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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 12, 2023

An Expensive, But Mostly Unanimous, Fall ‘Special’

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Montague’s October 10 special town meeting, which lasted two hours, passed every article that came before it, nearly all unanimously. In the process the meeting doled out large sums to the Clean Water Facility and sewer system and appropriated \$500,000 to improve a park in Montague Center, contingent on the award of a large federal grant.

Non-money articles gave the cemetery commission the power to change its own bylaws without the approval of town meeting and gave the selectboard the right to accept by donation the land on which the historic Farren Hospital once sat.

There was no problem obtaining a quorum, which may have been reached before the 6:30 p.m. starting time. New town meeting members introduced themselves, preliminary motions were approved, and the meeting got down to business.

Three articles addressed wages and benefits for some town employees and retirees. The first two granted specific longevity benefits for staff not covered under union contracts, which provide such payments, and funded the benefits. They will apply to 11 staff members, including town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who answered most of the questions about the article from the stage.

Precinct 2 member Mike Naughton asked why this was being brought up at a special, rather than the annual, town meeting. “What’s the rush?” he asked.

“Basically, it’s me,” Olsen answered jokingly. “It’s all because of me.”

“Oh, you want your thousand dollars?” Naughton joined in.

Olsen explained that she had not originally requested a contract with longevity, to which she had a right under state law, but that in recent years “things have changed,” so she and her peers were requesting to amend the town bylaws to extend longevity pay to all full-time staff.

Article 3 increased the “base” see **SPECIAL** page A4

INTERVIEW

New Leader Takes Helm At Watershed Watchdog



Rebecca Todd says she has come “full circle” through environmental work in the laboratory, courtroom, and classroom to her role at the Conservancy’s helm.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – “I feel like I’ve pretty much died and gone to heaven,” Rebecca Todd, who started her new job as executive director of the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) this week, told the *Montague Reporter*. “This is my dream job – supporting an organization that is doing really important environmental work.”

Walking into the CRC’s Greenfield headquarters for the first time, Todd said, she knew she was making the right decision. Though the New Hampshire native’s career practicing and teaching environmental law sent her around the country working for non-profits, state agencies, and universities, she got her start in the field as an aquatic ecologist.

“I’ve come full circle,” she said. “The first room I saw was the water quality laboratory, and I just about passed out from joy. I spent so many hours of my life in labs!”

Founded in 1952, the CRC is dedicated to the ecological health of the Connecticut River watershed. The non-profit’s staff of about 20 employees work in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut on environmental restoration projects, organize events, and advocate for a range of issues concerning the river.

“It’s an incredibly important, and defining, resource and feature of New England,” Todd said of the

river. “It’s a great, complex set of ecosystems.”

The headwaters of the Connecticut begin in the alpine lakes of northern New Hampshire. From there the river travels 410 miles before emptying into the salt water of the Long Island Sound.

“During my childhood, one was not inclined to swim in the river,” Todd remembers. “That’s the story of industrial development in New England.” Decades of human activity with little regard for our shared natural resources had left the Connecticut a dangerous mess of industrial waste and sewage. The implementation of better wastewater treatment after the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, Todd said, played a huge role in changing that.

“We have really turned that around,” Todd said. “The Connecticut River Conservancy predates the Clean Water Act by almost 20 years – it’s really remarkable. And it’s a tremendous honor to be asked to sit in the corner office.”

The Act also established federal licensing of hydropower projects, in accordance with applicable state laws. CRC has been one of the most vocal intervenors in the now decade-long relicensing process for FirstLight Power’s hydroelectric dam at Turners Falls and pumped-storage hydro battery on Northfield Mountain. This work, Todd said, is “critically important”

see **WATCHDOG** page A5

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Teachers Settle Contract

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – “People are very relieved, and feel a lot better, knowing they have a contract coming,” Turners Falls High School art teacher Heidi Schmidt told the regional school committee at their Zoom meeting Tuesday night during time set aside for public comment.

Schmidt is the president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, the union representing district staff. On September 27 the membership ratified a contract for Unit A, the teachers, and later in Tues-

day’s meeting the school committee voted to authorize it as well.

Unit A staff had been working without a contract for over a year after negotiations fell apart last winter, and the collective bargaining process had formally been in mediation since the spring. In May the union initiated a “work to rule” action in the schools and began a public pressure campaign.

The impasse, members then stated, was over scheduled cost-of-living raises. The union lobbied for 2%, 3%, 3%, and 3% raises over a see **GMRSD** page A2

ANALYSIS

Recycling: One Bin or Two?

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – On September 15 Greenfield mayor Roxanne Wedegartner, standing in front of a huge pile of recyclable material at the city’s public works facility, announced that the city had received a \$2.05 million federal grant to upgrade its recycling collection system. The grant would fund a transition to “automated” curbside pickup system, she said, which would mean new vehicles for an aging fleet, savings for the public works department, which currently handles the city’s recycling, and a “positive climate impact” by reducing trips to the transfer station, fuel used per mile, and time spent idling at stops.

Other benefits, Wedegartner said, would be safer conditions for workers, who would stay in their vehi-



cles, and less work for residents, who would only need to fill one very large container, and would no longer need to sort their recyclables.

Greenfield is one of only 25 communities in the country receiving the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) grant, and the only one in New England.

The announcement came about four months after the neighboring town of Montague, which privatized its recycling and trash-hauling

see **RECYCLING** page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Intersection Improvements Garner ‘Rarely-Seen’ Praise

By GEORGE BRACE

Residents attending Leverett’s selectboard meeting on Tuesday gave enthusiastic positive reviews of the installation of stop signs at the intersection of Shutesbury and Cushman roads. The response, coming after a six-month trial period, gave the highway department the green light to leave the signs in place with some modifications.

Among other business, the board also signed documents required for roadwork around the Millers Road bridge, scheduled for repairs next

summer.

The group of six or seven residents living near the intersection of Shutesbury and Cushman roads made comments including “So much safer!,” “Yay!,” and “Such an improvement!” in response to the changes made at the intersection. Longstanding complaints over the safety of the intersection, which lies at the bottom of the “S-curves” on Shutesbury Road, intensified over the last year, with some residents saying traffic changes during the pandemic had made the

see **LEVERETT** page A3

GILL SELECTBOARD

Amid a Whirlwind of Costs, A Possible Solar Windfall

By KATE SAVAGE

At Monday’s Gill selectboard meeting, the town addressed rising costs and crumbling infrastructure – with the silver lining of a potential solar donation.

A dual-axis solar tracker is up for grabs in South Deerfield, and selectboard members voted to move forward on trying to acquire it for the town. “It’s an opportunity to get a very expensive piece of equipment at a bargain basement price,” said selectboard member Charles Garbiel. “If they had come to me as a resident, I would draw up the check.”

Gill residents Claire Chang and

John Ward, who own the solar design and installation company Greenfield Solar, recently learned that one of their customers is moving and leaving behind their solar tracker. The equipment in question is a 20-foot-square frame, holding solar panels, that tilts throughout the day to maximize sun exposure. The equipment is seven years old and has a life expectancy of 20 to 30 years.

Ward estimated that buying the tracker new would cost around \$50,000. But the new owner has no interest in keeping it, and says that it must be gone by the end of the month or it will be demolished.

see **GILL** page A2

A SOLID FOUNDATION



Ed Gregory took this photo of work being done to shore up the Connecticut River bank along Route 2 in Gill on October 1. “This image shows the very base of the landslide area being prepared for embankment reinforcement,” Ed writes. “Huge boulders will be laid in at the base of the wash, and later rock fill will be buttressed up against this wall of boulders to contain the steep slope.”

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

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four-year contract term, retroactive to the previous year, and claimed that negotiators for the school committee made an offer of 2%, 3%, 2%, and 2%, though the school committee and administration did not verify this publicly.

Schmidt told the *Reporter* that the impasse began to resolve at the end of August, when management agreed to revisit a previously rejected proposal by GMEA to instead make adjustments in the contract's underlying wage scale which would effectively achieve these raises for some workers, while incentivizing longevity.

Over half of the teachers in the unit, according to Schmidt, are at the top step of the wage scale, which plateaus at Year 12. GMEA suggested adding 13th and 14th steps during the third and fourth years of the contract, each with a 1% raise, while at the same time eliminating the first and then second steps.

The new contract also adds previously-agreed-upon longevity bonuses ranging from \$500 after 12 years up to \$2,500 after 29 years.

On Tuesday the school committee voted 6-0 to approve the Unit A contract, with Montague member Wendy Thompson abstaining and an additional "yes" vote from Montague selectboard member Matt Lord on behalf of the two towns.

Gill member Bill Tomb, acting as chair, thanked the teachers "for their patience and perseverance on this issue."

Contacted after the meeting, superintendent Brian Beck stated "simply... that I am pleased that the Teacher contract has been settled," and school committee chair Jane Oakes wrote that she agreed with Beck.

"Thank you to the school committee for reconsidering our last offer to move this contract ahead," wrote Schmidt. "It's stressful to work without a settled contract, so it's been a big relief for all of us. We hope that this is a sign of collaboration and communication with the school committee on some of the complicated issues that our schools are facing."

Schmidt also thanked community members who mobilized support at recent school committee meetings, as well as students, and added that the process "really was a team effort, with all units involved, including Unit C."

The contract for Unit C staff – paraprofessionals, IT workers, and administrative assistants – is currently under negotiation, a point GMEA officials and members hammered on this week.

"I've been accused of being a Pollyanna in the past, but I believe this contract negotiation experience will benefit the ongoing Unit C negotiations," member Joseph Katz said during Tuesday's public comment session.

Katz also encouraged school committee members to engage in "casual conversations" with staff. "I believe it's essential to building trust within our district, and fostering a workplace where everyone feels respected," he explained.

Elementary school librarian Ramona LaTronica, calling Unit C staff "the true backbone of our schools," warned that the practice of using paraprofessionals as substitute teachers was exacerbating an existing shortage of paras. "Without them, I see that our school communities are weakening," she said.

Other Business

Erving representative Jacquelyn Boden asked about math teacher vacancies at the high school, following an article from last week's *Montague Reporter*.

"We are hopefully in process to replace them," Beck told her.

"It's really a regional issue, or a national issue," said Tomb.

"I do understand that we have some open positions right now in the food department," student representative Syna Katsoulis told the committee when it was her turn to report, "so I get that they're not at their complete highest level right now – which is totally fine – but it's definitely gotten to the point where some of the lunches are not very nutritious."

Katsoulis said the secondary school food services had "ended... on a really, really high note" in the spring, and that a salad bar would be a "great addition to have back."

Business manager Joanne Blier reported that the previous fiscal year ended with a surplus of just under \$400,000, driven largely by fewer students choosing out and more choosing in.

She warned, however, that lower-than-expected state tax revenue may lead to cuts in school aid in the current year, and that next year's budget, which will be assembled over the next several months, will be the first without federal ESSER pandemic aid.

On a more positive note, Blier said, the state's policy of fully covering school lunches is shielding the district from the effect of rising food costs. The cafeteria revolving account, which had "really struggled to break even" in the past, she said, is now showing a surplus.



Head chef Brian Clarke (left) and new pizza cook Guy Fiero prepare for a busy evening making mushroom, garlic, and red pepper pizzas, the special offering last Friday for the weekly Pizza Night at the Leverett Village Co-Op.

GILL from page A1

The selectboard pointed to several town properties that could benefit from the panels, including the Riverside municipal building, but questions remain concerning the costs and labor for dismantling, moving, storing, and reassembling the equipment with a new inverter. Ward estimated the total costs to the town could run from \$12,000 to \$15,000. At the same time, attendees suspected that Deerfield would also be making a bid for the equipment.

"There's a \$40,000 donation just sitting out there," said selectboard chair Randy Crochier. But he worried about the town being able to move on it fast enough, especially given that the solar tracker is located in Deerfield, and that town has more of the equipment necessary to move it.

"We should cry some tears about how small we are and how much we need it," joked selectboard member Greg Snedeker.

Chang noted that even if this particular donation doesn't work out, it brings up a broader issue. "Being Gill residents, we would prefer to do something for the town of Gill," she said. "This may not work in this particular instance, but I think a discussion should still be had about what the mechanism is for [Greenfield Solar] to be able to do this, and make it legal for everyone."

"And no perceived conflict of interest," added Ward. "We don't want it to look like we're giving this away to lock in the town to do something that maybe it wouldn't otherwise want to do."

The board voted to authorize town administrator Ray Purington "to proceed as necessary to acquire the solar tracker system," and to allow him maximum flexibility in the process.

