

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

EPA Grant Would Help Montague Demolish Mills



Asbestos in the Strathmore Mill's roofing may help the town secure funding for a partial demolition of the distressed complex.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Walter Ramsey, Montague's assistant town administrator, came before the town selectboard seeking permission to apply to the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Cleanup program for a grant to fund a "partial demolition" of the publicly owned Strathmore Mill complex. "This funding round is being funded at a higher level," Ramsey explained, "and they're waiving the local match requirement, which is usually 20%." The town may ap-

ply for up to \$2.6 million, he said, though he estimated that a total demolition of the complex would cost "upwards of \$8 million."

"I think we're at the time when we are seeing a good pitch," said selectboard member Matt Lord. "We should swing." The other members of the board, with similar baseball metaphors, endorsed moving forward with the application.

This marks the latest chapter in the long history of efforts to deal with the 224,000-square-foot Strathmore complex, a series of

see **DEMOLISH** page A8

Tax Revolt at Town Meeting Squelches Most Override Items

By KATIE NOLAN

At Wednesday night's special town meeting, Erving voters rejected three articles that would have added \$1.79 million in taxation this year, though a Proposition 2½ override election will still be held next week to approve raising another \$39,000 for the wastewater department.

With approximately 100 voters in attendance, the meeting voted down nearly all of the appropriations slated for the override: \$687,000 for general government, public safety and public works, health and human services, culture and recreation, and employee benefits; \$150,000 for the assessors' legal and overlay accounts and for town grant matches; and \$955,000 to bolster the capital improvements stabilization account.

Opponents of the override, many of whom sat together in the Erving Elementary School gymnasium, said little during the discussion. Before the meeting started, a man at the back of the room held up a poster with the handwritten message: "Vote NO / Keep are [sic] taxes low / Stop the wasteful spending."

Another voter commented that if the money for the override items were really needed, "it could be funded in other ways." Selectboard chair Jacob Smith told her that there weren't any other pools of money to draw from.

There were no questions or comments about the \$687,000 appropriation, which would have added to the budgets of six departments in the current fiscal year. The voters defeated the expenditure using paper ballots, with 50 opposed and 44 in favor.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache would later tell the meeting that the rejection of this article meant the benefits of seven new school

see **ERVING** page A5

Forecast Fells Fall Fest

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "It didn't make much sense to expect a lot of people to come drink a cold beer, on a cold day, in the rain, sitting on wet grass in Peskeompskut Park," Falls Fest steering committee member John "Klondike" Koehler told the Reporter Wednesday evening. "It's a roll of the dice with weather any way you look at it – and if Mother Nature is on the other side of the table, you're not going to win if you bet against her."

Earlier that afternoon the word

had gone out – by email, by text, by mass robotic voicemail, over social media – that the first annual Falls Fest, scheduled for this Saturday in downtown Turners Falls, would be "postpone[d]... until next autumn, due to expected inclement weather."

As of press time early Thursday morning, the National Weather Service predicts an 80% chance of rain in the village that day.

"We started tracking it two weeks in advance of the day," Koehler said. "And it looked like it was going to be wet, and then very wet,

see **FEST** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Turns Down Offer To Downsize Habitat Plan

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has voted not to consider a proposal to reduce the number of affordable homes in a First Street project awarded to Habitat for Humanity from six to five. The preliminary proposal, which would have needed to go through further design and consideration by the planning board as well as the selectboard, was offered by Habitat in response to complaints from residents on the northeast side of Second Street that they would lose parking on the First Street alley without a fair process. It now appears to be a non-starter.

The decision came at the board's October 16 meeting as part of an agenda packed with complex issues that the board has been navigating over the past half year or more.

The modified proposal, presented by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity executive director Megan McDonough, would have eliminated from the original plan two of five two-story homes next to the Shady Glen restaurant, which require parking along the First Street alley, replacing them with a second single-story home with a side driveway.

Under the original plan, McDonough pointed out, the public

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Labor Historian Explores A Lasting Local Enigma



Greenfield's first big strike: 1,250 workers at Greenfield Tap and Die walked out for 11 days in 1953 despite accusations that their union was run by Communists.

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – "It's a pretty intense story," Tom Goldscheider tells me. "There's a lot of layers to this history. In Greenfield it became a kind of civil war in miniature – the town became divided over the issue."

Goldscheider, who is giving a free talk this Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, has spent years immersed in a very particular

moment in local history: the 1950s heyday of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE) Local 274, which represented workers at a number of shops including the town's largest employer, Greenfield Tap and Die (GTD).

The public historian hopes his talk will bring workers, or family members and friends of workers, who have firsthand experience in the county's once-world-renowned

see **LABOR** page A5

High School Sports: Standby for Seedings

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – With the regular season wrapping up and playoffs on the horizon, several teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High battled this week to qualify for the best spots in the brackets. The PVIAC



A pitched battle: Smith Academy's Sophia Jagodzinski (left) and Turners Falls' Holly Myers vie for the ball. The visiting Falcons edged the Thunder, 1-0, in the Senior Night game.

Western Mass tournament will be set at the end of the week, with the statewide MIAA dance-off to follow.

Tech's field hockey team should have a high seeding in both tournaments, and may even qualify for the Vocational tourney. They have a chance for a share of the conference title, but have a number of games yet to play.

Turners Volleyball kept rolling along, sweeping three opponents by a combined score of 12-0. Their regular season is complete, and they now await the seedings. The Tech Volleyball Eagles sweated out a 3-2 come-from-behind marathon win last Thursday in Northfield.

In football, Franklin finally reversed the curse on Friday the 13th, beating Greenfield after five straight losses.

Field Hockey

FCTS 5 – Amherst 0

Smith Academy 1 – TFHS 0

After their first tie of the season, followed by their first loss, the Eagles got back on a winning track last Thursday, blanking the Crimson Hurricanes of Amherst-Pelham 5-2. The win improves their record to 11-1-1.

"Amherst is good," one Hurricane mom said after Tech denied another Amherst attack. "We get the ball down the field, but we cannot score." She went on to

see **SPORTS** page A6

New Coalition to Extend Work on Fish Passage

By SARAH ROBERTSON

TURNERS FALLS – A decades-long effort to bring wild Atlantic salmon back to the Connecticut River, unsuccessful in its goal, is officially coming to an end this month. With \$1.2 million in federal money still allocated to the interstate project, its member organizations are regrouping to form the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative (CRM-

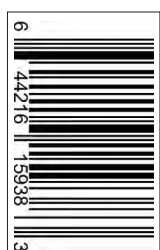
FRC) to fund further research and restoration projects throughout the watershed.

The Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center, run by the US Geological Survey (USGS), will receive a portion of the CRM-FRC funding to further its work in understanding and improving fish passage along the river. Last Saturday the laboratory, located at the end of the power canal at Turners

see **FISH** page A4



K'oir and her grandmother, Mariaelena Garcia of Amherst, marvel at a tank containing sturgeon, salmon, and shad at the Conte Lab last Saturday.



The Fog of War

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The Montague Reporter

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Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
 August 2002

Seven Say 'Ceasefire'

October 18, 2023

We remain outraged by the horrific terror attacks carried out by Hamas against Israeli civilians. We are also deeply alarmed by the rising civilian death toll in both Israel and Gaza, including nearly 1,400 Israelis and 3,000 Palestinians. This is a moment that calls for moral and strategic clarity. That is why we believe that the United States must help achieve an immediate ceasefire, or at minimum, a temporary cessation of all hostilities that stops the threats to civilians in Israel and Gaza.

Let us be clear: our call for a ceasefire should not be mistaken as a lack of support for the protection of the people of Israel. To the contrary, it is because of our dedication to the safety of both Israelis and Palestinians that we seek a path

forward without further escalating the toll of civilian dead and injured.

A cessation of hostilities will allow for the negotiation of the immediate and safe return of all hostages, including Americans, and the delivery of essential humanitarian aid under international auspices. Hamas can and must be stopped and the security of Israel must be guaranteed without the killing of thousands more Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

There is a different path. In this devastating time, the United States must lead the way forward.

- James P. McGovern** (MA-02)
- Pramila Jayapal** (WA-07)
- Greg Casar** (TX-35)
- Barbara Lee** (CA-12)
- Joaquin Castro** (TX-20)
- Veronica Escobar** (TX-16)
- Jesús G. "Chuy" García** (IL-04)

Dark Days

At the base of the mainmast, full beneath the double and the flame, the Parsee was kneeling in Ahab's front, but with his head bowed away from him; while near by, from the arched and overhanging rigging, where they had just been engaged securing a spar, a number of the seamen, arrested by the glare, now cohered together, and hung pendulous, like a knot of numbed wasps from a drooping, orchard twig.

In various enchanted attitudes,

like the standing, or stepping, or running skeletons in Herculaneum, others remained rooted to the deck; but all their eyes upcast.

"Aye, aye, men!" cried Ahab. "Look up at it; mark it well; the white flame but lights the way to the White Whale! Hand me those mainmast links there; I would fain feel this pulse, and let mine beat against it; blood against fire! So."

Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*

CORRECTIONS

Our October 5 article on the bankruptcy of Heywood Healthcare, which owns hospitals in Athol and Gardner (*Owner of Two North Quabbin Hospitals Files for Bankruptcy*, Page A1), implied incorrectly that while the Birthing Center at UMass Memorial Health Alliance-Clinton Hospital in Leominster had been threatened, it had not yet happened. The Birthing Center closed on September 23.

In the same edition, an item in our *Local Briefs* column (Page A3) said that the trainer at a Narcan workshop would be "FRCOG community health nurse Robin Neipp". Cooperative Public Health Service program manager Randy Crochier contacted us to clarify that Neipp "is an employee of the Greenfield Health Department and works with the Valley Health Collaborative." "Although the Greenfield Health Department and the FRCOG both support the work she is doing," he explained, "she is not an employee of the FRCOG."

And nobody has mentioned it, but we called Turners Falls resident Cathi Emery "Kathy" in the same edition, in the Page A1 article on the proposed Habitat for Humanity project.

Strangely, none of these corrections or realizations had yet reached us at the time of our October 12 publication. We worry that it also may have contained errors. We will let you know next week if this is the case.

In the meantime, we hope Emery, Neipp, the Birthing Center in Leominster, and our readers in particular know that we are very sorry. We are always eager to set the record straight, so please get in touch if you see something that doesn't look right.

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PHONE: (413) 863-8666

EMAIL:

editor@montaguereporter.org
 features@montaguereporter.org
 ads@montaguereporter.org
 bills@montaguereporter.org
 circulation@montaguereporter.org
 events@montaguereporter.org
 poetry@montaguereporter.org
 subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Brian McHugh has spent 33 years at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, mostly as a housing rehab specialist helping residents tackle issues and problems with updating their homes. He estimates he has been involved with helping to bring almost 2,800 dwellings into code compliance throughout the county. In his current role as director of community development, he is less "hands-on," but enjoys helping communities identify eligible projects and write grants for improvements.

Letters to the Editors

Why We Say 'No' to Battery Storage

So what's the problem? Most of us use batteries and we all love storage. So if you didn't know what was behind the nice title "Wendell Energy Storage Project," you might think that New Leaf Energy, Inc. was doing something good for our community and beyond. But that is not the case.

Unrelated to either conservation or renewable energy, New Leaf's 105-MW Wendell Energy Storage Project, off Wendell Depot Road in the center of town, would store electricity taken from adjacent power lines during peak production to sell back to the grid at times of peak demand.

For this "buy cheap, sell dear" energy exchange, 11.1 acres of forest in an important ecological and wildlife rich area would be clearcut, destroyed. With 25-foot walls and constant air-conditioning to protect its 786 lithium-ion batteries, the facility would create excess light and noise,

as well as some heavy truck traffic on already vulnerable area roads.

The Wendell Conservation Commission refused to permit the project because of noise detrimental to wildlife. But in January 2023, New Leaf applied to the Department of Public Utilities for a permit to proceed, hoping for an end run around home rule and local democracy.

The area in question is listed by the new MassWildlife and Nature Conservancy's 2023 *BioMap: The Future of Conservation in Massachusetts* as a "Critical Natural Landscape," adjacent to one of the most pristine "Core Habitat" areas.

This project is one of several in our area that are false responses to real problems around climate and consumption and production of electricity. Public meetings held previously by Wendell's open space committee, planning board, and energy committee discussed problems related to the battery storage project.

Now a citizen forum at the historic Wendell Meetinghouse on Tuesday, October 24 at 7 p.m. will go deeper into the issues. All are welcome. It's at 1 Morse Village Road, on the Wendell Common.

Can it be stopped? We believe that the best resistance is public education and opposition, early, creative, and strong. We remember Wendell's successful opposition to a re-routing of Route 2 in the 1980s, well-described in Jonathan von Ranson's *Bear Mountain: Still Big and Wild After Farms, Fires, and Engineers' Drawings* in the October 12 issue of the *Montague Reporter*.

We still have a window of time to learn, teach others – and oppose this project. The meeting on Tuesday, October 24 should be an important step forward.

Anna Gyorgy Wendell

Member, No Assaultin' Battery

Be Cool To People

I prefer fresh eggs from nearby family farms but sometimes go cheap, like at Aldi's this morning. As I loaded my car, I chatted with a fellow shopper who was waiting to take my buggy. "Wow, these eggs were under \$2.00 today," I said.

She replied, "I remember when we were paying \$8 not long ago – that was hard!"

"Yes," I said, "but that was partly due to the terrible avian flu that

swept the country. Small farmers were hurt too."

To my amazement, she replied, "Oh, thank you so much for a different perspective. I hadn't thought of that even though I used to keep chickens." Talk about kindness, respect, and courtesy! Good and reasonable people abound....

Maggie Sadoway Turners Falls



Montague Reporter T-Shirts!

... We don't have any left. Should we make another run? White on black this time? Let us know what you think!

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE LIMIT 4 PER YEAR

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The LAVA Center in Greenfield will screen *Tina*, “a powerful documentary that explores the life, career, and resilience of the legendary Tina Turner,” this Friday, October 20 at 6 p.m. in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The screening is hosted by NELCWIT, the domestic and sexual violence crisis center for Franklin County and the North Quabbin area. Sliding-scale admission runs from \$0 to \$20.

