MILLERS FALLS **MONTAGUE CENTER** LAKE PLEASANT MONTAGUE CITY **TURNERS FALLS**



YEAR 22 - NO. 37

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

\$1.50 **SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

Calls for 'Game-Changing' **Investment in Northern Rail**, **Despite Pessimistic Report**



Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express line leaves from Burlington, Vermont.

By BEN GAGNON

FRANKLIN COUNTY - Although a draft final report does not recommend moving forward with any of the options it reviewed for a Northern Tier passenger rail link between Boston and North Adams, local planners and politicians are working with area towns to lobby state officials in an effort to make the rail link a reality.

The "Draft Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study Report" was issued by the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) on August 12, and the 60-day public comment period ends on October 12. The public is welcome to read the report and make comments online by going to *tinyurl.com/NTPRScomment*.

The report describes relatively low projected ridership and high capital costs as potential obstacles to all six alternatives studied for Northern Tier passenger rail service.

Public feedback was most supportive of electrified rail service rather than upgrading the existing rail system, but the cost-benefit analysis has raised red flags. Estimated annual ridership for electrified passenger rail between Boston and North Adams ranges between 196,520 and 304,200 riders, and carries a price tag of \$2.9 billion.

Despite the numbers outlined see RAIL page A5 Town, District **Find Money To Continue** After-School Programming

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE - Following the surprise disappearance of funding for a well-attended after-school program at Sheffield Elementary School, the town of Montague and the Gill-Montague school district have scrounged up enough cash - \$100,000 - to allow the program to run this year.

Last Thursday the Montague finance committee deliberated on possible sources for the town's contribution, including free cash and cannabis impact fees, which would require a special town meeting vote, and settled on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which may be spent by the selectboard.

"I fully support not leaving the schools hanging," said fin com member Francia Wisniewski.

"If we want to one-time-patch it, that's great," said chair Dorinda Bell-Upp, noting that the Sheffield

see SCHOOL page A2

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD **Town Tallies Its Remaining Federal Rescue Plan Dollars**

By JEFF SINGLETON

PERSPECTIVE The Great Killing Fields Of the Connecticut River



A pickerel, four baby American shad, a half-buried crayfish, and the author's toe, on the morning the power canal was drained in October 2019.

By KARL MEYER

TURNERS FALLS - Late on Sunday, September 22, a massive, annual disruption will take place on the Connecticut River in Turners Falls, Gill, and Greenfield. That's when FirstLight begins reopening the flood gates of the Turners Falls dam, turning the river's flow back into its bed.

It will be just another ecosystem shock to the rocky river chasm here, one denied natural flow since the dam closed it off back on July 12. But then that suddenly-rewatered river basin will also have to absorb the renewed pounding of the 20,000-cubicfeet-per-second surges flushed down from the Northfield Moun-

tain Pumped Storage Station, five miles away. Its giant suction and flush has been inhaling and obliterating hundreds of millions of the Connecticut's young-of-theyear baby fish since late-June.

For the many crippled miles of reversed and dewatered river in Franklin County, this will be just another torturous, short-lived return of a river being briefly allowed flow in its natural, ancient bed. That's because beginning September 23, FirstLight will take a week to shovel out their massively muck-clogged power canal.

Before this happens, it might be enlightening to take a moment to look at the deserted riverbed below the Turners Falls Bridge. Then, see **PERSPECTIVE** page A4

High School Sports Week:



Ribbon to Be Cut Saturday

On Shea Theater Mural

Darion Fleming has been working since last week to paint the public art piece.

By BELLA LEVAVI

TURNERS FALLS - Two figures embracing, one representing nature and the other a hyper-realistic, unidentifiable person, will soon adorn the side of the Shea Theater.

The town has hired Darion Fleming, known artistically as DaFlemingo, a muralist based in Charlotte, North Carolina, to create the 3,200-square-foot mural on the town-owned theater. Fleming is expected to complete the project in about a week and a half, working 10 to 12 hours each day, with the work

underway and projected to be finished by this weekend.

"The person is very unidentifiable so anyone who is looking at it can put themselves in the scene," Fleming explained in an interview with the *Reporter*.

Over the past year, the Montague selectboard signed a contract with Common Wealth Murals LLC for the project. The total cost of the mural is \$30,510, according to the town website, with \$25,000 covered by the town's COVID relief funds received under the federal

see MURAL page A6

The Montague selectboard voted Monday to allocate \$75,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to help fund an after-school enrichment program that abruptly lost its funding in the spring. The board also approved a game plan for spending the town's remaining ARPA funds by the end of the year, approved two evening dates in May for an "experimental" annual town meeting, and rejected a proposal to remove one building from the Strathmore Mill demolition.