Crumbling Stairs

Gill residents Terri Rice and Charlene Currie attended the meeting to plead for new front steps at the Riverside municipal building. "What is going on? It's been several years," said Currie. "They just seem to be

getting worse and worse."

Currie said she understood that replacement stairs have been approved and should be completed before July 2024. But "to keep it top of mind," she said, she listed reasons to expedite the process if possible.

"When you look at the building, it doesn't have two lawful exits," she said. "That is not a viable exit at all. It's dangerous. We see the students at Four Winds sitting on them, playing on them, hanging out on them, and it really is not safe for them. We've had members fall on them... I'm not a lawyer, but I imagine it could open us up to some liability."

Four Winds School operates out of the same building, though using a separate entrance.

Currie and Rice are both members of the Gill Historical Commission, which operates the town museum inside the building. The pandemic forced the museum to close, but Currie says it hasn't reopened because of the unsightly stairs.

"We're bringing people into this beautiful museum with crumbling stairs," she said. "What does that say for us? Personally, as a Gill Historical Commission member, I'm not going to vote to have the museum open if we have crumbling stairs."

Crochier took issue with some of Currie's language calling the stairs an unlawful, dangerous liability. "I take a lot of offense to the presentation as it is," Crochier said. "You want to be careful with the terms that you're using. A lot of what you have here would open the town up to liability just by us agreeing to these words."

Snedeker noted that repairing the crumbling cement pathway leading to the stairs wasn't part of the original request, and suggested that issue go to the capital improvement planning committee for discussion.

Other Business

The town of Northfield, which provides ambulance service to Gill, commissioned a study on regionalizing emergency medical services, and a draft report is now available. The report found Northfield EMS

is providing a high standard of care for the region, but suffering from "inadequate organizational, financial, and administrative structure," and is "not positioned for long-term sustainability and continuity."

Purington said that the Northfield selectboard is likely to form a committee to figure out how to move forward, with two representatives – one selectboard member, and one person more familiar with EMS operations – from each town served by Northfield EMS. He also speculated that costs for EMS coverage were likely to increase.

Sewer costs are also rising, with the rates for the Montague facility which treats Gill's wastewater increasing 8.6% for FY'24, from \$15.68 to \$17.03 per 1,000 gallons. "Last year we did not increase our sewer rates," said Purington. "I haven't run the numbers carefully, but I'm reasonably confident that we can't absorb this increase on the budget we have."

Purington noted that Gill's sewer volume continues to increase during wet seasons and falls during dry spells, indicating that there is a sump pump or some other unauthorized infiltration of rain or groundwater into the sewer, driving up their costs.

In other news about increasing costs, Purington announced that towns are going to have to start paying for accounting software they have been able to access for free for years. Members of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) previously have been able to use FRCOG's license to use MIP software, but the vendor announced that beginning in FY'25 each town will have to buy its own license. This would include an annual software fee of nearly \$10,000, an annual cloud hosting fee of over \$3,000, and a one-time implementation fee of \$7,350.

Stephen Baskowski announced his resignation from the conservation commission. The selectboard members thanked him for his years of service, and announced they were looking for new con com members.



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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Música Franklin will hold a **community concert tonight**, Thursday, October 12, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls. There will be a student performance and a family-friendly concert with Banda K-ri-B, four talented and dynamic musicians from three different Caribbean origins: Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony's** season premiere is this Friday, October 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Greenfield High School, and will feature three moving reflections on immigration: Olabode Omojola's "Life of an 'Alien'," from the Nigerian composer's opera *Irin Àjò*; Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with Jiayan Sun; and Béla Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*. Tickets are available at pvosc.org or (413) 773-3664.

The **Eastern European Heritage Festival** at Memorial Hall in Deerfield is free and open to all ages on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15. There will be polka music by the Eddie Forman Orchestra, Polish items for sale, family art activities, Polish and Ukrainian dancers, special programs, and displays on both days. On Saturday, enjoy a catered Polish plate lunch from Bernat's Polish Deli (order in advance at deerfield-ma.org).

Find out what they do at the **Silvio O. Conte Research Center** – a.k.a. the "fish lab" – at an open house this Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Their flier says they have fun, STEM-based activities for everyone: "meet a mudpuppy and other fun amphibians; get up close and personal with our sturgeon; play with water at

our hydraulics table," and more.

The center is located down at the end of Migratory Way on the Patch in Turners Falls, and the free event will take place rain or shine.

I'll be at the Bridge of Flowers Art Show and Sale this weekend, October 14 and 15, from 10 to 5 each day selling copies of my **Bridge of Flowers Coloring Album: Seven Months of Blooms to Color** in support of renovations to the 115-year-old bridge.

Over 60 artists have work in this exhibit at the Buckland-Shelburne community center, with a portion of the proceeds going to the bridge. A water main on the bridge needs to be replaced along with structural repairs, so all the plants, lights, fences and decorations are being removed during this huge undertaking.

I'm donating \$10 from each coloring album to help out. Read about the renovations at bridgeofflowersmass.org/news.

Annaliese Bischoff will lead a **short fungi walk** along the Bill Rivers Trail, meeting first at the Leverett Library parking lot, this Saturday, October 14 at 3:30 p.m., weather permitting. Email sage-green33@gmail.com to sign up. Bischoff will also give a public lecture on local fungi at the Library next Thursday, October 19 at 4 p.m.

There's sad news from Wendell: Patti Scutari of the **Deja Brew Pub** wrote in an email, "We gave it our best for the past year and a half, but patronage has been such that it is no longer financially viable to continue. Going forward, the Pub will be available for private party rentals and special events."

They hope folks will come out and enjoy one last great weekend, with Lady Pop playing on Friday night between 7 and 10 p.m., and C'Chunk on the outdoor stage at 5 p.m. this Saturday evening.

Cinestorm screens a Fantasy Night this Saturday, October 14 at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m. with two classics, Jim Henson's *Labyrinth* (1986) and Ridley Scott's *Legend* (1985). There's free admission, beer at the bar, and trivia games.

The City of Greenfield is hosting a **Vintage Days celebration**, starting this Friday and running through the weekend. Event organizers write there will be "retro-rad activities and unique offerings throughout downtown."

A trolley will transport people around the downtown area from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and you can hop off to explore "vintage shopping spots, historical locations and great places to grab brunch, lunch and dinner."

There's a vintage car show on Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Court Square, plus sidewalk sales, ghostly history tours, vintage lawn games, and a \$4 showing of *Batman* (1989) at the Garden Cinema. For details, see greenfieldbusiness.org.

The **Common Hall Open Mic** returns this Saturday in Montague Center. The featured performer is the Rick Gumaer Trio, featuring the guitarist with son Carey Gumaer on percussion and Richard Thomas on bass. Open mic-ers should sign in before 6:30 p.m.; time slots will be 10 to 20 minutes, depending on the number of performers, and ordered at random.

The Environmental Sunday series continues at the Episcopal Church of St. James and Andrew in Greenfield at noon this Sunday, October 15, with Jill Stoddard presenting on "**Only Human: Living in a Changing World.**" Stoddard had a 20-year career at the Earth Institute at Columbia University and with the International Peace Institute. In collaboration with photographer Joshua Wolfe, she pulled together climate experts to produce the 2009 book *Climate Change: Picturing the Science*. The talk is free, with snacks available.

Michael Marcotrigiano will tell you **How Not to Kill a Tree** next Monday, October 16 at 6 p.m. at the

Montague Center Library. In many cities, over half of all urban trees do not survive more than five years after they are planted. Learn why trees fail, and how to keep them thriving in various locations. Free.

Third Tuesday open mic readings continue at the LAVA Center in Greenfield next Tuesday, October 17 at 7:20 p.m. with five-minute time slots. There is no featured reader due to a cancellation, so if you'd like to be featured, contact paul@humanerrorpublishing.com.

Learn **Kitchen Wizardry with Nalini** on Thursday, October 19 at 2 p.m. at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries' Family Center in Turners Falls.

Nalini Goordial will lead a free, diabetes-friendly workshop, demonstrating how to make wholesome, delicious, and healthy dinner bowls with an emphasis on flavor.

October is Audiology Awareness Month, and to highlight the importance of hearing health, Alber Hearing Services is holding its third annual essay contest and **hearing aid giveaway**. The winner will receive a free set of rechargeable, top-of-the-line hearing aids, valued up to \$6,900.

Anyone may nominate themselves, a family member, or a friend by submitting a one-page typed or handwritten essay explaining why the nominee will benefit from hearing aids. Essays may be emailed to lacey@alberhearing.com or dropped off in person or mailed to Alber Hearing Services, Attn: Lacey, 33 Riddell Street, Suite 5, Greenfield, MA 01301.

The **deadline is Friday, October 20**. Contestants must be able to visit the Greenfield office in late October for a hearing evaluation. For more information, visit alberhearing.com/essay.

The Pioneer Valley Workers Center's **People's Pantry food distributions** are still happening every month in Holyoke and Turners Falls, and volunteers are needed during the week before to help with portioning and also on the day of the distributions.

The next distribution in Turners Falls is next Friday, October

TOWN OF ERVING CALL FOR ART

\$12,000 grant opportunity

Looking for artists to create a sculpture with natural materials on the library lawn for Summer 2024.

Concept deadline:
December 15, 2023

More information at
erving-ma.gov/bids

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
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20 from 4 to 6 p.m. at 104 Fourth Street. If you can help out, email sarah@pvworkerscenter.org.

The Cancer Connection is hosting a fundraising **Harvest Dinner at Quonquot Farm** in Whately on October 20 at 6 p.m. with the Franklin-Hampshire County legislative delegation, including state senators Jo Comerford, Jake Oliveira, and John Velis and a roster of state representatives. There will be jazz music, a silent auction, and a farm-to-table dinner catered by Wheelhouse Farm. To purchase tickets, call Liz at (646) 234-8805.

Send your local briefs to
editor@montaguereporter.org.

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situation worse and insisting something needed to be done.

In response, highway superintendent Matt Bouchier suggested the present configuration, and created it on a trial basis. He described the new setup with stop signs and Jersey barriers as "reinforcing the common sense of the situation." He said, however, that he had recently learned from MassDOT that the barriers did not meet state standards for the purpose and would have to be removed.

After briefly discussing options with the residents and selectboard, Bouchier said his department will replace the barriers with an island consisting of blacktop curbs, grass-topped loam, and reflectors. He predicted that this would achieve the same goals, and also look better.

At the conclusion of the discussion Bouchier received a round of applause for his efforts. Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson said that the positive response to the new traffic layout reflected "rarely-seen unanimous public support" for a project of its type.

Millers Road Bridge

The board signed a number of documents to prepare for state repairs to the Millers

Road bridge next summer. The bridge failed an inspection several years ago.

Small parcels of land need to be taken by eminent domain for signage and traffic flow as part of the project, requiring a number of steps including votes at a town meeting. The next special town meeting is planned for November 14.

One of the many steps in the process involved "formalizing what we have been doing," as town administrator Marjorie McGinnis put it, including "discontinuing" part of Bradway Road as a public road. McGinnis added that a resident of that road has believed a 1/16th-mile stretch to be part of her driveway for the past 20 years, and the changes would formally make it so.

Hankinson noted that either he or McGinnis had spoken to all the property owners affected by the changes, and all were in agreement on the project. Some of the landowners, he said, had even volunteered to donate the required land to save the town the cost of buying it through eminent domain takings.

Field Building

The board approved a request from the Field Building *ad hoc* committee to alter a funding application to the Community Pres-

ervation Commission (CPC). Committee member Richard Nathorst asked that the purpose of a previously-approved request for \$15,000 in grant funding for the building be amended to include preliminary budget estimates for a septic system, well, and bathroom at the building's current location, along with the same estimates if it were moved to a site near the library and public safety complex.

Nathorst described this as "essentially an enhancement" of the earlier request in order to provide the town with good information for decision-making, and said that the chair of the CPC agreed.

The new request also includes the performance of a perc test at the building's current location. Nathorst commented that there had been a lot of "hearsay" on the subject, but "no one can come up with a perc test that they can hold in their hand and show me."

This test would be the first action taken, Nathorst said, because further estimates for work at the building's current location might not be necessary depending on the results. "If it flunks the perc test, we're done," he said.

Other Business

The selectboard signed a letter of commit-

ment required to apply for training and grant funding through the New England Foundation for the Arts "Making it Public" program, which "trains municipalities in practices to commission public art that are in alignment with the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in public procurement."

