!

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder swept past two East Coast teams this week, advancing to the MIAA Division V Elite Eight. On Friday they host the Paulo Freire Purple Panthers, which could shape up to be a very challenging matchup.

For Franklin Tech’s volleyball team, the season came to an end after a close loss against Lee.

In football, Tech came from way behind to defeat the Bartlett Indians in their last regular-season game before Thanksgiving. Franklin is now focused on the Voc tournament and will play Game 1 this Friday against the Pathfinder Panthers.

Also this week, the Franklin Tech Field Hockey Eagles fought for five quarters and defeated Nantucket 1-0 in overtime, but the 2022 season came to a crashing halt when the win was overturned.

### Field Hockey

*FCTS 1 – Nantucket 0\**

It was a wonderful, exciting, hard-fought game on Sunday as the white-shirted Franklin Tech Field Hockey Eagles defeated the Blue Whalers from Nantucket in overtime, 1-0. Four hours later, the decision was reversed.

There was a short rain delay, which meant the field was wet and the ball would travel faster. The Eagles were

see **SPORTS** page A6



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*Turners Falls’s Abbi Holloway (center) goes high for a spike as Whitinsville Christian Crusader Faith Najem goes up to block. The Thunder swept the Crusaders in the MIAA Division V Round of 16 tournament game at TFHS last Monday.*

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Grant Awarded To Consider Composting the Region’s Sludge

By JEFF SINGLETON

Sewer issues dominated Monday’s Montague selectboard meeting, as Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little came before the board with a long list of requests and updates. This was soon followed by an update from public works superintendent Tom Bergeron who said the company fixing a collapsed sewer pipe on Millers Falls Road had discovered a hole big enough to hold a pickup truck in the vicinity of the sewer, as well as a water pipe.

The highlight of Little’s presentation was the announcement of a \$150,000 grant to explore siting a biosolids composting facility in Montague. The board approved the grant, as well as an agreement with engineering firm Weston & Sampson to run the study.

Little said the company would investigate up to three sites, building on a previous feasibility study, as well as the potential to build a larger facility serving the region in collaboration with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

The board also approved a contract with engineers Wright-Pierce HVAC system at the treatment plant’s “headworks,” its main

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Town Offered Wooded Acres; May Make New Hiking Trails

By KATE SAVAGE

In a short and feel-good Gill selectboard meeting on Monday, the main topic of discussion was a donation of land.

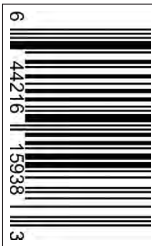
Emily Samuels and Dick French wish to donate 10.5 acres of land to the town, to be managed by the Gill conservation commission. The parcel sits at the north end of Mountain Road, on the west side of the road.

The land’s attractions include a well-established hardwood forest, cliffs carved by extinct glaciers, and a wetland where Beaver Brook begins. An existing wide logging road could be developed into a walking trail, according to a letter from the Gill conservation commission supporting the donation.

The letter notes the land is under a permanent conservation restriction through the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which would remain in place after the donation. It adds: “There is also potential as well to connect this property to existing trails in the Blake Town Forest, which continue to give enjoyment to many walkers.”

Conservation commission member Phil Gilfeather-Girton said the land could further the commission’s mission of providing “trails and education” to the residents of Gill. Fifteen thousand years ago, debris

see **GILL** page A3



### Marbles and Mincemeat, Marbles and Mincemeat...

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**ELECTIONS** from page A1

district, where Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) also enjoyed a lack of opposition.

Massachusetts elected a new governor in attorney general Maura Healey, who defeated Republican Geoff Diehl statewide by a 29% margin. Our towns all pulled the lever for Healey, varying in enthusiasm: from Leverett and Wendell (+74 and +64), to Montague and Gill (+47 and +38), to Erving (+16).

Election data presents us a way to track some preferences among our towns – and in the case of Montague, also within town, as the six precincts tend to differ in reliable ways. Precincts 1 and 5, Montague Center and downtown Turners, were most enthusiastic for Healey (+67 and +77), while Precinct 3, the northern section of the Hill neighborhood, was the least (+30).

This year a healthy crop of ballot questions feeds our data lust.

The towns’ preferences for Healey (*L-W-M-G-E*) predicted their support for Question 2, which calls on the state to regulate dental insurers, and Question 4, allowing undocumented immigrants the opportunity to earn drivers’ licenses.

Question 1 ran *L-W-M-E-G*, indicating that a faction in Erving (at least 11%) don’t want immigrants to access licenses but do want to tax millionaires more, while some in Gill (at least 8%) think the inverse.

Questions 1, 2, and 4 all won statewide. Question 3, which set large and small liquor distributors against each other, failed statewide and in Montague, Leverett, and Gill, but garnered majority support in Erving and for some reason Wendell. Readers with insight as to why Q3 ran *E-W-G-M-L* should write in.

Finally, we can drill down into Montague’s precincts on the ballot questions. All four questions – all five, in fact, as Montague also had a nonbinding Question 5 in favor of a carbon-emissions fee – found their highest levels of support in

Precincts 1 and 5, and lowest in 3.

Back in 2017, the non-binding referendum in favor of reinstating the Turners Falls High School “Indian” athletic logo ran *3-4-2-6-5-1*, and the spring 2018 school committee race polarized nearly perfectly into four *3-4-2-6-5-1* candidates and four *1-5-6-2-4-3* candidates.

One important story since then has been an increasing tendency for Precinct 4, the south part of the Hill, to diverge from its neighbor on certain issues. This may reflect a gradual demographic shift in the precinct toward younger families. A high number of town volunteers and employees live in Precinct 4, and it was decisive in the last selectboard race; additionally representing has folded several more downtown blocks into its map.

This year the only pure *1-5-6-2-4-3* line was on Question 2, dental insurance, but the Hill also stuck closer together on Question 1, the millionaire tax, which ran *5-1-6-2-4-3*. Precinct 4 broke away on Question 4, coming out 61% in favor of drivers’ licenses for immigrants (*1-5-4-6-2-3*), and Question 5, the carbon tax (*5-1-4-6-2-3*).

Strategists in Montague should keep a close eye on Precinct 4 – it is the closest thing the politically fractured town has to a bellwether district. Of course, winning also comes down to turnout, and we saw no big surprises this year: Montague Center, as usual, has the highest turnout, followed by the Hill 3; downtown Turners has the lowest.

And where did this year’s midterm fit in terms of recent voting history? In the 2010 midterm elections, 52% of Montague’s registered voters turned out. In the 2014 midterms – 52%, again.

In 2018, possibly riled up by the national political climate, the town’s midterm turnout surged to 61%. (“People are finally getting it,” town clerk Deb Bourbeau told us that year.)

In 2022? ... 52%!



Therapy dog Edward Snorton greets Montague poll workers at town hall on Tuesday.

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Glass artists Cary Rapaport, Sally Prash, and Sam Myers at the opening reception last Sunday for the fourth “Oh! Beautiful Glass!” group exhibit showcasing innovative glass art at the Barnes Gallery in Leverett. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Leverett Crafts & Arts.

OP ED

# A Six-Town Turning Point

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

**MILLERS FALLS** – For the past three years, the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) has been investigating the possible effects of combining the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) and the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) into one larger district. Our process is governed by state law, and it is important to emphasize that although we are called a “planning” board, our first task is to decide whether forming a new region is actually a good idea.

I am a member of the STRPB, but the thoughts and opinions expressed here are my own.

The STRPB has hired several consultants, who have produced various reports, and we are now beginning to share our findings with town leaders and the general public. We have not yet reached a decision as to whether forming a new larger region would be a good thing. Our goal is to get feedback, including comments, questions, and concerns, and to use those, along with our findings, to decide whether to proceed.

Note that deciding to proceed would not mean that a new region would form – it would simply mean that the STRPB would take the next step of drafting a proposed regional agreement. The final decision would need to be made by the towns at their town meetings.

Our first presentation will be to the Montague and Gill selectboards next Monday, November 14, at 6 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting, and the link and other information can be found on Montague’s town website ([montague-ma.gov](http://montague-ma.gov)). Other presentations will be given during

the coming weeks. The presentation, slides with voice-over narration, will also be made available on the STRPB website ([sites.google.com/view/strpb/home](https://sites.google.com/view/strpb/home)).

I hope that as many people as possible will attend one or more of these presentations, and/or watch the recordings afterwards, and share their reactions. I also hope that some people, especially town officials, will look more deeply into the consultants’ reports and other information on the STRPB website. The slides are a general overview of what we’ve found, and I think it’s important that more people than just those on the STRPB become familiar with the documentation that the slides are based on.

One question that might be asked is why combining these regions is being considered. Each district has experienced declining enrollment over the past decade, and those declines have threatened both educational quality and financial sustainability.

There are actually two types of enrollment: *attending enrollment* and *foundation enrollment*. Attending enrollment counts the number of students at the school, including choice-in, and it affects educational offerings. Foundation enrollment counts the number of students the district is responsible for, including choice-out, and is used to calculate state aid. Both districts’ enrollments have been declining in both categories, although in different ways.

A combined district would increase the number of *attending* students, which would offer increased educational possibilities: more students can mean more flexibility in scheduling, more course offerings, more participation in athletics and extra-curricular activities,

etc. Would fewer students leave, or more students choice in? Or vice versa? We on the STRPB have theories and opinions, but we don’t have actual data to support answers.

On the other hand, a combined district would likely continue to experience declining *foundation enrollment*, and it would begin its life in a “hold harmless” state aid condition – as PVRSD is now, and GMRSD has been. That would mean minimal state Chapter 70 aid increases (though rural aid may augment this), and districts in this situation typically either have looked to member towns to increase assessments or have reduced their educational offerings (or both).

GMRSD got out of “hold harmless” and received a significant Chapter 70 increase in FY’23; would gaining more students but losing state aid increases be a good move? Would educational gains from increased attendance be sustainable?

When the data don’t point in a clear direction, people usually rely on their gut to help them decide. In this case I think that means that it’s important that as many people as possible become familiar with the data that do exist, and then share their reactions, so the STRPB can get a broad-based idea of how the communities feel.

This is an important decision, and whichever way we go will have long-term implications for the education of our children.

*Michael Naughton is a Precinct 2 town meeting member, a former longtime member of the Montague finance committee, and a Montague representative to the Six Town Regional Planning Board. The opinions expressed here are his own.*

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!**

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

I took advantage of the warm weather last Sunday to go to Unity Park and take the recently installed **Peskeomskut Audio Tour**. Starting at the very beginning of the bike path on wooden posts along the right hand side, the tour may be accessed by scanning the QR code with your phone, which leads you to a series of five recordings (plus an introduction) that speak to the history of this land by the Falls.

The signs are easy to miss if you aren't looking for them, and each recording lasts longer than it takes to stroll to the next one. Take the time to sit and listen, though, because they are very engaging and well-produced.

I especially liked the first segment by Rich Holschuh on how Native peoples belong to and are spoken to by the land. The next pieces are on Native identity, the 1676 massacre, a logging story, and the industrial era. All in all, we were at the park for an hour and a half listening to them. You can also access the tour online at [riverculture.org](http://riverculture.org).

Are you **“Navigating Solo”** and over 55 years old? The Village Neighbors network for elders in Wendell, Leverett, New Salem, and Shutesbury invites you to a virtual get-together tonight, Thursday November 10, at 6:45 p.m. Connect and converse with others in the same boat. Find out more at [navigatingsolo.com/events](http://navigatingsolo.com/events).

At the Shea Theater in Turners Falls tonight you may witness an open rehearsal session by the **New England Repertory Orchestra** as they work on Amy Beach's *Gaelic Symphony*, the first symphonic piece by a woman to be performed by a major American orchestra.

You can witness “the liveliness

and camaraderie” of the musicians and engage with them during breaks and a Q-and-A session. They will be there between 7 and 9 p.m. tonight, Thursday, November 10.

An **Armistice Day Rally** will be held on the Greenfield Town Common this Saturday, November 12 from 11 a.m. to noon. Armistice Day dates back to the end of WWI, but was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. The Traprock Peace Center joins Veterans for Peace and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution to rally for reclaiming Armistice Day as a day of action for peace. There will be speakers and musicians.

The Montague Center Congregational Church is holding **Fête Noël this Saturday, November 12**, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 4 North Street in the village. They promise crafts, candy, a lottery wreath, food, decorations, drawings, “regifts,” and gently used clothing for sale.

After the fête, enjoy free live music with the **Juggler Meadow String Band** at the Leverett Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 12. They are described as playing a “hard driving, soulful mix of Americana originals and covers.”

There's also a **Puzzle Swap at the Erving Public Library** this Sunday, November 13 between 1 and 3 p.m. thanks to the Friends of the Erving Public Library. Don't have a puzzle to exchange? They have extras! All ages are welcome.

The LAVA Center and the Center for New Americans will host **“Poetry and Prose from the Heart: The Tradition of the Latiné Written Word”** at 3 p.m. this Sunday, November 13. Alfonso Neal, adjunct professor of Latinx Studies at Holyoke Community College, will

present and lead discussion on the literary culture of Latin America. Participants will read, reflect, and discuss poetry in Spanish, and can share their own written work.

After the presentation, there will be two hours of open writing time. The presentation and discussion will be primarily in Spanish, with English translation available according to audience needs. Admission is free. The LAVA Center is located at 324 Main Street in Greenfield.

The first **virtual New England Regional Job Fair** is scheduled for November 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. The first day will focus on healthcare, education, and hospitality opportunities, and the second day on manufacturing, construction, transportation, warehouse, engineering, and other jobs.

The MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center recommends doing a set-up tutorial before attending and you must pre-register and upload a resume beforehand. Find the tutorial at [tinyurl.com/tutorjobfair](http://tinyurl.com/tutorjobfair).

A **Veterans Coffee Social** is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 10 to 11 a.m. at the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center in Greenfield. Contact Michael Anderson to attend at [michaelanderson@masshirefhcareers.org](mailto:michaelanderson@masshirefhcareers.org) or (413) 774-4361.

Are you **struggling with a badly behaved pet**? Professional animal communicator David Louis reads from his book *Listen With Your Heart* at the National Spiritual Alliance in Lake Pleasant next Saturday, November 19 at 1 p.m. You may benefit from his stories about working with pets to change behavior, and asking your own questions. Find out more and get tickets at [tinyurl.com/animal-talk](http://tinyurl.com/animal-talk).

RiverCulture has put out a **Call for Artists and Crafters** for a juried pop-up shop in downtown Turners Falls in conjunction with the annual It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls holiday event scheduled for Friday, December 9. The popup will also be open Saturday, December 10. There are no fees to participate, but preference will be given to artists using upcycled and recycled

materials. Email a brief description of your work and a few images to Suzanne LoManto at [riverculture@montague-ma.gov](mailto:riverculture@montague-ma.gov) by November 24. For further information, call (413) 863-3200 x115.