Unnameable Books will open, despite the cancellation of Falls Fest, with a Poetry Marathon this Saturday, October 21 from 1 to 8 p.m. The bookstore is the new business at 66 Avenue A, the former Hubie’s (and Jake’s) Tavern building next to LOOT.

For the full list of who’s reading, check out the “Unnameable Books Turners Falls” Facebook page or “Unnameable Books Massachusetts” on Instagram.

Learn how to **make your own pop-up card** at a workshop this Saturday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at Artspace, 15 Mill Street in Greenfield. Laura Krok-Horton will help you make spooky bat, cat, and pumpkin pop-ups for Halloween. All ages are welcome, but with adult supervision, and the workshop is free, but with a suggested donation of \$10.

Dina Stander will present an online workshop, “Tender Witness: Navigating Climate Grief,” at 6:30 p.m. next Monday, October 23.

“This workshop offers tools for developing a personal practice for feeling and expressing sorrow, with simple exercises that support recognizing and being-with this unusual sort of grief,” the description reads. “Good grieving allows us to be cultivators of personal action and community resilience.”

Standar is an “end-of-life navigator,” funeral celebrant, and maker of burial shrouds. Learn more about her work at *dinastander.com*, and register for the workshop by contacting Judy Raper at (413)

773-3646 or raperj@gg.umass.edu. There is a \$10 fee.

Sheryl Faye will perform her **one-woman show as Ruth Badger Ginsburg** at the Gill-Montague Senior Center in Turners Falls on Tuesday, October 24 at 1 p.m.

Ginsburg was a lawyer, a professor of law, a judge, and then a Supreme Court justice who was unafraid to dissent, disapprove, and disagree with conditions of inequality. Sheryl Faye enacts her story using costumes, audio, and slides. The program is free and open to the public, but reserving a seat at (413) 863-9357 is suggested as space is limited.

A panel on **genealogical research for marginalized groups** will be held at the LAVA Center next Tuesday, October 24 at 5:30 p.m. Nolumbeka Project president David Brule and Música Franklin executive director Orice Jenkins will discuss their experiences conducting this complicated kind of research. Light refreshments will be served, and the event is free.

An informational meeting about the **New Leaf Wendell Energy Storage Project** will be held next Tuesday, October 24, at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Meetinghouse.

The plan includes cutting over 11 acres of forest in the center of town to store electricity from power lines and sell it back to the grid. Find out more about it at newleafenergy.com/project/wendell-energy-storage.

“The program will offer info on the project and why it poses major ecological and other threats to Wendell and neighboring towns,” the organizers write.

The Montague Center Library Authors’ Series presents **Richie Davis**, reading from his book *Flights of Fancy, Souls of Grace*, on Wednesday, October 25 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

That same night at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Meetinghouse, longtime Wendell resident **Sara Schley** will read excerpts from her book, *Secrets of the 7th Day*, and offer interactive

teachings on ecumenical ways of working with Jewish practices. The event is part of the Meetinghouse’s ongoing Spirit Circle series.

The next **Village of Lake Pleasant Tea & Crumpets Society** event is Thursday, October 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Thompson Temple, at 2 Montague Avenue. Five-minute reading spots will be granted on a first-come, first-signed-up basis.

“Spectating-listeners are also welcome to attend,” writes group founder David James, “with or without pajamas, a security blanket and a tattered old pillow to imbibe a bedtime story, or two, just like the old days with mom or dad, or gramma or grampa or Uncle Ned or the babysitter who lived up or down the street.”

Skeleton Crew Theater is at **Ja’Duke**, preparing for a Halloween show called “Burt’s Brewery” in the woods behind the performing arts center in the Turners Falls industrial park.

“We’ve carved out a winding trail behind the theater,” SCT founder Jonathan Chappell tells us. “Audiences will solve riddles, collect clues, and find themselves celebrating Halloween immersed in a giant jack-o-lantern patch, weaving their way through the webs of a giant spider, a talking pirate skeleton with a broken headstone, and many more. It’s like an escape room and a haunted trail combined!”

The sets have been created by middle- and high-school students, with leadership by Chappell. The shows run Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27 on the hour every hour between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Email jaduketheater@gmail.com to reserve a spot, as space is limited.

Chappell, who also teaches filmmaking and theater arts at Turners Falls High School, is also helping **students create scarecrows** that will be on display in front of the school starting next week.

On Friday, October 27 principal Christopher Barnes, vice principal Loren Messina, DJ Bobby C, and custodian Scott Curtis will judge the creations in four categories: Scariest, Funniest, Most Creative, and Fan Favorite. Four \$50 cash prizes will be given to the winners, donated by Bobby C, plus a \$25 gift certificate donated by Bella Note Salon for the winner of an as-yet-to-be-determined category – Scariest Hair, maybe?

If you are concerned about the **proliferation of plastics**, you can attend two upcoming online talks

hosted via Zoom by the Leverett Plastics Working Group.

Next Thursday, October 26 from 7 to 9 p.m., Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste District will talk about recycling. On November 15 Dr. Sasha Adkins, senior lecturer in Environmental Health Sciences at UMass, will offer a global focus on plastics, endocrine disruption, and planetary justice. For information and the links, email peggywolff@gmail.com.

Dance and make merry at the **Gaslight Tinkers Halloween Party** at the Wendell Meetinghouse next Friday, October 27. Costumes are welcome, but not required. Tickets are \$15 to \$25 at the door, and refreshments are available, including wine and beer (by donation) and snacks available.

Friday’s dance party starts at 7 p.m., kicking off a weekend of festivities in Wendell which also feature a trick-or-treat Ghost Town on the town common from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, sponsored by the Wendell Public Library.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will hold their own **Halloween Party** next Saturday, October 28 from 11 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages and their caregivers can enjoy a scavenger hunt, make wearable crafts, pose in a photo booth, and more. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Free.

The **Leverett Co-op’s Harvest Festival** is scheduled for Sunday, October 29 from noon to 4 p.m. and will include horse-drawn wagon rides, live music, artisans’ booths, hard cider tastings, raffles, pumpkin decorating, and free samples.

Live music will be provided by Silverback Swing and Myrtle Street Klezmer, who will be joined by guest musicians to play a set of traditional Greek music.

The Co-op’s first Harvest Festival honors local farmers and makers, and also celebrates National Co-op Month. For more information, call (413) 367-9794. The rain date is Sunday, November 5.

As press time approached we caught wind that the Turners Falls **Rag Shag Parade** will be held Tuesday, October 31, gathering at 5 p.m. in the Food City parking lot after two hours of trick-or-treating at downtown businesses. Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters, so start planning!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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

Memorial Hall Theater
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Turners Falls Water Department Announces Water Rate Increase

MONTAGUE – The Turners Falls Water Department wrote to the *Reporter* this week to announce that it will be implementing new water rates, which will be reflected in the May 2024 bill. Please find below the revised rate sheet:

Gallons used:	Within the Turners Falls Fire District		Outside the Turners Falls Fire District	
	Old rate:	New rate:	Old rate:	New rate:
0 to 12,000	\$35.00 minimum	\$47.00 minimum	—	—
0 to 15,000	—	—	—	—
13,000 to 200,000	\$2.85 per 1,000 gal	\$3.85 per 1,000 gal	\$80.00 minimum	\$92.00 minimum
201,000 to 400,000	\$3.05 per 1,000 gal	\$4.10 per 1,000 gal	\$5.15 per 1,000 gal	\$6.15 per 1,000 gal
401,000 to 600,000	\$3.25 per 1,000 gal	\$4.35 per 1,000 gal	\$5.35 per 1,000 gal	\$6.40 per 1,000 gal
601,000 to 800,000	\$3.45 per 1,000 gal	\$4.60 per 1,000 gal	\$5.55 per 1,000 gal	\$6.65 per 1,000 gal
801,000 to 1,000,000	\$3.65 per 1,000 gal	\$4.85 per 1,000 gal	\$5.75 per 1,000 gal	\$6.90 per 1,000 gal
1,001,000 and above	\$3.85 per 1,000 gal	\$5.10 per 1,000 gal	\$5.95 per 1,000 gal	\$7.15 per 1,000 gal
			\$6.15 per 1,000 gal	\$7.40 per 1,000 gal

“We understand that rate adjustments can impact households,” the department’s announcement reads, “and we want to assure you that this decision was made after careful consideration of various factors, including maintenance costs, infrastructure improvements, loss of major water users, costs of operation and future sustainability. Thank you for your continued support.”

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PAPER
Week of October 23
in Montague



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FISH from page A1

Falls, hosted an open house to show the public the kind of research that takes place there.

"I netted these out of the base of the Holyoke Dam, demonstrating that it really looks like there's a lot of fish that want to go upstream," USGS biologist Micah Kieffer, standing in front of a massive fish tank on wheels in the laboratory parking lot, told visitors.

Kieffer has been researching endangered sturgeon in the Connecticut River for about 30 years. Montague is home to two documented spawning sites for the large prehistoric fish, he said, including the Atlantic sturgeon, a species that can reach up to 16 feet in length.

"But," Kieffer said, "like many species of these monster fishes, they need to be undisturbed for a long time to reach those sizes."

Swimming upstream is no simple task. Sturgeon, like salmon, shad, river herring, and sea lamprey, are anadromous, meaning they travel from the ocean upriver to reproduce. Along the way they encounter dams, culverts, contaminants, fishermen, fluctuating water levels, and other obstacles that have historically depleted fish populations.

The first coordinated government effort to restore the river's fish began in 1967, when federal and state partners from Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut formed the Policy and Technical Committee for Anadromous Fish Restoration in the Connecticut River. Mechanisms built to support fish passage were not as effective then, and pollution of the watershed was much worse than it is today.

"When that committee came into being, American shad and other sea-run species hadn't been seen in Vermont or New Hampshire in more than 120 years, and only rarely in much of Massachusetts' portion of the watershed," said Ken Sprankle, a fisheries biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). "Both state and federal fishery agencies realized restoring and managing these species required a cooperative approach."

Hydro Hurdles

On Saturday, USGS research ecologist Ted Castro-Santos was performing a fish passage experiment on species not typically studied at the Conte lab. Spottail shiners, smallmouth bass, and a brown bullhead catfish swam in a tank attached to a long plastic flume.

"I want to study how far they can get - how fast they can swim, how long they can swim at a given speed, those kinds of questions," Castro-Santos said. "We just gave them four hours to see what they could do against about a meter-per-second flow velocity, and the answer was absolutely nothing."

Castro-Santos was trying to simulate the flow rate of a typical road culvert to study how these manmade water features can affect fishes' habitat.

"If that's a barrier for our native species that are living in the river... they may not be able to get to the rest of their habitat for shelter, or to feed," Castro-Santos said. "We really want to be able to pass these species where there should be connectivity."

The Conte lab will use CRM-FRC funds to research and design a new fishway, Sprankle told the

Reporter, so migratory species can better bypass hydropower dams. Researchers will help redesign the USFWS's standard turbine blade model to try to reduce fish deaths. A new electrofishing boat and a DNA sampler are also to be paid for with the federal money.

Additionally, the Greenfield-based nonprofit Connecticut River Conservancy will receive funding to expand its efforts to monitor migratory fish, Sprankle said, and establish a website to share the data.

So Long to Salmon

The CRM-FRC will replace the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, first authorized by an act of Congress in 1983. The salmon-centric group expanded on earlier restoration efforts by including representatives from a number of private entities with a stake in salmon restoration. Non-governmental members of the collaborative include Firstlight Power Resources, Great River Hydro, the Holyoke Gas & Electric Company, the Connecticut River Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy.

At first the Salmon Commission focused on restocking the river with juvenile salmon, called smolts. The USFWS built a salmon hatchery in Vermont, and trout hatcheries in Massachusetts and Connecticut were converted for rearing salmon.

Between 1979 and 1994, the program oversaw the development of a small salmon population that was genetically unique to the Connecticut River, Sprankle told the Reporter. However, in 1995 the percentage of young fish returning to the river began to decline dramatically. Sprankle attributes the decline to a shift in the commission's strategy, several years earlier, to stock younger salmon "fry" instead of the more mature smolts.

"This period of unexpected decline in fry return rates, due to decreases in marine survival, coincided with the program's shift from smolt to fry stocking as the primary restoration strategy," Sprankle said. "This situation translated to a sustained reduction... even as issues of safe downstream passage of smolts at hydropower facilities and ocean fishery closures were addressed."

Other studies suggest that climate change may have played a role in the salmon's decline. Large-scale shifts in ocean conditions have affected the salmon's prey, predators, and habitat, Sprankle said, as has been observed in Canada and Maine.

In 2012 the Salmon Commission abandoned its effort to restore salmon to the Connecticut River, but continued to address fish passage issues for other species. Over the last 40 years, the federal government has spent about \$25 million on the commission's efforts.

This support helped fund research at the Conte Lab to improve fish passage for American eel, shad, herring, alewife and sturgeon, and established standard metrics for fish passage for hydropower facilities. These standards are now being used in negotiations over the federal relicensing of hydropower projects on the Connecticut River owned by Firstlight and Great River Hydro, and have become a model for other watersheds.

The Congressional act establishing the Salmon Commission expires on October 28, at which time the CRM-FRC will replace it. An



Wildlife biologist Jill Fleming (left) and field technician Maddie Chartier greet visitors outside the Conte Lab last Saturday with a table full of amphibious delights. The scientists insert tiny radio transmitters into salamanders in order to track and study them. "We dug these guys up right over there," Fleming said, pointing to a pile of leaf litter at the side of the building.



USGS sturgeon biologist Micah Kieffer (rear) holds an unnamed sturgeon.



Conte Lab research ecologist Ted Castro-Santos stands in front of a demonstration experiment at Saturday's open house: a flume in which he is measuring how effectively various species of fish swim against water flowing at different rates. "We just gave them four hours to see what they could do against about a meter-per-second flow velocity," Castro-Santos reported. "The answer was absolutely nothing."

agreement signed by the USFWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and each of the four states lays out goals for the CRM-FRC.

"The reauthorization of the state, federal and public partnership to restore all the migratory fish species of the four-state Connecticut River watershed is a testament to the success and continued potential of cross-border and watershed-scale management," Andrew Fisk, current chair of the commission and former executive director of the Connecticut River

Conservancy, wrote this month.

Bill Hyatt, a retired bureau chief at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and a former Salmon Commission chair, called the new configuration "a perfect recipe for the work that needs to be done going forward."