Two Leverett Cultural Council members volunteered for the training; upon completion of program requirements, the town would receive a \$15,000 grant to commission a public art project.

Referencing public art projects she'd seen elsewhere and in Leverett in the past that she liked, McGinnis commented that the idea of the program was "kind of cool."

The board also voted to approve a "Complete Streets Policy" for the town, as a step toward receiving state funding for improvements providing "safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities."

The board signed a grant contract related to the transfer station's recycling dividend program.

The board voted to allow a change in the manager listed on the Leverett Village Co-op's liquor license.

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SPECIAL from page A1

used to calculate cost-of-living increases for potential retirees from \$18,000 to \$30,000. When some town meeting members questioned the size of the increase, Olsen explained that the sums represented only portions of staff income, which are multiplied each year by an estimated cost-of-living adjustment.

The first three articles passed unanimously, as did the next two, which passed \$12,500 in cable revenue along to the local access television station for equipment purchases and deposited \$12,886 in damages won under a national opioid settlement into a special account.

Next, two articles gave the cemetery commission the right to use its own \$4,000 to purchase signs for the green burial area at Highland Cemetery, and more power to approve its rules and regulations without having to bring them to town meeting.

Though both eventually passed, Naughton questioned wording prohibiting "disrespectful use of cemetery grounds." He asked town counsel Greg Corbo if there was a legal definition of "disrespectful."

Corbo responded that there was no legal definition, but said it would be open to cemetery staff to determine on a "case-by-case basis." He said some behavior "might be ap-

propriate in some places but might not be appropriate in a cemetery."

"I think, famously, people today see different things when they look at the same thing," Naughton replied. He proposed an amendment to give town meeting back the power to review rules and regulations, but it failed by a wide margin, and the original article passed unanimously.

The appropriation of \$500,000 for improvements at the Montague Center Park generated surprisingly little debate. Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz explained that the appropriation was contingent on a state grant which would refund most of the amount, with the town responsible for \$180,000.

"This is not a fly-by-night idea," said Eileen Mariani of Precinct 1, who said that in 2017 she joined the committee that developed the master plan for the park.

The renovation will focus primarily on replacing the park's playground, and after one speaker described a serious injury her child had experienced on the current equipment, the meeting voted unanimously in favor of the article.

The next seven articles concerned the town sewer system and Clean Water Facility (CWF), some appropriating significant funds in response to mandates from the

federal Environmental Protection Agency. CWF superintendent Chelsey Little and town administrator Steve Ellis provided lengthy, highly technical explanations for some of the requests.

One appropriated money for a study to investigate the treatment plant's capacity in light of changes in Montague industry. Little said the last such study was conducted in the late 1990s, before the closure of paper mills. Two others appropriated funds to pay consultants: \$99,900 to assist in "regulatory compliance" and update the town's sewer regulations, and \$50,000 to create new management, operations, and maintenance plans for the sewer system.

There was little debate over articles to pay a prior-year bill of \$7,566.81 and to appropriate \$209,000 to buy a backup generator for the treatment plant.

One of the meeting's longest discussions involved an article establishing a "Do Not Use Until 2064 Stabilization Fund" for the plant and depositing \$68,100 in it. Ellis said this was a requirement of a large federal grant and loan to replace the plant's screw pumps, and that despite the new fund's title the money may in fact be used as long as it is replenished the following year.

Olsen said that she did "not pre-

tend to understand the workings of the federal government."

Ellis said the article represented a "flawed plan" by the US Department of Agriculture, who issued the grant and loan, but that its intent was to ensure that "some minimum capital funds" to repay the loan would be segregated from the rest of town budget during its 40-year term. "I spent a lot of time talking to our federal program manager about it, and they didn't have a good explanation either," he said.

The last article gave the selectboard the authority to accept three parcels of land on Montague City Road "by donation": two where the Farren Care Center and a related building once sat, and the parking lot on the other side of the street.

"This article would not constitute acceptance of these properties from Trinity Health of New England," Ellis explained, "but would allow the selectboard to do so once due diligence has been done, relative to all environmental assessments and any other conditions the town may have relative to the support of redevelopment funding."

The article was approved with unanimous consent and the meeting, which lasted just over two hours, adjourned.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

More Molehills Maturing Into Mountains

By JOSH HEINEMANN

In his regular report to the selectboard at its October 4 meeting, project manager Phil Delorey brought up a new washout of the troubled Mormon Hollow Road culvert. Too much rain came too fast, and too soon after the original construction was completed. A July storm washed large stones from underneath the culvert.

Delorey said the estimate for the next needed repair, for concrete under the footings, is \$79,665. The conservation commission has approved the proposed work.

Delorey said the contractor had posted a bond for the project, and finance committee member Al MacIntyre said it may be time to call that bond in. Elsewhere in Wendell, Delorey said, road repairs from the July storm cost the town \$270,000.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato proposed using \$79,665 from the highway budget, and replenishing it with money from the town's stabilization account. MacIntyre said the stabilization fund is already lower than comfortable, and suggested a change in the motion's wording so the source of the replacement was not specified.

Delorey said the state had added \$125 million to the \$400 million previously allocated for Chapter 90 road aid to towns this fiscal year. He only guessed at Wendell's additional share, but said it would come soon. The board voted to take \$79,665 from the highway budget to pay for the repair and replace it with available funds, with wording that allows some flexibility.

Old Bridge

Delorey said he met with Erving officials at the Farley Road bridge to look at loose pressure-treated planking on the bridge. Screw holes in the support layer have rotted, and the screws are no longer holding the planks down. A quick fix - replacing the planking and putting new screws in new holes - would cost \$3,000, and could be done cooperatively this fall to allow the bridge to stay open through winter.

Gill Engineering, the firm that designed the Kentfield Road bridge, gave a design estimate for a full repair, scraping, painting, replacing

the deck under the planks of \$31,183. Erving plans to close the road next summer to repair the junction of Farley Road and Route 2.

The costs of the temporary fix and the design would be split between Erving and Wendell. The selectboard voted to approve up to \$20,000 of ARPA money for Wendell's share.

For the permanent repair work itself, Delorey said the bridge is too long for the state's small bridge grant program that helped pay for the Kentfield Road bridge. MacIntyre said it is one of only a few of its kind in Massachusetts, and a historic preservation grant may be available.

Dump Sprawl

Site work for capping Wendell's former landfill revealed debris 40 feet beyond where it was expected. Wendell received an earmark of \$75,000 of state money for the capping project, and the remaining work may leave the town short; \$69,012 has been committed so far.

Delorey said he might negotiate to allow a steeper slope around the capped landfill. With Wendell acting now after 25 years of nothing happening after the landfill closed, he said he expected regulators to be patient.

DiDonato asked whether the town can spread the extra expenses out over several years. Delorey said he would know more in a month.

Bottle Episode

Citizens Shawn Jarrett and Tom Mangan returned to continue their efforts to restore a town program to redeem deposit containers. They both described meetings with the road commission and the selectboard as coming to an impasse.

Mangan proposed making the WRATS attendant a special municipal employee, in hopes that this would legally permit him to help sort and redeem the containers off the clock. Treasurer Carolyn Manley said it can't be done. The issue of a town employee making outside money, however little, while working for the town is a matter for the state ethics commission, she said.

Jarrett said that when surveyed, 82% of Wendell residents said they preferred keeping redeemable container collection at the WRATS. She said the increased volume of recyclables

since the practice of sorting out deposit containers ended this summer has resulted in more loads going to the Materials Recycling Facility, at a higher cost to the town, and described other towns' methods of collecting and separating redeemable containers.

"Volunteers are the key," said selectboard member Gillian Budine said. The free store at WRATS is only open at odd hours because not enough people volunteer there to cover the WRATS's hours.

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District executive director Jan Ameen will come to the Wendell library Herrick room next Tuesday evening, October 17, at 7:15 p.m. to work with citizens concerned about the issue. Jarrett sent a message over the town listserv inviting residents and asking that no road commissioners, WRATS workers, or selectboard members attend.

DiDonato said the selectboard will discuss the container issue at its October 18 meeting.

Other Business

The selectboard was asked to sign onto a letter asking for electric school buses. "Do they say anything about who pays?" DiDonato asked. Budine said the schools do not have extra money.

Although they supported the idea of electric buses, members declined to sign onto the letter.

Tree warden Cliff Dornbusch reported that while a state grant Wendell was awarded for wood bank equipment needs to be matched equally by the town, any time he spends working for the wood bank can be counted towards the match, as can equivalent pay for volunteer workers' time. He is seeking volunteers, and needs to know the times they would be available.

Manley said the tree warden expense account may also be tapped to help meet the match, and Dornbusch said he would work to identify other sources.

Budine said the printer, Adams Direct Mail Services, made a mistake and sent out Wendell's newsletter without its middle section, pages 3 and 4. Adams sent residents those pages separately, along with an apology.

The selectboard voted to appoint Leah Velleman to the Wendell Cultural Council.


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WATCHDOG from page A1

to the CRC's mission, touching on issues of riverbank erosion, fish passage, recreational access, and more.

"Happily, science and politics have recognized that we need to have a regulatory system in place – to make sure we've got tertiary sewage treatment, that we're looking at stormwater impacts, and that we're paying attention with hydro-electric relicensing done by FERC," she said. "We assume people want to do the right thing, and CRC is the backstop to make sure that people do the right thing."

Preserve and Protect

Todd began her career as an environmentalist studying biology at Dartmouth College. After her freshman year she and a friend decided to canoe home, 50 miles down the Connecticut, to Walpole, New Hampshire. Since then she has paddled or rowed on most sections of the river.

"I am looking forward to having a professional excuse to row or paddle the remaining miles," Todd said of her new job.

After graduating she worked as an ecologist researching the preservation of Mono Lake, an inland saltwater lake in California. The lake was the subject of litigation over the diversion of freshwater to Los Angeles, and Todd saw her research prove useful in deciding how it should be protected.

"I would hand my data to lawyers who walked into the courtroom, who were arguing about how to preserve and protect Mono Lake – how many cubic feet per second of freshwater inflows should be allowed into the lake in order to allow the endemic species of brine shrimp to be able to hatch," Todd remembers. "My work as an aquatic ecologist was wonderful, but I also was looking at these lawyers and thinking, 'Would I rather understand the ecology of this ecosystem, or would I rather go into a courtroom and do what I can to preserve and protect



"CRC is the backstop," Rebecca Todd says, "to make sure that people do do the right thing."

these ecosystems?"

Todd decided to go into public interest environmental law. After earning a degree from Cornell Law School, she worked for the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, and then the attorney general's office of Washington state, litigating hazardous waste and Clean Water Act cases.

"It's easy for any of us to identify problems. It's less easy, I think – hard work – to find solutions to existing problems," she told the Reporter. "What the practice of law has done is to give me a way to process information that is logical, data-driven, and focused on solutions."

Returning to her home state, Todd taught environmental law at

Antioch University, and her expertise soon thrust her into the role of general counsel for the university, which has campuses in Keene as well as Seattle, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles. Most recently she served as executive director of the Stonewall Farm education and event center in Keene.

"Much of our advocacy work and relicensing work is reliant on law and regulations, and case law," Todd said. "Interpreting those laws and regulations is second nature to me, and I think will be helpful in the public process."

Attention and Care

The CRC's new director said she will begin her job by listening to staff and board members to learn

more about the work the organization is already doing, and by asking questions.

"How do we inculcate a sense of caring about place?" she asked. "We have community partners up and down this 410-mile stretch of water, and I'm going to be taking my cues from them."

One major part of that question, Todd said, comes down to who has access to the river, whether for swimming, boating, or their livelihood. "How do we improve that access?" she asked. "And, when we do provide access, are we providing access to a resource that is worth accessing?"

Federal legislation on the horizon could bolster the CRC's efforts. A bill filed this session by


New Hampshire senator Jeanne Shaheen, the "Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act," would provide funding to improve the watershed's health by formalizing partnerships between state, local, and private entities, and establishing a grant program to facilitate conservation, restoration, education, and recreation. Massachusetts representative Jim McGovern has filed a companion bill in the House.

Todd's predecessor, Andrew Fisk, oversaw the rebranding of the Connecticut River Watershed Council into the Connecticut River Conservancy in 2017, and initiated conversations that led to this bill. The hope is that stronger partnerships would allow organizations focused on the watershed to pool their resources rather than compete for grants.

"I would really like to see organizations up and down the Connecticut be able to work together for the improvement of the entire watershed," Todd said. "Through advocacy, care and attention, we can improve our environment, and our ecosystems."