If you have useful or interesting things you are looking to donate, consider sharing your surplus with the **Finders Collective**, one of three organizations sharing a storefront space at 104 Fourth Street in Turners Falls. These groups are creating a social center for gatherings, workshops, free food distribution, sending books to people in prison, and other mutual aid activities.

They welcome donations to their free store and tool library. Let them know what you might have in the way of kitchen, garden, and art supplies, music equipment, toys, hobby stuff, and all sorts of tools and equipment. Email [finders@riseup.net](mailto:finders@riseup.net) to set up a dropoff.

Montague residents Tracy Vernon of Milk Barn Studio and Chris Pellerin of Dunroamin Farm Design Fiber Art Studio will be teaming up for a **holiday open studio on Saturday, December 3** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Browse original pastel and watercolor paintings, prints, and cards; touch all the soft felted wool scarves; nibble holiday treats and sip hot drinks as you shop for one-of-a-kind handmade gifts in a no-pressure environment. Local charity Warm the Children will benefit from raffles held during the event. Located at 25 South Ferry Road, Montague Center. Masks are encouraged indoors, and bad weather postpones until Sunday, December 4.

Looky Here, a community art space in Greenfield, seeks **art donations for a fundraiser auction** in December. Submissions can be any physical artwork, merchandise, or tickets and vouchers. Email descriptions and photos including the value of the items to [lookyheregreenfield@gmail.com](mailto:lookyheregreenfield@gmail.com) by December 3. Donors will receive VIP tickets to the gala auction event at the Pushkin on Saturday, December 17.

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Winter Farmers Market Returns

**GREENFIELD** – With great anticipation and pleasure, the Greenfield Farmers Market announces the return of the Winter Market for the 2022-2023 season at the Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, Greenfield.

The opening date is next Saturday, November 19, with three more markets to follow on the third Saturday of each month: December 17, January 21, and February 18. The Market operates from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., snow or shine.

Confirmed vendors include many local favorites, such as Sunrise Farms, Red Fire Farm, Hearthstone Artisan Bakery, Beaumont's Berries, Coyote Hill Farm, Sweet Pea Cottage Industries, Barberic Farm, and Livingstone Mycology. This continued collaboration between local growers and crafters ensures that Franklin County residents will continue to have access to locally grown produce and other custom products well into the winter months.

The Market accepts SNAP and HIP benefits. If you haven't already signed up to receive the Greenfield Farmers Market newsletters, visit [www.greenfieldfarmersmarket.com](http://www.greenfieldfarmersmarket.com).

GILL from page A1

blocked the outlet of the Connecticut River, creating a massive body of water that was later named Lake Hitchcock after an Amherst College geology professor who studied it. The land in question sits on the “shores” of this ancient lake.

The selectboard voiced their approval of the donation, but a town meeting vote is required for the town to accept a gift of land. The board said they planned to schedule a special town meeting before the end of the year.

When the *Reporter* asked French what prompted him to give the land to the town, he shrugged and said “I have no use for it.”

“Dick and Emily have a long history of taking care of land in Gill and elsewhere,” selectboard member Randy Crochier added. “The idea of them gifting this to the town does not surprise me at all. They’ve got a wonderful history of doing great things for land, and doing great things for the community.”

#### Handshake Rescinded?

The town of Gill must pay the water bill for the Riverside Municipal building starting in October, according to a letter sent by the Riverside water district commissioners.

Crochier noted that the water district uses part of the building for office, storage, and meet-

ing space. He described a historical “handshake agreement” where “we don’t pay for water there, and they don’t pay for rent.”

The letter from the Riverside Water District cited the idea that “Water use has increased because of the Four Winds School,” which also uses the building, as a motivation for the policy change.

They provided the selectboard with quarterly data showing the past five years of water usage at the building, which appeared to show an average reduction in usage of 1.7 cubic feet each quarter, and a 34% overall reduction in usage between the first ten quarters and the second.

“It’s not overly concerning,” town administrator Ray Purington said. “I think we can work that into future budgets.” Over the past five years, the average bill would have been \$36 a quarter. Purington concluded: “We’ll take it under advisement and figure out what we’re going to do.”

“It’s probably cleaner if we charge rent and we pay water,” Crochier suggested.

#### Other Business

The board approved the use of the town hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 17 for the Greenfield Garden Club to give a presentation on winter sowing. The event is open to the public.



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AT LARGE

Conflict Over ‘SoulFest’ Hits Town Hall

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – The Moody Center has been trying to give East Northfield a makeover since it rode into town on the wings of The Signatry, a Christian non-profit in Overland Park, Kansas with over \$1 billion in assets. During its brief existence, the Center has disregarded East Northfield’s rural character and laid-back lifestyle by announcing plans to build a resort-style campground on Pierson Road and a three-story condominium on Highland Avenue.

Northfielders were tolerant, until word leaked out that tickets were being sold for a three-day Christian rock concert called SoulFest that the Moody Center would host next summer. The selectboard scheduled a preliminary review for November 2, and Moody Center president James Spencer appeared to unveil his plans.

“We see it as something we could do well,” Spencer said, fiddling with a white pen and staring down at his iPad. “We have the space for it. Agents came out and mapped the property and they’re confident they can fit the concert on what we have.”

About 8,000 concertgoers would arrive each day and listen to a total of 75 different acts perform from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., from August 3 to 5. Spencer said he had found enough spaces to handle about half of the anticipated crush of 3,000 vehicles per day, including 800 at the Northfield Drive-In.

“The traffic,” he said, “would be one big flow in, and one big flow out.”

Board Challenges Reasoning

Heath Cummings and Bernie Boudreau calmly told Spencer the scope of his project was unrealistic, while the other three members took him behind the woodshed.

“I want to understand why and how you think this would work,” asked chair Bee Jacque. “This on scale is bigger than the Green River Festival, and you’re not close to I-91. It’d be one thing coming off 91, [but] this to me, the traffic alone is such a big question mark. I just want to know how this gets pulled off. It’s a math problem.”

Mary Sullivan-Bowen said she was miffed that SoulFest was already selling tickets and using 206 Main Street as its business address. “Like the wool’s being pulled over my eyes,” she said.

She had reason to be angry. Out-of-towners seeking information on the marketing platform ZoomInfo would think that Dwight Moody owns the Moody Center, that he has his own email address, and that an overlook called Round Top is his favorite spot on campus. In

reality of course, Dwight Moody died in 1899 and is buried on Round Top.

“Why didn’t you bring anyone from SoulFest with you?” asked Sullivan-Bowen. “I’m dying to meet them.”

“I didn’t want to bring stranger danger into the room with me,” Spencer replied, oddly. “I wasn’t sure how this whole thing was going to work.”

Dan Russell founded SoulFest 24 years ago, and had used Gunstock Mountain as a venue since 2007. The ski resort in central New Hampshire has much more space than Northfield has, including a chairlift to the top where revelers could listen to the music. When Spencer heard that SoulFest had lost its venue he offered up the former NMH campus he shares with Thomas Aquinas College.

The Moody Legacy

Spencer said the reason for staging SoulFest was to resurrect the Moody legacy. “This is missional for us,” he said. “It’s good synergy. When D.L. Moody was doing his thing, he brought a lot of people to town, and we’re echoing that. There’s no sense having a 2,200-seat auditorium if no one’s coming.”

A Northfield native, Moody was a world-renowned evangelist who founded the Northfield School for Girls in 1879 and the Mount Hermon School for Boys.

“D.L. Moody was like a basketball star,” said Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) archivist Peter Weis. “He had money from hymn book royalties, his wife was from a wealthy family, and thousands came for his summer conferences.

“The auditorium he built in 1894 was huge, and in summers it was full,” Weis said. “Over 30 different Christian conferences came – Christian Endeavor, the Young Women’s Conference, the Women’s Foreign Missionary Conference... Virtually everybody came by train, and got off at the station across the river.”

NMH’s Impact

This latest conflict dates back to 2005, when NMH deserted its Northfield campus and hung out a \$20 million for sale sign. The property went unsold for four years, and the school paid a reported \$5.2 million to have the grounds maintained.

In 2009 the retail chain Hobby Lobby, owned by 81-year-old David Green bought it for a half-cent on the dollar. A deeply religious family, the Greens offered it to the C.S. Lewis Foundation to found a Great Books college – provided it could match a \$5 million donation.

When C.S. Lewis could raise only \$600,000, Hobby Lobby awarded it to Grand Canyon Uni-

versity which said it would increase enrollment to 4,000. GCU backed out after realizing the campus’s fragile infrastructure, together with East Northfield’s antiquated water and sewer systems, couldn’t support such a large undertaking.

The Green family then turned it over to the National Christian Foundation, which gave it to The Signatry, which offered it to California-based Thomas Aquinas College (TAC) after it matched the \$5 million grant.

Thomas Aquinas has a Great Books curriculum, and is one of only two Catholic colleges ranked in *U.S. News’s* annual Top 50 list of American liberal arts colleges. The *Princeton Review* listed it in its 2023 Guide to the 386 Best Colleges. The only glitch, according to the online *Religion News Service*, was that the Green family would’ve preferred the owner be “an orthodox Christian institution.”

The Moody Center Genesis

Enter Emmitt Mitchell, a one-time Kansas car dealer who founded the Moody Center and promised to build a Moody Museum. “My bet is this was a face-saving move for the NCF – ‘we’re not giving it all to the Catholics,’” said Weis. “The Moody Museum is what we thought was going to happen.”

Instead, with utter disregard to the impact it would have on residents, the Moody Center came in with heavy equipment and grandiose schemes.

At the November 2 meeting, selectboard member Alex Meisner asked Spencer if he had a good working relationship with the college.

“Yeah,” he answered.

“How?” asked Meisner.

“Through our ongoing conversations about the campus. Usually, when there’s something that’s going to happen, we engage the college leadership to make sure we’re on the same page.”

Yet when I asked a Thomas Aquinas faculty member if he was aware of SoulFest he contemptuously remarked, “I have some dim awareness of it.”

“They’re not bad people,” said another member. “They just get distracted by shiny trinkets.”

Spencer has until April 5 to prepare a 24-page special event application and submit it to the town, and residents have until November 22 to submit questions for him to answer at next month’s selectboard meeting.

Expect him to bring reinforcements – or wave the white flag.

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder, and news and opinion for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Mormon Hollow Open; Log Stack Site Sought Yet

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At the Wendell selectboard’s November 2 meeting, town project manager Phil Delorey announced that the Mormon Hollow culvert replacement was scheduled to be finished, the road paved and opened, late on Friday, November 4.

On the morning of November 5 Diemand Farm hosted a parade over the 100-foot span of the new road that featured banner-waving citizens, police officer Steven Gould with his cruiser flashing its blue lights and sounding its siren, antique trucks, children, and adults. The farm followed the parade by giving out Finnish pancakes with maple syrup and coffee, followed by a farm tour, and then children playing in the front yard until families scattered.

At the selectboard meeting Delorey said the project had a \$51,000 overrun – not extraordinary for a \$683,000 overall cost with work lasting from July into early Novem-

ber, but Delorey said he was disappointed the town was not notified as extra costs were mounting and not when the project was ending. He said he would speak with Clayton Davenport of contractors Davenport Trucking and Construction about the communication issue.

The selectboard approved payment, with money coming from either the storm damage or winter recovery funds, or possibly from a combination of sources.

Straightening Out

Delorey said the Kentfield Road bridge is ready for delivery and should be in place by the end of November. The police substation is still waiting for minisplits.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is working with the town to change the intersection of Locke Hill and Locke Village roads, known locally as the “dead man’s curve,” to a T with Locke Hill Road hitting Locke Village Road at right angles.

Cooling Off

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad followed Delorey’s report with his own. He had attended a webinar about conflict, and said Wendell’s code of conduct is a good start for dealing with conflict.

A second approach, he said, is to break off discussion before angry language turns to abuse: after a break, discussion can be more productive; an angry person is not as likely to appreciate logic.

Johnson-Mussad said Hampshire Power Group offered help getting Wendell access to the town’s credit with National Grid.

The property on Gate Lane that was offered for sale is likely to go to a conservation group, an arrangement that is simpler than if the property is sold to a private party.

Town Wood Bank

Tree warden Cliff Dornbusch said National Grid will begin cutting marked trees soon, and will need a place to leave logs that are appropri-

ate for the wood bank. Trees cut on private land can stay on the property if the owner wants them.

The town has not yet picked a location for the wood bank, but selectboard member Dan Keller suggested temporary log storage behind the office building, in the grassy area below and east of the septic mound.

Getting logs in and out of that spot around the internet hut, office building, and community garden tool shed might be a tricky operation; the easiest access would be through private property north of town land and would need the owner’s permission, as well as dismantling a section of stone wall and cutting several more trees.

Delorey suggested WRATS property for the wood bank, behind the WRATS itself and the cleared area. It is wooded still, but the whole property is 12 acres and might be suitable as a permanent site. The old landfill needs capping first.

see WENDELL next page

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# Abatement Complaint Draws Attention to Elected Boards’ Role

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – Montague Center resident Chris Pinardi appeared during public comment time at Monday’s selectboard meeting to complain about treatment by the town board of assessors (BOA), and director of assessors Karen Tonelli in particular, when he attempted to contact the board about the value of a piece of property owned by his mother. The discussion raised questions about the protocols of independent elected boards like the assessors and their relationship to the town leadership, including the selectboard.

Pinardi’s complaint was that Tonelli had blocked discussion of the property issue at the BOA’s public meetings, and then blocked complaints about her behavior by not allowing him to contact her oversight board directly.

After nearly a year and a half, Pinardi said, he complained to town administrator Steve Ellis and selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, “both of whom told me in no uncertain terms that the board of assessors is the sole entity with oversight over the [director of assessing].” However, he argued, there is no way for him to contact the board except through Tonelli, “who happens to be the same person I am filing complaints against.”

Pinardi said he had recently gone to a BOA meeting, but there was no time set aside for public participation on the agenda, and an agenda item to review emails, which he thought might have included his, was “skipped over.” He also said that at that meeting, which took place on October 18, he had questioned the board’s lack of personnel oversight, but was told that the BOA’s role was limited to property tax abatements, not personnel.

Kuklewicz said he had always assumed that the BOA was responsible for staff, “which would include the assessor.” He directed Ellis to contact town counsel for an opinion.

This precipitated a brief discussion about the relationship between the selectboard and independent town boards, including the board of health, which had been meeting with it on a regular basis during the COVID emergency.

Selectboard member Matt Lord suggested that the selectboard collaborated with the health board because the former was setting policy in response to the pandemic.

Ellis said there might be a point at which the selectboard, as the personnel board, would have some “joint prerogative” with independent boards, but that he would discuss the matter with town counsel.