"The Commission has always worked to conserve and restore all the river's migratory species," Hyatt said. "But that sometimes felt a bit awkward under a compact that focused almost exclusively on salmon."


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FEST from page A1

and then not so wet, and then wet.... We realized that it would be prudent to consider postponing the event, because we wanted to make the best possible impression.”

Earlier this year Koehler, a local semi-retired audio technician, joined volunteers from the Shea Theater Arts Center (STAC), the Montague Public Libraries, downtown businesses, and the public at large to piece together a new fall downtown event in the wake of the dissolution of the Great Falls Festival, originally known as Pumpkinfest, which regularly drew crowds approaching 10,000 people to Avenue A in October.

The vision for “Falls Fest” was more modest: it would focus on downtown businesses and residents; sites were invited to organize “associated” events for the same day; and until earlier this month, the plan was for downtown streets to remain open to automobile traffic.

Live music was scheduled for Spinner Park, the Third Street municipal parking lot, and Peskeompskut Park – including a headline set by blues veterans James Montgomery Band – and auxiliary activities were scheduled at the Discovery Center, Shea Theater, and the alley beside Loot. STAC, the non-profit operator of the town-owned theater, extended its fiduciary umbrella to the fledgling

venture, and its liquor license to its beer garden.

Two new local businesses, the Music Connection and Unnameable Books, planned grand opening events to coincide with the festival, including a marathon poetry reading at the bookstore.

Koehler praised everyone who had “stepped up to contribute” to the new event – including police and fire officials, who had helped hash out a late-breaking safety plan to close Avenue A between Third and Seventh streets after all – and said organizers will regroup in the coming weeks to begin planning for a launch in 2024.

“You only get one chance to reboot a 12-year event with a new name,” he said. “We were looking at a situation where instead of thousands of people, we’d be looking at hundreds – it would be pretty unfortunate to inconvenience so many people that had worked so hard on this.... and then not really give Turners the kind of celebration it deserves.”

According to Wednesday’s official postponement announcement, scheduled activities will still be held at the Shea, Unnameable Books, the Music Connection, the Rendezvous, and Pioneer Valley Brewery on Saturday. “Please check their websites or call for details,” it advised.



Tip of the week ...

Be cautious of wet leaves on the road during the fall, they can be as slippery as driving on snow or ice, leading to skids and spin-outs which could cause serious accidents.



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LABOR from page A1

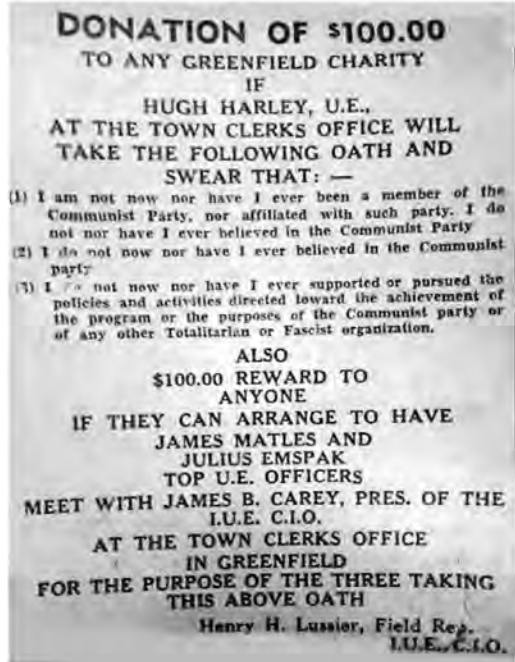
machine tool industry.

The story of the UE locally may cast a light on unique aspects of Franklin County’s industrial and working-class history. Greenfield, along with Windsor, Vermont to the north, became a UE stronghold during the height of a national campaign to destroy the union and replace it with an avowedly anti-Communist alternative. Paradoxically, most Local 274 members’ stubborn loyalty seems to have been a rejection, rather than an embrace, of ideological concerns.

“In Greenfield they never talked about politics,” Goldscheider says. “I went through pages and pages and pages of meeting minutes – not a word. It was all about, you know, ‘how do we run a democratically run, rank-and-file union?’”

Goldscheider published a 44-page version of this history, “At Sword’s Point: The United Electrical Workers Union and the Greenfield Tap & Die Company,” in the Winter 2019 edition of the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*, which maintains a free archive of its entire 51-year run on the Westfield State University website, in case any readers miss Sunday’s presentation or want to prep for it.

In his telling, Greenfield – “happily perched upstream from all that it chooses to be a part of” – became the crucible of the American tap-and-die industry largely because its earliest industrial workers were so



Local IUE organizers took out ads in Greenfield newspapers red-baiting their UE rivals, but were unsuccessful in winning over the rank and file.

often skilled, “self-reliant farmers and artisans,” able to fall back on other sources of livelihood and therefore positioned to act as footloose independent contractors.

Whatever specific factors were at play, the region indeed became a hotbed of innovation but a sleepy backwater when it came to class struggle. This began to change around the

first World War, with a demand boom for taps and dies but also a consolidation of myriad small shops into what would become GTD.

When Greenfield workers eventually embraced unionism in the late 1930s, they were drawn to the growing UE, which Goldscheider describes as “structured to promote local autonomy and participatory democracy – very much the way towns are governed in New England town meetings.”

A decade later, when the onset of the Cold War prompted dark years of splits, betrayals, and purges in American labor, many Local 274 members weren’t interested in the drama. On a national scale, anti-Communists set up the rival International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) and set about convincing the UE’s members to abandon it.

“Priests in eight Catholic churches throughout Franklin County openly instructed their congregations to vote in the IUE,” writes Goldscheider. “Greenfield’s Protestant churches also took out a series of full page advertisements warning readers against ‘faith in false gods.’”

“The IUE,” meanwhile, “never talked about any real bread-and-butter issues that affected workers,” Goldscheider tells me. “All they talked about was International Communism, period, full stop.”

Local 274’s leadership banded together, insisting they were “local American trade unionists”; in December 1949 the membership at

GTD voted 396 to 332 to stick with them.

“The UE was voted out in Pittsfield, Springfield, Schenectady, Lynn, all these places, but it was not voted out in Greenfield,” Goldscheider told the *Reporter*. “It was tense, but unlike in a lot of other places, it never really turned ugly.”

Having survived this raid, in the years that followed the union successfully took on fights with management for better wages, pensions, and working conditions. Its members would prove they were willing, if not eager, to strike when necessary.

Though the union did not prove capable of protecting the local manufacturing workforce from offshoring and deindustrialization in the late 20th century, Greenfield is still a UE town – relatively speaking – and Goldscheider says that being granted access to the union local’s own archives, including newspaper clippings and meeting minutes, has been essential to his research.

And now, after the project simmered on the back burner in the first years of the pandemic, he is reaching out publicly to meet more people who are holding onto parts of the oral history of the era, possibly for a radio documentary project. “Your stories can help enrich this research,” his flyer for the Discovery Center reminds us.

“The catchphrase in oral history,” Goldscheider adds, “is ‘Don’t wait!’”



ERVING from page A1

employees and eight employees from other departments will not be funded this year.

Principal assessor Jacquelyn Boyden explained that the assessors’ legal fund is set aside for when appeals of property assessments, such as FirstLight’s Northfield Mountain, are pending. She told the meeting that if FirstLight prevails in a current appeal, the town will owe it millions. The overlay account, she said, allows the assessors to fund tax abatements and exemptions.

The \$150,000 appropriation was rejected by a closer vote, with 41 opposed and 40 in favor.

Capital planning committee chair Benjamin Fellows explained that the stabilization account was for major purchases, “like trucks or generators.” Sometimes these are paid for from free cash, he said, “but we’re not sure how much money there will be in free cash this year, so we wanted to put money aside to fund capital expenditures.”

Town accountant Deborah Mero said that she believed the town would have approximately \$700,000 in free cash this year. “This is a lot of money,” she argued. “I’m against the override on principle.”



About 100 voters packed the school gym Wednesday night, with over half voting against proposed FY’24 budget supplements.

Again using paper ballots, voters defeated the article with a vote of 47 opposed and 29 in favor.

The only article subject to the override that the meeting approved was an appropriation of \$39,000 for the wastewater enterprise fund. Wastewater superintendent Peter Sanders explained that the budget increase was due to new testing re-

quirements for PFAS and increased costs for fuel, electricity, and sludge disposal. He warned that without the appropriation, the department might consider charging sewage user fees.

General Ballot

A special election will be held next Monday, October 23, as

planned, to decide whether to approve the Proposition 2½ override. According to town counsel Donna MacNicol, if the override succeeds Monday, the town will be authorized to tax and spend the \$39,000 wastewater appropriation.

Wednesday’s meeting also voted down increases to the salaries of the tax collector, town clerk, and trea-

surer. The funding for these increases had been approved at the annual town meeting in May, but the exact amounts had not been determined at that time, pending the completion of a town employee wage study.

The voters did approve articles pulling \$55,000 from the capital improvements stabilization account for bridge repairs and highway road work, moving \$26,000 in unspent special project funds into that account, transferring \$100,000 Erving received from the state Board of Library Commissioners into general stabilization, and establishing a reserve fund for special education expenses.

The selectboard met immediately after the special town meeting. While discussing the process for developing the FY’25 budget, the board agreed that based on the votes they had seen that night, department heads should be considering level funding or budget cuts next year.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory, discussing a screening committee’s recommendation for a new equipment operator, told the board he thought the position should be put on hold. He didn’t want to take on a new employee, he said, if the position would be cut later.



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Archaeologists Will Fill Greenfielders In

GREENFIELD – Landowners and interested residents are being invited to a question and answer session about an ongoing archeological search across the city for evidence of a ferocious battle that took place nearly 350 years ago.

The battle, known as the Battle of Great Falls / Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut, occurred during King Philip's War – one of the bloodiest conflicts in the nation's history. Metal detectorists have been fanning out across the area looking for artifacts from the running battle that followed the original attack by colonial militia and others on a fishing camp located in what is now Barton Cove and the surrounding area in the early morning hours of May 19, 1676.

Following the attack, as the colonists retreated south toward their base in Hatfield, a series of skirmishes and ambushes occurred, many in what is now Greenfield. The leader of the militia, Captain William Turner, was killed during this retreat, near the city's current swim-

ming area. Evidence of those firefights, in the form of musket balls, have been found stretching from Riverside in Gill to Greenfield. Other artifacts, including firearm parts and personal objects, have also been retrieved.

Property owners in the city are being asked to allow the detectorists on their property to continue the search. During a typical survey, after the metal detectors signal an object, a small hole is dug, usually not more than six inches deep, and the item is retrieved. It is then cataloged, its position logged by GPS, and the hole refilled.

Archeologists from Heritage Consultants, who are contracted to do the work, as well as members of the local American Battlefield Protection Program advisory board will be present to answer questions. The meeting is being held under the auspices of the Greenfield historical commission.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30 at 7 p.m. at the John Zon Community Center, at 35 Pleasant Street in Greenfield.

Farren Land Envisioning

MONTAGUE CITY – The Town of Montague is scheduled to hold a second public meeting for re-envisioning the Farren property, on Wednesday, November 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

To learn more about this ongoing project, please visit the "Montague City Village Center Study" page on the town website at www.montague-ma.gov/p/1531/.

At this public meeting, residents can review work to date and provide feedback to guide the study. Light refreshments will be provided.

Flu, COVID Vaccinations

These town-sponsored clinics offer flu and COVID-19 vaccines. It is possible to receive both at one appointment. Times and links at frcog.org/project/vaccine-information/.

Thursday 10/19: Montague COA; **Friday 10/20:** Pioneer Valley School, Greenfield Middle School; **Monday 10/23:** Bernardston Senior Center, Sheffield Elementary; **Tuesday 10/24:** Orange COA; **Wednesday 10/25:** Mohawk Trail School; **Thursday 10/26:** Erving Senior Center; **Friday 10/27:** Deerfield Elementary; **Friday 11/3:** Greenfield HS; **Sunday 11/12:** Erving Library; **Tuesday 11/17:** Turners Falls HS.

SPORTS from page A1

explain that she played field hockey at Frontier while both her brothers graduated from Franklin.

Amherst drove the ball in perfect formation throughout the game, but every time they breached the arc Tech broke it up, keeping them off the scoreboard.

Tech had no such problem, and scored in every quarter. Coach Rian Lovett liberally substituted her players, frequently pulling players aside for individual instructions while keeping one eye on the action.

Hannah Gilbert scored her first goal early. Her next came in the second, when Kate Trudeau passed her the ball inside the arc; later that quarter, Trudeau slapped one into the net herself. In the third, Trudeau found an open Gilbert, who scored to earn a hat trick. In the fourth, Gilbert scored her fourth goal of the afternoon.

Tech has a couple more dates before the playoffs, but the most important comes next Friday when they host the Belchertown Orioles for the county conference championship.

The Turners Falls Field Hockey Thunder concluded their regular season on Monday with a hard-fought, defensive one-nil loss against the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy.

It was Senior Night, and before the game Jaade Duncan, Holly Myers, Ayleen Ovalle-Perez, and Avery Tela had their pictures taken and said their final goodbyes. Turners had several opportunities in this one, taking nine shots on goal, but they were unable to hit paydirt. Defensively, they kept most of the action in Smith territory, holding Purple to just four shots inside the arc. The loss gives Blue a final record of 4-11-1.

Girls' Soccer

FCTS 5 – Greenfield 0

On Tuesday the Franklin Tech Kicking Eagles blanked the Green Wave of Greenfield, 5-0. Five different players scored for Tech, Kyra Goodell, Ella Kolodziej, Sofia Moreno, Anne Kolodziej, and Layla Hammond, with Laken Woodard giving an assist. The co-op girls' team currently stands at 8-4-2.

Volleyball

FCTS 3 – Pioneer 2

TFHS 3 – Greenfield 0

TFHS 3 – Easthampton 0

TFHS 3 – West Springfield 0

FCTS 3 – Smith Voc 0

TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0

FCTS 3 – Athol 1

Last Thursday the Franklin Tech volleyball team won another five-game series. In the first two Tech defeated the Pioneer Panthers hand-

edly, but when the Cats eked out a 25-23 win in the third, it looked like it was going to be another long night.

Pioneer narrowly won the fourth, but the Eagles reached into their reserve tanks in the deciding game to grind out a 15-8 win.