Understanding the Connecticut River watershed as a shared resource is important not only to address present environmental issues, she said, but the increasing threats of climate change.

"We aren't doing what I would call an excellent job addressing the climate catastrophe politically, in this country or globally," Todd said. "We need to begin to improve floodplain areas, as we look at increased flooding. We also need to think about drought resilience. And the impacts are not, of course, just to humanity – it impacts all living creatures in the watershed."

"It wasn't so many weeks ago that I was swimming in the river," Todd continued. "So we can learn from our past mistakes. And with attention and care – which is what I think the Connecticut River Conservancy brings – we can actually improve the ecosystem, for everyone and everything." 

MONTAGUE REPORTER



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Our September 14 edition traveled with longtime contributor Suzette Snow-Cobb to Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

ON THE ROAD!

The September 21 paper, meanwhile, made it further. Joanne Belair, Jane Oakes, and Marie Putala (pictured L-R) remembered to bring it along to Pisa, Italy, a city recognized globally for its challenging, at times angular architecture. "All our excursions were awesome," Putala shared of the group's trip. "We had the best time in Rome. The food was so yummy..."

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RECYCLING from page A1

operation in 2009, decided to award a new hauling contract to the Vermont-based Casella Waste Systems, even though the company's proposed contract was costlier than the only other bidder, Republic Services.

The decision encountered virtually no public criticism. Republic, the town's current hauler, had missed routes and failed to pick up trash and recycling a number of times in recent years – including the week before the selectboard awarded the new contract, which will begin next summer. These failures had led to frequent public discussions with Republic, which consistently promised reforms at selectboard meetings.

What may have gone under the region's collective radar is that these municipalities, while both keeping curbside recycling and a "pay-per-throw" system for trash, are moving in different directions on a long hotly-debated issue: the relative merits of dual-stream recycling, which requires residents to sort materials before pickup, and single-stream, in which those materials are mingled together in a larger container.

In Greenfield, the lack of public debate over the adoption of single-stream recycling has come under sharp criticism from an influential local advocacy group, Greening Greenfield. The organization sent a long letter to the city council and mayor applauding the grant, but complaining that the decision to abandon dual-stream recycling was made "with no public discussion." The letter contained a long list of both positives and negatives of the two forms of recycling, and complained that none of this had been discussed prior to applying for the grant.

Greening Greenfield also recommended that city officials contact Holyoke, which has just returned to dual-stream recycling after a brief experiment with single-stream.

Montague's decision to stick with a dual-stream approach was also barely discussed before the town's request for proposals (RFP) was issued last spring. Town administrator Steve Ellis told the *Reporter* that after receiving an analysis that the switch to single-stream would require the costly purchase of special new containers, the decision was made not to accept proposals for single-stream hauling.

The decision to award the contract to Casella seemed to be greeted with relief, but Montague's recycling program could be at risk in

the long run – only two companies put in bids, and a third, USA Waste and Recycling, "expressed interest" but did not apply due to the dual-stream requirement.

In these developments, both Greenfield and Montague have avoided joining a longstanding, but potentially important, debate about the most efficient and environmentally friendly way to collect products for reuse.

Consumer materials picked up at the curb for recycling generally fall into two broad categories: containers and fibers. The former includes glass and plastics, generally clear, while the latter includes paper and cardboard.

Recycling is far more complex than this, and many transfer stations accept other items including metal, electronics, and mattresses, but the dual- versus single-stream distinction focuses on collection at the curb.

Under dual-stream recycling, the two categories of materials are sorted by residents and placed in separate bins on the curb. Both Greenfield and Montague use this system currently, combining it with a "pay-per-throw" trash sticker for non-recyclables; in Montague, containers and paper are collected on alternating weeks.

Under single-stream recycling, the two materials are mingled at the curb and sorted out later at a recycling facility. The conventional wisdom is that this encourages much more recycling because residents do not have to sort, but that it also generates a dirtier, more contaminated recycling stream, increasing processing costs and resulting in material that should be recyclable ending up in landfills.

One thing everyone seems to agree on is that more research is needed to undertake a true cost-benefit analysis.

According to Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, as recycling became more widely practiced, some local communities began to opt for single-stream because it was viewed as less labor-intensive. In that era, town public works departments tended to pick up the recycling, and worker's compensation costs could have an impact on local budgets. Still, most either stuck with dual-stream systems or simply required residents to drive their recycling to the transfer station themselves.

National data seems to show that the popularity of single-stream recycling exploded soon after the turn of the century in response to Chi-

na's willingness to accept unsorted, and often more contaminated, waste streams. Jared Shein of the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) estimates that the prevalence of single-stream programs in the US climbed from 29% in 2005 to 80% in 2014.

"I think it is fair to say that our habit of shipping contaminated recycling to China has been a major reason why much of the US now uses single stream recycling," Shein writes. "But our dependence on China for waste disposal was bound to end, and it did in 2018 with the enactment of China's National Sword policy."

This policy – which banned 24 categories of material, reduced the allowable contamination of imports from 5% (or 10%) to 0.5%, and set up monitoring and enforcement – increased the cost of exporting single-stream recycling. This may have undermined one of the main arguments for that method: that its cost was lower.

At the same time, policymakers in the West began to notice a new environmental virtue in single-stream recycling – fewer stops, less idling during shorter pickup times, and fewer trips to the local collection facility all reduced the use of fossil fuels, and therefore greenhouse gas emissions.

Each system, therefore, seems to have its positives and negatives from an environmental standpoint.

A study by the Columbia University Earth Engineering Center summarized on the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website examined 15 communities that changed from dual- to single-stream recycling in the first decade of the century. The undated study – commissioned for Waste Management Inc., now the largest hauling company in the country – found that the rate of contamination or unrecyclable "residue" was nearly twice as high in single-stream recycling.

But the same study also calculated substantial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, per volume of material collected, under single-stream. A municipality that collects 100,000 tons per year by dual stream, it estimated, could reduce its annual carbon footprint by 90,000 tons of CO₂ by switching to single-stream.

An EPA disclaimer warns that this "does not constitute EPA policy or guidance," and that "EPA has not confirmed the accuracy or legal adequacy of any information provided by the non-EPA presenters" of the study. A more recent section

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of the agency website focusing on recycling does not discuss the relative merits of dual- and single-stream policies, or even mention that these different approaches exist. Nor does a "Draft National Recycling Strategy" posted on the site in October 2020.

On the other hand, Recycling-Works in Massachusetts – a program funded by the state Department of Environmental Protection and administered by CET – lauds the benefits of single-stream on its website, and does not mention dual-stream.

While the *Reporter* was unable to locate any stated preference for either method of recycling collection in the SWIFR grant materials distributed by the EPA, several sources told us they understood the switch to a single-stream system to be a prerequisite for receiving the grant. On Wednesday, Wedegartner's office confirmed to us that this was the reality of the situation.

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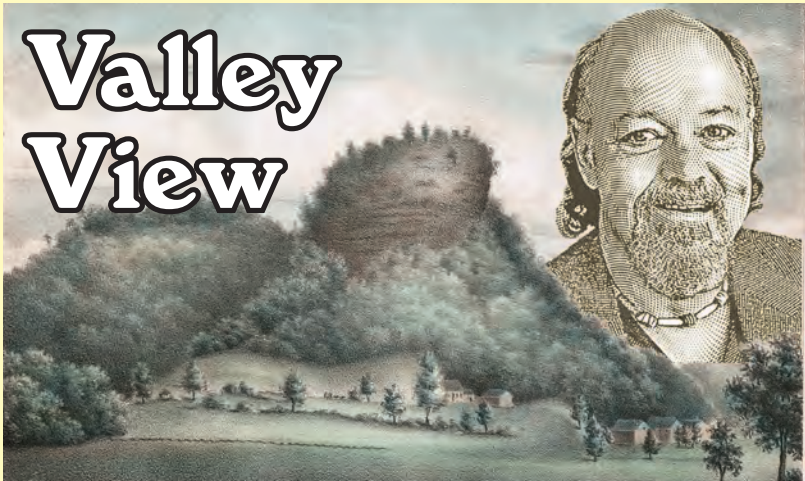
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OCTOBER 12, 2023

Above: Bladder cherry, Alkekengi officinarum, in bloom on Central Street.



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – The recent passing of longtime Democratic politician Dianne Feinstein of California took me down a faded path that, among readers, I probably followed alone. So, why not share?

It was a meandering trail that circled through racy neighborhoods of San Francisco strippers, police raids, arrests, pornography and obscenity charges, guns, murder, luxury Mercedes sedans, Harvey Silk – and, yes, even the glory days of “Night Manager” Hunter S. Thompson, high priest of Gonzo journalism.

Imagine that: a blast from the past, stirred by the death of a stubborn 90-year-old lioness of the US Senate, who should have retired long before old age sullied her dignity and took her down. In her final days, she was reduced to a confused, pathetic sight indeed. Why would anyone with her resources hang on so long and choose such a demeaning public exit?

Addictive power sure can lead to humiliating ends, and did just that regarding this Left Coast moderate. After graduating from Stanford University, her career took a meteoric rise from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to mayor to powerful US Senator. Then, sadly, she exited in a sad state that displayed on television as dementia.

I had heard brief personal tales of the San Francisco mayor from a friend who knew her as a customer at his jewelry business in the city’s historic district, and who had been to her home. I had also read about her pornography wars against a San Francisco strip club featured in a biographical compendium about HST published in 2017. Other than that, I only knew her as portrayed on the nightly news and daily cable-news feed.

As I absorbed the many Feinstein tributes in the days following her death, it occurred to me that one of her early springboards to fame was being totally ignored. Not one word did I read or hear about her very public, Goodie Two-Shoes crusade against the infamous O’Farrell Theatre and its controversial owners – flamboyant brothers Jim and Artie Mitchell, who made the movie *Behind*

the Green Door, made a star of Marilyn Chambers, and eventually could fill the fingers on both hands with theaters they owned.

When I went to Wikipedia for Feinstein’s profile, I found the same void related to her altruistic and unsuccessful stand against the Mitchells. Nope, not so much as a whisper.

Hmmmmmm?

I suppose Feinstein preferred to ignore defeats and focus on her political victories. Who doesn’t? Still, how could her losing, decades-long battle against the flamboyant Mitchells – Army vets and pranksters with “Okie” roots – be ignored? The brothers Mitchell partied hardy, fished from their notorious boat moored in the Bay, made porn flicks, ran strip joints, spent millions in legal fees and, in the process, managed to rake in dough and soften federal laws governing porn.

By the time the dust had settled, Jim Mitchell had done time for shooting brother Artie dead with a handgun (1991, voluntary manslaughter) and died himself young (2007, age 63), but not before he had carved out a West Coast reputation as the undefeated “Rocky of the First Amendment.” As defendants in more than 200 obscenity-related court cases, not once were the Mitchell Brothers convicted.

Put that in your bong and smoke it.

Although her porn wars with the Mitchells were ignored in mainstream Feinstein obits, I knew right where to refresh my memory with a full and quite biased accounting. From my bookcase I pulled out *Who Killed Hunter S. Thompson*, an unvarnished Warren Hinckle III tell-all published in 2017 by flower-power San Francisco institution Last Gasp. The late Hinckle was a San Fran newsman and HST pal who had a bigger impact on shaping Gonzo style than *Rolling Stone* magazine founder Jann Wenner, who loves to hoard credit.

Swashbuckling Editor Hinckle was the man who put leftist *Ramparts* magazine on the map, publishing the San Francisco monthly during the Vietnam War/civil-rights era when Sixties musical legends like Jerry Garcia, see **VALLEY VIEW** page B5

Bear Mountain: Still Big and Wild After Farms, Fires, and Engineers’ Drawings

By JONATHAN VON RANSON

WENDELL – Just about 40 years ago, Wendell got a call to save one of its most familiar and beloved features, a mountain that circumstances had rescued a few times before. It came in a 1983 announcement that the state had funded plans to relocate Route 2 from Erving to the mostly wild Wendell side of the river.

Bear Mountain, elevation 1,274 feet, sits atop the northern block of Wendell State Forest, most of which is enclosed by the triangle of Wendell Depot Road, Farley Road, and the Millers River. The second-highest peak in Wendell, its steep northern flank is visible from the Farley Flats section of Route 2, part of a ridge that runs east-west. (The same geologic forces that formed this rare “sideways” range gave the Connecticut River its east-west jog from the French King Bridge to Barton’s Cove.)