Contacted by this newspaper, Tonelli expressed concern that the selectboard had allowed public discussion of a personnel issue involving the assessing department – and Tonelli herself – without her being present.

She also told the *Reporter* that Pinardi had barraged her department with complaints about open meeting law violations and records requests over the past year, but had not followed through with the appropriate state agencies. Tonelli said Pinardi had made little effort to resolve his complaints with her personally, or to get on the agenda of BOA meetings. She pointed out that he had attended the October 18 meeting, and had been allowed to raise questions about the board’s role.

“I feel like I am getting beat up for doing my job,” she said. “I am concerned that taxpayers will lose confidence in the assessing department because of this.”

Pinardi’s original complaint, he told the *Reporter*, concerned an abatement request for a parcel of heavily wooded land owned by his mother, which was assessed at \$80,000. He said that similar parcels in the area had been assessed at a much lower rate, but that his abatement request was denied with no explanation.

Tonelli told us that “there is a normal process most people use for appealing an abatement decision with the state Appellate Tax Board,”

and that she did not believe Pinardi had filed such an appeal.

The parcel that was the subject of the original complaint, both Pinardi and Tonelli agreed, is not currently being taxed at the assessed level because it is covered by a state program called the Forest Taxation Act, or Chapter 61. According to the governor’s website, this program sets a lower tax for land used for recreation, agriculture, or to produce forestry products.

Pinardi said he fears that if the land is taken out of this program it will then be taxed, and even subject to a penalty, based on the BOA assessment.

Independently elected boards in Montague, in addition to the assessors and health boards, include the parks and recreation commission and the library trustees. Numerous other boards, including the planning board, conservation commission, and zoning board of appeals, are appointed by the selectboard, while the finance and capital improvements committees are appointed by the moderator of town meeting.

The retirement board, which oversees the retirement system, has one member – the town accountant – who is a member as part of their job description; one member appointed by the selectboard; two members elected by the staff and former staff covered by the retirement system; and a final member chosen by the other four.



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Full Beaver Moon Gathering

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Town of Montague purchased Mashpee Wampanoag artist Robert Peters’s colorful painting “Peskeompskut,” and this is cause for celebration at the annual Full Beaver Moon Gathering, next Saturday, November 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

“Peskeompskut” depicts life at the Great Falls pre-colonization, when tribes from all over the northeast gathered annually here to celebrate the bountiful fish runs. Before town lines the entire region was Pocumtuck land, and resources were shared by many. The painting,

commissioned by the Nolumbeka Project for its video series “Indigenous Voices from the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts,” will be on display at the Discovery Center before it returns to its permanent home at Montague Town Hall.

Robert Peters will speak at the event, which also features musical offerings by Lily-Rakia Chandler. Drawings for raffle items donated by the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival vendors will take place at the end of the presentations. This free event is sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, DCR, and Mass Humanities. All are welcome.

## FIRE from page A1

While neighbors were able to help evacuate several of the building’s residents, according to the *Greenfield Recorder*, one woman remained trapped inside.

The first emergency call for the fire was made around 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, and a post the next morning on the TFFD Facebook page stated that all units were cleared from the scene around 3 a.m. The fire was contained to the building, but a substantial portion of the structure collapsed.

An official statement by the state fire marshal’s office on Wednesday said that the victim was located and pronounced dead on the scene. The *Recorder* spoke with a family member who identified the deceased woman as Judith Verchot.

Montague assessors’ records describe 20 Bridge Street as a two-unit building, owned since 1993 by Harry Chapin, who the Greenfield newspaper identified as Verchot’s boyfriend. An attempt to reach Verchot’s son-in-law Jacobo Roque, who was reportedly also on site, was unsuccessful as of press time.

A fundraiser for the displaced and bereaved family has been created at [gofund.me/77725ce8](https://gofund.me/77725ce8).

Brunelle, who joined the Montague department full-time in 2000, told the *Reporter* that it was the first fatal fire he had witnessed in the town. Previously, a fire at the Crocker building on Avenue A led to the death of a man in 1997.



Turners Falls was joined by seven other local departments in battling the structure fire.

## WENDELL from previous page

Keller and Dornbusch arranged to meet that Thursday and tour town owned properties to locate a potential site.

Dornbusch said he is applying for a \$10,000 grant to start the wood bank, and that Athol and Montague have wood banks up and running.

Keller said Buckland got a wood bank grant of \$117,000 and suggested applying for more grant money.

## Other Business

Good Neighbors asked the town for a snow- and ice-free place to keep their new insulated refrigerator van through winters.

Delorey said their suggestion, behind the highway barn, is too crowded with equipment and activity, but that the road extending east behind the highway garage pavement might have room. He also suggested behind the free store at the WRATS. He said a permanent wood frame structure is better than a temporary shelter.

Lena O’Dou has passed away, and the town’s golden cane was granted to Dorthoe of Montague Road.

The selectboard appointed Kathy Woodward to the Swift River School committee. Her term will expire at the May election, at which point she would have to run to keep the position.

Citizen Laurel Facey forwarded a letter from the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition urging candidates and legislators to support an immediate moratorium on extending natural gas pipelines in Massachusetts. The board signed and forwarded that letter. Selectboard member Gillian Budine abstained, citing possible conflict of interest.

Keller said state senator Jo Comerford had already secured a one-year extension of the permitting process that Eversource had tried to expedite for clearing 50 more feet on either side of their right-of-way that extends from Ludlow to Northfield.

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**GMRS**D from page A1

Council, which plans to give turkey dinners to 20 needy district families.

Superintendent Brian Beck said at the October meeting that the state is offering more COVID-19 tests to the district, and noted on November 8 that COVID rates were down locally. Director of learning Jeanne Powers gave a presentation of the district’s MCAS standardized test scores, included on the agenda under “Addressing Pandemic Learning Loss.”

The committee voted on six proposals under consideration at this fall’s Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference on Cape Cod. Proposals to protect the rights of transgender students and call for an increase in how much districts are allowed to set aside for unexpected special education

costs were endorsed unanimously.

Calls to allow teachers on the state education governance board and to promote “financial literacy curricula” in the schools were approved with dissenting votes, and the committee voted down a call to allow districts to start a reserve fund for school assessments and another to return districts under receivership to local control.

At the November 8 meeting, business manager Joanne Blier and facilities manager Heath Cummings ran through a list of current capital projects, many of which have been beset by minor delays, and introduced three new projects the district might request of the towns in next year’s budget.

These three priorities are reconfiguring the emergency generator at Turners Falls

High School, patching up the Sheffield Elementary gym roof, and installing a special security door between Sheffield and the administration building.

“I think this is a good workload that we can stay on top of, and not add to a growing queue, as we’ve kind of done in the last few years,” Cummings said. No votes were taken.

At Blier’s recommendation the board voted 7-0 to increase regular tuition charged to the town of Erving by just under 2% to \$15,715 per student, and to decrease Erving special ed tuition by 1.4% to \$37,343 per student.

The Collaborative for Educational Services, which owns an office and a special ed school in Northampton, is hoping to set up a capital reserve fund for the buildings. Two-thirds of member districts must ratify the

change. After a presentation by director Todd Gazda, the committee voted 6-1 to allow the account, with Nick Licata dissenting.

The committee gave a first reading to a new policy on nuts, a potentially deadly allergen. “Research indicates that promoting or advertising us as a nut-free school is essentially false advertising,” Beck stated. The new approach favors education, harm reduction, and the active participation of school nurses.

Brooke Martineau was appointed as the Montague school committee member on the Six Town Regional Planning Board (STRPB). “What if I say no?” Martineau joked during the roll call vote on the motion.

On Monday the STRPB will update the Montague and Gill select-board on its progress.



**SPORTS** from page A1

used to the faster play, but athletes from both teams had trouble gaining traction.

Introductions were made before the game. I spoke with the coaches, an athletic director who gave me a brief scouting report, and a father who had made the trek, and I exchanged notes with Jamie Cushman of the Nantucket *Inquirer and Mirror*. It was mostly small talk: they caught the 7:20 a.m. ferry, and it only took three hours to get here once they were on the mainland. “And with the time change, our girls are pretty rested,” the coach explained.

“It’s nice in Nantucket,” more than one of them joked as we waited in the rain. “You should have come here.”

Nantucket and Franklin Tech displayed different styles. Nantucket ran a distinct corner formation, bunching their players up outside the circle, while Tech spread theirs evenly, giving them multiple options and spreading Nantucket’s goal-line defense. Players from both squads received penalty cards, giving the other team power plays.

But the biggest difference was their offense. The Whalers attacked in waves; their entire two front lines would drive into Eagle territory. When Tech had the ball they kept most players at midfield, committing two or three attackers on fast breaks. Both teams pressured the opposing defenses, but neither could score.

The best chances either had in the first two quarters were after time elapsed. An infraction was called just as the airhorn blasted to end the first period. The clock was shut off, and the Whalers took possession deep inside the Eagles’ Nest. After several passes and shots, Tech iced the ball and the players went to their huddles.

It happened again just as the second quarter ended. This time it was Tech who had the opportunity to break the goose egg. They worked the ball into the circle, but Nantucket broke it up to end the scoreless half.

The momentum switched back and forth through regulation and into overtime. At 4:53 of overtime, Kate Trudeau finally broke through the Whaler defenses to break the tie and win the game.

Red-faced, exhausted athletes shook hands, with Nantucket wishing Tech the best of luck in the next round. Four hours later, everything changed. The victory was negated, and it is the underdog Whalers who will advance in the playoffs.

In the first quarter, Cushman had called me aside. “I just heard a rumor,” he said, “that a player from Franklin Tech was just placed on the team, and didn’t play in the regular season.”

When coach Rian Lovett informed me that Tech was disqualified for having an ineligible player, I got to thinking: Did Nantucket’s coach also know about this player in the first quarter?

I emailed Cushman, asking point blank: “Did the coach know about the ineligible player during the game? And if so, why bother to play if the game was going to end in a disqualification anyway?”

“My understanding is,” he replied, “the coach found out on the boat on the way home.”

In the long run, it really doesn’t matter. Both squads fought back and forth for five quarters, never once giving up. It’s a life lesson: Give it your best shot, and let your actions speak for themselves.

**Volleyball**  
*TFHS 3 – Cape Cod 0*  
*TFHS 3 – Whitinsville Christian 0*  
*Lee 3 – FCTS 0*

Last Friday the Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder defeated the Cape Cod Maroon Crusaders, 3-0. Before the game, I saw two young ladies wandering by the principal’s office. I pointed upstairs to the gym, but they said, “We need the ladies’ room. It was a long drive to get here.”

Indeed it was: if they left directly from Harwich, they were on the road for at least three hours, and wouldn’t be home for seven more. But that’s the dedication that family and friends have in supporting their children. The Cape fans in attendance compensated for their small numbers by stamping their feet to “We Will Rock You” throughout all three matches.

In the first, Blue shot out to a big lead because of accurate passes, team communication, and devastating serves. The Cods simply couldn’t keep up, and Turners went on to win it 25-13.

In the second match the Crusaders were kept off balance as Taylor Greene, who usually sets up the third shot, surprised them by occasionally tipping the ball over the net on the second hit. Abby Holloway and Madi Liimatainen also began making kills and Liimatainen started working the middle, setting up the second hit. Turners won the second match going away, 25-14.

Between matches Turners’ unofficial anthem, “Sweet Caroline” played over the speakers. The fans who go to softball games sang along while the players danced.

No team wants to go quietly, especially when it might be the last game of their high school career, and in the third match Cape came out on fire and racked up some early points. Blue regained their footing and began pulling away, but the Crusaders would not go away. As the “We Will Rock You” stamping quickened,

Maroon surged, overcoming an 11-5 gap and briefly leading 17-15.

The teams traded points. With the score tied 21-all, Blue went on a run with four unanswered points, sending the Crusaders back to the Cape and advancing in the playoffs.

On Monday, the Thunder welcomed another Crusader team: the Whitinsville Christian High School Gold Crusaders who had just beaten Tri-County 3-2 to advance into the MIAA Division V Round of 16.

Both squads wore home-white jerseys – the only difference was that Turners’ shirts had blue lettering, while the Crusaders’ numbers were golden – but Turners had the size advantage, and Whitinsville had no answer for Powertown’s serves. Blue shot out to a 12-1 lead.

It’s not like the Crusaders are a poor team. They regained some points, and even played an amazing bounce off the basketball backboard. But Turners was dominant, and took the first set 25-9.

Gold tried to keep pace in the second match, but Turners was too powerful. The Crusader coach countered by calling time-outs, but it was to no avail; Thunder won the second 25-7.

Even while getting trounced on the court, the Whitinsville coach kept a calm smile on her face, and never let her players get overwhelmed. In the third match, after Turners drove out to a 12-5 lead and Gold took another strategic timeout, I switched places to speak to some regulars.

People were thinking about the next game. “If we play Paulo Freire High, that’s going to be a tough game,” one father warned.

The third match turned out to be relatively close, but Blue still cruised to a 25-14 finish, and will host the Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School Purple Panthers this Friday.

Meanwhile, the Franklin Tech Volleyball Eagles, who beat the Matignon Gold Warriors in the MIAA Division IV opening round, went on the road to the Monument Mountain gym in Great Barrington to challenge the ninth-ranked Lee Wildcats.

Although Tech lost 3-0, none of the matches were routs. The Eagles worked the net, blocking shots and making kills, serving aces at the line, making digs in the middle, keeping the ball alive. Tech dropped the first contest 25-22 and the second 25-21. Lee defeated Tech 25-18 in the deciding match, sending the Lady Birds back home to Franklin County.

In the final game of their 2022 season, Faith Smith had 6 kills, 4 blocks, 7 digs and 2 aces; Lea Chapman made 6 kills, 5 blocks, 8 digs and 2 aces; Brooke Smith shot 2 kills, blocked a shot and deflected 2 digs; Skylei LePan ended with 6 digs; and Soriya Noeun dove for 4 digs.



Franklin Tech’s Kate Trudeau advances the ball against the visiting Nantucket Whalers during the MLAA Division IV Round of 32 tournament game in Turners Falls last Sunday.

**Football**  
*FCTS 44 – Bartlett 28*

The Franklin Tech Football Eagles flew over to Webster last Friday and beat the Bartlett Green Indians, 44-28, in a non-qualifiers’ postseason game. I told coach Joe Gamache I had suspected it would be a one-sided contest, but he disagreed. Tech had to come back from a 22-0 hole, and only won it by scoring 14 points in the last two minutes.

The reason I thought it would be a rout is that Tech’s two-win record is not indicative of their talents. I’ve seen them play some very good games this season, and I figured they could beat most like-ranked teams.

Hearing that the Eagles were outplayed for an entire quarter didn’t surprise me, either. In all but one game this season, the Blue Birds dominated at least half the game, but in most, they were outscored in the other half. In the Bartlett game, however, they scored enough points in the last three quarters.