The request for town funding to help extend the after-school enrichment program at Sheffield Elementary School for a year came from Gill-Montague superintendent Brian Beck. (*See article on this page.*)

The board approved the request, in the context of a broader evaluation of ARPA spending presented by assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller. Nolan-Zeller presented a list of projects that used less money than expected, as well as projects that will require other funding sources because they will not be ready to begin by December 31. Available funds from these sources totaled \$496,421.

Nolan-Zeller then listed four projects - the after-school program,

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Seeking Tech-Savvy Volunteers to Help With Our Website

Four Letters to the Editors	A2
Local Briefs	A3
Erving Selectboard Notes	A4
Wendell Selectboard Notes	A5
Gill Selectboard Notes	A7
Leverett Selectboard Notes	
GMRSD School Committee Highlights	A8
Reflection: Signaling Virtues	B1

West Along the River: Giving Stuff Back	B1
Travels With Max: The Siege of Chicago	
ElderConnect: Electronic Swindlers	B2
Montague Police Log Highlights	B3
Metal Fest Reportback	B5
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week	B5
Our Monthly Poetry Page	
A&E Calendar and Four Comics	.B7

Schools Shuffle Players

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS - This was the second week of the 2024 fall high school sports season, and some local teams are already showing their potential. The Turners Falls Thunder volleyball team and Franklin Tech Eagles field hockey team were both conference champions last year, and both have started 2024 strong.

Tech and Turners are fielding separate boys' soccer teams this season, while the girls are still playing as a co-op squad. The Turners Falls golf

team lost some key players since last season while Franklin Tech benefited, as boys from the Turners team came of age and opted to attend the tech school and play golf.

Field Hockey

The Franklin Tech field hockey team went 12-2-1 last year, and took home the County Conference trophy. This season they show no signs of letting up. They are 2-0-1 so far, and have only allowed one goal in their first three games.

see SPORTS page A6



Franklin County Technical School Eagles captain Mia Marigliano (right) traps the ball as Renaissance School's Allana Jenney defends. Tech earned their first win of the season on Wednesday, blanking the visiting Phoenix 3-0. Marigliano is one of eight Turners Falls High School athletes playing on the co-op girls' soccer team.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, Managing Editor Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, Poetry Page Victoria Maillo, Spanish Page Beverly Ketch, Children's Page Spencer Shorkey, Science Page Maggie Sadoway, Editorial Assistant

Production Staff Garth Shaneyfelt, Business Manager

Nina Rossi, Distribution Jae Southerland, Layout & Subscriptions Charlotte Kohlmann, Layout Christopher Carmody, Layout & Images Sarah Brown-Anson, Podcast Producer Brian Faldasz, Technical Administration

Founded by Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold August 2002

SCHOOL from page A1

program does not cover kindergarteners or first-grade students. "If it wants to become part of something that we're funding, then I think it should be more inclusive in the long term."

By a 5-0 vote, the committee agreed to recommend contributing \$75,000 in ARPA money to the effort. Bell-Upp abstained, explaining that she hopes to enroll one of her own children in the program.

Gill-Montague superintendent Brian Beck carried the request to the selectboard Monday night. Beck told the board the Northampton-based Collaborative for Educational Services (CES), which has administered the program, decided in late spring not to reapply for its previous funding upon learning the state was using new criteria the Sheffield site had not met. CES did not inform the district until August.

"The challenge in this particular case really stemmed from a complete lack of communication with CES," Beck said. "They neither told us that for the first time the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [DESE] would be using a scoring rubric on the effectiveness of a program, [and] not finding out... until August 11 literally made it impossible to do anything in the budget process."

Beck said that if the town allocated \$75,000 he would request that the school committee appropriate the remaining \$25,000 needed to implement the program.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey called using ARPA an "attractive option" because those funds need to be in the pipeline for specific projects by the end of the year (see article, Page A1). Board

said that if the district is going to fund the program, he would like to see an "expanded vision" that includes students at Gill Elementary School. "Programs providing opportunities for kids to be interactive is one of the most important things we can do to continue to create a civil society," he said.

Beck replied that the grant that has funded the program - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CLCC) - is needs-based, and that "73% of the students who attend Sheffield Elementary are considered to be 'high needs,'" though he added that the district has "begun a bit to experiment" with the topic of after-school enrichment at Gill.

The committee approved the spending by a 6-0 vote. "I'm glad we were able to do that," said Montague member Wendy Thompson. "Having been on the receiving end of program funding being cut... it's a lot of stress."