The mountain had been through a lot. At the height of colonial settlement in the first half of the 19th century, a number of homesteads dotted it. Cellar holes and stone-walls along old cart-roads and barely visible tracks spoke, and continue to speak, of this era of habitation and farming. Thompson Road, which runs north from Stone Road, was established in 1797 and discontinued fifty years later. Other roads thread from upland Wendell past old sawmill sites down to the Arch Street bridge in Erving Center,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mason Phelps, at center, goes over the plans for the “Low Profile Alignment” through Erving with state officials. With Michael Idoine, Phelps and others put much work into creating this design to show alternatives to the state’s plan existed that didn’t require taking state forestland.

and to Wendell Depot. (The stretch of Wendell Depot Road between Bowen’s Pond and Wendell Depot wasn’t built until 1838, even though the pond vicinity was settled when Osgood Brook was harnessed for millwork much earlier, at the very beginning of Wendell’s settlement.)

Around the 1850s several quarries operated on the hillside above the Millers, producing stone for the bridge abutments for the rail line that ran along the river. Many Irish workmen were encamped at that time at the foot of Bear Mountain, engaged in building the railroad and the bridges.

With a few exceptions, most of the homestead sites on Bear Mountain were eventually abandoned, and the forests were stripped for lumber, boxwood, and charcoal. In the early 20th century, a fire spread from the railroad tracks up the mountain almost to the center of town. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts bought up much, if not most, of this heavily burned land in the 1920s.

Commercial logging began again once the regenerating forests reached some maturity. In the early Seventies a survey corridor was cut over the ridge and test holes drilled for a plan

see **BEAR** page B8

High School Sports Week: A Hole In One!

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS –Two local teams had their perfect records broken this week. The Franklin Tech field hockey team played to a tie and then lost, and the Turners Falls golf team saw their winning streak end with two losses in a row, though on the upside Joey Mosca aced a hole in one.

Franklin’s volleyball team was on the playoff bubble last week, sporting a 7–5 record, but after winning three more they are sitting pretty. The Turners field hockey team reversed course after a brutal losing streak, registering a tie and two wins, and its volleyball team swept two foes this week to improve their record to 12–2.

And for the second consecutive week, the New England Patriots were shut out, spoiling the 97th

see **SPORTS** page B4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech’s Hannah Gilbert dribbled into the circle last Thursday, shadowed by Aiden McCarthy of the visiting Holyoke Purple Knights.

Pet of the Week



©ARMODY COLLAGE

"PUMPKIN"

Meet Pumpkin, a floofy ball of white fur who is looking for a home that will help him break out of his shell. He's pretty timid when it comes to meeting new people, but with patience and some time he will blossom into a funny little dude. This adorable powder puff is looking for a home with older, calm kids and maybe another rabbit who wants to be his friend.

Rabbits are intelligent and complex animals who do well in families with humans who understand

that they are prey animals, and do not enjoy being held. They adore eating salad with you, though!

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

(Want your pet featured? Email a photo and information about them to jae@montagureporter.org.)

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 16 THROUGH 20

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758.

ERVING

Open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Fitness room open daily.

For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 10/16

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

Tuesday 10/17

9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 10/18

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/19

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 10/20

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Covid test kits are available. You can pick a

kit up any time during open hours.

Lunch available Tuesday through Thursday. Coffee and tea available all the time. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 10/16

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Kitchen Club

Tuesday 10/17

9 a.m. Zumba Lite
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 10/18

9 a.m. VA Agent
9:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

11:45 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

1 p.m. Food Pantry

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 10/19

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
9 a.m. Senior Help

by Appointment

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 10/20

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly.

For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

MR Wrapping Paper Edition Artist Profile #2

By REPORTER STAFF

This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Edition, 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 chosen from the dozens of entries we received.

We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special issue, which will go to press in the third week of November!

Joanne Bell's winning design shows colorful, shiny beads arranged like mandalas that cover the



page. We asked each artist to answer the same three questions:

MR: What would you want your wrapping paper to say, and

feel like, for the person it is being gifted to?

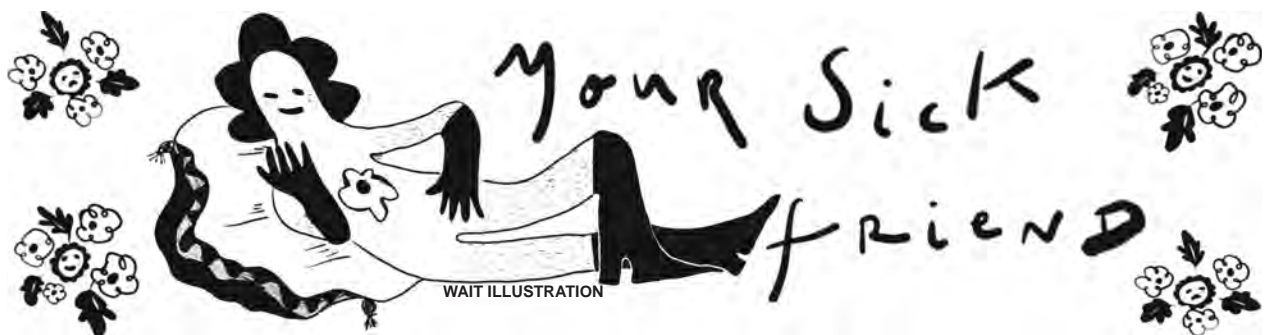
JB: I would want my wrapping paper to say that the gift recipient is a gem, a person of value. I'd want them to feel loved and appreciated.

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

JB: I'd want to receive mementos of special times shared with the gift giver, items that are joyful reminders.

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

JB: Newspapers have kept me informed and made me feel a part of my community. Local newspapers give the gift of connection.



By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Dear Friends,

Given how widespread the virus clearly is in our community right now, I doubt I need to tell you we're well into another COVID surge. Reliable data is hard to come by, thanks to the lack of testing infrastructure. Based on anecdotes alone, I know more people locally who are sick with the virus now than at any other time in the pandemic.

The People's CDC confirms that the Northeast has been seeing a sharp increase in cases, beginning around mid-August, and projects cases to peak post-holiday season.

This pandemic is exhausting. Holding the reality that every step outside our homes carries with it significant risk of illness – for some, like myself, chronic and life-threatening – is painful. I understand why so many people, even the ones who had once identified as COVID-cautious, are trying desperately to ignore the surge happening in front of our faces. Most of my friends have stopped masking in public places and are going to parties and shows like they did pre-2020.

I don't judge them. But I do want them to snap out of it. As overwhelming as facing COVID is, the truth is things are much more dangerous for all of us when we hide from it. When we acknowledge the threat, we can actually take steps to minimize it!

I admit, a lot of my urgency stems from my own vulnerability. I've already had COVID four times and I've recently started chemotherapy, making me even more susceptible to severe infection. I don't want to face a winter of isolation because friends refuse to take the simple precautions that would make their company safer.

But I'm not thinking about myself alone! The vast majority of people I know have had COVID at least once. Risk of developing Long COVID and other chronic health conditions increases with

each reinfection, regardless of severity or presence of symptoms. I already know many people who are struggling with new health issues due to repeat run-ins with the virus. If you are one of the lucky ones for whom COVID really was nothing more than cold, don't take for granted that the next infection will be more of the same.

I'm not a health professional of any kind, but I do joke about being a professional patient, given all my medical issues. And as a professional patient, I've got some hard-won advice for how we can get through the next few months without resorting to total isolation, on the one hand, or total COVID-denial on the other.

Firstly, get your updated COVID and influenza vaccines! Walgreens and CVS have them and you can make appointments on their websites. Most health insurance companies are still required to cover the shots, but even if you're uninsured there are ways to access them for free. The US Department of Health and Human Services can connect uninsured and underinsured adults to local, free vaccines via their new Bridge Access Program.

Next, stock up on high-quality N95, P100, or KN95 masks. The best mask is the one that fits your face snugly and that you can wear the longest without fidgeting with it. My favorite model is the VFlex N95 from 3M. You can purchase a box of 50 of them for around \$30 from the 3M Amazon store or on the 3M website.

I also like ProjectN95.org as a source of reliable, high-quality masks! Organizations can get free or wholesale priced masks in bulk from them, too. Commit to wearing your mask in indoor public settings like the grocery store, the doctor's office, at work, and at events.

It's gotten very expensive to purchase rapid antigen tests, but households can now order four tests via USPS for free. Additionally, rtMed-Health.com currently offers boxes of 25 tests for \$25. Coordinate with

friends to bulk-buy. If you're hosting a gathering of friends or family, ask them to test ahead of time, and to stay home if they have any symptoms, regardless of test results.

Indoor air quality is very important as the weather gets cooler and windows close. Even if you can't afford a fancy HEPA filter or a new HVAC system, there are ways to increase air circulation and filtration. The website CleanAirCrew.org has a ton of amazing resources on ventilation, filtration, masks, and more, with a particular focus on improving air quality in schools! They also have detailed instructions for building your own Corsi-Rosenthal Box air filter. (If you're curious to see a CR Box in action, check out the one at the Finders Collective free store at Fourth and L streets in Turners Falls.)

If you do get COVID, do what you can to isolate yourself, and rest as much as possible. Have a plan in place with friends for how you can support each other in the eventuality that one of you gets sick.

Antivirals have shown to be extremely effective in decreasing the severity of symptoms, and in preventing Long COVID. Go to Mass.gov to schedule a free telehealth appointment to get Paxlovid or Mالنupiravir, and take as instructed. Do not go out into the community when you are infectious! If it cannot be prevented, wear an N95 from the moment you leave your door to the moment you return.

Finally, normalize talking with your community about COVID again. These are hard, often loaded conversations, but we need to be having them. Shame and judgment are counter-productive and beside the point. We have the power to endanger each other, but also to protect each other.

Returning to COVID precautions is not virtue-signaling. It makes a real material difference that can save lives.

With love and rage,

Your Sick Friend

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EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lisa Beskin*, underwater photography. Through December.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Migrations Exhibit and Day of the Dead Altar*. Colorful works depict scenes integral to village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Through November 30. Migrations Festival this Saturday, October 14 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Jamie Fuller*, mixed media, through October.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Megan Sward*, guest ceramics artist, through October.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Susan Valentine*, paintings, through October 29.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Fall Into Fiber*, presenting the work of 16 regional fiber artists. Through November 5, with a reception on Sunday, October 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Yikes*, oil paintings and immersive installations by Chloe Torri, through October 27.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Breakfast Kingdom*, new multimedia work by Wishbone Zoë (Zosia Kochanski), through November 24; reception Friday, October 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Portraits: a Lyrical Eye*, photographs by Gerard McGovern, through

October. Reception this Saturday, October 14, from noon to 3 p.m.

MD Local Gallery, North Amherst: *Amherst Plein Air Society*, paintings of the Sweet Alice Conservation Area. A portion of sales benefits the Kestrel Land Trust. Through November 12.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Regeneration: Things that Fall at Our Feet*, found object art work by Sue Katz and Rebecca Muller. Through October 28.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: *The Allen Sisters*. Two deaf sisters developed the image that has defined Deerfield for the past century through photography. The exhibit focuses on their view of the innocence of childhood. Through October 13.

Art in the Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Totz*, Christin Couture's portraits of children play on Victorian conventions. By appointment at redtidebluefire@gmail.com.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Local Color*, members' exhibit celebrating the colors of autumn, through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *New Nocturnal Paintings*, by Chris Hill, and *Artful Harvest*, photography by Laurie Miles. Through October.

Shelburne Buckland Community Center: *Bridge of Flowers Art Show*, benefit sale and show with work by over 60 artists to help fund renovations to the bridge. This weekend, October 14 and 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Third 'Happening' at Shea

TURNERS FALLS – Cloudgaze and Eggtooth Productions return to the Shea Theater to present *A Happening III: Metamorphoses*, a multi-arts festival that aims to immerse participants in an intimate theatrical world of myth, magic and mystery inspired by Ovid's epic poem.

The immersive event takes place next Friday, October 20, when visitors can enter whenever they choose to between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Over 30 local performance artists, actors, musicians, and dancers will be staging original work. Featured performers include Lori Holmes Clark, Jack Golden, Lindel Hart, Marina Goldman, Sam V. Perry, Joshua Ruder, K Adler, Rebecca Schrader, Ashley Kramer, and Tim Kukharchuk.

On Saturday, October 21 during the Falls Fest in downtown Turners Falls, visitors may enter the theater for free and view the sets, but there will be no performances.