Tech gained some traction early in the second. They went for broke on their first drive of the period, going for it twice on fourth down, and finally scored when Gabe Tomasi hit William Ainsworth for a 7-yard touchdown catch. Josiah Little added the 2-PAT to make the score 22-8.

Next, Franklin took advantage of a fumble and a penalty to make it 22-14. They came very close to scoring again, but the halftime whistle blew with them still down by 8.

The Eagles tied it up in the third quarter after a long protracted drive which culminated on a Tomasi-Ainsworth touchdown and a Tomasi-Ainsworth conversion, and finally took the lead 30-22 when Landen Hardy picked off a pass and returned it for a score.

Bartlett scored again but was

unable to convert, so Tech clung to a 30-28 lead. That’s when they took control. Tomasi scored on a 41-yard keeper, then picked off a pass and sprinted for 50 yards for another score. Dillon Gagnon added the 2-PAT, and Tech took home the victory 44-28.

Under center, Tomasi went 9 for 13 for 70 yards and 2 TDs, completing one 2-point conversion. On the ground he ran six keepers for 47 yards, and defensively, he had a 50-yard pick-six.

He varied his targets, hitting four different receivers: Shaun Turner caught two for 14 yards; Ainsworth had three catches for 15 yards, two touchdowns, and two 2-pointers. Ethan Smarr caught three passes for 37 yards, and Nathaniel Fuess made a four-yard completion.

On the ground Mr. Century, Josiah Little, broke the 100-yard barrier once again. He went 24 for 112 yards and a touchdown, and ran in a 2-PAT, as did Gagnon.

Hardy made 13 tackles and snagged an interception, returning it 82 yards for a touchdown; Brody Williams was in on 11 tackles, made a sack, and recovered a fumble. Vincent Renaud made 10 tackles and returned an interception 47 yards; and Zarydrien Alamed made a sack.

With most of the regular season in the rearview, Franklin Tech will now compete in the Vocational State Tournament. Their first-round opponent is no stranger. Although they haven’t gone head-to-head this season, the Pathfinder Panthers and Franklin Tech have played four common opponents, Mahar, Athol, Palmer, and Ware.

This Friday the Eagles make their way back to Palmer, as they attempt to keep their Voc championship dreams alive.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

operations building, which Little said may be causing corrosion that has led to “metal chunks falling from the ceiling onto staff.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said that the broader problem was the condition of the building, built in the 1960s.

An existing contract with Wright-Pierce was also extended to allow a closer evaluation of the cost of replacing the plant’s screw pumps, in preparation for applying for a large grant from the US Department of Agriculture. Little told the board she planned to request the project’s full \$2 milabellion cost at a winter special town meeting. Town administrator Steve Ellis explained that the town must appropriate the full cost of the project before receiving the federal grant to fund it.

Little reported on the criteria the town must meet under its license with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The plant, she said, had eliminated high percentages of both oxygen-consuming material (BOD) and suspended solids from the treated sewage that flows into the Connecticut. She said the plant’s new chlorination system worked well during “chlorination season,” which lasts from April through October, with \$65,000 of the \$230,000 budgeted for the purpose remaining.

Reviewing Little’s list of capital projects for the next six to ten years. Kuklewicz noted that it seemed to focus on “maintenance capital” rather than major projects, though it included the \$2 million for replacing the screw pumps. Little also said she would request funds for two vehicles and upgrades to the septage receiving station at the winter and spring town meetings.

The selectboard, which serves as the town’s sewer commission, agreed to hold a “sewer commission meeting” with Little on the second Monday of each month, with some flexibility in the case of holidays or a crowded agenda.

But the sewers were crowding the November 7 agenda. DPW head Bergeron reported on the status of the project to fix a collapsed sewer line on Montague City Road.

When the contractors hired to do the job dug into the area of the collapse, Bergeron said, they found 14 yards of concrete covering an eight-inch water line. Under that, he said, “you could have put in a pickup truck, there was such a hole!”

Bergeron said a ten-inch water main and a gas pipe, both of which may be dead, were discovered also next to the sewer. Still, he said, “all is well,” and the contractor will begin replacing the broken line, which may take several weeks.

#### Parking Liberation

The board held a public hearing on a new plan to allow on-street parking in downtown Turners Falls during the winter. The hearing was dominated by a presentation on the proposal by assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey, and by Ramsey’s responses to questions from the selectboard, because no one from the “public” appeared or chose to speak.

The new policy will allow parking on the streets from December 1 to April 1, only in downtown Turners, except during a declared winter emergency as determined by the public works superintendent. Ramsey’s summary focused on the process by which emergencies will be declared and publicized, parking

available at municipal lots to be used during emergencies, and when vehicles will need to be removed from those lots to allow for snow removal.

Ramsey said the town website will be the primary way residents learn about the progress of a snow emergency, though DPW superintendent Bergeron said his office would also do an “all-call” – also known as a CodeRED call – to alert residents. The website will also contain the regulations, and a map defining “downtown.”

“I don’t know how the residents are going to feel about that,” said board member Chris Boutwell, but he voted with the majority to oppose a demolition delay.

New signs will be posted in the municipal lots announcing the general policy for removing vehicles, though specific removal times would depend on the duration of each emergency.

Kuklewicz asked about enforcement, and whether cars would simply be ticketed, as he said had often occurred in the past, or towed immediately.

Ramsey responded that the police department will be “charged” with enforcing the ban, but was vague on what it will involve. Bergeron said that if 11 p.m. arrives with significant snow and a car interferes with plowing, his department will call the police, who would call a tow truck.

“In the past, people would get tickets when there wasn’t a snow emergency,” Ellis clarified. “This should focus enforcement when it’s important.”

#### Empty Shells

Two issues involving the demolition of historic buildings came before the board. One, put on the agenda on Ellis’s advice, considered whether the board should take a position at the November 16 historical commission hearing on imposing a delay on a permit to demolish the historic Farren Hospital.

The delay, which could be up to one year, would allow the commission to encourage owner Trinity Health of New England to seek a purchaser, or to develop a plan to avoid total demolition.

It immediately became clear that a majority of the board opposed the delay. “I don’t think a delay is going to help us find a developer,” said Matt Lord. “Trinity is a very wealthy and sophisticated, multi-state business, and if they thought there was something worth developing there it would happen.”

“I agree with Matt,” said Kuklewicz, “I would like to see a developer come forward, but it has been many years and no one has shown interest.”

“I don’t know how the residents are going to feel about that,” said member Chris Boutwell, but he voted with the majority to oppose a demolition delay, noting that the town could not afford to take on another old building.

Ramsey also reviewed with the board the findings of a study of the Canal District led by the architectural firm Dietz and Company, as

presented at a public meeting the previous week and covered in our November 3 edition. Ramsey’s presentation, virtually identical to the one given by Dietz, highlighted the recommendation for the almost-total demolition of the historic Strathmore Mill and its replacement by vegetation, walkways, and greater access to the Connecticut River.

Ramsey said the recommendation to demolish the Strathmore was partly the result of a market analysis which showed that “there is no viable use” for the old factory complex due to a lack of access and utilities.

Kuklewicz asked about the status of the “annex” to the building known as Railroad Salvage, demolished last year by the EPA. The town sold this building, which remains on the southwest corner of the Canal District, to developer Robert Obear for \$1,000 in August 2017 in exchange for a land development agreement (LDA) in which Obear agreed to develop it into live/work and artist incubator spaces by June 30, 2019.

Ramsey said the annex development had “stalled out,” and that although the town could enforce the LDA, the building cannot be redeveloped as proposed until a bridge over the power canal is improved to carry water and sewer. That is part of a proposed state-funded project which is to begin in 2026 at the earliest.

The board did not take a vote on the Canal District proposal, but Ramsey said he would return with “cost estimates” and a final presentation.

#### Gimme Shelter

Trish Howells, a member of the board of the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, came before the board to request that Montague consider selling or leasing a parcel of land east of the former burn dump and west of the new DPW garage on Turners Falls Road. The dog shelter, which is administered by the county sheriff’s department, is currently located at the end of Sandy Lane, west of the proposed site.

Howell said her organization and the sheriff had previously offered to purchase the land several years ago, but negotiations had stalled, and another location could not be found. She called Montague a “good fit” for the shelter, and selectboard members agreed. Kuklewicz and Boutwell both indicated that they would favor a long-term lease instead of selling the land.

Ellis urged the board to “think cautiously” about locking in a long lease, because the lot is one of the few large parcels with good access and utilities remaining in town for development. Kuklewicz suggested Howell look at other potential sites in the former landfill area, and she agreed to investigate that option with Ramsey.

#### Other Business

Ellis reported on a potential agreement with the city of Greenfield for staff support while the current position of public health director remains vacant until the beginning of next year. He said the agreement would be negotiated by the board of health and that Greenfield, which is currently “pinch-hitting” in Montague, is interested in “putting some boundaries around their obligations.”

He also reported on the status of negotiations with the FirstLight



#### MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

### Canal Doc Up for Public

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Chris Clawson of the Montague Historical Society put together a detailed history of the Turners Falls Canal and its enmeshed influence on the village of Turners Falls. His videos are not only informative, but are full of wonderful photos. We encourage you to watch this film, as well as many others that are available on the MCTV Vimeo page.

For more entertainment, check out the Outerspace Band’s performance at the Shea from November 5, or the Gill and Montague selectboard meetings. There’s always something new to see on MCTV!

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 check-out, 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 [infomontaguenvet@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguenvet@gmail.com).

Power Company over its new long-term federal license. “There is nothing I can bring before you, at this point in time, that would clarify where we’re at with the comprehensive settlement agreement,” Ellis said, producing much merriment on the board. Ellis did say he was having weekly meetings with “stakeholders and the company,” working toward a December 31 deadline.

The project to fix the town hall roof is nearly completed, Ellis said, despite a slow start due to some of the “principals” being in Poland. He applauded the “ferocity” with which the company completed the project, nearly over one weekend.

The board approved hiring Eric

Cole as a building maintenance worker at the public works department, and Christopher Smerz as a police patrolman. Smerz is a “lateral transfer” from the Boston police department under the state civil service system. Montague town meeting has formally voted that the department leave civil service, but Ellis said the enabling bill is now “in limbo” in the state legislature and will have to be reintroduced in the next session.

The board retired into an executive session to discuss negotiating strategy involving real estate. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, November 14.



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## WEST ALONG THE RIVER INDIAN SUMMER ON PLUM

*I went for a walk over the dunes again this morning  
to the sea...*

By DAVID BRULE

**PLUM ISLAND/NEWBURY-PORT** – Sitting on the back porch at 7 on a mild November morning, reading these lines of a poem by A.R. Ammons, was all it took. The pull of the coast and the lines of the poem jolted us into suddenly remembering it was high time to get down to the ocean, for a change of scenery.

The very next morning we were in the car, motoring east, then north on 495 to arrive at the Plum Island Refuge by 10 a.m.

No use these days to overdo it in the very early morning to hit the road to the shore. Time was, in our younger birding days, that we'd be on the road to Plum by 5 a.m., visions of spotting some rarity like the ivory gull, the Ross's gull, a snowy owl.

Nope, not these days. This was intended to be a leisurely trek to enjoy the escape from having to rake colorful but now fallen maple leaves, and to instead immerse ourselves in the fall foliage of the sea-coast dunes. No raking required.

While leaf-peeping tourists from the east had emptied their foliage-barren cityscapes and clogged our Route 2 heading west to view the celebrated fall brilliance of the Connecticut River Valley and foothills of the Berkshires, we were going in just the opposite direction. We had had our fill of golden maples, blazing reds, and now bronze old oaks. We were determined to leaf-peep in the dunes, with their modest fall colors of bayberry, beach plum, and poison ivy.

We sailed through the entrance gate, barely stopping long enough to flash our Senior Passes – good for a lifetime, however long that lasts. At least there's still one or two advantages to being one of the elderly.

A stroke of luck: our favorite parking lot was virtually empty.

The winding boardwalk through the dunes beckoned and seemed to lead off upwards to the heavens. The graying weather-cured and salt-cured wooden planks stretched before us across the quarter mile towards the crest of the final golden dune. Overhead spread the intense blue of the cloudless sky, the sea still invisible until we got to the top.

*the dune walk liberating, we are  
released from forms,  
from the perpendiculars,  
straight lines, blocks, boxes, binds  
of thought  
into hues, shadings, rises, flowing  
bends and blends  
of sight...*

Back months ago in mid-August, thousands of tree swallows rode the rollercoaster currents over the rise and fall of the dunescape, skimming a few feet above the sandy crests and hollows.

They were snatching up the dratted biting green-head flies and other unnamed insects as they gathered in flocks and stocked up for the coming migration.

*not chaos: preparations for  
flight from winter...  
wings rifling the green clumps,  
beaks  
at the bayberries  
a perception full of wind,  
flight, curve,  
sound...*

Soon in December and January, this landscape will be winter home for snow buntings and horned larks, spending the season in this spot, their plumage blending perfectly with the gold-tinged sand and the long dry grasses tracing circles under the wind.

But today, in between seasons, mild November Indian summer gives pause to all that motion and commotion.

see WEST ALONG page B3



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO  
*The boardwalk through the dunes.*

*Above: Milkweed pods along the power canal split open, releasing their seeds to the unseasonably warm November wind.*

## DISPATCH Clack, Clack, Clack: Small Worlds Collide

By GEORGE BRACE

**PENNSBORO, WEST VIRGINIA** – A couple of years ago I came across a jar of old marbles and was struck by how beautiful some of them were. I decided to learn more about them, and was lucky to find a series of YouTube videos by a collector named Stephen Bahr, which introduced me to the fascinating history and beauty of vintage machine-made marbles.

One thing led to another, and this past August, I was fortunate to be able to observe a “run” of marbles being made by master marble-maker Dave McCullough in a hallowed ground for marble collectors, the state of West Virginia.

Glass marbles were all hand-made by glassblowers until the early 1900s, when a man in Ohio named M.F. Christensen revolutionized the art with the invention of a machine that automated the process of rounding molten glass into perfect spheres. Christensen moved his operation across the Ohio River into West Virginia in 1915, and the next several decades saw an explosion in marble production which made West Virginia the marble capital of the world.

For decades on end, a group of factories in the region ran around the clock, each one producing millions of marbles every day. Many were for industrial use, or were simple, solid-colored, Chinese



BRACE PHOTO  
*West Virginia marble makers Richard McKnight (left) and Dave McCullough (right) unclog the kiln port during a marble “run” our correspondent attended in August.*

checker marbles, but innovations in glassmaking and in the machines themselves also produced many new styles of spectacular marbles, loved by children at the time and eagerly sought by collectors today. One of these styles would become known as the “West Virginia Swirl.”