Lea Chapman was fierce at the line and lethal on the court, shooting nine aces and 21 kills; she also made four digs and a block. Shelby O'Leary had three kills, six digs, and 11 assists, while Jenna Petrowicz and Emma Petersen mirrored stats: both athletes registered three aces, five kills, and four digs.

Turners blew away the Greenfield Green Wave in three quick games the same night. Blue held the Wave to just four points in the first, and the next two were more competitive but never in doubt as Turners rolled 25-15, 25-16.

Taylor Greene served 12 aces and gave four assists in the win. Madi Liimatainen made five kills and three aces, Maddie Dietz three assists and an ace, Janelle Massey two kills and four aces, and Ian Bastarache four aces.

The Blue Thunder traveled to Easthampton the next day and swept the Maroon Eagles 3-0. Turners won the opener by just two points, but the next two convincingly.

Greene led the Thunder in assists with 21, while racking up four kills, five aces, and four digs. Liimatainen made 17 kills, two aces, and four digs; Massey had six kills, three aces, and four digs; and Dietz ended with five digs and an ace.

The team then celebrated Senior Night on Monday by trouncing West Springfield 3-0. Many folks who had been at the field hockey game came into the gym to witness the excitement. While at field hockey most of the noise came from the dads in attendance, in the gym it was the students who led the charge. From the pre-game ceremony to the final whistle, the kids didn't stop. At times they chanted "Let's Go T.F.," and at other times they sang the soccer anthem "OH, oh-oh oh ohhhhh!" By the third game, West was toast. They could only muster six points in the final contest.

Seniors Greene (12 assists, 15 aces, three digs), Jill Reynolds (one kill, seven aces), Sydney Riviera (one kill, two digs) and Bastarache (six digs) all contributed, with Liimatainen (eight kills, four aces, three digs) and Tatiana Carr Williams (four kills) helping out.

Across Millers Falls Road on Monday, Franklin Tech defeated the Smith Vocational Vikings of Northampton 25-20, 25-11, 25-16. Brooke Smith served three aces,



Left: Smith Academy's Sophia Jagodzinski makes a shot on goal as Turners Falls senior co-captain Holly Myers, #17, rushes in to defend. Jagodzinski made the sole goal, and Turners' goalkeeper Connor Herzig made two saves, in the Thunder's 1-0 loss. Right: Turners Falls senior Taylor Greene sends the ball over the net against West Springfield middle blocker Samantha Heinrich Stewart. Greene notched five kills in the Thunder's three-set sweep of the visiting Terriers on Senior Night.

spiked three kills, and blocked a shot, Skylei LaPan finished with two aces and two digs, and Haleigh Benoit shot three kills.

Turners completed their regular season on Tuesday with a 3-0 win over the Pioneer Black Panthers. Greene amassed 24 assists, two kills and three aces, Liimatainen scorched 15 kills and six aces, while Dietz finished with five aces and six digs. The win left the Thunder with a 14-2 season record.

Tech's regular season concluded Wednesday with a win against the Athol Red Bears. The victory gives the Blue Birds a regular season record of 13-5. Most of the losses came early in the season.

As in the Pioneer game, the Eagles had to turn it up, but finished strong – Da Bears won the second game to tie it up, but Tech won the last two contests going away, 25-14, 25-19.

Petrowicz finished with eight aces, seven kills, and eight digs. O'Leary had an ace, two kills, and six digs while giving a team-high 17 assists. Chapman made six kills and 10 digs; Smith had an ace, four kills, and an assist; Amelia Rider served two aces and had three kills and eight digs; and Hannah Hackett saved four digs.

Football

FCTS 20 – Greenfield 16

On Friday the 13th, the Football Eagles outlasted the Green Wave at Vets' Field. It had been a few years – since September 17 – since the Birds had beat Green.

The visitors' stands in Greenfield are non-existent, and there's no bench for the players; fans and players alike are forced to stand for the

entire game. "That's Greenfield for you," one Tech student joked. "They have three tiers on the home side, but we don't even have a picnic table."

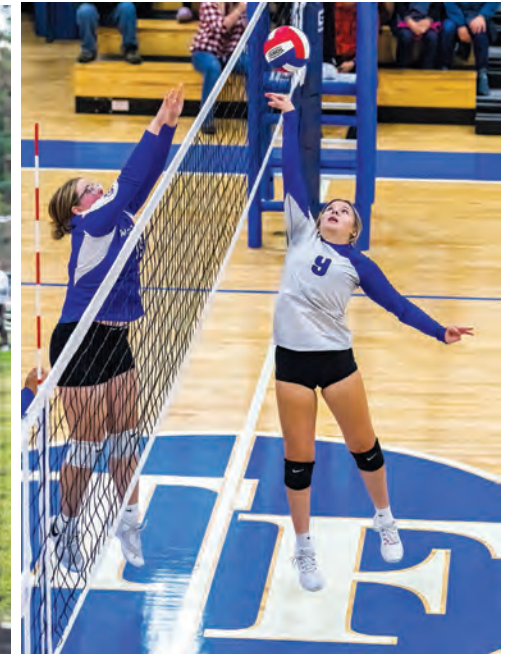
"That's Greenfield for you," one of her classmates agreed. But the Tech Faithful came prepared with their own chairs, and sat in their usual spots along the sideline.

Tech drove down to the 1-yard line on their opening possession, but were pushed back and gave up the ball. The Eagles defense pinned back the Wave, and the offense took over on the 24. On first down Jet Bastarache broke free and charged into the end zone to put Franklin up 6-0, and Ethan Smarr scored the 2-pointer on a reception from Gabriel Tomasi.

For the rest of the half, the Eagles' D kept Greenfield in check while the Green's did the same to Josiah Little and Tech's powerful offense.

Little and his blockers corrected this stat on their first play of the second half. After a Greenfield punt, the Eagles had the ball on their own 45. Cracking through a gap, Little raced 55 yards to put Tech up 14-0. The PAT failed, but on the kick return Landen Hardy wrenched the ball loose and then pounced on it to retake possession. Tech couldn't take advantage, though, and the score would remain 14-0 through into the final quarters.

On the first play in the fourth the Wavers responded, scoring a TD and a 2-pointer to make it a six-point game. Late in the game, Franklin increased their lead with another Little touchdown; this time the extra point was good, but it was called back. The second attempt failed, and the Eagles were on top 20-8 with 4:23 remaining.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

would still have retained six parking spaces. Under the modified plan the town would retain ownership of an additional strip of land along the alley, allowing for six more.

McDonough also said that adding another one-story building would help address handicapped accessibility problems in downtown Turners Falls. "There's a real lack of housing that has wheelchair access," she said. "There's a lot of multi-story buildings in Turners Falls."

Most of the comments about the new plan at Monday's meeting were negative. Finance committee chair John Hanold reviewed the pros and cons of the proposal, but urged the selectboard "not to give more consideration than necessary to the lack of parking" for the Second Street residents. "This is town land that is being preserved and developed for a very laudable purpose," he said, "and I hope that purpose is paramount."

Edite Cunha, who lives in downtown Turners Falls, noted the lack of new construction in the region and said that "the idea of changing this plan in the interest of parking lots, it just feels very insulting to a family that is housing-insecure..."

Selectboard member Matt Lord said Cunha did a "great job" of summarizing his own position on the issue and noted that "the original six-unit proposal was significantly reduced from the original" vision for the project.

Cathi Emery, a Second Street resident who had criticized the original plan at a meeting hosted by Habitat last month, praised McDonough for her efforts. She said that her group had been accused of being "selfish" and "entitled" for wanting to keep their parking. "We're very pleased with this project, and love it," Emery emphasized.

In the end the board unanimously approved a motion to "stay with the original plan."

Drainage (and Prowlers)

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron addressed the status of the project to mitigate perennial flooding on Montague City Road, primarily through extensive work on the wetlands that border the road to the southeast. The work had been delayed in the summer and early fall by both delays in permitting and heavy rains.

Bergeron announced that Davenport Trucking, the contractor, would be "mobilizing" to install catch basins in the road, between Walnut Street and Turnpike Road, beginning November 1. This would mean the road could be closed in the daytime, except for those who reside there, for up to six weeks, he said.

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey said he would work with Bergeron and town planner Maureen Pollock on a detour plan.

Bergeron also reviewed the town's plan to address soil erosion caused by water runoff from Dell Street and the neighborhood which surrounds it. The runoff into a sandy slope has apparently caused a large tree to fall into the back yard of a Dell Street resident. Property lines in the area indicate that the tree had been located on land owned by a condominium on neighboring Fairway Avenue.

The DPW superintendent said the erosion may be related to an underground stream running down the hill, but that a municipal drainpipe, sending out water from catch

basins in the Dell Street neighborhood, "is certainly not helping the situation." He said he had spoken with Ramsey and Pollock about the issue and would consult with engineers about reducing the water flow there, as well as at a similar site on Oakman Street.

Two items on Bergeron's agenda concerned the work of Kyle Bessette, the new collection system lead operator, a position at the DPW the town created to oversee the sewage and stormwater that flow into the town's treatment plant and Connecticut River, partly in response to state and federal mandates for enhanced data reporting.

Bergeron reported that Bessette can clean sewer lines on Fridays, when he has an assistant for safety, and has cleaned 22,000 feet of pipe since he began the work in July. The percentage of Bessette's time spent on sewers, Bergeron said, declined from 51% in July to 36% in September.

A comment by Bergeron suggesting that the town's Vactor truck, which cleans sewer catch basins as well as screens at the Clean Water Facility (CWF), would need to be "put away" for the winter precipitated a long discussion of whether the truck was capable of winter work.

Bergeron also reviewed the progress of a project to increase security at the town-owned Strathmore mill complex, where intruders have been entering the dangerous buildings. (See article, Page A1.)

Movie Star Treatment

CWF superintendent Chelsey Little addressed a range of topics involving the treatment plant. She presented monthly data required under the plant's state and federal permits on the plant's total "flow," its removal of organic material and solids, and the amount of *E. coli* in its effluent. The plant, she said, had "met permit" on all variables, though in the present month there was a significant one-day spike in *E. coli* as a result of plant maintenance.

Little requested that the board endorse a grant application to the state Department of Energy Resources to study the feasibility of installing a hydroelectric system at the plant. Little said the idea is to generate electricity by running the plant's effluent through a turbine before it flows into the river. A memo from JK Muir LLC, which would conduct the \$6,000 study, said it would determine the cost of the project, potential funding sources, and two prospective locations for the turbine.

The board approved this request. It then discussed the future of the CWF's lower primary treatment building. Little said that in the long run the aging building, which she called dangerous for workers due to bad air quality and objects falling from the ceiling, would need replacement. She suggested building a temporary structure where the staff can do most of its work in a "safe environment."

Selectboard chair Rich Kulewicz suggested evaluating the Butler building next to town hall, which is currently being used for storage. "Everything is removable," Bergeron agreed.

"That's definitely a potential option," said Little.

The selectboard briefly discussed a cover story about the CWF in the most recent edition of the trade magazine *Treatment Plant Operator*. "Big Challenge?"

No Problem," reads the headline "Chelsey Little and Her Team Engineered a Big Turnaround for a Massachusetts Clean-Water Plant Facing a Consent Order."

The article says that when Little was hired in 2019, potential applicants viewed the treatment facility as a "hot potato" due to state and federal regulatory challenges. It then describes a number of measures Little and her staff took to transform the plant and upgrade its reputation.

"I really felt like a movie star when they were taking the pictures," said Little who appears on the publication's cover. "I've never had professional pictures taken of myself." Little told the board she plans to present a paper on "industrial pretreatment" at the New England Water Environmental Association's annual conference this January in Boston.

Other Business

Finance committee chair Franca Wisniewski presented a report recommending increased stipend payments both for town employees - particularly those responsible for inspections - and members of appointed boards. After years of debating stipends, which comprise a very small portion of the town budget, the finance committee has agreed to revisit them every three years.

Wisniewski said the fin com had decided to generally increase stipends by 12% over the next three-year period. (Data and a detailed narrative can be found in the 10-page report in the meeting materials, which are posted online under the date of the selectboard meeting.)

At Ramsey's request the board approved an easement on the Montague Center property of Carol and Elliot Allis needed for the state project to replace the South Street Bridge in the village. The Allises have consented to the easement, which primarily involves land under the Sawmill River.

Ramsey reported on a potential application for federal Brownfields funds to demolish part of the Strathmore mill complex (see article, Page A1), and on the completion of the project to upgrade the masonry at the old town hall in Montague Center.

Ramsey said he would be attending a two-day Citizens' Legislative Seminar in Boston, at the invitation of state senator Jo Comerford, to "see how the sausage is made."

Town administrator Steve Ellis updated the board on discussions with Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities on the disposition of their former Farren Care Center property in Montague City. He said town officials had been given access to Phase I and II environmental assessments of the two main parcels on the property, and there were "no significant findings" of hazardous materials.

Trinity, he added, had agreed to "extend" the studies to the parking lot across the street. The company intends to give all three parcels to the town as a gift.

At the request of parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, the board approved the use of public property for the annual New Year's Day "Sawmill River 10K" run, starting and ending in Montague Center, and for a springtime version of the Soapbox Derby next June 2 in Unity Park.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for October 23.

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

Here's the way it was on October 17, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Two-Way Traffic
Coming Back to Bridge**

The official reopening date of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge remains April 25, 2014, but limited two-way traffic may begin in November, according to Michael Verseckes, public relations officer for the state Department of Transportation.

Verseckes said he was pleased that the work was ahead of schedule: "I know you folks out there are eager to get two-way restored."

The \$40.7 million state project began in 2010. When finished, the bridge will have easier and recon-

structed approaches, wider travel lanes, and increased pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.

Up In Gill, Cows and Vows

On October 14, Sorrel Hatch and Isaac Bingham married on the Uppingil Farm located up in Gill.

Fittingly, a flock of geese, who mate for life, flew high overhead as vows were exchanged. Next came a Procession of the Cows: bride and groom drove the herd to the barn for a ceremonial milking.

The cows were skittish, unaccustomed to gawking guests who either had never seen a cow before, or at least had never seen a herd of cattle at a wedding. The cows, having never seen a wedding before, gawked at the herd of guests.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on October 16, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Commonwealth Barn Book

Montague's animal inspector Lyn Wright will be conducting barn inspections between October 1 and December 31. Premises will be inspected as to general cleanliness, light, ventilation and water supply; the animals themselves as to general physical condition and cleanliness and especially obvious diseases that are of a reportable nature.