Set within large-scale installations constructed throughout the theater, monsters, heroes, nymphs, dryads, satyrs, mortals, deities, and other fantastical beings will wander through the dark maze of the build-

ing, passing through stone gardens, enchanted forests, sensual, twisted underworlds, banquets, piles of bones, seas of fabric, light, sound, and more. Traditional lines of performance blur as players and audience members weave in and out of multiple timelines and narratives. Open exploration is encouraged, but not required. The audience may sit and watch the action unfold around them if they wish.

"A Happening" celebrates community, creativity, and the power to transform, as well as the unique ability of theater to hold a mirror to violence, grief, and suffering – because, as the stories remind us, change is not always a choice.

The audience may be asked to climb stairs and traverse dimly-lit spaces, but may also experience art and encounters from the main level of the theater. Certain interactions involve witnessing mature content, and will require additional consent.

Tickets for the Friday "Happening" are \$20 in advance at sheatheater.org, and \$25 at the door. Enter for free on Saturday during the Falls Fest from 1 to 6 p.m. to view the installations without performances.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Scraps and Altercations; Histories of Harassment; Basement Dirty; Exercise Banging; Sedan Distinction

Monday, 10/2

2:52 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive states that a male party at a nearby residence set a fire in the yard and then left; there has been heavy smoke since, and it does not smell like wood burning. Shelburne Control advised.

6:47 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue states that two guys are walking around the area, knocking on doors. They are driving a truck with New York plates. Officer advised.

Tuesday, 10/3

12:45 a.m. Copied via radio; officer out with parties that bailed, running on foot. Officer advises he had a vehicle flee on him; two parties took off on foot. Driver running down First Street. Passenger detained. Officers checking Unity Park area for driver. Moped located in back of vehicle. One party arrested. [Details redacted.]

2:03 p.m. Caller states that a tractor-trailer unit scraped against his truck near the Shea Theater, but never stopped. Caller will follow up with truck owner and call back if there is a problem.

3:26 p.m. 911 caller states that she was punched in the face by a female party who took off. Medical attention declined. Second caller reporting assault in front of Carnegie Library between two female parties. Officer provided victim with statement form to fill out and bring back to station.

5:11 p.m. Caller from Newton Street states that a party pulled into her driveway and was taking pictures of their vehicles. Caller states there has been a history of harassment; wants incident on record.

5:24 p.m. Caller from Third Street states her fire alarm keeps going off because there is water coming through the ceiling into the detector.

6:09 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting vandalism to building; states that east side of building was tagged with spray paint. Caller states there have been some issues in the past year or so since they opened the alleyway. Requesting increased patrols through overnight hours.

8:03 p.m. Caller states

there is a female in another tenant's apartment who is not supposed to be in the building. Caller called back and stated she was mistaken; the person in the apartment is the person who rents it.

8:08 p.m. Caller from Twelfth Street would like it on record that the neighbor is playing his drums again despite being asked by the town and the PD not to play after dark.

Wednesday, 10/4

10:12 a.m. Caller from Sherman Drive concerned about a gray van that has been running for 35 minutes. Van turned off prior to officer's arrival.

10:38 a.m. Walk-in reporting a two-car accident at the intersection outside the public safety complex. No injuries or fluids. Both vehicles will need to be towed.

12:11 p.m. Caller from J Street states he was assaulted by another resident and wants to press charges. Will follow up with officers who responded previously for incident.

4:29 p.m. 911 caller states she had items stolen last night, including her ID, bank card, and Social Security card. Officer spoke to caller; she lost her blue purse with her wallet in it somewhere on Second Street; unknown if anyone took it or if it was misplaced.

5:50 p.m. 911 caller from Central Street states three people just came up and jumped her son. Caller states he is bleeding, but declines ambulance. Parties dispersed upon arrival. Victim will be writing a statement.

9:07 p.m. Caller states that he could hear people in the Elm Grove Cemetery and it sounded like they were arguing. Caller has not seen anyone and last heard them ten minutes ago.

11:21 p.m. 911 caller from Unity Street reporting a verbal altercation between two males. Officer spoke with caller, who advised nothing physical occurred; they just wanted both parties to calm down.

Thursday, 10/5

4:02 a.m. Caller from East Main Street reports alarm sounding inside building; alarm panel indicates "Basement Dirty." Shelburne Control advised.

7:39 a.m. 911 caller states

there is a hypodermic needle on the ground near her apartment building at Second and Canal Streets. Item located and disposed of.

8:55 a.m. Officer requesting DPW to assist with the removal of a deceased deer caught up on a fence at Springdale Cemetery.

11:13 a.m. Officer assisting with debris that has fallen from a farm trailer at Turners Falls and Randall roads.

2:07 p.m. Shelburne Control advising of problem with stop sign at the intersection of Mormon Hollow and Wendell roads. DPW notified. Stop sign fixed.

3:05 p.m. Dead fox on sidewalk near Avenue A and Sixth Street. DPW advised. 3:33 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states his property was broken into overnight. It does not appear that anything was stolen, but the door was broken. Report taken.

6:45 p.m. 911 caller states that parties are attempting to gain entry to her apartment; they have been harassing her all day and attempting to physically harm her. Quiet upon officers' arrival. Called caller back and requested she let officers in. She hung up the phone. Advised caller of options; she is unhappy that she will need to go to the courthouse. Caller states female party yelled at her from across the street, and she yelled back from her window. Caller called back in to 911 stating she "took a big shit," and that's now considered harassment. Advised caller of uses of 911.

9:09 p.m. Caller called in stating he was walking near Fourth Street and heard a male yelling at a female. Caller then states he saw the male strangle the female. When asked which was correct, caller stated "I already told you"; when asked name, caller hung up. May be related to previous call. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival.

Friday, 10/6
3:12 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road states that there are frequently chickens and geese crossing the road in front of his house, and he is nervous they are going to be hit. Printed call for animal control officer. Officers advised.

3:32 p.m. Caller states that someone stole her dog and

won't give it back. She is waiting for an officer in the Fourth Street alley. Advised of options.

7:52 p.m. Caller states that there is a white pickup with a king cab and dual back wheels doing donuts in the Ja'Duke parking lot. Caller called back stating he has it on video and will meet officer there to show videos. Officer spoke to caller and watched video. No property damage, and hard to identify vehicle.

7:59 p.m. Caller from L Street states that there is loud banging coming from the apartment across the hall. Officer spoke to female party who states she was exercising. Will quiet down.

Saturday, 10/7

8:44 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street states the apartment above hers is supposed to be vacant and she was told by the landlord to call the police if she hears anyone in there. She has been hearing noises up there this morning. Officer advises someone is doing repairs in the apartment.

10:19 a.m. Caller states that a heron is stuck in one of the fish nets in the bigger pond by the white building on Hatchery Road. Environmental Police notified.

4:34 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road states that there are a bunch of chickens in the roadway. Call left for ACO.

Sunday, 10/8

8:25 a.m. Caller from Avenue A states that there is a white sedan with a male party inside who is screaming and throwing belongings at a female outside the vehicle. Officer advises multiple white sedans are in the area, but none seem to have a male inside throwing things out of them.

2:18 p.m. Caller states that at 9 last night she heard a car hit a telephone pole on Old Sunderland Road, back up, and drive away. Caller states today she noticed that the telephone pole is broken in half and there is metal on the ground around it. Officer advises pole is broken about a foot above the ground. Pole is not blocking road or causing a hazard at this time. Ever-source advised. They will send a crew.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 10, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Massachusetts.

Government Shutdown Hurts Many

As the government shutdown enters its second week, the effects locally are beginning to be felt in many sectors. Those who have the least are feeling the impact the most. Food security, early education programs, and fuel assistance are among the many programs that are already feeling the shutdown bite. In addition, university research labs that rely on federal funding are also in peril.

All in all, the shutdown is creating hardship, or at least uncertainty, here in our part of western

Ten Weeks, Ten Dollars

For ten weeks from July to September, 40 income-eligible seniors again received a bag of fresh produce from the Red Fire Farm in Montague and Granby, paying only \$10 for the season thanks to the Senior Farm Share program, now in its ninth year.

At season's end, participants were treated to a feast of bread, cheese, and organic fruit, followed by a tractor-drawn hayride for a tour of the farm by Ryan Voiland.

The farm's rich soil is from glacial draining 14,000 years ago and was farmed by the Pocumtucks for thousands of years.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on October 9, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

American shad, blueback herring, alewife, sturgeon, and sea lamprey – who migrate up rivers from the sea to breed in fresh water.

Give Fish A Chance

On October 4, the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory held its annual open house and put its innovative species restoration programs on display for several hundred visitors. The lab opened in 1990, in a brick complex at the end of Migratory Way, at the west end of the Patch.

The staff scientists work with an annual budget of \$1.9 million to research the life cycle and habitat restoration needs of anadromous and migratory fish. Anadromous refers to those species – including Atlantic Salmon,

Teen Music on the Avenue

The Hot Spot Teen Center kicked off the Avenue A Music Program at the St. Kazimerz Hall, and they put on a great show.

The concert opened with DeAngelo Nieves, lead singer of the band Project Surreal, playing acoustic versions of the band's songs. Teen center coordinator Jeremy Latch and Eric Woodbury teamed up on some more acoustic melodies. Next up were Jameson Bednarski and Chris Vilpaln [sic], covering two songs by Nirvana and one by the Vaselines.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on October 1, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Lovers of poetry, look out for a poem that surpasses beauty, next week.

Local Matters

George T. C. Holden has a pretty pair of gig horses – they are roan. Feed them on rowen, hey?

The Montague Mill is making the best engine-size, calendered book paper ever made in this country, or in the world, for that matter.

Turners Falls ought to have been awarded the premium at the late county fair for its Starbucks, they "draw like blazes."

James Hartford got a heel shorn off by the elevator in the Montague Mill, Friday morning. He'll heal rapidly, it is hoped, as no bones were broken.

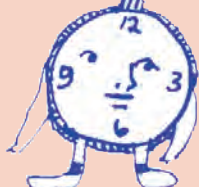
We would recommend the fish pedlar who blows his trumpet in front of our office every Friday for the position of school teacher, as a better tutor never blew a horn.

A private letter informs us that George S. Eddy is a candidate for the office of County Treasurer.

The sudden rise of water in the river has caused the opening of a channel for our sports. That a million or two of logs have floated off isn't worth complaining about – they don't amount to much when there's any fun to be missed!

Episcopal Services were resumed in this place on Sunday afternoon and will be continued every Sunday, in the hall over the engine house till further notice. There are a number of Episcopalians in town, and now that services are to be held every Sunday regularly, they will be collected to worship at the same altar which their godfathers and godmothers did, and praise God with the same service that first was uttered by their infant lips.

Geo. C. Wood of Riverside placed in our possession the other day two potatoes weighing one pound seven ounces apiece. By George, they must have been grown in the woods.



SPORTS from page A1

birthday of a local season ticket holder.

Golf

Pioneer 172 – TFHS 173
Hopkins 161 – TFHS 167

We don't usually start with retractions, but one of my oldest sources told me last Friday that I didn't mention Turners' golf team when I wrote in last week's article about teams leading in their respective conferences. "You know Turners is undefeated?" he asked, and went on to tell me all the news including the previous tournament the boys played in.

As it turned out, the Thunder would lose their first match that very night, by a single stroke, and their second on Tuesday.

Friday's match was held at Pioneer Valley's Northfield course. Joey Mosca (40) and Reese Ewell (41) finished second and third, Jack Day (42) tied with two Pioneer players for fourth, and Grady Deery (50) finished just one stroke behind Pioneer's fourth player.

Blue reduced their count by six strokes on Tuesday at Thomas Memorial, but it wasn't enough to beat Hopkins. Mosca, who sank a hole in one, led the field with a 36. Day (37) placed second by a stroke, with Ewell (43) at sixth and Liam Kerivan (51) at eighth.

Field Hockey

FCTS 5 – Holyoke 0 TFHS 1 – Smith Academy 1
TFHS 4 – Mohawk 2 FCTS 0 – West Springfield 0
Belchertown 3 – FCTS 0 TFHS 8 – Mahar 3

Last Thursday in field hockey, Franklin Tech blanked the visiting Holyoke Purple Knights, 5-0. All five goals were scored in the first half. Meredith Bistrek broke the ice in the opening minutes, with an assist from Kate Trudeau. Hannah Gilbert scored the next goal, also assisted by Trudeau, and returned the favor in the second quarter, assisting Trudeau as she scored.