Marble production in the United States waned over time, and today West Virginia is home to the only remaining large-scale producer, Marble King, which still makes a million marbles a day including the iconic Bumble Bee. Along with Marble King, however, West Virginia is also home to a smaller operation: Dave's Appalachian Swirls

(DAS), run by Dave McCullough.

McCullough grew up in West Virginia, and has been making marbles there for over 40 years. Early in his career he worked at Champion Marbles, founded in 1938, where he built and modified marble machines, experimented with glass, and created distinctive and gorgeous marbles.

McCullough eventually became plant manager at Champion, but moved in 1991 to Jabo Marbles, where he was to become vice-president and create yet more styles and types of marbles. Some were home-ages to the past, while others broke new ground. By rough calculation, see MARBLES page B4

## Maybe It's Time to Make Your Own Mincemeat!

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

**LEVERETT** – Where have all the mincemeat pies gone? They used to star at Thanksgiving, but their appearance is now getting rare.

A major reason is that few people now make their own mincemeat. But if you make mincemeat with local apples, the new season's lemons and oranges, and some of your favorite dried fruits and spices, you will create an aromatic preserve that can really go places – not just in Thanksgiving pies. It can go in breads and muffins – even in ice cream.

It's not hard, it's fun to do with kids, and it even brings good luck if you go about it the right way. If you are weirded out by the thought that mincemeat mixes meat with sugar and raisins, don't worry: it did in the past, but rarely does today.

Mincemeat got its start in 15th-century England, where it was invented to preserve meat over winter with apples from the harvest. The other ingredients – raisins and

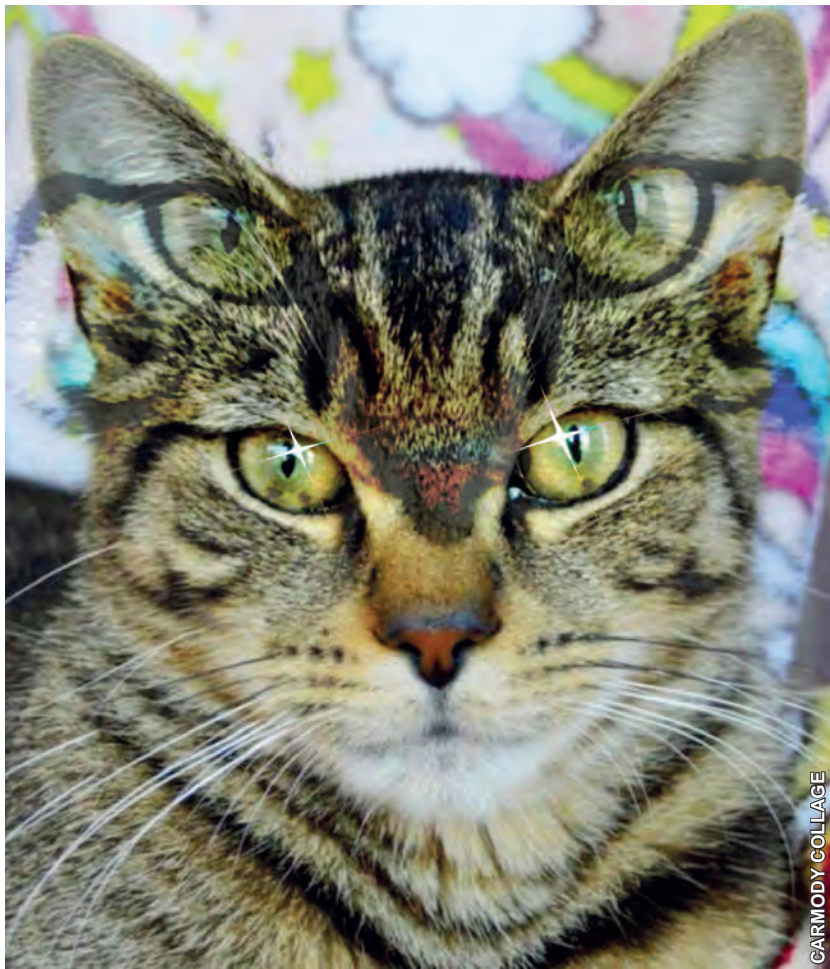
see MINCEMEAT page B8



HOPLEY PHOTO  
*Mincemeat (pictured above) is a mixture of dried and fresh fruits and spices.*



# Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

## “BUMPER”

Bumper came to Dakin as a stray. His finder gave him rave reviews, having had him for only a week.

First, he'll save you from huge heating bills, as he likes to snuggle under the covers. He's friendly but fearless, and loves to be the center of attention. If you are undecided about adopting a cat or dog, go with Bumper.

He's somewhere in between, go-

ing gaga when you enter the room. When you leave him, he'll cry for a while but then settle down.

Interested in adopting Bumper? Animals at Dakin are currently available only in Springfield. Contact adoption staff at [springfield@dakinhumane.org](mailto:springfield@dakinhumane.org) and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

## Senior Center Activities

### NOVEMBER 14 THROUGH 18

<b>WENDELL</b> Foot care clinic the first 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.	1:30 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry 4 p.m. Mat Yoga <b>Thursday 11/17</b> 10 a.m. Fruit and Financials 1 p.m. Cards & Games <b>Friday 11/18</b> 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
<b>LEVERETT</b> Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or <a href="mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us">coa@leverett.ma.us</a> .	<b>ERVING</b> Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays 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.
<b>GILL and MONTAGUE</b> The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. COVID test kits are available. For more information please call 863-9357.	<b>Monday 11/14</b> 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch 1 p.m. Knitting & Handcrafts <b>Tuesday 11/15</b> 10 a.m. A Matter of Balance 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 3 p.m. Tai Chi <b>Wednesday 11/16</b> 9 a.m. Veterans' Agent Hours 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
	<b>Monday 11/14</b> 9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout <b>Tuesday 11/15</b> 9 a.m. Good For U 10 a.m. Line Dancing <b>Wednesday 11/16</b> 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo <b>Thursday 11/17</b> 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion <b>Friday 11/18</b> 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

## FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

# Fall in New England

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

**MONTAGUE** – In contrast to some of my other columns, today I will be talking about a season. That season is the one we are in, Fall. Fall is a very iconic season in New England for many reasons, which I will talk about later. I love fall because there are many activities you can do then that you can't do at other times during the year.

First, to talk about why New England is a popular tourist destination during Fall:

The thing that is happening every day around us now is the leaves changing colors. Leaves change in other places around the country and the world, but they are the most beautiful in New England. All of the states in New England are in the top ten best places to visit in the Fall. Even in other seasons, New England has some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. I took a trip to Conway about three weeks ago and there were a bunch of photographers taking pictures on the side of the road.

Now I am going to talk about some activities that you can do here in the Fall. One that is very well-liked is going to a corn maze or farm. This is something that you can only really do in the Fall. Doing a corn maze is probably my favorite Fall thing to do.

I go with my family to a place called Gaines Farm, on the border of Massachusetts and Vermont. They always have an awesome corn maze with little checkpoints all along the path with riddles you have to solve. But that is not what makes Gaines Farm popular – it is because they have a massive air pillow that you can jump on.

They also have a haunted hayride, which I went on. It was awesome. The scarers got to jump onto the tractor-trailer and give out high fives. The scariest part was when they dropped a foam pumpkin on people's heads.

Now I will talk about another fun activity that is most common in the Fall. Apple picking is a nice independent or group activity. This year my family went to a place called Pine Hill Orchards in Colrain. When we first got there we got greeted by a goat. We bought an apple bag and boarded the tractor wagon to be brought

out to the orchard.

They grow apples, peaches, plums, blueberries, pumpkins, and more, but they only offer to pick your own apples, so that is what we did. My mom loves Jonagold apples so we went to those first. After we were done we sat around a campfire and had homemade apple cider. The tractor ride back was very fun. We went back to feed the goats and eat an apple cider donut.

Another benefit of apple picking is that, depending on the amount you pick, you can enjoy them for weeks to come. My family is still eating through the Jonagold apples we picked.

My favorite holiday in Fall is Thanksgiving. This year for Thanksgiving my family ordered our turkey from a place in Wendell called Diemand Farm. My family also makes a lot of different side dishes.

When I am not helping to cook on Thanksgiving I am watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They always have the coolest floats for all ages. I was reading an article about the new floats this year – they have a total of six new floats. One that stood out to me was the Heinz Gravy float, advertising Heinz's new gravy. The float consists of a pirate ship/gravy pourer with little mashed-potato people.

Even though Halloween was two weeks ago, I should mention that my brother was an astronaut, I was a piece of bacon, and my dog was himself with a sombrero on his head.

Finally, here is some data about people's favorite pie flavors. Apple pie is the most popular with 20% of the people, followed by strawberry, pumpkin, and cherry. I am surprised that pecan pie is not in the top four. My favorite pie is apple pie, and this year when I make it, I will try to do a braid in the middle.

Fall is probably my second-favorite season behind Winter. Maybe I will write about Winter in New England soon. That would be awesome – I can talk about sledding, snowball fights, snowmen, ice skating, and so much more.

Have a great Thanksgiving, and watch out for my next column on coins!



## Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

### Part 29: Passing Down Awareness

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

**AMHERST** – The official Breast Cancer Awareness month is over, but awareness doesn't end with November. Breast cancer awareness is endless – it's every single day. And awareness means sometimes ignoring sage advice.

This is what I mean: When women are young, in their teens and 20s and early 30s, we are given statistics that claim the chances of getting a breast cancer diagnosis in those early years is low. The chances are so low, doctors don't send women of that age group to get screenings unless breast cancer runs in the family or the patient has a gene mutation. Women without that mutation are told to check themselves regularly.

But then we have the other side, where doctors are admitting that mammograms save lives of patients in their 40s and 50s. Mammograms can help patients reduce their treatment time, and the chances of the cancer returning, as they can sometimes (though not always) detect cancer when it is too small to feel.

It doesn't make sense to me that we wouldn't therefore offer mammograms to all women every five years, starting at the age of 20, to detect cancer in the breast when it is small. It also follows that we might update our technology so that women with

denser breasts, who may not have the same success rate with mammograms, can have a screening tool that finds breast cancer accurately.

When you're in my position, statistics are meaningless. Triple-positive breast cancer only occurs in 20% of women who get the diagnosis. I should play the lottery, because I'm not supposed to have this kind of cancer at my age. The chances of having this cancer so early in my life are so low, but my cancer didn't look at the statistics and go, "oh, it's not time to show up yet."

Cancer doesn't know or care what we think it's supposed to do, so when I talk about my cancer, I always tell people how I found it and why it's important to be on guard even when you're young. Trust your instincts.

I trusted mine, over and over again, when my doctors pushed high-hormonal birth control in my 20s. Even in my 30s, birth control options were pushed on me for pregnancy prevention even when I didn't have a partner. But my kind of cancer is fed by hormones, so a high-estrogen birth control option would have fed it. Pregnancy would have also fed it.

We lose more young women than anyone realizes to this disease. These are women with children, these are daughters and sisters and wives. I've

made it my mission since I was diagnosed to get the word out about how this can come up out of nowhere, how it can impact your day-to-day life, and how to stay safe.

I've talked about this before, but my mom saved my life years ago when she told me to put lotion on my neck and chest. I found my lump after the shower when I was doing exactly that. It was at the edge of my breast, and I brushed against it while I was putting lotion on. I immediately knew what it was. A long, long time ago at Amherst Regional, a woman whose name I can no longer remember passed a fake breast around to our ninth-grade health class so we could all feel what a breast cancer lump feels like.

Women save women. We pass the knowledge and wisdom down, and help other women know what they might face. We are as valuable to each other as doctors are. Without these older, wiser women in my life I may not have found my lump, and may not have known what it was. It didn't hurt, so if I hadn't had that experience in high school so long ago, I may have left it until it was too late.

Don't be afraid to tell your story so someone else can hear it. Every person sharing their story saves another life behind her.

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# MR Wrapping Paper Edition Artist Profile #6

By REPORTER STAFF

This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Issue to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full-color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. Seven of these pages will feature the work of local artists, with a cover image of *MoRe* headers from the past year.

We received 34 submissions to our call, and chose seven from the proposals we received. We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special issue, which will go to press on Thanksgiving week!

Andie Peach proposed a colorful graphic of faces showing varying expressions, linked by braids, with hearts and flowers in the background. We asked each artist the same three questions, and Andie answers this time:

**MR:** *What would you want your wrapping paper to say, and feel like, for the person it is being gifted to?*

**AP:** I want this wrapping paper to feel playful, yet loving. Something that can really brighten someone's day and show that they are loved. My hope is that the wrapping paper can be as memorable as the gift itself.

**MR:** *What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?*



**AP:** As an artist, I often give people things I've made myself. I love receiving homemade gifts from my friends just as much as I love giving them. Knowing that someone would take the time to create something with me in mind is a gift in itself.

One of my favorite examples is the quilt my mother made for me and my husband for our wedding last December.

**MR:** *What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?*

**AP:** I love that newspapers are a physical medium of journalism, information, and art. It can be such a great way to feel connected to your community, when the right kind of passionate people are working on them. It's been so fun working with the *Montague Reporter* on this project!



## WEST ALONG from page B1

Cresting the last dune, there's the temptation to streak down the steep slope to the shore like the twelve-year-olds we haven't been for many, many decades. So we stately and steadily slip down the hill, sort of skating on the sand, trying to balance flopping backpacks and unwieldy beach chairs. Down we go to the high tide edge of the rollers and breakers.

It takes a few minutes to get used to the vastness, and wide openness, of the Atlantic shore. For most of the year, our eyes reach their limits at the edge of our woodland tree line in our Valley home. Tawny oaks and towering maples keep the borders of the horizon and skyline within limited bounds.

Out here, the shoreline reaches its vanishing point in the hazy salt-sprayed distance, lined by white-crested rollers breaking on the sea's edge as far as the eye can see, and not a soul in sight. Not a soul, except for a solitary walker off to the north, far down the shore away from us towards the cottages of Plum Island village and beaches of New Hampshire. We've got the entire place to ourselves.

Even the piping plovers have gone their way, opening the whole summer-long off-limits strand to human visitors of the November beach. Rolling waves crash with thundering force under azure blue sky. All is calm, a lack of wind, the only sound the booming of the incoming tide, and an occasional gull.

One hundred yards offshore, early season sea ducks ride the waves, disappearing behind the rolling swells, then reappearing, then diving to chase the small fish that thrive in this kind of tide.

Scoters, red-throated birds in washed-out winter plumage, with their heavier cousins the common loon, dive and resurface, beaks pointed upwards, one eye on the shore, keeping a safe distance from the human intruders.

A gaggle of Oldsquaw ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*), numbering close to 20, swim in noisy formation, then dive in unison, working together underwater to herd their finny prey for easier pickin's.