The inspector is required to submit a completed "Barn Book" to the state Department of Food and Agriculture, Bureau of An-

imal Health, by January 1 every year. This is an important basis upon which all disease control measures are predicated.

**Montague Grange Ponders
Its Ecological Footprint**

At the October 1 meeting of the Montague Grange, our worthy Lecturer Chris Mason hosted an informative program that included a video, "Climate Change, Wildlife and Wetlands," describing how US public lands are being damaged by the changing temperatures brought about by global warming. We will look into what we can do as an organization to limit our ecological footprint, and share what we learn.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on October 15, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Sickness is very prevalent here now.

The Clark & Chapman Machine Co. are making the largest turbine wheel ever yet made by them, to be used at Holyoke.

Mr. Schuler will not have a dance in his hall to-morrow evening, owing to there being sickness in the building.

A man named Maloney, who not long since worked in the Cutlery, was killed on Monday evening in Greenfield by being thrown from his carriage while his horse was unmanageable.

Bartlett Brothers have facilities for doing any amount of work in their several lines of painting, and it is such young men as comprise this firm that are the making of Turners Falls.

George O. Peabody has been awarded the contract for the erection of the Colle Block on Avenue A and Third St. Sufficient guaran-

tee in itself of the excellence of what that fine building is to be.

Messrs. John J. Emery and George P. Dunbar, with a gang of workmen, commenced clearing away the debris of the Oakman schoolhouse on Saturday last. They expect to complete their work in one week from to-day.

With five hundred dollars worth of new rope, and the most strenuous exertions of Messrs. Nathaniel Holmes and Enrico Perry, who have the drive in charge, the logs were for the most part prevented from going down stream.

Rev Mr. Reiss, assisted by our able and popular teacher Miss Ella M. Marsh, will hold a German Evening school during the winter months (for the purpose of teaching the children of our German citizens and others, to read and write German). The school will be free to all, who mean to learn.

George L. Barton and George Hance were out gaming on Thursday, and secured four duck, and two squirrel, a woodcock and some other game. Mr. Barton had to swim a considerable distance for the ducks, no boat being near.



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DEMOLISH from page A1

interlocking buildings first constructed in 1872 by the Keith Paper Company. The Keith Apartments across the power canal on Canal Street, owned by the Montague Housing Authority, still retain the name.

Keith sold the paper mill in 1953 to the West Springfield-based Strathmore Paper Company, which was absorbed by several larger corporate entities over the next three decades, though the mill complex continued to be called “the Strathmore.”

Paper manufacturing ceased at the complex, by then owned by the International Paper Company (IP), in 1994. For a time after that the buildings were used for light manufacturing, hand crafts, and arts spaces, and power continued to be produced by the mill’s electric generator in the section known as Building 9.

IP eventually pulled the plug and the workshops left, leaving the buildings empty except for the power plant, which it sold to a company called Swift River Hydro. The rest of the Strathmore was purchased by a local entrepreneur who used it to store recyclables for export to China, stripped copper from the walls, and failed to keep up with his property taxes. In 2007 one of his employees, who had nearly electrocuted himself remov-

ing copper electric wire, burned down Building 10 in revenge.

After another change of ownership, the Strathmore fell into the lap of the town in 2010 for non-payment of taxes.

Numerous reuse studies of the complex have been produced over the years, some of which can be found on the town website, and several proposals have been made to either partially or totally demolish the Strathmore. In 2019 a study by the engineering firm Tighe & Bond, funded by a Community Development Block Grant, found that a total demolition would endanger the stability of the building that housed the hydro plant which is held up by Buildings 1 and 2. The town opted instead to pursue a grant to abate hazardous materials at the site.

Last year Springfield architects Dietz & Company, commissioned to help the town create a master plan for the property, found the Strathmore too structurally challenged to be marketable any longer, and recommended total demolition. The firm proposed replacing the mill with trees, configured in such a way as to remind visitors of the mill buildings.

It is not clear whether this particular suggestion has been embraced by local officials, but total demolition is now Montague’s primary goal, espe-

cially given concerns that the decaying structures could collapse or fall into the Connecticut River.

Ramsey said the grant he will apply for is designed to abate sites known as brownfields. Application materials he shared with the board define a brownfield as a “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum, or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land.”

Montague previously received a \$250,000 Brownfields grant in 2019, from the state agency Mass-Development, for “the abatement of hazardous materials in four buildings of the former mill complex which will have a future as an adaptively reused mixed-use property.”

Ramsey said the goal of the new grant would be to abate asbestos in the roofing materials of the targeted buildings – all other hazardous materials having been removed by the previous project. In order to abate the roofs, he explained, the buildings would need to be torn down.

“The main caveat,” Ramsey said, “is to try to make this fit into the grant program.”

While \$2.6 million would not be sufficient to completely demolish the complex, Ramsey did not say on Monday which buildings would be removed under his proposal. He noted that the grant application is due November 13, and that a draft would need to be completed two weeks earlier for “public review.”

The Strathmore’s condition was also discussed at Monday’s meeting by public works superintendent Tom Bergeron, who reported on recent efforts by his department to secure the complex from “a lot of visitors we don’t want in there.” He reported that Lively Builders of Turners Falls had been contracted to board up 21 windows, and the DPW has put “Falling Debris” and “No Trespassing” signs up on the property.

Bergeron raised the issue of the failing roof on Building 2, which is attached to the power plant, now owned by Turners Falls Hydro, LLC. Ellis said a quote the town received in 2020 for making the roof “as watertight as possible” was \$162,000.

“It’s a lot of money to be pouring into a building that is in a state of disrepair,” he said. “The challenge is, we don’t want to invest in keeping it standing, but we can’t afford not to keep it standing.”



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

This Reporter file photo, taken one year ago this week, shows a public-access ladder on the river side of Building 2.

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In this award-winning novel set in rural West Virginia in the midst of the Spanish flu pandemic, the Van Beest family inherits a house at the edge of a magical forest where the dead return from the afterlife. Thirteen-year-old Anne's mother, a midwife, delivers a stillborn baby and her father, a mortician, accidentally brings that infant back to life. Now the Van Beests find themselves at the center of a drama that raises questions about the relationship between the living and the dead.

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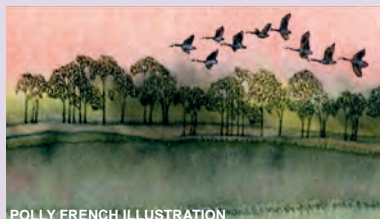


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OCTOBER 19, 2023



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – This brief period, maybe a week or two long, hangs suspended and undecided, leaving us wondering which way the season will turn. Behind us is summer. She didn't really live up to her promise. Although that season started out radiant, warm and enticing, western winds brought regular rain – especially, of course, on weekends.

I gave up on my August ritual of painting parts of the old piazza. The ritual was started by the previous owner, my grandfather Abe. He undertook the task on his annual week off from working at the Millers Fall Company just up the street.

Mind you, his painting ritual often involved plenty of Narragansett beer, and colors of paint I would never have chosen. Whatever they had the most of left over up at the Tool Shop, well, that'd be the year's color. I didn't mind the forest green he used one summer, but as a 10-year-old, I was puzzled one August when he decided to paint the porch black.

During my own extended tenure as this generation's chief porch painter, I've stuck with a simple cottage red, with white for the balusters. But as I've hinted, none of that happened this year because of the regular rain on weekends.

That summer of betrayal and false hope has given way to this pause in the season, with warm days and cooling, then much colder, nights. We're right on the hinge of the year where this all could go either way, though for sure in a few weeks there'll be no denying

that we're headed for the return of that extended three-month period when most of nature sleeps.

But not so fast.

Sure, our little darling hummingbird left us a week ago. No sense in her taking chances with the sure-to-come October frost, which could leave her in a state of torpor. She needs her constant fix of sugar and nectar. This morning she's more than likely buzzing around gardens in Virginia. Sadly I bring in her favorite feeder, which had been hanging gaily out of place in the growing drabness of the browned-out flower garden. Bee balm have dropped back down to earth; the touch-me-not jewelweed has shot its seeds out to the four winds.

But others are moving in to take the ruby-throat's place.

This week our early morning visitor and guest has been the ruby-crowned kinglet. The size of your thumb and weighing about the same as the hummingbird, this little sprite spends a few hours here pirouetting from branch to branch, talking to himself in little warbled musings, gleaning invisible insects from the underparts of the Montmorency cherry tree's faded leaves.

Even the ruby-crown will leave us in a few weeks, though, to be replaced by a cousin who will spend the winter, the golden-crowned kinglet.

If you think about the fact that these tiny mites of winter birds lose most of their body heat overnight all winter long due to their minuscule body mass, it's a wonder they can survive through January see **WEST ALONG** page B8



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

The Marie-Rose hybrid rose variety.

Above: A familiar drive up Main Road into Gill.

INTERVIEW

Seeing the Forest... For the Trees!

By DONNA PETERSEN

MONTAGUE – Sometimes you get an idea to do something that seems bound to fail. And then, to your great surprise, it doesn't.

Last year, in a review for this paper of *The Tree Line* by Ben Rawlence, I mentioned a scientist named Diana Beresford-Kroeger. Decades ago, her groundbreaking research revealed the extent to which trees communicate through tryptophan-tryptamine pathways to other trees, connections that weren't recognized or known at the time. I then found out that in the 2019 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, the botanist/scientist character Patricia Westford was inspired by Beresford-Kroeger.

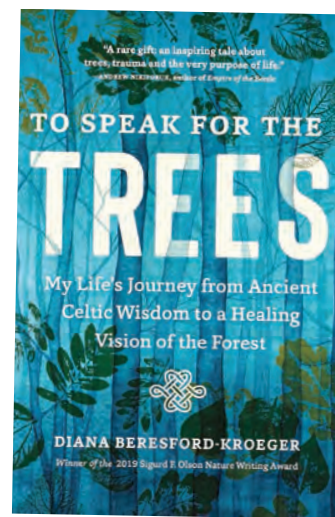
And so I read *To Speak for the Trees* by this Irish-born Canadian citizen to find out more about her work. I came away wanting to read more of her books. I also ended up inspired, and now I see trees in a new way.

That inspiration led me to contact her literary agent about talking to her. I was fully expecting a form email saying "thanks for your interest, but..." To my surprise, I instead was informed that, yes, Diana would be happy to speak to someone from a small-town Massachusetts weekly newspaper. Oh!

After reading three of Beresford-Kroeger's seven books and seeing her in a documentary film, I had some knowledge of her story and tried to come up with suitable questions. Then, a week later at the appointed time, I got a phone call from Ontario, connect-

ing me with the esteemed and passionate botanist and medical biochemist.

Within seconds, in a still-heavy Irish accent, she was off: "In 15th century Ireland..."! Part interview, part lecture, and a bit of confessional, we talked for over 45 minutes and then had another conversation a few weeks later.



The Last Voice

Born in 1944, her childhood in Ireland was traumatic. Diana was the daughter of an aristocratic English father and a difficult Irish mother who were separated off and on and died within months of each other when she was 12. As an orphan, she was sent to live with a kind but clueless Irish uncle who didn't even know

kids had to be fed and clothed.

But her older Irish kin based in the Lisheen Valley north of Cork retained the ancient Celtic knowledge of nature and of the Brehon Law, an ancient Druidic legal system which affected how she was treated as an orphan. They taught her the old ways of the natural world and explained that she must share it some day. A local elder told her she was "the last voice" speaking of that ancient knowledge, which was quite a responsibility for a child.

She went to school in Cork, but her summers spent in the Lisheen Valley were very formative. Once, while

see **FOREST** page B5

RECIPES

Pumpkin Magic

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Pumpkins, like other winter squashes, belong to the *cucurbita* family, many of whose members are so big or odd or both that it's tempting to compare them to some magical royal clan, with the huge Hubbard squash and the gloriously brilliant pumpkin reigning as King and Queen.

Of course this is fanciful, but that's nothing new for the *cucurbita* family. Botanists classify the pumpkin as a berry called a *pepo*. A berry? Like a strawberry or blueberry? That sounds pretty fanciful after learning last week that Travis Gienger of Minnesota set a world record for growing the largest pumpkin, weighing in at 2,749 pounds.

The size and school-bus color of pumpkins have jump-started the human imagination, especially that of writers and storytellers. At Hogwarts, the academy of wizardry attended by Harry Potter, pumpkin juice is the favorite drink.

In "Cinderella," even more famously, a fairy godmother magics a pumpkin into a golden coach so the despised Cinderella can go to the ball, where she meets the Prince who will free her from misery. Here the pumpkin transforms her life from drudgery to princessing about in crystal slippers. But there's also that nasty Peter, the Pumpkin Eater who couldn't keep his wife, who "put



HOPLEY PHOTO

Assorted pumpkins, great and small.

her in a pumpkin shell and there he kept her very well," which sounds like the pumpkin is her prison.

Then there's Linus from the *Peanuts* cartoon. Each see **PUMPKIN** page B4

Pet of the Week



DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY PHOTO

“NOIR”

Meet Noir, the one-year-old feline dynamo who's here to infuse your life with excitement and charisma. Noir is not your typical cat – he's talkative, always eager to engage in a spirited conversation, and his fearless spirit is nothing short of inspiring.

While he may not be the cuddly type, his boundless energy and zest for life more than make up for it. His experience living with children and a clan of four other cats speaks

volumes about his adaptability and ability to thrive in a bustling household.

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@montaguerreporter.org.)



By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – I am a senior citizen. In fact, I have been one for almost 20 years. But it has taken me a while to admit that age is having an effect on what I can and cannot do.

Most recently this involved a COVID test. After three years of vaccinations and masking, I became a little overconfident, and stopped wearing a mask all the time. Then one evening I had a sore throat and all the other symptoms. It was time to take a COVID test, so I bought a kit. I could also have picked one up at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, but it was a weekend.

With numbers rising, it's good to know there are still some in stock, but they are not easy to use. Whoever designed those test kits did not consider the needs of the elderly, which is sad, considering we are an at-risk population. First of all, the print on the directions is tiny. Yes, that's because it's offered in three languages, but how useful is that if only people with perfect eyesight can read it?