As the goals piled up someone asked if I was going to the Turners-Mohawk volleyball game later that evening. "It should be a close game," she predicted. (It wasn't.)

The final two goals were scored by Trudeau, assisted by Kailey Steiner, and Bistrek, by Lily Ross. These were the last goals they would score in some time.

That night the Turners Falls Field Hockey Thunder broke a losing streak, grabbing a tie against Smith Academy. Avery Tela scored Powertown's goal with an assist from Ledwin Villafana.

On Monday – Indigenous Peoples' Day, or Columbus Day – Tech traveled down to Clark Field in West Springfield and played to a 0-0 tie, spoiling their perfect season. On Tuesday they lost to the Black Orioles at Belchertown Stadium. The losses give Tech a 7-1-1 record overall, 4-1 in their conference.

Turners beat Mohawk Trail 4-2 on Tuesday. The Trailers led into the third quarter, but Thunder managed to score three straight to win the game.

As Mohawk scored in the first and second period, Turners kept pace. In the second, Villafana fed the ball to Jaade Duncan who shot it in. The score remained 2-1 until the third when Ella Guidaboni passed the ball to Villafana who tied it up. Villafana scored twice more in the fourth to ice the win, with Avery Tela giving both assists. Conner Herzig kicked away five shots in goal.

Turners traveled to Orange on Wednesday and beat the Mahar Senators, 8-3, though the stats were not yet posted as of press time.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Mohawk 0
FCTS 3 – Pioneer Christian 2
FCTS 3 – Greenfield 0
TFHS 3 – Mahar 0

Last Thursday the Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder defeated the Mohawk Warriors, 3-0. I got to the gym in time to watch the last two games, and I'm glad I went. Students, faculty, and spectators were signing a giant birthday card to a very special alumnus.

When I arrived, Turners was ahead 1-0, winning the first game going away 25-13. The second and third were never in doubt as Blue Thunder rolled to 25-12 and 25-15 wins.

Taylor Greene and Madi Liimatainen played team ball, giving 18 and 14 assists respectively. Greene also had a kill, four aces and two digs, and Liimatainen finished with four aces and five digs. Maddie Dietz registered three aces and seven digs, and Tatianna Carr Williams made four kill shots.

The next day the Franklin Tech Volleyball Eagles outlasted Pioneer Christian in five games, 3-2. I caught part of the JV match and the first varsity game – Tech was way ahead, but lost it 25-22 – then left to watch the Franklin/Palmer football game.

At halftime, with Tech on top by 36 points, I returned to the gym. I found Christian leading 2 games



Kaitlin Trudeau takes a shot at Holyoke's goal last Thursday.

to 1, and Tech behind in the fourth game. But with their backs against the wall, the Eagles scrapped and fought, and forced an extended game. With the score 24-11, they scored twice more to stave off elimination and force a fifth.

It had been a while since I'd watched a five-game match. During the break I struck up a conversation with a couple teachers and a grandmother who had also been at the football game. "I believe they only play to 15," I guessed. Our debate continued as the fifth game commenced.

When the score hit 6-2 Tech, the players abruptly went to their benches, gathered their gear, and changed sides. In the fifth game, when the score totals eight the teams switch courts. The four of us also switched so we could cheer Franklin on. Tech maintained that lead until it was 15-6, and then the players lined up to shake hands. My guess had been right.

Lea Chapman made 12 kills, 10 digs and four blocks in the marathon win. Amelia Rider had three kills and nine digs, Shelby O'Leary served six aces, dove for seven digs and gave 13 assists, Jenna Petrovic blocked two shots and had five kills, five digs, and an ace, and Kristine Given made 12 digs.

The Eagles crossed the Connecticut River on Tuesday, where they swept Greenfield 3-0. Brooke Smith served an ace and made three kill shots; Abby Carlo had two kills and three digs; and Lily Josephs served two aces, made a kill, and had three digs.

Blue, meanwhile, went to Orange on Tuesday, and swept the Mahar Senators. Janelle Massey made eight kills, served seven aces, and saved four digs and Kiera Richardson Meatey had two kills, three aces, and three digs. Greene ended with 13 assists, six kills, three aces, and four digs, and Williams shot four kills.

Football

FCTS 44 – Palmer 0

On Friday, after three grueling contests, Franklin Tech decimated the Palmer Panthers 44-0.

I was two minutes late. As the crowd trudged to the field I saw that Tech was already up 8-0. "It was Gabe [Tomas], one of the kids in the end zone reported. "It was a long pass down the sideline."

It wouldn't be the last score of the night for Tech. The Birds went on to dominate on both sides of the ball, putting up 28 points before the first quarter ended and scoring again to make it 36-nothing at the half. That's when I went back to volleyball.

By the end, Tomasi had completed five passes for 169 yards, scored a touchdown and a 2-pointer, and rushed for 86 yards. Shaun Turner made two catches for 61 yards and a TD. Cameron Candelaria had two receptions for 76 yards and Ethan Smarr made one for 32; each scored a 2-pointer and a touchdown. So did Josiah Little, who gained 132 yards and returned kicks for 67. Nathan Sabolevski carried the ball twice for 32 yards and a touchdown, and Maxon Brunette and Landon Purington also ran the ball for the Birds.

On defense, Landen Hardy led the team with eight total tackles and batted away two passes. Hunter Donahue had an interception and blocked a pass, and Wyatt Whitman, Madix Whitman, and Turner all got in the face of the Palmer QB.

The win improves Franklin to 2-0 in the Intercounty North Conference. On Friday they face another ICN rival: the Green Wave of Greenfield.



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OUT OF THE PARK OCTOBER 2023

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello, everyone! We hope you all had a great summer and your autumn has started off well. We're glad to reconnect with you at this most wonderful time of year. The leaves are starting to turn color, the air is crisp, and we're making homes for our jack-o'-lanterns and scarecrows!

As we walk into the fall season, take a gander at what we have to offer this season.

To get into the spirit of the spooky season, we will be showing a **Movie in the Park** this Friday, October 13 (how appropriate!) at Peskeompskut Park. We will be showing *The Addams Family* at 7 p.m., so be sure to bring a couple of blankets with you. The rain date is Friday, October 27. Our Movies in the Park series is co-sponsored by RiverCulture and the TFHS Music Boosters.

Registration for our **Youth Basketball Program** began Tuesday, October 10 for Montague residents. Youth Basketball is held from December through the end of February.

We offer an Instructional Program for children in grades K through 2, Junior Travel for kids in grades 3 and 4, and a Senior Travel Program for those in grades 5 and 6.

Our Instructional Program goes from early January to mid-February and is held at Sheffield Elementary, and the travel teams start late



November and participate in the Tri-County Youth Basketball League with other area communities. Registration for non-residents begins Monday, October 30. Spots fill up fast, so register early!

Pre-registration for our **Annual Sawmill River 10K Run** will also begin November 1. The Sawmill Run is scheduled for Monday, January 1, 2024, and is our major special event of the winter. If you're a runner, hope to be one, or know of someone who does, this is the perfect way to start the year. You can register online at runreg.com/sawmill-river-10k-run.

Of course, you can find additional information about all these programs and more at montagueparksrec.com as well as our Facebook page.

That's about it from here. Enjoy the rest of your October, and we'll talk to you next month!

Jon Dobosz, CPRP, is parks and recreation director for the town of Montague.

2023 Source to Sea Cleanup 27th Year

Please support and congratulate these organizations that make Franklin County a better place.

Thanks to the funding and strong muscles of the folks listed below, trash was removed from 14 beautiful natural areas in the towns of Erving, Gill, Millers Falls, Northfield, and Turners Falls.

Participating Groups:

- Franklin County Technical School Landscaping Shop Juniors & Freshmen
- Deer Paths Nature Program
- FirstLight Power Staff and Retirees

Right: The Deer Paths Nature Program team crosses the Turners Falls power canal to clean the river below the Gill-Turners Falls dam.



BETH PELTON PHOTO



Above: Erving residents cleaned up Cabot Camp and went swimming in the Millers River!

FRINKY BLACK PHOTO

Debris Removed:

- 25.5 cubic yards of debris (11 standard pickup truck loads)
- 4,000 lb. of scrap metal
 - 2 truckloads of recyclable bottles/cans
- 10 standard tires and 10 bicycle or 4-wheeler tires
- 3 propane cylinders
- 2 box springs and 1 mattress
- 2 gallons household hazardous waste
- 1 couch

Donors:

- FirstLight Power USA Hauling and Recycling
- Town of Montague Transfer Station
- MA Department of Conservation & Recreation
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
- Tapestry Health
- Wagon Wheel Restaurant

Event Organizers:

- Beth Bazler & Michael Pattavina, FirstLight Power
- Stacey Lennard & Kayla Loubriel, Connecticut River Conservancy
- Janel Nockleby, MA Department of Conservation & Recreation

Right: Anne Harding, Dwight Harrison, Beth Bazler, and Beth Pelton.



BILL LAFLEY PHOTO

MOVIE REVIEW

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1920)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Garden Cinema has gotten into playing silent films with music by live musicians going along to them. Some of the times this has been done have been with an accompanist named Jeff Rapsis.

On October 2 he did it again, to a film version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* made in 1920. Adolph Zukor was the one who gave us this remake, which starred Shakespearean actor stage star John Barrymore, the grandfather of Drew Barrymore.

I first heard Rapsis playing music to *The Phantom of the Opera*, where he also gave us a little bit of a history lesson about the film, which makes it rather fitting that he was playing music to *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. When he did that the first time, he was playing music to a film that was right to show for Halloween, and I thought this one was good to have for Halloween, too.

As with *The Phantom of the Opera*, Rapsis spoke before the start of the film. This time he spoke of silent films and how they were made back then. Some details included how the lighting and scenes were done.

The opening scene has a monologue on screen about the nature of good and evil. They also have on screen at one point a description of the character of Dr. Jekyll and Hyde, who was played by Barrymore, and then on another screen

how he was described by a colleague. I assume they did this to tell the audience what they were getting for a portrayal of this character. Jekyll was described as "progressive" by his colleague.

Rapsis played to the film in sync with each scene, like the other times I have seen him with one of these films. He seems to capture the mood associated with them nicely.

As the film continues, we get a bit more of who Jekyll is, and how he is seen by people. This man tends to the poor; one of his friends considers him the finest man there is. It is brought up that he and one friend differ when it comes to science. I think this is mentioned to point out how out of the box Jekyll is, and illustrate how that might get him into trouble later.

Some of the scenes started to use special lighting like Rapsis said they did in silent films. It was an interesting sight. A reddish color seems to symbolize the passion in one scene.

After that, it is pointed out that a certain associate of Jekyll isn't the greatest person. Then Dr. Jekyll comes up with the idea that will transform him into Hyde. The friend he talks with about this characterizes it as "man being both God and the devil." That seems to show people how well things are going to go, and give them a pretty good idea what Jekyll is going turn into.

I found the movie to be a pretty good silent film, and felt that Jeff Rapsis made it even better.

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Grace Slick, Janis Joplin, Jorma Kaukonen, David Crosby, Chris Hillman, and Peter Rowan were walking the Haight-Ashbury streets, sitting at Tenderloin bars, and performing to pulsating psychedelic crowds at Golden Gate Park and the Fillmore.

In 1970, after *Ramparts* fell into fatal financial distress, Hinckle took charge of short-lived *Scanlan's Monthly*. There he assigned Thompson to the Kentucky Derby for his breakout article, "The Kentucky Derby Is Decadent and Depraved," and Gonzo journalism was born. Better still, Hinckle paired Thompson with zany British illustrator Ralph Steadman, whose art accompanied Thompson's unique tales all the way to the author's abrupt end.

Like Thompson, Hinckle had no use for "objective journalism" as laid out in the doctrinaire Associated Press manual. Thus, he was the perfect editor for that inaugural Dr. Gonzo-Steadman piece, which, by the way, is republished in its entirety in Hinckle's Thompson book. Gonzo style was ready to roll, and the Thompson-Steadman partnership for the ages was off and running.

Hinckle, who died the year before his long-delayed Thompson tribute hit the streets, was never widely recognized nationally except in counter-culture circles; however, that was not the case in "Frisco," where he was born, raised, educated, employed, and died. The University of San Francisco alum

became a household name in the progressive city built by the California gold rush and known to many as America's Paris. Having lost an eye to a childhood archery accident, the carousing journalist was known for the apropos black pirate eye patch he sported.