These sea ducks down from the tundra and northern slopes of Hudson Bay have had their names changed. When we were young they were called "Oldsquaws," so named for their ceaseless chattering, one of the noisiest ducks known to hunters who, lucky for the ducks, rarely included them in their daily bag.

Nowadays, in sensitivity towards the discriminatory ethnic implications of the old name, they are now called *long-tailed ducks*, and rightly so, just as they are called when they turn up in the British Isles. We watch them until we're tired of it, and turn our attention to a last lone summer plover, or a ring-billed gull waiting watchfully for us to open a picnic basket which we wisely did not bring.

Satisfied with our few hours of ocean exposure and immersion in the salt-spray oxygen-rich air of the shore, instead of a banal sandwich we have other options for a late Saturday lunch. The urge to get to that lunch hastens our trek back to town.

Tripping lightly along the winding boardwalk back the way we came, back to the car, we're headed for our favorite harborside restaurant. We have always topped off our Plum Island day trip with plates heaped with fried scallops and fries, accompanied by a choice glass of *pinot grigio* on the deck. Smugly savoring our once-a-year seaside lunch, we watch the boats slip downriver with the current or churn upriver under the drawbridge over the ancient Merrimac.

Going home, the road leads us west into the setting sun, back to our river valley one hundred miles, and many worlds, away.

*Excerpted and adapted lines are from the poem "Corsons Inlet" by A.R. Ammons.*



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Outdoor Husband; Being Loud And Banging; Barfly; Limping Raccoon; Bear & Bobcat; Dirt Bike; Pellet Gun

Monday, 10/31

7:37 a.m. Republic trash driver reporting an unregistered vehicle that has not moved in months and is blocking access to rubbish removal at Fifth and L Streets. Owner will have it registered in MA this week.

9:08 a.m. 911 caller reporting he was brought to a house on Highland Avenue last night and wants to leave now, but the person who brought him there won't bring him home. Officers have located caller; they are getting his property from inside the apartment, and will give him a courtesy transport.

9:54 a.m. Employee reporting damage to parking gate at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center on Migratory Way. Report taken.

11:33 a.m. Caller from I Street would like it on record that someone went into her unlocked car last night and stole her purse and some cash.

11:58 a.m. Caller advising of a fox that looks sick in the Oakman Street area. Animal control officer and PD responding. Area checked; unable to locate fox.

5:16 p.m. 911 caller complaining of propane smell on Avenue A. Shelburne Control contacted. Officer advises active leak; FD

also on scene. Waiting for crew to come to clear. No evacuation from building necessary. Berkshire Gas arrived; officer clear.

6:14 p.m. Caller states her husband went outside to bring the trash out when it was still light out, and he has not come back inside. States she is wheelchair bound and cannot get up to look for him. Officer states attached male party is standing in driveway and was doing yard work; will go inside with wife.

9:43 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments states her mom's neighbor is being loud and banging. Officer advises contact made; attached party refused to open door. Advised of options. Similar complaints previously made.

Tuesday, 11/1

10:54 p.m. 911 caller reports multiple people at Avenue A and Third Street having a physical altercation. Officers located individuals in woods near Third Street parking lot. Involved party who was potentially assaulted refuses to provide any information and declines any further type of service including medical.

Wednesday, 11/2

10:36 a.m. Corporate loss prevention employee from F.L. Roberts advising that a named male party is no longer allowed in the store. He has been verbally trespassed by the caller on behalf of the company. Caller is going to sheriff's department today to have the involved male served trespass paperwork later today. Caller advised to have employee call police if the involved male shows up again.

12:10 p.m. Caller states that there is an unattended wood chipper running on the side of Millers Falls Road. Landscaping crew located; no safety issues.

5:36 p.m. Party into station to have it documented that she did not receive some of her immigration paperwork after UPS delivered it. Report taken.

11:03 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states she heard loud music emanating from her backyard. She called out several times to whoever was on/near her property to stop, and the music would stop briefly then resume. Caller went on to state that she would also hear laughter at her response and also heard twigs snapping, sounding like the noise is getting closer. Area checked; unable to locate.

Thursday, 11/3

2:12 p.m. Caller concerned that people are living in the woods above the public parking lot at Canal

and Third Streets. Had conversation with subjects staying in a tent on the knoll between Third, Fourth, and Canal Streets. They are moving on to an interior living arrangement in a few days. No paraphernalia or trash that would cause any danger observed. Also had conversation with neighbor of property, who advised the property is under the control of FirstLight.

2:35 p.m. Caller advising that an injured-looking raccoon is limping along the side of Sunderland Road.

5:29 p.m. Caller from Third Street concerned about increasing ongoing harassment from a neighbor. Caller advised of options. Officer left a message for the involved party to cease all contact.

7:55 p.m. Caller requests to speak to officer regarding past vandalism and breaking-and-enterings on Avenue A over the past month. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 11/4

2:25 a.m. Manager who works at Between the Uprights requests a log note be made that she had to kick a female party out of the bar tonight after they had a heated argument. Caller states involved female was still outside location after closing, making the caller uncomfortable. Caller states that the involved female posted on Facebook just a moment ago that she was unable to get her, the caller, tonight, but would get her later. Caller advises nothing further happened tonight but is concerned female may retaliate at a later time. Caller advised it would be logged.

7:08 a.m. Supervisor at Johnson Controls (Heatfab) reporting that a recently terminated employee has just shown up and is yelling and screaming. Male had fled on a scooter/moped; located by officers at another business nearby. Party advised not to return to property and that he will need to push his scooter home due to his license status. Caller advised of options; they will pursue a trespass order later today.

7:40 a.m. Caller from Avenue A states that she has video footage of a neighbor entering her apartment while she was away on multiple occasions, and stuff is missing. Caller at station filling out a statement form.

9:27 a.m. Employee at Greenfield Cooperative Bank reporting being threatened by a customer. Officer followed up with customer and advised him of the complaint. In-

vestigated.

9:34 a.m. Caller from Alice Street states that a black bear is walking around the neighborhood.

4:59 p.m. Caller from N Street states that two fisher cats are walking around the neighborhood. Officers located a bobcat and pushed it back into the woods.

7:40 p.m. Bartender at Rendezvous reports patrons approached him stating someone across the street was attempting to shoot people with little white pellets from some sort of Airsoft gun. Officer checked involved addresses; unable to locate.

9:05 p.m. 911 caller states he struck a coyote near 253 Pharmacy and advises there is some damage to his vehicle. Officer checking area for any signs or evidence of a coyote; advises there was damage to a sign in the parking lot.

Saturday, 11/5

11:47 a.m. Walk-in reporting 2011 orange KTM dirt bike stolen overnight from Depot Street. Report taken.

12:06 p.m. Caller reports her vehicle was struck last night at the Bookmill. Referred to an officer.

12:29 p.m. Officer checking on a motorcycle that has been in the Bookmill parking lot for a week. Northampton police attempted to make contact with male, who no longer lives at Florence address. He supposedly lives somewhere in Montague.

2:02 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports the fancy white vehicle is out back again.

4:21 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that her neighbor is shooting his gun. She is very uncomfortable. States this has been going on the last couple of days. Officer called caller back to discuss. On record for future reference.

8:46 p.m. Caller states a man in a wheelchair outside Connecticut River Liquor and Wine is harassing people as they walk by and enter/exit the store. Officer unable to locate party; will continue looking, as more complaints have been received that he is soliciting for money. Officer located attached party and advised him not to go in front of the storefronts anymore.

Sunday, 11/6

4:20 p.m. Caller from Spring Street states that a man just walked into her house; unsure how he got in, as all the doors are locked. He walked in, saw her sitting in her chair, and hurried back out the door. Described as older with a white beard. Area search negative.

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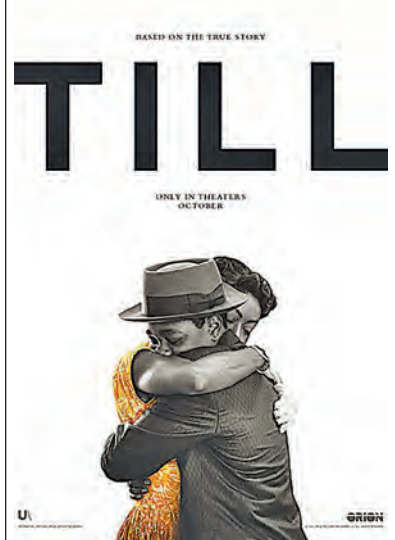


## MOVIE REVIEW

*Till* (2022)

By REBECCA TIPPENS

**COLRAIN** – Emmett Till, a 14-year-old from Chicago, was murdered when he was on a first-time solo visit to relatives in Mississippi in 1955. The film *Till* tells that story from the perspective of his single mother – his father had been killed in WWII – who was hesitant to let him go for fear her free-spirited youngster would get in trouble for stepping over the boundaries proscribed by the essentially apartheid society of the era.



Director Chinonye Chukwu received awards (including the US Dramatic Grand Jury Prize at Sundance) for an earlier film she wrote, the excellent *Clemency*, which also features a Black woman, a prison warden responsible for walking those sentenced to death to their executions, and examines the toll that extracts from her.

*Till* similarly portrays the evolving political and social consciousness of Till's mother, as her fears proved prescient. Her son was murdered for telling a white shopkeeper that she was as pretty as an actress. In the film, he gives her a whistle, though some say that his whistle was a mannerism he used to tamper his stutter before he spoke.

Several days after this incident, the racists of Melody, Mississippi – this is not satirical – drag him from the home of his preacher uncle and torture, mutilate, then lynch him, hiding his body. His mother Mamie, played by Danielle Deadwyler, is devastated.

When she hears that Mississippi plans to bury her son, she moves from paralyzing grief into action, and determines that his body must come north. With the help of friends, her beau, her parents, (her mother is played by Whoopi Goldberg), and the NAACP with Medgar Evers, she succeeds.

She then learns of her son's grossly disfigured body. The viewer is also allowed to see the horrifying mutilations. After shock and horror dissipate, she resolves to let his casket be open at the funeral, contrasting with pictures of Till as a happy boy, so that the world learns of the horrors that were committed. Her

story was already being reported upon by Chicago's Black press, but the effect of the showing was considerable and the photos were circulated across the nation, bringing attention both to the murder and the trial that was to follow. Ultimately, Till's story became an important catalyst of the Civil Rights movement.

Although Mamie was aware that it was very unlikely that there would be justice at the trial, she felt a duty to stand by her son and do whatever she could to defend his name and share his story. She was the lone black woman working in the office of the Chicago police department, and therefore was able to provide a comfortable life for her son. But the thrust of the film is her journey to step beyond her world, from that of a home-loving mother, circumscribed by her care for and defense of her son, to one who comes to learn that "whatever happens to any of us, anywhere in the world, had better be the business of us all."

This is a story important to tell in these times of racial censorship and abuse. Indeed, a *New York Times* article from October 2019 holds the headline "Emmett Till Memorial Has a New Sign. This Time, It's Bulletproof." As recently as 2019, people were putting bullet holes in a sign that marked the site of the lynching.

I have a few quibbles with the film, things that were distracting to me. I wondered how it was that an office worker would be so elegantly coiffed as Mamie was. In nearly every scene she wears a different – lovely – dress and a handsome set of earrings. I also thought that the soundtrack was overly sentimentalizing, and loud. More subtlety would have worked better for me.

At the end of the film, updates are provided, including that Mamie continued to work for civil rights until her 2003 death. Medgar Evers's assassination is mentioned, and that the acquitted murderers confessed their guilt a year after the trial, receiving \$4,000 from *Look Magazine*. Then we learn that this year, President Biden finally signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law.

But there is no mention that Till's accuser, Carolyn Bryant – the woman he may have whistled at, and the wife of one of his murderers – lied in the trial about his having stalked her. Nor do they mention that although she still lives, Mississippi is not bringing charges against her despite her confession. Recently discovered affidavits requiring her to come to trial were not followed through with. I am still mulling possible reasons the filmmaker did not mention the latter.

Be all as it may, people need to see and talk about this film. It is playing at the Greenfield Garden Cinema and at the Hampshire Mall Cinema in Hadley. At both theaters, Tuesday is discount day – \$5 at the Garden. Support your local theaters!

**MARBLES** from page B1

McCullough has made well over one billion marbles during his career, but it's the beauty of his creations that have made him a "living legend" in the marble world.

The runs produced by DAS are known as "investor runs," as a small group of marble enthusiasts chip in to fund each run and take part in the production. I observed the "DIBS" run. The name represents the initials of the investors, but was also chosen because it's the name of the marble game some of the participants played as children.

**Marble Day**

After months of anticipation, marble day arrived, and I got to meet McCullough and observe a run of marbles being made. Production began at 6 a.m. with the firing up of the kiln, and lasted roughly nine hours.

The layout and process are basically as follows: the kiln for melting the glass sits outside due to the heat, but is flush up against a 30-by-60-foot metal building which houses DAS's marble machine, supplies, and storage areas. The kiln sits five feet off the ground, and is slightly slanted so glass will flow toward an exit port at the front, and then down into the marble machine



*Hot glass chunks drop between these turning screws, which round them as they travel along.*



*Multicolored glass marbles from the DIBS marble run.*

inside the building.

The glass is heated to 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit, and once melted comes out the exit port in a steady stream as if from a spigot or faucet. The molten glass falls for about a foot before entering the marble machine. There, reciprocating metal shears chop the stream into small globs, which are alternately channeled into two chutes leading to two sets of slowly spinning,

10-foot-long, "forming screws." As the globs of glass travel slowly down the grooves of these spinning screws, they are formed into round marbles.

The marbles are still super-hot when they reach the end of the screws, so they continue their journey down two 10-foot open-top chutes with fans placed overhead for cooling. As they pile up at the end of the chutes, people take turns plucking out cracked or misshapen marbles with metal tongs – they're still very hot, so gloves are also worn.

Every few minutes, after the duds have been removed, an inspector opens a trapdoor and the marbles fall into metal buckets. When the buckets are full they are emptied into one of a dozen large metal containers, where they sit overnight to continue slowly cooling. If there is an abrupt change in temperature, they may fracture..

The DIBS run used 1,000 pounds of glass, most of which was clear "base glass," which was shoveled into the rear of the kiln. Base glass is used to save money, but also as a sort of canvas for additional glass. Throughout the day McCullough chopped up smaller amounts of

see **MARBLES** next page

**EXHIBITS**

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *The Good Old Days*. Painter Lee Gray brings us scenes from the good old days when the world was good and kind. Through November. Opening reception this Saturday, November 5 at 1 p.m.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Interotone*, mixed-media work by Turners Falls resident Desi Lowit. Through November.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Oh! Beautiful Glass!* Glass artists Marta Bernbaum, Dominique Caissie, Tommy Elder, Wesley Fleming, Beth Hylen, Jeremy Sinkus, Mary Giehl, Liliana Glenn, Colleen Grebus, Mark Gottlieb, George Kennard, Sam Myers, Sally Prasch, Annukka Ritalaahi, Tomo Sakai, Marianne Shephardson, Wayne Stratman, Caterina Urrata Weintraub and many more. Through November; free to the public in the Barnes Gallery. Opening reception with refreshments and music this Sunday, November 6 at 4 p.m.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:**

*Inside Art VI: Photography from Inside*, work from six residents incarcerated in the women's unit at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Through November 27. Opening reception this Friday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m.