Then there are the tools, each wrapped separately in impossible-to-open plastic. If, with glasses and a magnifying glass, you manage to read the instructions, you learn that you aren't supposed to let your hands touch the swab, or the top of the vial that contains the liquid, or the test strip. Getting the top off that vial is also a chore, by the way.

It's hard to believe that I hadn't contaminated everything by the time I was done. But my positive result was clear, and the two lines were easy to see.

Five days later, when I wanted to be sure I was negative, it was not so straightforward. Was that a faint pink line, or an illusion? It was so hard to tell. That's the week I became a grouchy crone. One day it's easy to read the tiny print, and then it's not. One day it's no problem to replace a light bulb, but before you know it the stepladder seems shaky and frightening.

No matter how independent we want to be, we will all need help eventually. It is good to know that there are individuals and organizations locally that are keeping the needs of elders in mind.

Senior centers offer abundant programs and activities, and they publish their weekly calendars in this newspaper, online, and on Facebook. The offerings are impressive. From Tai Chi Tuesdays at the Gill-Montague center to a senior home repair program at Erving, to chair yoga in Leverett, to blood pressure and foot-care clinics, seniors can find fitness, friendship, and help with complicated fuel assistance forms or SNAP program benefits, and more. Some centers welcome people from other communities without any charge, and some ask for a small contribution and registration for ongoing classes. It's best to call before showing up, since schedules and policies sometimes change.

Judi Fonsh of the Leverett Council



Erving Senior Center director Paula Betters.

on Aging said the Leverett Senior Center requests a \$10 charge for chair yoga for people who don't live in Leverett. The Gill-Montague Senior Center doesn't charge at all. Wendell posts a list of offerings without much detail, and I hope to provide that in the future.

Erving has a beautiful new senior center building, and the director there, Paula Betters, says "Everyone is welcome at any time, and we do not charge for our classes. We are open from 8:30 to 3." The center has a bus and will transport Erving residents to the center and back home, if requested. There are also exercise classes at Erving and a room with exercise equipment that is open all day.

"About 50 people a day visit for classes or other activities," Betters says. "People have retired and given up their gym memberships, finding that we have what they need right here."

Roberta Potter, director of the Montague Council on Aging, is always anticipating needs, applying for grants, and providing programs from Zumba to a new class in digital literacy, funded by a grant from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Gill-Montague was awarded \$21,515 for equipment and training.

Participants in the six-week program will learn the basics of computer use, and will end up with a free tablet they can bring home after completing the course. The first session will begin on January 24 and the second session starts in May. It is available free of charge to people in neighboring towns.

The grant also includes three new computers for the senior center and onsite help for people unfamiliar with the technology. "Technology literacy has become necessary," Potter says, "as more and more services can only be accessed online."

Remember 2020, when you could only sign up for a COVID vaccination online? Now doctors send reports from medical appointments through their portals, large agencies like LifePath describe their offerings online, and places like the senior centers publish their calendar of events online, as well as announcements about hours of operation or new programs.

Most centers also provide print-

ed information, but what if you can't get there, or if you have a dog like mine that eats any printed material he can find? Online access, once a luxury, is now a necessity.

Potter is also developing a referral list for services compiled by elders who have had experiences with a firm or individual. She says, "We have just set up a reference and recommendation notebook here for people to recommend local businesses, tradespeople, organizations – professionals with whom they've had successful interactions. I'm thinking plumbers, handy-peeps, taxi services, painters, plumbers, even restaurants. As a town employee I cannot make recommendations, but individuals can, and this reference book is a way to make that happen."

And that brings me to Montague Villages. I am a member of the board which is led by Helen Gibson-Ugucioni, who was featured in this column a month ago. Once it is up and running about a year from now, residents of Montague who are 60 and older will be able to request rides or help with small tasks like changing a lightbulb, hanging a picture, or moving a heavy garden planter.

Services will be limited only by the skill and energy of the volunteers, and they will be explained on the Montague Villages website, which board members are currently building. When it is launched, seniors will also find links to our local senior centers, and lists of services, events, and activities. They will be just a few clicks away from getting the information they need to live their best lives. Some may even be using the tablets they got through the Gill-Montague Digital Literacy Program.

But this will take time. Though the Montague Villages board has made progress, there's still a lot to do. If you're eager to use the services the organization will provide, consider volunteering now for one of the committees. Help is needed with technology, governance, finance, fundraising, and more. To get involved or simply learn more, contact Helen at helenmonvill@gmail.com.

And do make your way to the nearest senior center! Tai Chi Tuesdays sound great to me – maybe I'll see you there.

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 23 THROUGH 27

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 10/23

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

Tuesday 10/24

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

Wednesday 10/25

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

Thursday 10/26

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

Friday 10/27

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 10/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Yoga

Tuesday 10/24

9 a.m. Zumba Lite
1 p.m. Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Wednesday 10/25

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

Thursday 10/26

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga
9 a.m. Chair Yoga

Friday 10/27

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

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.

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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.

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

Rhodes Art Center Gallery, Northfield Mt Hermon: *Torrents*, sculpture and drawings by NMH alumnus and Hampshire College professor emeritus Bill Brayton of Conway. Through November 17, with a reception this Friday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.

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 this Sunday, October 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

South Gallery, GCC: *Less Like a March, More Like a Polka*, abstract paintings, totemic sculpture, and installation by Emily

Noelle Lambert. Through November 3.

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

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

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.

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. *MEOW*, a humorous collection of cats by Nina Rossi, November 1 through 20; reception Sunday, November 5 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *New Nocturnal Paintings*, by Chris Hill, and *Artful Harvest*, photography by Laurie Miles, through October. *On the Land*, paintings by Charles Malzenski, November 3 through December 31.

TV ANALYSIS

Two Martian Manhunters

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

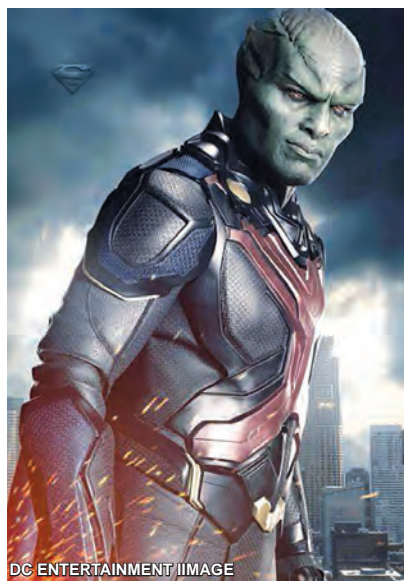
GREENFIELD – There is a character in the Justice League comics called J'onn J'onzz, the Martian Manhunter. He's also known as John Jones. He is a green Martian, and he is part of the storyline connected to the Justice League. I see him as a rather cool character in the comics.

I have seen the Martian Manhunter in the prequel TV series for Superman called *Smallville*. He is played by Phil Morris. I also have seen him as head of the D.E.O. – the Department of Extra-normal Operations – in the *Supergirl* TV series. On that, he was played by David Harewood. I like the version of this character played by Harewood better.

On *Supergirl* we get the full package, so to speak, when it comes to him being on screen. We learn his whole backstory. *Supergirl* has him use his shapeshifting ability way more often than the one on *Smallville* does, though people do get a glimpse of his true form sometimes in *Smallville*. On that show he is mainly seen having the look of the actor, though they do give him the color scheme we associate with the Martian in the comics, putting him in blue, red, and green clothes.

On *Smallville*, J'onzz is given a connection to the plot by being a bounty hunter who used to work for Clark Kent's biological father Jor-El. He uses his skills to become a detective on Earth, which fits with the character's comic book storylines.

In *Supergirl*, the D.E.O. is an organization that helps stop alien threats to Earth, so his role is similar



David Harewood plays J'onn J'onzz in the CW series *Supergirl*.

to that of a detective. I like how they have the character set up in *Smallville* better, but in *Supergirl*, like I mentioned, we get a whole lot more when it comes to John Jones.

On *Supergirl* there were several storylines featuring the Martian and other things connected to him, and some of them I really liked seeing. *Smallville* had him as a supporting character most of the time, and it kind of showed. This did work nicely when the character of Supergirl came on the show, played by Laura Vandervoort. His character's connection to Jor-El and some previous interactions with Supergirl's storyline gave us a whole package deal to see on screen.

Why I like the version on *Supergirl* better, though, is that they just did a whole lot more with Harewood's character than they did with Morris's.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Speedy Motorcyclists Apparently Outmaneuvering MPD; Stuck Truck; Not Blood; Nice Trunk; Burnt Bagel; Dog Wash

Monday, 10/9

3:02 p.m. Caller reporting smell of gas inside Third Street Laundry. Shelburne Control advised.

3:43 p.m. Caller states that there is a motorcycle that drives through the Bridge Street area toward Erving going 80 to 100 m.p.h. in the evenings; would like on record.

4:22 p.m. Caller states that a truck is stuck up in the Plains near the high tension wires. Caller spoke to a woman who was with the truck, and she states that it has been there since yesterday. Environmental police advised.

5:15 p.m. Caller from H Street reporting vehicle constantly parked in area that she suspects may be involved in drug activity. Call left for detective.

5:19 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that a motorcycle keeps driving by going 70 to 90 m.p.h. Second caller stated same thing as the first, but also described it as a blue speed bike. Referred to an officer.

6:20 p.m. Caller stated a crotch-rocket style motorcycle just sped past the Highland School Apartments going toward Turners Falls at a very high rate of speed. Officer advises he checked the area; nothing showing.

7:14 p.m. Caller reporting five people fighting near the bus stop on Third Street. Officer spoke to a few kids at the bus stop that were being loud; they are just waiting for a ride from a friend because they missed the bus; no issues.

9:15 p.m. Caller states that she is stuck out in the Plains and has been there for two days. She states that she is in pain and cold. She is in a truck that died, and her friend left her there with the truck. Shelburne Control contacted. Officers responding. Caller's phone is off; attempting to get a ping. Verizon unable to get any ping information. Greenfield FD assisting with drone. Greenfield PD contacted to check her last known address. MSP Airwing responding. Officer advises female located; all MPD assets clear.

Tuesday, 10/10

10:58 a.m. Graffiti located on crosswalk signs on Power Street. DPW notified.

5:20 p.m. Caller reporting that there is blood on the floor at Suzee's Laundromat along with a bloody handprint. Contacted owner and left voicemail. Officer advises that it was not blood; it was something sprayed on the floor. Owner called back and was advised; he will call if he finds anything further.

6:15 p.m. Caller states that a black car is parked out in front of Suzee's Laundromat playing loud music, and the male party in the

car is acting erratic. Officer advises that he drove through the area and heard the music but did not observe any erratic behavior.

10:48 p.m. Anonymous caller reports that there is a female party on L Street walking and singing in the road. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 10/11

1:58 a.m. 911 caller advises that her boyfriend was driving and almost struck a deer and went off the side of the roadway; he has facial injuries. Caller advises they are in Deerfield. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

8:37 a.m. 911 caller reporting three or four men fighting in the middle of Third Street. Officer advises all clear; he is heading to Nouria to check if there is any video available of the incident.

8:51 a.m. Checking on a vehicle on the side of the road; it has a flat tire and is in a dangerous area on Unity Street. Officer standing by until tow truck arrives.

11:49 a.m. Caller states that her estranged husband sold her car without permission and won't give her the money, and that he also stole her wallet. Officer called caller back. She will call back after she runs errands. Caller did not call back.

1:09 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive states that her neighbor has parked his truck in the middle of the road and people can't get by. Truck not a hazard.

4:41 p.m. Caller called in stating that a homeless person is sleeping on the sidewalk at the Food City-Aubuchon plaza. Gone upon officer's arrival.

5:37 p.m. Walgreens shift leader calling to speak to an officer for advice. States there has been a big increase in drug deals and drug usage in front of the store, and she isn't sure what to do to stop it. She states it's very obvious what people are doing during the exchanges, and customers are coming in and complaining. Call printed for detective. Offi-

cer spoke to Walgreens and Food City staff. They are worried about the young staff working at night. They were advised to call MPD before leaving, and if an officer is available they can assist as employees walk to their vehicles.

7:05 p.m. Caller states that his parents live in the mobile home park on Millers Falls Road; they walk in the area, and it's unsafe as the teenagers leaving the Tech school often speed down there trying to use it as a shortcut. School resource officer advised. He will discuss with students and day shift to monitor.

Thursday, 10/12

2:21 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that there are people out behind the building doing drug deals right now. Area checked; no one out back; nothing suspicious noted.

5:20 p.m. Caller states that there is a black motorcycle speeding heading towards the airport. Caller states he goes by his house every day "full throttle." Caller also states people pass on the corner coming up from Millers and go 40 to 45 m.p.h. in a marked 25 m.p.h. zone, and he's going to go to the selectboard about it.

Friday, 10/13

7:26 a.m. Caller advises that there is an old trunk in the bike path parking area off Greenfield Road that is very nice, not locked, but is closed. She is not comfortable opening it at this time. Officer advises trunk is empty.

9:13 a.m. Caller from Highland Avenue states that his property was broken into and things have been stolen. Report taken.

9:53 a.m. Caller states that there is an old abandoned green bus at East Taylor Hill Road and Old Stage Road that has been there for two days. Officer advises bus is on private property in a field.

10:28 a.m. Caller states that a homeless person is begging for money on the sidewalk between Food City and Walgreens. On private property; monitor-

ing the area for now. 12:01 p.m. 911; fire alarm at Turners Falls High School; evacuating now. TFFD on scene. School resource officer advising burnt bagel. Officer on standby in case of need for assistance.

1:58 p.m. Caller from Highland Street states he had three leather jackets hanging to air out and one of them was stolen. Would like an officer to come and take a report. Report taken. 5:05 p.m. Caller stated that her dog was stolen; spoke to an officer previously. Caller now has her bill of sale, and the person that took the dog is now outside with it. Officer spoke to both parties and advised of options.

8:32 p.m. Caller states that there is some suspicious activity happening in the Patch and would like an officer to drive through the area. Officer advises area quiet; no one around.

Saturday, 10/14

9:10 a.m. Report of turkeys in road on Montague City Road. Turkeys returned to Turnpike Road.

5:28 p.m. Caller reports that a party is washing a dog in the car wash on Avenue A. Officer advises no one at car wash.