When he wasn't managing provocative left-wing magazines that mattered, Hinckle wrote books and penned popular columns for his city's two daily newspapers – the *Chronicle* and *Examiner*. Later his byline appeared in the free *San Francisco Independent*, a publication similar to our own weekly *Valley Advocate* in its earliest days of the '70s.

No San Francisco journalist of his day knew the city's underbelly quite like Hinckle, a hard-drinking, old-time journalist in the Bay Area tradition of quirky Ambrose Bierce. In fact, in 1991 he even revived the *Argonaut*, a San Francisco political rag that for many years in the late 19th century published Bierce's popular "Prattle" column.

Hinckle and his Bassett hound Bentley were regulars at the O'Farrell Theatre, where he enjoyed VIP status, along with HST, who served as night manager for a couple of years in the mid-1980s. Try to imagine the wild scene: Dr. Gonzo perched high above center stage on his director's chair, training the spotlight on nude performers for a crowd that could on any given night include the likes of revolutionary activists Abbie Hoffman or

Huey Newton, poets and performers like Allen Ginsberg and Marilyn Chambers, random pols from nearby City Hall, police, lawyers, and a steady cast of celebrities from the rich music scene.

The O'Farrell was a destination capable of pulling in virtually anyone, from curious tourists to local luminaries and regular patrons making their daily rounds. Feinstein viewed the place as an undesirable den of depravity, a city black eye that needed to be closed. She was, however, not exactly preaching to the choir in the progressive Bay Area, where freedom of speech and thought were sacred human rights.

I didn't choose to focus on a neglected chapter of the Feinstein story to in any way diminish her proud legacy. Like all politicians, she won some battles and lost some. Count the extended O'Farrell dustup among the latter, and it only gets richer when the Hinckle-HST dynamic jumps in. Thompson intended to write a book that never came to fruition about his night-manager days.

Although I never uttered a word in print about Hinckle's book the first time I read it, I couldn't resist when mired in Feinstein eulogies. I would recommend *Who Killed Hunter S. Thompson* to any fans of HST or Sixties/Seventies look-backs. It opens with Hinckle's 200-page "intro," is followed by personal essays from 42 friends who knew Thompson best, and promises soon to be "out of print" and hard to find.



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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
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or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

History's Diphthong

Before I came here
I was there.
Stilled far below
those thunderous hooves
running warfare — raw — victorious.

Our empire birthed empires
across thousands of years
within locales of teas and rivalries
as suns drew days' blue nights along
through our far-eastern skies.

I expected the surety of men
whose raiment announced
our number and tribe
by inky blood of squid
or viscera's mighty strike.

Unmistakable, the countenance
I came to know, not one of
western ancestry, but hailed
in victories while splendid Hamdams
graced my chamber's straw.

Of these, most prized, was border-spiked
by horses' manes that galloped 'cross'
our wild terrain; and I was there,
still am there, in memories' thought...
far as eyes can see... as mine forever see.

Before I came here
I was there
in an apogee not measured
by moon-cruzed orbit or light
yet close to my veiled hermetic heart.
It remains a finite. Blinding.
While there I breathed a space
held firm against
the shift and signs of secret words
that I defined by eye and quill.

My light: confetti — shot from glints
that ricocheted my copper tray
while leather quivers burst death or worse.
Not waiting silk roads to arise
across bobbed white mountains' shroud
of snow that shrank the sky
on maps as camels trekked below
thru steppes' caches for the Khan
with his Mongols pressing on.
His wild circumference tumbled down
that paralleled my heartbeat rhythm —
I searched my point of egress then
fixed my feet toward the East
and spirited up my spiral stair
that veiled the purple drape of here.

A While

While a child
I lived from stones to stars —
A course was laid
its gifts — certain

each note: sonata-
tree to meat;
bloom-breath ...
and all the while

I sang its song
long-beyond my 77 years.

October's Featured Poet: Alice Thomas

Discernment

Before I came here
I was there,
then my archives spread
their leavings
across a faction
of chronos time
that has no life.
Their keepers
would have us believe
that last year's *jing*
has fallen short
[if one believes
that calendars define in-time events].
Finite as iron,
the one who stands
beside the creaky gate
is history's heir,
who learned (that)
a smidgen of cassia
will lend sweet dreams
to one who breathes deeply;
grasps the heaviest of metal,
says "NO" to grief, then
secrets away their Qi.

Contributor Notes:

Alice Thomas is a writer who lives and works in western Massachusetts. Writing both poetry and narratives, she has published in newsprint and anthologies. Alice has written poetry for the *Montague Reporter* in the past, and is now emerging from a period of silence. She sent her October 2023 submission in honor of Patricia Pruitt's editorial leadership of the Poetry Page.

Alice writes:

We remember and honor Patricia Pruitt this month in honor of her linguistic contributions, kindnesses, and unique leadership skills to the *Montague Reporter* for over 15 years.

Patricia was the "Cradle of Poetic Thought," "Grand Artist of Editorial Growth," and early Master-Editor of this page. Having produced it with poems written by an array of invited regional poets, both she and this page evolved into a standard and consistent banner of poetic practice across "the valley."

As time moved on, Patricia's then-unique thought processes developed a new idea, one that would feature a single poet; one that functioned like a musical composer; one who wrote a "body of work that ebbed and flowed across a multi-environmental scene of thoughts, emotions, and conclusions: a story." This was her genius; her compositional thought that flowed across our eyes once each month.

We are grateful for the foresight and execution of all that Patricia birthed across these pages. Her memory will live on within and across the poetic pages of the *Montague Reporter* as we consider ourselves within the scope of our literary outcomes; her foresight and action.



WRITING THE LAND

The Poetry Page is supported by
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SILVER PRINT FROM GLASS NEGATIVE: THE GRIZZLY GIANT, MARIPOSA GROVE, YOSEMITE BY CARLETON E. WATKINS (1829-1916)

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Slow Pony, Father Hotep, Blindest, Eddie From Ohio*. \$ 7 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belcher-town: *Darsombra, Taxidermists, Knobclaw, Junk Orbit*. \$ 7 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: Flywheel Arts presents *mssv, Sky Furrows, Vex Party*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Diane Cluck, Miranda Haney*. No cover. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Palladium, Worcester: *Suicidal Tendencies, Judge, H2O, End It*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Lady Pop*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Wendell Meetinghouse: *Sound Journey with Nirmal Chandraratna*. Music and mantra. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Mariee Sou, Diane Cluck, Simon Gray*. \$ 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Juliana Hatfield*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Aubrey Haddard, Ciarra Fragale, The Burning Sun*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Lexi Weege, JJ Slater*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Ch'Chunk*. Outdoors; last show at Deja Brew. No cover. 5 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic with Rick Gumaer Trio*. 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: *Lakeside Drive*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Floodwater Brewing Co., Shelburne Falls: *She Said*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Cinemastorm double feature: *Labyrinth and Legend*. Free. 7:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Ruth Garbus, Locate S, 1*. \$ 8 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Chico Romano, Pudding Club, Giant Enemy Automation*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Baldwin/Gelineau/Corsano Trio, Marie Carroll/Rebecca Schrader Duo*. Free. 5 p.m.

The Foundry, West Stockbridge: *Ayumi Ishito / Daniel Carter / Demian Richards Trio* with special guest *Fred Moten*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sartaria, Lacquerhead, Glaw*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Bob Mould*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Allysen Callery, Joshua Burkett*.

No cover. 8 p.m.

College Street Music Hall, New Haven, CT: *Violent Femmes, Black Guy Fawkes*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Chris Forsyth's Evolution Band, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends*. No cover. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Leafing, Jobber, Ian St. George Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Damon & Naomi, Wet Tuna, Dredd Foole*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Cloudgaze and Egtooth Productions present *A Happening III*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Green Sisters, Ragged Blue*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Old Maybe, Andrew H. Smith, Membera*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Mirah*. No cover. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Spinner Park, Turners Falls: *Tommy Filaault, Jenny Burtis, Jim McCrae, Adelaide Fay, Bur-*

rie Jenkins, Kevin McCarthy & Bruce Richardson. \$ 1 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Curly Fingers DuPree, Trailer Park, James Montgomery Band*. Free. 1:15 p.m.

Wizard's Castle, Montague: *Renaissance Costume Ball* feat. *Shokazoba New World Funkestra*. \$ 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown Trio, 2 p.m.; Tall Travis, 4 p.m.; Stella Kola, 6 p.m.* Free.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Sara Thomson*. \$ 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Hard Knox Band*. No cover. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Robber Robber, Rockin Worms, Perennial, Classics*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Nova Arts, Keene: *Baba Com-mandant & The Mandingo Band, Deep Seize*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Flesh Narc, Alex C., Liz Tonne Duo, Hurry Scurry*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bruce Cockburn: O Sun O Moon*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Nova Arts, Keene: *Xiu Xiu, Thus Love*. \$ 7 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Drake, Amherst: *Lightning Bolt, Fred Cracklin*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Landowner, The Leafies You Gave Me, Hedgewitch*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Darlin' (Wendy Eisenberg trio), Hollow Deck*. No cover. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst: *Ranky Tanky, Lisa Fischer*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Institute for the Musical Arts, Goshen: *Bridget St. John*. \$ 7 p.m.

No Fun, Troy, NY: *Screaming Females, Dazy, Sunbloc*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT: *Tool*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Palladium, Worcester: *Fishbone, GZA*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Pharcyde*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Rubblebucket, Dante Elephant*. \$ 8 p.m.

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Left: Michael Idoine (left) and Jim Slavas. Michael led the 'inside' effort, cultivating key Mass DPW staff members who would help convince transportation secretary Fred Salucci that keeping Route 2 on the Erving side of the river was preferable. Jim lent key technical support to the effort. Right: Anne Zak, a key organizer, on a "Walk on the Wild Side" – one of two 5-mile treks conducted along the planned highway path through Wendell State Forest to show what would be lost.

Montague Community Television News Make Your Own Video For Local Access TV!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – It's the Northeast Unity Car Show! You had to be there on that rainy September 24 to really stick your head under the hood, but you can do so with others in our coverage of the event. Cool cars from near and far made it into this short but sweet video... Check and see if yours made the cut!

Community members are always welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9, as well as be featured on the MCTV Vimeo page, which is linked to our website at montaguetv.org.

If you have any ideas for films, 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.

That said, we do, of course, have board meetings posted! Find our recordings of the Montague and Gill selectboards and more on our Vimeo page. This week we have added the Montague selectboard meeting from October 2.

If you're looking for more ways to get involved, consider joining the MCTV Board. If you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email infomontaguetv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram @montaguecommunitytv.

BEAR from page B1

to pipe water from Northfield Mountain's Bear Swamp Reservoir to the Quabbin to bolster Boston's water supply. An outcry ensued, and the plan was eventually dropped.

In 1977, a fire started by the overheated wheel bearing of a freight car again burned a large part of the mountain's north face. Many Wendell residents turned out to help fight the blaze on the steep, ledgy terrain.

Henry Schouler, born around 1880 on the Wendell bank near Erving Center, returned around ninety years later to live in his old neighborhood. In conversations while in his mid-90s, he described the mountain during his youth as covered with blueberry bushes. He and friends used to pick berries by the gallon and send them by train for sale in Boston.

After early rumblings like distant thunder, in 1983 the state announced a major re-routing of Route 2 through Bear Mountain and the Wendell State Forest, to appease area business and political interests and Erving residents.

Local opponents of the plan organized and turned out for meetings, fundraisers, and two Walks on the Wild Side to protest. "The Bear" – a silent figure in a furry, handmade costume – became the effort's mascot. (As sweaty and smelly as the

outfit reportedly became, someone, often Josh "Waffles" Dostis, could always be found to wear it.)

One night in the wee hours, at the height of the threat, a covert action took place that resulted in Governor Michael Dukakis arriving the next morning by helicopter to see "HAY DUKE NO RT. 2" written in giant limestone letters across the football field of Greenfield High

School. Officials weren't amused, but no one was charged.

The campaign drew well-known statewide and national conservation organizations as partners. A lot of the work happened face-to-face, through quiet meetings and calls that developed alliances with sympathetic state officials. In a key move, lay engineers from Wendell produced a professional-grade, upgraded high-

way design through Erving that the state acknowledged to be feasible.

In 1987, the South Bank plan was formally dropped. The highway remains on the north (Erving) bank of the river, and Bear Mountain today is still on the wild side.

Pam Richardson contributed history and other details for this story.



Above: The author, who participated in organizing and strategy meetings, talks at a stop during the Walk on the Wild Side.

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