**Looky Here, Greenfield.** *Another Person, Another Place*, gouache works by Danielle Chenette. Through December.

**Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield:** *Donna Estabrooks*, paintings. Through November 22

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Sticks & Stones*. Artists interpret the whimsical theme of sticks and/or stones in sculpture, mixed media, mosaic, fiber art, and more. Through November 6.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Josh Simpson: 50 Years of Glass*, retrospective exhibit by the local glass artist. Through December. Opening reception next Saturday, November 5, at 2 p.m.

**Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Small Works Show*. Through November 21.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *A Look*

*Through Two Lenses: Martha's Vineyard Spring*, by Eric Broudy; *Dockside*, by Larry Rankin. Photography. Through November 26. Opening reception this Thursday, November 3, at 5 p.m.

**A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:** *Missing Department*, collaborative exhibit by artist Ligia Bouton and writer Matt Donovan. November 11 through December 10. Opening reception Friday, November 11 at 5 p.m.

**Gallery in the Woods, Brattleboro:** New "Celt-edelic" paintings by Lake Pleasant artist *Lahri Bond*. Opening reception this Friday, November 4 from 5 to 8 p.m., during Brattleboro's Gallery Walk.

**Brattleboro Museum & Art Center:** *The New Herbarium*, fungus and plant images by Madge Evers; *We Feel Our Way Through When We Don't Know*, group show; *The Space Between Memory and Expectation*, large-format photographic installations by Renate Aller; *Moons and Internment Stones*, rock and moon paintings by Alison Moritsugu; *(de)composed*, sculpture by Judith Klausner. All through February 12. [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

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**MARBLES** from previous page

different colors of special glass and added it through a port near the exit port at the front of the kiln.

This is where the unseen magic happens. The differently-colored glass does not blend like paint, but retains its original color, mixing into the base glass to produce the myriad designs and swirls you see in a finished marble.

Along with glass, other materials such as “aventurine” or “lutz” are sometimes added to produce sparkling ribbons or other effects. McCullough used some of these materials in the DIBS run, but also added some scrap pewter at one point as an experiment.

For whatever reason, the pewter

experiment did not seem to work, other than to bring a hearty “back to the drawing board” smile to McCullough’s face.

**The Atmosphere**

The overall atmosphere at the run was just plain awesome. The hum of the fans and day-long *clack-clack-clack* of the marbles careening down the chutes muted conversation inside the building, but was relaxing or meditative.

McCullough smiles a lot and chats with people from time to time, but you can tell that however relaxed he may appear to be he is keeping a watchful eye, aware and thinking about everything that’s going on. Between rounds of glass

chopping, he checks how the marbles are coming out and talks with the guys manning the exit port and monitoring the machine, making adjustments and ensuring that everything is running smoothly.

The only glitch during the DIBS run came about halfway through, when the exit port became clogged. McCullough and his helpers responded quickly and deftly, and in half an hour the machine was back up and running.

Aside from the helpers and investors, a few of McCullough’s friends and neighbors came by to watch or say hello. People periodically congregated outside, where it was cooler and easier to talk, and discussed everything from the local high school football team’s prospects to, of course, marbles.

A little bit of show and tell and some marble-trading also took place outside. The investors were all serious marble collectors and dealers from around the country, and had brought some rare treasures with them. So had a couple of McCullough’s old-timer marble friends. A surprising highlight for me was seeing some of Shelburne Falls marble maker Josh Simpson’s contemporary, handmade “Planet” marbles on display right alongside the vintage West Virginia beauties from the 1930s and 1940s.

Small world!

Eventually the last few marbles rolled down the chute, and that was that. They were left to cool overnight and divided up the next day.

There’s more to all of this than I could touch on in a short article, but the history of it all is as fascinating as the marbles are beautiful, combining art, industry, folklore, and the contributions of innovators and workers who created a lasting legacy. You might say that McCullough embodies this legacy, but either way, it seems clear that he’s cut from the same cloth as the early pioneers, and continues creating glass art that is simple, beautiful, and fun – and makes a nice *clack-clack-clack* sound when it rolls around.



**EXHIBIT PREVIEW**

**What’s Special About the Ordinary?**  
*Paintings by Anne-Marie Taylor*



Lilacs in the Old White Pitcher, *painting by Anne-Marie Taylor.*

By **RICHARD ANDERSEN**

**MONTAGUE CENTER**– To say Anne-Marie Taylor is an “American Impressionist” is a disservice to both her and the paintings she’s exhibiting at the Montague Center Library from November 14 through December 12.

Taylor was born in the United States, but thanks to her Francophile father, she was raised in large part in France, where she eventually taught English. She also taught French at the University of Massachusetts.

Before she was teaching, however, and before she was even in school, there was art. According to information provided on her website (*annemarietaylorart.com*), Taylor’s earliest memory is of herself drawing a picture. Never has she ever wanted to do anything more.

But art, she was told, wasn’t practical, and representational art, the kind she was most interested in, was dead. So, like many talented children with parents who think they know what’s best for their kids, she did what was expected of her: education by degrees. She has four of them, including a Ph.D. in history. Her dissertation on Charles Sumner was published as a book. Remember him? An outspoken abolitionist, he was beaten so badly with a cane wielded by a slave-holding Congressman that he never fully recovered. A tunnel in Boston is named after him. So is a street in Springfield.

Unfortunately, building a noteworthy career in academe takes a lot of time that never seems to end.

Enter Nancy Fernold. On her website, Anne-Marie credits this painter in the Boston School tradition with inspiring her to develop the techniques she needed to combine realistically rendered paintings with Impressionist depictions of light and color. The result is a collection of signature artworks that contribute significantly to the Franco-American tradition of still life representations.

One result, in addition to works so beautiful you don’t want to take your eyes off them, is her ability to contain seemingly conflicting emotions in one still life. While celebrating the joys of everyday, ordinary life, for example, her paintings can also remind us of their and our impermanence.

Her brilliantly colored flowers have been recently picked in full

bloom and placed in vases. Their days are numbered. Same for the deeply hued fruit and the vegetables strategically laid out on small tables. It won’t be long before they become soft and turn brown. Is it any wonder that the French word for still life paintings is *peintures des natures mortes*?

Taylor’s representations of teapots with cups, wine bottles with glasses, and sparkling jars with jam add another emotionally charged consideration: nostalgia for a way of life that no longer exists. These paintings recall a list of activities that belong to a time when people didn’t have to lock their doors, and kids were told when they went out of the house to play that they didn’t have to be home until the streetlights came on.

There are no people in Taylor’s paintings, but her richly textured, boldly lit colors invite us to imagine ourselves in them. In our age of electronic communication, this message about the importance of living a life of low-intensity pleasure could not be more necessary or more urgent. It’s so easy now to have hundreds of friends and still be alone in the dark with no one to depend on. These kinds of cyber-connections, like the virtual world in which they exist, aren’t real in Taylor’s sense of the word. There’s no time or space for the people who inhabit them to relax with friends and converse, as opposed to “chat,” over a cup of tea or a glass of wine.

So how does she do it? How does she manipulate light and color to create such rich senses of understanding and compassion for the human condition?

One answer that can be explained in words is *alla prima* – a process by which Anne-Marie doesn’t wait for one layer of paint to dry before applying another. She also paints directly from life, never a photograph, and sets the objects of her focus in a constant Northern light. The effect makes the objects look like so many miniature sunbursts, each giving off its own light in its own way.

So go. Feel uplifted and restored through the works of this artist of habit and home. Ground yourself in the lofty possibilities of everyday experience. Thrill to the wonders of being alive and living at peace with the inevitable. That’s also part of this miracle we call “life.”



BRACE PHOTO

Tongs, gloves, and sharp eyes are needed for quality control at the end of the chutes.

**MEDIA ANALYSIS**

**Then & Now: Halloween Specials on *Quantum Leap***

By **MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

**GREENFIELD** – With a new *Quantum Leap* sequel series being on TV, and it having a Halloween episode like the original series, it seems like a cool idea to compare the two.

Here is the summary for the episode from the original series on *IMDb.com*: “Sam leaps into a second-rate horror writer, Joshua Rey, on Halloween 1964. Ziggy confirms that Sam is there because of Rey’s fiancée Mary Greely. A series of bizarre events lead to the death of a handyman and then an elderly neighbor. Al is convinced that Mary is responsible somehow. Sheriff Ben Masters suspects Rey while Sam is sure that the sheriff is the guilty party. Sam constantly sees a goat at the site of the deaths and soon realizes that he is combating an evil force, perhaps the Devil himself.”

This original Halloween episode, “The Boogiemán,” aired on October 26, 1990.

The “devil in disguise” is something that is mentioned about what

is happening. Anyone who likes that concept being featured will love the disguise he turns out to be hiding in. Having the devil in a Halloween episode is a perfect fit.

As the episode ends, a character named Stevie’s mom arrives to pick him up, and she is greeted as “Mrs. King.” Then we put the two together: Stevie... King? The audience realizes that Stephen King has just been given a bunch of ideas for his future novels, with the references to Christine and flying kitchen knives. Stevie even calls the big St. Bernard in the back seat of the car “Cujo”... and then the episode is over.

Stephen King is a well-known horror writer; his books and short stories have been made into TV shows and movies. Another perfect fit to have in this Halloween episode.

The new series’ Halloween episode is called “O Ye of Little Faith,” and this is appropriate because Ben, the jumper, leaps into a priest in this episode.

The summary for this one is: “Ben leaps into a priest who has been called to assist a family in

crisis on Halloween night. As he delves into mysterious and inexplicable events, he’s forced to muster all his resources as a scientist before time runs out.”

This seems to be a plot right out of *The Exorcist*. There is a brief appearance of the number 666 in the episode as well.

Ben Song doesn’t even believe that this person has been possessed; just like Sam in the original series, his characters is a scientist, and he often make statements that there must be an explanation for the strange things that are going on. Neither Ben nor Sam believe in this sort of thing.

Ben certainly gets the hell scared out of him in the middle of this episode, though. The sequel series also did the original one better regarding the timing of their Halloween episode, since theirs was actually aired on Halloween.

But as it turns out, this isn’t really a horror episode for Halloween – it’s more of a mystery one. All in all, I thought the original series did way better with theirs.

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# The Children's Page

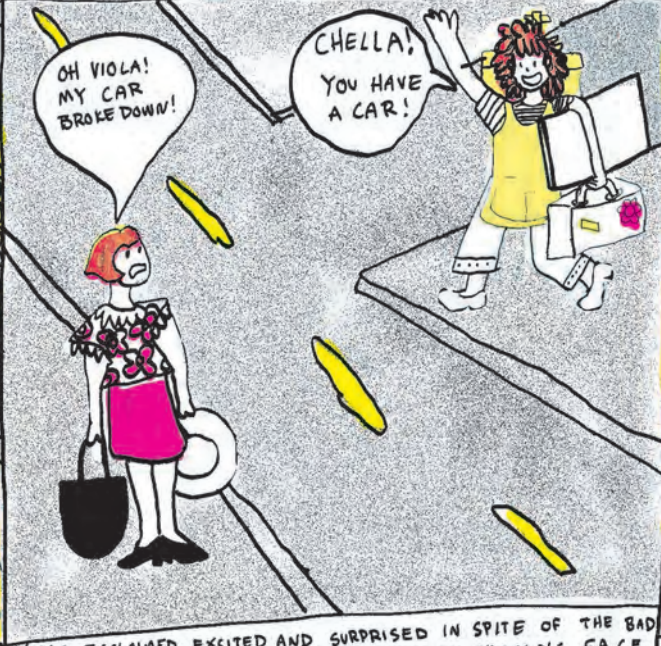
YONERDOD ILLUSTRATION

**THE LOVELIGHTS HIT HARD TIMES: PART 3**  
WRITTEN BY BEVERLY KETCH AND  
ILLUSTRATED BY HANNAH BROOKMAN




CHELLA TRUDGED HOME WITH A FURROWED BROW. HER NEW CAR HAD BEEN TOWED AWAY AND EVERY CENT WAS GONE FROM HER WALLET.

SHE SAW VIOLA BOUNCING ALONG THE OTHER SIDE OF K. STREET.




OH VIOLA! MY CAR BROKE DOWN!  
CHELLA! YOU HAVE A CAR!

JUST THEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE DOOR OF THEIR HOUSE, AND THERE THEY SAW DAMWEL PLEASE NAILING AN EVICTION SIGN TO THE DOOR.




YOU HAVE NO MONEY AND YOU ARE LATE IN YOUR PAYMENTS AND YOU MUST GO IMMEDIATELY.


HE ANNOUNCED WHILE PEERING DOWN HIS NOSE.




CHELLA AND VIOLA SLOWLY TURNED THEIR HEADS TOWARD ONE ANOTHER, THEIR EYES WIDE WITH SHOCK AND HORROR.



THEIR CAT AND DOG CAME BOUNDING AROUND THE FENCE, THE CAT JUMPED INTO VIOLA'S ARMS, AND SPOT GROWLED HIS TINY GROWLED HIS TINY GROWL AT THE BANKER, BUT IT WAS NO USE, THEY WERE ALL OUT ON THE STREET.

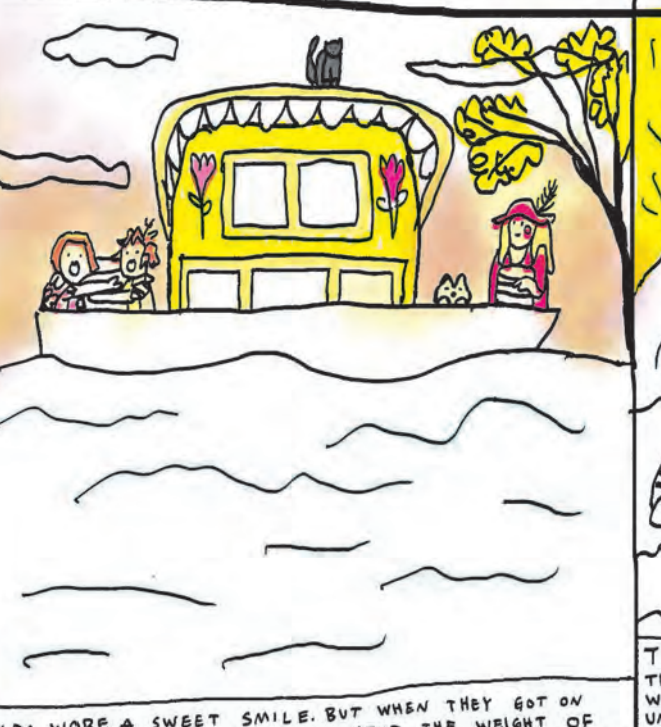


THE SAD LITTLE BAND SET OUT TO FIND ELDA, AS THEIR OTHER SISTERS WERE TRAVELING FAR AWAY IN THEIR CAMPER, AND ELDA WAS THEIR ONLY HOPE. THEY SET OUT TO THE RIVER WHERE SHE LIVED, WITH TROUBLES WEIGHING EVEN THE RESPONSIBLE VIOLA TO THE GROUND.