Sunday, 10/15

9:30 a.m. Caller states that a red Jeep Liberty crashed into a fence, a tree, and a street sign on Millers Falls Road. Vehicle then turned around and fled toward Millers Falls. Officer requesting be-on-lookout be issued for a red or maroon Jeep Liberty, newer model with front end damage and a cracked windshield; one occupant at time of crash. DPW notified about the pedestrian sign being knocked down and broken. 12:59 p.m. 911 caller from Whitney's Way reporting that several thousand dollars of tools have gone missing from a residence that he is moving out of. Report taken.

6:17 p.m. Caller states that a male party has been sitting outside Nouria for almost an hour. Officer spoke to party; moved along.

Montague Community Television News

Very Special Meetings Up

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Many meetings in Montague and beyond! The Montague special town meeting took place on October 10, and was recorded by MCTV. It is available on our Vimeo page, which can be found linked from our website, montaguetv.org.

There you will also find more of this week's meetings in our collection, including the Montague selectboard meeting, the Gill selectboard meeting, the Montague finance committee meeting, and the most recent GMRSD school committee meeting.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired

on Channel 9, and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. 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 checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

And 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 at [montaguecommunitytv](https://www.instagram.com/montaguecommunitytv).

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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!



Silas Clash's winning design shows ghosts doing holiday activities.

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?

SC: I want my wrapping paper to feel whimsical and fun to folks who like something a little spooky but a little silly. And to really get that person in the SPIRIT of giving.

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

SC: I'd love to get a new book from Imaginary Bookshop or one of those tarot cat posters from Loot wrapped in this paper.

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

SC: Newspapers give me a real sense of connection with my neighbors and access to all of the great programs that are going on around town. But there's nothing that I love more than the wild Photoshop jobs on the "Pet of the Week" pictures.

FACES & PLACES



Our photo beat guy Joe R. Parzych caught up with swans (above) on the Turners Falls power canal last weekend, as well as Zeke Jakub (below), ornithologist and executive director of Conservación Panamá.

"Zeke had a few really busy days working in the field from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.," Joe writes. "Conservación Panamá is doing a birdwatching program at the canal in collaboration with the Great Falls Discovery Center.... He said the program was a general overview of their organization, and how migratory birds are important."

"Zeke also said to contact your state representatives about bringing back programming at the Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center. He told me they had awesome educational programs from the 1980s through the 2000s, but they got cut. He said it's too bad, and that he's working with others and trying to spread the word."

Visit www.conservacionpanamaca.org to find out more about Jakub's organization.



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS

PUMPKIN from page B1

Halloween he faithfully awaits the Great Pumpkin, who never appears. What spell might the Great Pumpkin have cast? We don't know because Linus explains, "There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics, and the Great Pumpkin."

Many great pumpkins do, however, show up on doorsteps as Halloween approaches. Carved into scary Jack-o'-lanterns and lit as darkness falls on October 31, their job is to scare away the spirits who wander around on the only night when they are allowed to return to earth. This is yet another magical

use for what look like the jolliest of our vegetables.

It's hard to know what prompted the uncanny aura of magic that drifts around pumpkins. Possibly it's simply their enormous size that suggests there might be someone or something inside.

In the kitchen the magic of pumpkins is that they are shape-changers that can take many culinary forms. A nice round hollowed-out pumpkin can be turned into a vegetable bowl for a stew for serving at Halloween. The flesh of sugar pumpkins mashes to a smooth orange *purée*: perfect for pies, pancakes, breads, muffins, and a myriad of side dishes.

And while pumpkin juice à la Hogwarts has yet to be spotted in local supermarkets, there are certainly pumpkin-flavored teas, yogurts, almonds, and puddings. Pumpkins even make it into the modern *boudoir*, with pumpkin hand creams promising smoothness, and beauty shops offering pumpkin age-reducing facials. Now there's magic for you!

If you prefer your pumpkins in the kitchen, some recipes for Halloween and other seasonal dishes follow. Note that giant pumpkins are watery, not tasty. Go for sugar or pie pumpkins, or substitute butternut squash.



PUMPKIN & CHEESE GRATIN

This can be doubled for a crowd. Use the sharpest cheddar you can get. Other strong cheeses, such as feta or Danish Blue, also work. Serve as a side or vegetarian main dish.

1 large sugar pumpkin, about 2½ lb.
2 medium potatoes, about ½ lb.
salt to taste
4 Tbsp. butter
3 cups grated extra-sharp cheddar
½ cup grated Parmesan
2 slices day-old sandwich bread
tiny pinch of cayenne or other hot pepper
several grinds of black pepper

Peel, seed, and cut the pumpkin and potatoes into medium chunks. Cover them with water in a medium pan, and add a teaspoon of salt or to taste. Boil until tender, drain, and return them to the pan over the lowest heat; toss them for a minute or so to dry them off. Add 3 tablespoons of the butter, and mash until smooth.

Set aside a tablespoon of the cheddar and half the Parmesan, then add the remainder of both plus the cayenne or hot pepper to the pumpkin mix and mash again. Season with plenty of black pepper, and more salt if needed.

Turn the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8-inch square or similar shallow baking dish. Put the pumpkin mixture in, and smooth the top.

Use the remaining butter to butter one side of each



bread slice. Sandwich them, buttered sides together, then coarsely grate or tear them into coarse crumbs. Mix in the cheeses you set aside. Scatter this onto the pumpkin mixture. It should cover it well; if not, prepare another slice of buttered bread.

Put the dish in the oven and bake for 20 minutes until the top is golden brown.

CARAMEL PUMPKIN

This dessert is a pumpkin pie with caramel rather than a pie crust.



HOPLEY PHOTOS

¼ cup sugar
1 cup mashed or canned pumpkin
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. allspice
1 tsp. powdered ginger
1 cup half-and-half,
or evaporated milk
3 eggs, beaten

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Put an 8-inch pie plate near the stove.

Put ¾ cup of sugar into a heavy saucepan or frying pan. Set it over moderate heat and watch carefully as the sugar melts, using a wooden spoon to gently stir in any unmelted sugar. The melted sugar rapidly changes color from light to medium brown. When it is amber-colored, quickly but carefully pour it into the pie plate, tilting the plate so it

covers the surface. Set it aside.

In a bowl mix together the canned pumpkin, remaining sugar, spices, and eggs. When thoroughly blended, pour this on top of the hardened caramel and bake for 10 minutes.

Reduce the heat to 325 and continue baking for 30 or 40 minutes or until a knife blade inserted in the middle comes out clean. Remove and let cool completely. You can keep it to the next day if you like.

When ready to unmold, loosen the dessert from the plate with a knife, then put a serving plate on top of the pie plate, and holding the two plates together invert them. If the Pumpkin Caramel doesn't fall out, give it a sharp shake. Garnish it with cooked dried apricots or cooked pear slices.

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FOREST from page B1

cutting peat there for fuel, she saw a deeply-buried stump uncovered. Her uncle explained that this bog oak was a remnant of the old forest that existed in Ireland before the English cut down most of the trees for their navy and buildings.

These experiences, and a determined and curious mind, set her on her path. At college in Cork she did research on a variety of subjects, but focused on the underground communication pathways that trees use. When she presented her findings to the all-male professors, she was treated dismissively and even ridiculed. (Women of a certain age may remember those good old days, and remnants of those attitudes still exist, though more subtly.)

Nevertheless, she persisted, and was vindicated – and the idea of tree communication is now accepted knowledge. She then pursued an impressive body of research in classical botany and medical biochemistry.

She had some offers for academic positions, and even spent some time at UConn in Storrs, Connecticut before finishing her PhD at the University of Ottawa and working there until 1983. After learning how the academic world worked she became fairly disillusioned and decided to pursue her own research interests, advocating for her beloved forests and trees without the strictures of the academic world.

One chapter in *To Speak for the Trees* is titled “My Own Work in My Own Way” – so there!

Arboreal Ardor

“The trees of North America simply blew me away,” Beresford-Kroeger told me. “They are a gift from the indigenous peoples.” To have these incredible forests and trees that nurtured and fed Native peoples still intact, though they had been altered after European settlement, inspired her – they were so different from the greatly-diminished European forests.

She spoke rapturously about the *Carya* species we know as the hickories: “They are my favorite! Hickories were a primary protein, and there was a huge culture around hickories. Types of yogurt, cheese, and milk were made from the nuts. Flour was made from oak acorns and chestnuts as well.”

In her book and on our interview, Beresford-Kroeger explained about other benefits of trees and forest, such as their known and potential medical uses – think the salicylic acid from willows used in aspirin. The alpha- and beta-pinenes produced by trees and taken into your immune system through the lungs do actually affect your brain, easing depression and anxiety, and they improve immune response. Those who practice “forest bathing” – walking through a forest and absorbing the aerosols given off by the trees – know they will come away feeling uplifted.

Another fascinating aspect she talked about is the role trees and their fallen detritus play in releasing compounds that follow water pathways to the oceans, where they allow vital reactions in the marine environment. And there is the complex forest life that trees sustain: the macro- and micro-environments that feed and nurture insects, mosses, ferns, fungi, and microbes as well as birds and mammals. Trees perform the vital and increasingly important role of absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Understanding the crucial role plants play in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Diana Beresford-Kroeger

maintaining the health of the planet and mitigating climate change, Beresford-Kroeger became increasingly troubled by the cutting of forests and the viability of species undergoing changing conditions. She set about educating with her books and speaking around the world. One critical part of her effort is an approach she calls a “bioplan,” which she writes is “the blueprint for all connectivity of life in nature.” Her bioplan includes each of us planting “one native tree per year for six years.”

A Living Library

For over 25 years now, Beresford-Kroeger and her husband have been working to create a “living library” on their Ontario farm of the strongest, most robust native species that can be found. Getting seeds and nuts from “mother trees” from around the world, planting them, and cloning them as needed, they are trying to build a refuge, with an understanding of the need for plant resilience in light of a globally changing climate and in case of other disasters.

Beresford-Kroeger also hopes to map the global forest using an app, and has possible backers for this project. The project really requires a team of scientists and millions of dollars, but she told me they have accomplished quite a lot.

I asked if she had taken on any mentees. She told me that although help is appreciated, “the young men who come to the farm don’t have enough knowledge. I am not a teacher, I don’t have the time.” She also expressed her thought that “women are the carers, the first to understand the problem. The really young really care, but don’t fully understand.”

Speaking with her, reading her books, and watching the documentary about her, I can see strong ties between Beresford-Kroeger and Native communities in Canada. She writes of the Ojibwe peoples’ continuing historic protection

of the Pimachiowin Aki region, an area the size of Denmark that has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site for both its cultural and natural significance.

Beresford-Kroeger told me of speaking at a recent union meeting in Ontario, where a very old Native woman approached her and said “I have always respected nature. I have seen the seventh fire” – signifying change – “and there will be an eighth fire, and how it will happen will be extraordinary.” Yikes! Let’s hope it is change for the better.

As Beresford-Kroeger spoke with me, it became clear that her work and efforts are a mix of science, spirituality, intelligence, and determined hard work. I mentioned that it can be hard to not become pessimistic these days. “You have to be positive,” she chided me. “I won’t be around negative people; I won’t tolerate it!” (Gulp – OK!)

She loves her plants, that is for sure. “The copper birch in Ireland sings,” she enthused. “My agastache is 11 feet tall, and the pollinators love it!” Oh, and we talked about the huge ancient Brian Boru oak in Ireland. She sent a note informing me that the squirrels, “black, gray, red, and a mutant with white ears,” ate every nut of her chestnut crop this year. So next year: netting!

More to Come

When I told my editor I wanted to write this story, I sensed a slight hesitation – the *MR* focuses on local stories – but we agreed that climate change affects us and our forests, and that the global is local, in this case.

I have also recently met and briefly talked with some local nut and forest food farmers. Mostly young farmers, it seems to be a movement, and some were inspired by Beresford-Kroeger. There is Yellowbud Farm in Northfield, Big River Chestnut Farm in Sunderland, Nutwood Farm in Cummington, Big Foot Food Forest in Montague, and more. Special dinners happening at the Great Falls Harvest restaurant also preach the nut tree food gospel. More on these local farms at a later date!

While writing this article I came across a quote by Bill Gates at a recent *New York Times* climate summit. “I don’t plant trees,” he said, calling it “complete nonsense” to think it can solve climate change: “Are we science people, or are we idiots?”

I can only imagine what Beresford-Kroeger would say to this! My phone would melt from her fury. From me it’s this:

“Bill, you are a tech mogul whose company develops products. Scientist? Not so much, especially as it relates to climate change. And maybe only an idiot would claim tree planting and protecting forests can’t help mitigate climate change. Stick to making your billions.”

**EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT****ArtSalon Comes to the Shea Theater!**

TURNERS FALLS – An ArtSalon, an evening of engaging presentations by established and emerging artists in the Connecticut River valley, will be held at the Shea Theater on Thursday, October 26 at 6:30 p.m. Presenting artists are Hannah Brookman, Joan O’Beirne, Emily Tarelia, and Marianna Dixon Williams.

Hannah Brookman is the president of Looky Here, an editor at Montague Community TV, and a member of the Lovelights performance group. She has shown work locally and internationally and is an author, an illustrator, painter, sculptor, seamstress, and a regular contributor to the Children’s Page in the *Montague Reporter*.

She works and resides in Marlboro, Vermont. Brookman’s belief in *Gesamtkunstwerk*, the German phrase for “total work of art,” inspires her wide range of mediums, from welding a 20-foot-tall sculpture to designing, acting and directing a children’s TV show, to running a Risograph print shop. (See hannahbrookman.cargo.site.)

Joan O’Beirne is an artist and educator, holding an MFA in photography from the University of New Mexico. She has taught photography at various institutions, and currently she leads the photography department at Greenfield Community College and serves as the director of the GCC South Gallery. Beyond her academic and artistic pursuits, Joan has been actively engaged with the Greenfield jail community, teaching photography classes since 2014, facilitating group meetings, and curating exhibits of art work created in her classes. (See joanobeirne.com.)

Emily Tarelia is an artist, educator, and facilitator based in Montague. Her work often takes the forms of workshops, gatherings, meals, and writing, enacting practices in sustainability, well-being, and lifelong learning. She received a BA from Bennington College and an MFA from UMass Amherst. (See emilytarelia.com/home.)

Marianna Dixon Williams builds handmade electronic objects and develops installations that question themes of identity, environmental change, and the ability of this world to be simulated, emulated, and measured digitally. Through quiet gestures in the fabrication of and use of media within their work, Williams speaks loudly to the limits of the body, to values of non-discrimination, and to the quality of our habitat and our involvement in its future. (See marianalog.com.)

Doors open at the theater at 6 p.m. and admission is by donation, with \$5 to \$15 suggested.

Contact valleyartsalon@gmail.com or visit theartsalon.com for more information.

Further Resources**Books by Donna Beresford-Kroeger:**

Arboretum America (2003) and *Arboretum Borealis* (2010): “Lots of photos.”

Time Will Tell: Stories of the Rideau Valley (2004).

The Global Forest: Forty Ways Trees Can Save Us (2010).

The Sweetness of a Simple Life: Tips for Healthier, Happier and Kinder Living from a Visionary Natural Scientist (2013). “Partly inspired by meeting the Dalai Lama. DBK just completed the audio book.”

To Speak for the Trees: My Life’s Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest (2019). “A nice introduction with a really interesting section on the ancient Irish Ogham alphabet that uses symbols that represent trees and other plants. Very cool.”

Documentary film:

The Call of the Forest: The Ancient Wisdom of Trees (directed by Jeffrey McKay, 2016).

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DBK online: dianaberesford-kroeger.com

Compiled by **DONNA PETERSEN**

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The Children's Page

YONERDOD ILLUSTRATION



CHELLA AND VIOLA SPENT MOST OF THEIR TRULY FREE TIME BY THE RIVER. TRULY FREE, MEANING THAT ALL OF THE DANCES AND LOCAL THEATER PRODUCTIONS, PRACTICE WITH THE MERMAID CHOIR, MAGAZINE AND COOKBOOK CREATION, THE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY TEA PARTIES, ART SHOW AND POETRY NIGHTS THEY WERE PLANNING AND DEVISING, THOUGH OPTIONAL, WERE ALWAYS IMPERATIVE.



SO WHEN LAZY AFTERNOONS WERE TO BE HAD, THE RIVER WAS A SPECIAL PLACE AND A MUCH NEEDED BALM FOR THEIR SOULS. ALMOST ALL OF THEIR BEST IDEAS WERE BORN THERE, AND EVERYTHING WONDERFUL TENDED TO HAPPEN ON THE DAYS THEY WENT THERE. FLORA AND FAUNA, THEIR FAIRY FRIENDS WERE EXCITED TOO, AS THEY COULDN'T SAFELY FLY ALL THAT WAY ALONE. BUT THEY LOVED TO SEE THE RIVER, WHICH SEEMED AS BIG AS AN OCEAN TO THEM.



THE WHIRL OF EVENTS AND LITTLE TRAVELS HERE AND THERE HAD FINALLY SLOWED DOWN, AND THE PROMISE OF A LONG LEISURELY DAY BY THE RIVERSIDE WAS PUTTING A SKIP IN THE STEP OF EACH LOVELIGHT SISTER, THE DOG SPOT, THE FAIRIES, AND MOST ESPECIALLY THE MERMAIDS (ALTHOUGH, I GUESS FOR THEM, YOU WOULD SAY, A SWISH IN THEIR TAILS!)



BUT ON THE MORNING OF THAT LONG AWAITED SATURDAY, THE SKY WAS AS GRAY AS SLATE, AND THE RUMBLE OF THUNDER TRAVELED ACROSS THE HILLS. IN EACH LITTLE LOVELIGHT HOUSEHOLD, FROWNING FACES PEERED OUT OF WINDOWS, PICNIC BASKETS SAT HALF PACKED, AND EVEN LITTLE SPOT CURLED UP AND CRAWLED BACK UNDER THE COVERS WITH A WHIMPER!



AS THE HOURS OF MORNING PASSED BY, CHELLA AND VIOLA WERE BECOMING MORE AND MORE RESTLESS AND DISCONTENT, WHEN SUDDENLY DOT AND NOVELLA BURST IN THE DOOR WITH A GUST OF WIND! DOT WAS WEARING A CLEAR RAINCOAT AND HAT COVERED IN CHEERFUL YELLOW POLKA DOTS, AND NOVELLA HAD ON A LONG RAIN PONCHO WITH A DEEP HOOD.



"LET'S GO TO THE RIVER!" EXCLAIMED DOT. NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE! AND THEY WERE MARCHING OUT THE DOOR IN THEIR RAIN COATS AND BOOTS WITH THEIR UMBRELLAS AND EVEN SPOT HAD ON A LITTLE BLACK AND WHITE RAIN COAT. MARCHING HAPPILY DOWN THE STEPS IN THE DOWN-POUR, THEY SPOTTED MR. HARBINGER, DRESSED IN WATERS AND AN UMBRELLA HAT, SEEMING UNCHARACTERISTICALLY CHEERFUL. "HELLO LADIES, GLAD TO SEE YOU ON THIS FINE DAY!" MAKING A COLORFUL PARADE, THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO THE RIVER, DOT MARCHING WITH A FAIRY PEEKING OUT OF EACH COAT POCKET, AND MR. HARBINGER LOPING ALONG BESIDE THEM.

WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH & PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN / ...TO BE CONTINUED

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



looking forward...

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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 Eggtooth Productions present *A Happening III*. \$ 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *2 Car Garage*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Glockabelle, Fugue State, Perennial*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

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

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Spinner Park, Turners Falls: *Tommy Filault, Jenny Burtis, Jim McCrae, Adelaide Fay, Burrie 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 Thomsen*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

Bookends, Florence: *Tall Travis, Big Destiny, Bone Crushin' Dogs*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wallace Field, Ciarra Fragale*. \$ 8 p.m.

Red Cross, Northampton: *Mvtant, SDH, Pfemale, Solid State Entity, Clock Serum*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Jayhawks, Freedy Johnston*. \$ 8 p.m.

Everything Must Go, Northampton: *Valley Gals, Balaclava, Plant Fight, Amateur Club*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Prawn, Material*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *ArtSalon*. By donation. 6:30 p.m.

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

Steakback Outhouse, Brattleboro: *The Old Fashioneds, The Slide Grinders, Forty Drop Few*. \$ 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sam Grisman Project*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Mister Brilliant*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Misty Blues*. \$ 8 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Mind Left Body*. \$ 8 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Hiss Golden Messenger, Sylvie*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bombtrack, Rage Against the Machine* tribute. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Mystery Train, Amherst: *Free-stone or Ooze* feat. *Witch Crystals, Dan Gay, Pudding Band, Primitive Accumulation, Rare Geese, Neomach*. Free. 5 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Little House Blues*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Halloween cover band show with *Wire, Cramps, Go-Gos* tributes, DJs. \$ 7 p.m.

Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *Kimaya Diggs*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Neon Wave, New Wave '80s* monster bash. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Home Body*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Mystery Train, Amherst: *Free-stone or Ooze* feat. *Brian Dolzani, Fugue State, Samara Lubelski, Sunburned Hand of the Man, Federico Balducci, Dark Master*. Free. 5 p.m.

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.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Gary Higgins, Glenn Jones, Liam Grant*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Stella Silbert, Georgia Beatty & Maisie O'Brien, Ananya Ganesha*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Fancy Trash* album release, *Moon Hollow, Chris Goudreau*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The Drake, Amherst: *Mike Doughty and Ghost of Vroom*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Toubab Krewe*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

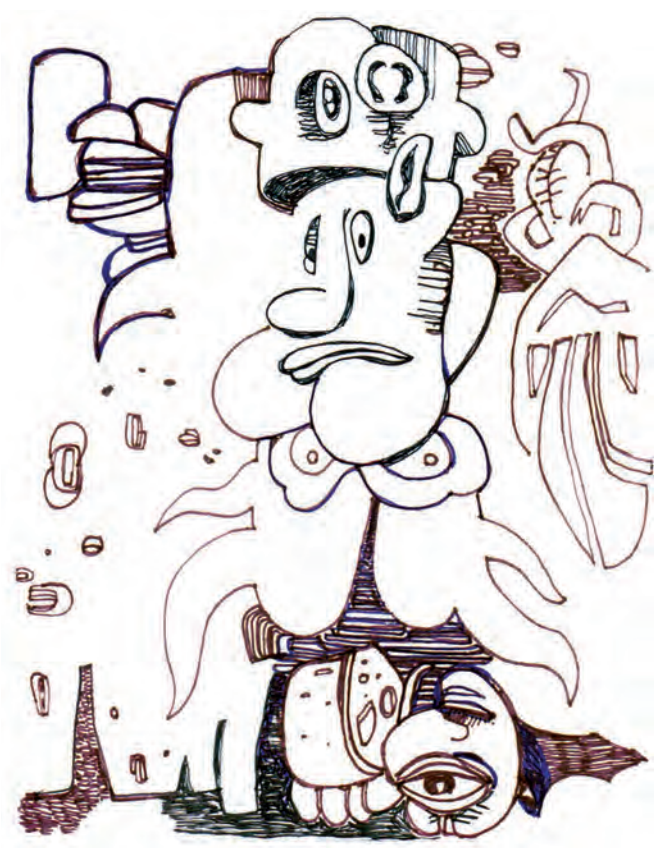


OVER THE HILL Carolyn Clark

Oh, Harry, I think tag sales are so sad, makes me want to cry. Sniff.	All those things that were once loved and now nobody loves anymore. Once this pot served a whole family. Now it's just irrelevant.
For heaven's sakes, why?	
So, now you can love it.	So when we have a tag sale, I won't be so attached to it...
Well, it's a little too big for us. I guess I'll put it in the storeroom.	????



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WEST ALONG from page B1

or February here at all. Research has shown that they band together overnight in small groups in secret holes in the trees to keep each other warm. First thing in the morning they're out seeking protein in the pine trees, snatching wintering bug eggs, and calling to keep in touch with each other. If you listen you can hear them in the winter woods, often accompanied by chickadees and nuthatches.

Other birds are few in this suspended season. From time to time one of the Carolina wrens, hatched in the comfy nest on top of the long-handled brush at the back doorway, drops in to chatter and sing in the rhododendron.

The first white-throated sparrows have come down from Wendell to haunt the tangled vegetation along the west-flowing river. Their single-note autumn calls echo along the river in the growing dusk of an October evening. Soon they'll be up to the back yard to scratch at the foot of the withered lilacs or beneath the feeder, newly set up for the coming season.

Another snowbird, the pilgrim gray junco, appeared today, down from the tall white pines around Ruggles Pond. Unlike birds that head south, a number of species just simply drop down from the higher elevations to spend the season in the lowlands.

But despite the gloom of this morning, and the thoughts about the impending dark season, there appears in the garden a splash of color that I had forgotten to anticipate.

*No flower of her kindred,
No rose-bud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
Or give sigh for sigh...*

So indeed, lingering on the seeming lifeless stem, our Marie-Rose is blooming one last time. This rose, an ancient heritage hybrid, gives lie to the somber mood that the dying season can call forth.

Her name carries with her not only

a lovely sound, but also the memory of another gentle woman, whose name was actually Marie-Rose. She was the proprietor of the Marie-Rose Café, a quaint and unassuming establishment in the center of a five-house hamlet just one lane away from our home, decades back, in the deep countryside of Brittany.

We visited her café with her cousin, my wife's grandmother, so that the two nonagenarians could chat about family and old times. They were born a year apart in the late 1890s. We were likely the only visitors to her café that week.

In her late nineties, Marie-Rose was bent nearly double with age, and so by politeness we served ourselves a pitcher of the good Breton cider she kept in the refrigerator. The whole place also served as her kitchen.

The two cousins had been born at home, when Brittany was still remote from Paris and its politics, revolutions, and wars. They had lived through it all, and now spent time speaking quietly in diminished voices about family and the weather, musing about what it was like when they were young.

But that was long ago, in another place and indeed another time that seems much simpler to us now.

One summer when we were back at the homestead for our regular summer sojourn in Brittany, I met the nephew of Marie-Rose outside the locked door of her café.

He told me in the poetry of the language of country folk: "*Un soir elle s'est éteinte, comme une fleur.*"

One evening, she closed and was gone, like a flower.

*'Tis the last rose of summer,
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone...*

— Thomas Moore (1779-1852)

Our own late-flowering rose is holding forth for a little while longer, brightening the yard, keeping the growing darkness at bay.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This Saturday is Bulky Waste Day!

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding the Fall 2023 "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day this Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Residents from any of the District's 21 member towns may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

The three drop-off sites are the Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Road in Shelburne Falls; the Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, Northfield; and the Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane, Whately.

There are charges for most items. Disposal fees will be collected (cash only) during check-in at each site. A list of prices is at franklincountywastedistrict.org for the most common items. Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection.

Mattresses and box springs are no longer accepted at this event, but there are six regional mattress recycling locations across Franklin County, open various hours year-round. For locations, pricing and hours see franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling. If you are unsure if your mattress or box spring can be recycled, call the District office at (413) 772-2438.

Electronics are accepted at this event, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town's transfer station, or the Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call the store for details.

Clean, dry textiles will be accepted for free for reuse or recycling. Textiles must be contained inside a plastic bag. They are now banned from the trash in Massachusetts. Textile recycling accepts 95% of all textiles and shoes, including clothing or linens that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers. Damaged textiles can be sold to manufacturers that make insulation, stuffing, or shop rags. Acceptable items include clean



Staff collect electronics at the Whately transfer station.

and dry clothing, shoes, and accessories; plus curtains, sheets, towels and stuffed animals in any condition except moldy or wet.

Books, hardcover or paperback, will be accepted in any condition except moldy or wet. No encyclopedias are accepted.

Bulky rigid plastics will be collected separately for a special recycling program; \$5 per load of acceptable items. This program only accepts these items: five-gallon pails; plastic lawn furniture; plastic trash barrels; recycling bins; laundry baskets; storage totes; and milk crates. Bulky rigid plastic items must be empty.

And **consider reuse**: Before sending items for disposal or recycling, see if someone else can use them. Various charities and nonprofits, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores, accept donations of working electronics. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item. Or offer items for reuse on a local "Buy Nothing" Facebook group, a Freecycle group, or local town groups such as NextDoor.

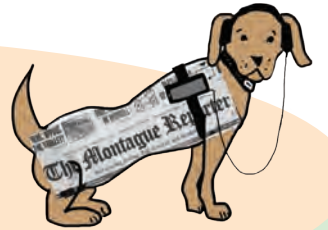
For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District office at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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