IT'S FINE, THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.  
OH DEAR! YOUR BOAT IS TAKING ON WATER?

THEY CAME UPON ELDA AS THE SUN SET. SHE WAS IN HER LITTLE HOUSEBOAT BAILING WATER FROM THE DECK.




ELDA WORE A SWEET SMILE. BUT WHEN THEY GOT ON BOARD AND BEGAN TO TRY TO HELP, THE WEIGHT OF THEM ALL MADE THE BOAT SINK ENTIRELY WITH A STRANGE OMINOUS GURGling SOUND!



THE CAT SCRAMBLED FROM THE WATER WITH INJURED DIGNITY, AND THE THREE SISTERS AND SPOT THE DOG WERE LEFT TREDDING WATER. WITH BALEFUL EYES THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, UNTIL THE BEDRAGGLED FEATHER ON ELDA'S HAT GOT THEM LAUGHING TILL THEY THOUGHT THEIR SIDES WOULD BURST!

TO BE CONTINUED...

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

Palladium, Worcester: *Ceremony, GEL, SRSQ, Chronophage*. \$. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New England Repertory Orchestra* open reading: Amy Beach's *Gaelic Symphony*. \$. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Jeffrey Gaines, Erin Harpe*. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires: Short films with live soundtracks by *Sunburned Hand of the Man, John Bohannon & Ryley Walker*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

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

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Victor Wooten Bass Extremes*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Linda Rondstadt Experience*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *New Monuments (mem. Borbetomagus), Lemeul Marc, Owen Manure, Byron Coley*. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Richard Lloyd Group (mem. Television), Wojcicki*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rosali, Gold Dust*. \$. 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Amigo the Devil, Brother Hawk*. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires: *Clarice Jensen, Peter Coccoma*. "Electroacoustic performances exploring active listening." \$. 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *NRBQ, Kris Lager*. \$. 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Big Destiny, Color Killer, Ezra Holoway, Granite Danes, Under the Overpass*. \$. 7 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Supaman*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Upstate, Mamma's Marmalade*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Special Interest, Lucie R., DJ Gus*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Adam McGrath (Cave In), Willie Lane, Tony Pasquarosa*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Michael & Carrie Kline, Joe Blumenthal*. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Come to Grief, Barishi, False Gods*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *DJ Paul (mem. Three Six Mafia)*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Olivia Nied*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Satartia, When The Deadbolt Breaks, O'K and the Night Crew*. \$. 2 p.m.

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: *Bill Nace, Matt Krefting*. \$. 4 p.m.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. Free. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bill Nace* record release, *Lou Barlow, Hollow Deck, Kieran Lally*. \$. 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Dinosaur Jr., Man On Man*. First of two shows. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Big Sway, PWRUP, Peäsänt*. \$. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow, Sandy Bailey*. \$. 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Dinosaur Jr., Man On Man*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

Nova Arts, Keene: *Rong, Space Camp, Oziem*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Big Takeover*. \$. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Municipal Waste, High On Fire, Gel, The Early Moods*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tony Trischka, Michael Nix*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bitchin Bajas, Wet Tuna*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The B-52.0s, Big Destiny, Holy Basil, DJ Dutch*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. Free. 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Special Interest, Lucie R., DJ Gus*. \$. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9**

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Oneida, Sky Furrows, Luxor Rentals*. \$. 8 p.m.

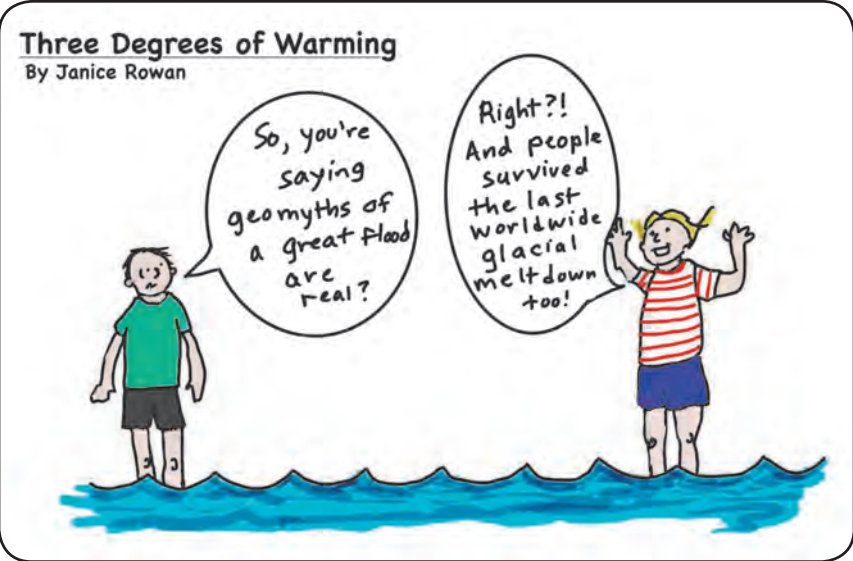
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Oneida, Sky Furrows, Luxor Rentals*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**

The Drake, Amherst: *Thus Love, Gift, Robber Robber*. \$. 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12**

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Jorma Kaukonen*. \$. 7 p.m.

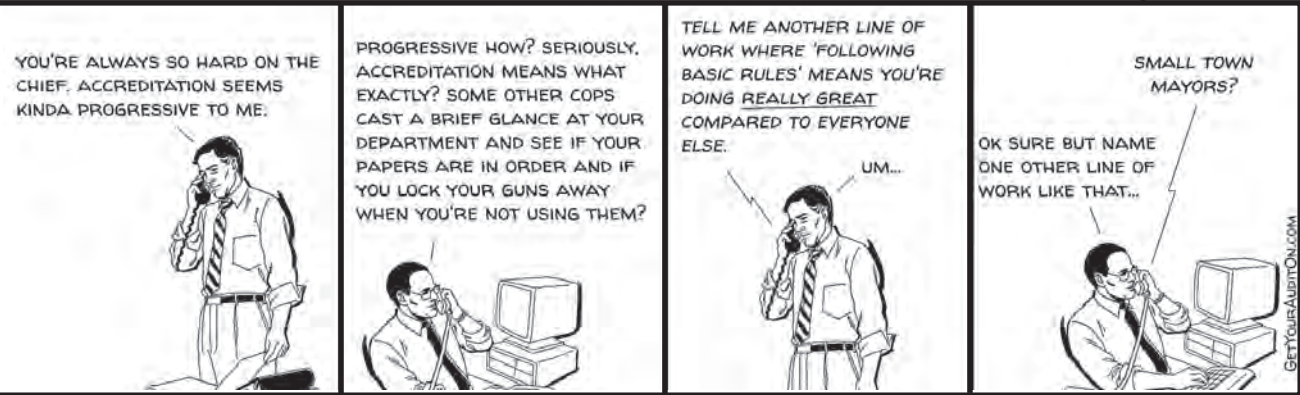


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**MINCEMEAT** from page B1  
spices, citrus juice, wine and sugar – were imported and expensive, and that made mincemeat pies perfect companions to the other luxuries at Christmas.

When English Puritans came to Massachusetts in 1620, they brought their love of mincemeat pies with them. They didn't love Christmas, though. They believed it was a pagan festival falsely grafted onto Christianity, so they did not celebrate it. Instead they had fall Thanksgivings, and so mincemeat became a part of those and other winter holidays.

By the 19th century, mincemeat pies were so beloved that in one 1841 cookbook author Sarah Josepha Hale warned that they caused dyspepsia and should be forbidden for children because “so tempting is the taste that the only security consists in not tasting.”

Harriet Beecher Stowe was evidently not forbidden mincemeat pie because she had fond memories of childhood Thanksgivings. She reminisced in her 1878 book about growing up in Connecticut, *Pogonuc People: Their Loves and Lives*: “For as much as a week beforehand we children were employed in chop-

ping mince for pies... and in pounding cinnamon, allspice and cloves in a great lignum vitae mortar.”

She lived in the 19th century, when meat was still often, but not always, used in mincemeat. Choices varied. Many recipes cited beef. Hunters' families could use venison. More modestly, organ meats did the job. Suet was common, and remains so, though butter can replace it.

Similarly, there's lots of options for the other ingredients. Apples are the classic base, but last-of-the-season green tomatoes are sometimes the gardener's choice. Lemons featured in the recipe in Jane Austen's family cookbook, and pears are not unknown.

The kind of dried fruit also depends on what's available. Early recipes called for dried figs and dates as well as raisins and currants. Nowadays, dried cranberries or crystallized cherries can add a pop of color, and the wine of early recipes is replaced with rum or sherry.

The method for making mincemeat lends itself to these variations, and also to fine-tuning to your own taste. All the ingredients are stirred in a large bowl. If you stir in one direction only, tradition says you will have good luck. Cover and leave until the next day, by which time it will have produced liquid and the dried fruit will have plumped. Stir it up again, cover, and leave for another day.

This time when you stir it, taste it and see what you think. More sugar? More alcohol? More lemon juice? Extra spices? You can get help with these decisions and the stirring from other household members, especially kids. Carry on this way for five to seven days, adjusting as you and the other stirrers see fit. Then, before you pack it into jars, let everyone have a final stir, making a wish as they do so.

Mincemeat is ready to use after a week or so, and it can be kept for months – in the fridge if you like, but any cool place works, because the sugar, alcohol, fat, and acidic citrus juice are all preservatives, and drying has already preserved the raisins. Just pack it into a pie shell when you are ready to make a pie. Or stuff it into cored apples and bake them for dessert, add to muffin recipes for a weekend breakfast.

Best of all, make mincemeat ice cream. It's like rum-raisin ice cream on steroids, and it's pure holiday yum.



Keep mincemeat in the pantry and use it as a flavorful addition to cookies, puddings, ice cream, and crisps.

butter into the mixture. Stir again.

Leave the mixture, covered, in the pan for four to five more days, stirring each day and tasting. You can add more of any ingredient you like – a favorite spice, perhaps, or more citrus zest and juices for extra tang, or more apples to increase the fruitiness. More butter makes it richer, which can be an advantage in pies.

By the last day it should taste as you would wish. Bring in the kids in the household and let them make a wish by giving it a clockwise stir! It is an old English tradition to stir it only one way and make a wish. Pack it in large jars. The alcohol and citric acid help to preserve it, so you can store it in a cool dark place.

# MINCEMEAT (STIRRED CLOCKWISE)

As noted above, all the ingredients can be adapted to taste.

- 1 15-ounce package dark raisins
- 1 5-ounce package golden raisins
- 1¼ cups Zante currants or additional raisins
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. powdered ginger
- 1 tsp. allspice OR ½ teaspoon cloves
- ½ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
- grated zest and juice of 1 large lemon
- grated zest and juice of 1 large orange
- 6 large apples, peeled and grated
- 1 pound dark or light brown sugar
- ¾ cup dark rum or sweet sherry
- 1 pound dark brown sugar
- 1 stick butter, frozen

Choose a very large mixing bowl or a stainless steel pan such as a pasta pan. Put in the raisins, golden raisins, currants, and cranberries. Sprinkle in the cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and allspice. Stir well to mix the fruits and spices.

Now add the grated apples, the lemon and orange zest and juice, the sugar, and the rum. Cover the bowl or pan and set aside for at least eight hours or overnight to let the dried fruit plump up in the liquid.

To proceed, using the largest holes of a box grater, grate the

# MINCEMEAT ICE CREAM

**You don't need an ice cream maker to fix this cooling dessert, though note that it contains raw eggs, so it is not suitable for toddlers or people with compromised immune systems.**

- 3 extra large eggs
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1½ cups heavy cream
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 2 Tbsp. dark Jamaica or Bermuda rum
- about 8 ounces mincemeat
- crystallized red cherries to taste (optional)

Warm a large bowl with hot water, dry it, then beat the eggs in it with an electric mixer or whisk them vigorously for 10 minutes by hand until they are bulky and primrose-colored. Beat in a tablespoon of the sugar. When it has been absorbed, beat in another tablespoon.

Finally, add in the remaining sugar, and continue beating until a noticeable trail or “ribbon” remains on the surface for several seconds when you remove the beater. (You can do this with an electric mixer, in which case

just whisk the eggs until blended, then add the sugar and process for about 10 minutes until the beater leaves a trail.)

In another large bowl, beat the cream until it forms soft clouds. Blend in the vanilla and one tablespoon of the rum. With a rubber spatula, fold in a quarter of the egg mixture. Gradually fold in the remaining egg mixture, a little at a time, until it is thoroughly combined.

Pour into a plastic freezer box and freeze for an hour or until frozen at the edges. Remove and beat hard, adding the remaining rum. Replace in the freezer for another hour, then stir well again.

Stir in half the mincemeat. Freeze for another hour, or until it is close to completely frozen.

Now stir in the rest of the mincemeat. (Adding it in two portions prevents it from all falling to the bottom.) Freeze for another four hours or longer as convenient.

For serving, remove from the freezer about 15 minutes ahead of time to let it soften slightly. You can add Christmassy red crystallized cherries, cut in half, as garnish.

# BAKED APPLES STUFFED WITH... MINCEMEAT!

**This simple recipe packs flavor into baked apples. You can also stir a few tablespoons of mincemeat into apple crisp.**

- 1 to 2 tsp. butter for greasing
- 4 large Cortland or other apples
- About ⅔ cup mincemeat
- ½ cup apple cider or juice

Grease a shallow baking dish or gratin pan with the butter. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Wash the apples and remove the cores, ideally with an apple corer. Stand them in the prepared dish. Fill the cavity with mincemeat, mounding it a little at the top. Pour the cider or apple juice into the dish. Use a sharp knife to stab each apple in 3 or 4 places around the widest part. (This helps prevent the skins from bursting, though sometimes they do anyway.)

Place in the oven and lay a piece of foil over the top – don't tuck it under the dish – to prevent the mincemeat from burning. Bake for about 18 to 25 minutes, depending on the size of the apples. To test for doneness, poke with a knife to check if they are tender.



Baked apples stuffed with mincemeat make the perfect fall dessert.

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