As it does each year, the Sheffield program will start in late September. "We still need to make some decisions around how it's going to be implemented," Beck said, "whether or not we can contract out for it, or whether we need to do it in house."

Beck told the Reporter the district had been prepared to spend the \$25,000 to get the program started, then go to a special town meeting in Montague to ask for an appropriation to continue it through the year. Talks are underway, he said, to determine whether CES will run the program, as it has for over a decade, or whether the staff will be on the district payroll.

An additional grant under consideration by the Gill-Montague Education Fund, Beck added, could allow the program to continue next summer on an expanded basis, as it did in recent years using COVID relief funding.



Virginia, a Mille Fleur d'Uccle bantam, laid a few eggs on her way across the country from Los Angeles even though she is nine years old. Her owner, Kiva Singh, says Virginia has survived three possum attacks and makes a special sound when she detects a bird of prey in her vicinity. She wore a homemade harness made from a beer koozie for her walk around downtown Turners Falls last Sunday.



Getting Beyond 'No'

Buried deep in the Charles Light interview in the September 5, 2024 edition is a comment by Mike Jackson, reflecting on the phenomena of former commune members as more recent leaders on area selectboards:

"One of the things I do notice, seeing some of these folks in positions of power, is that the kind of movements or campaigns that seem to be the most successful around here are the ones that follow that template of anti-developmentalism, in which there's an external enemy." At the end of the comment, Light agrees.

It's time to reconsider anti-developmentalism as the primary political expression of our time. It has outstayed its welcome. Here are two examples of the stranglehold anti-developmentalism has over our communities: energy and housing. The simplistic and demonizing anti-development ideology has turned former advocates of renewable energy into warriors against solar farms, wind farms, and energy storage. Wild scenarios are propagated to prevent battery storage projects. Fiberglass chunks on billionaires' beaches are decried while we keep burning fossil fuels and speeding on climate change. To the anti-developmentalist, every sustainable energy possibility leads to a dead end - not here, not there, not anywhere. Disaster porn is used to prevent nuanced public policy.

glehold on housing development, robbing the children and grandchildren of the communal movement and the rest of us - of any hope of housing affordability and stability in their hometowns.

As reported by the Boston Globe (April 10, 2023, "A hundred years of choking housing growth catches up with Massachusetts"), when in 1920 the Legislature removed planning and zoning powers from the state and deferred to cities and towns, they quickly began using "local rule" to "suppress housing growth and keep out poor people and renters" in communities across the Commonwealth.

Mug Race Thanks

When the weatherman reports "cloudy with a few breaks of sun today," don't believe them. The morning of the 43rd Mug Race was anything but. A heavy mist fell early, a short burst of rain, then more drizzle. Thankfully, by the time the cannon was lit it had stopped.

This certainly did not deter the runners as a great number turned out to run.

As usual, the members of the Montague Center fire department covered the road course to ensure runners and traffic had safe passag-

members voiced support for the program and for using ARPA funds, but were concerned about its longterm sustainability.

"I don't have a problem with this, but how does this affect us in the future?" member Chris Boutwell asked. "Is this going to end up in their budget?"

Beck responded that CES has assured the district that it will reapply next year, and that state senator Jo Comerford and representative Natalie Blais have promised to advocate for Gill-Montague and other rural schools that have lost funding. "This really is to get us through this fiscal year," he said. The board approved the request.

On Tuesday, the school committee heard a proposal to draw down the \$25,000 from the district's school choice revolving account.

Gill representative Bill Tomb

CES executive director Todd Gazda told the Reporter that of the three CCLC grants his organization reapplied for this year - which did not involve the Sheffield site - only one was awarded by DESE. "These are competitive grants," he said.

Clearing up confusion elsewhere in the local press, Gazda confirmed that Sheffield remains incomeeligible for CCLC funding. "Nothing substantially has changed up there," he said, "meaning that we will be able to reapply next year."

Jeff Singleton contributed additional reporting. See Page A8 for additional highlights

from the Gill-Montague school committee!

Anti-developmentalism created and maintains a decades-long stran-

And it continues, with gusto. New housing proposals are criticized as "too big," "out of character," or attracting "those people" from the cities. For best results, season NIMBY liberally with racism and classism.

Anti-developmentalism has run its course. It regards the future as the enemy, seeking to preserve an idealized past that never existed, and not finding it, traps our communities in amber - while pushing responsibility for change onto other communities.

We must embrace the challenges - and opportunities - of the future, and admit that local compromises are necessary. That the answers are in the nuances, not the opposition. We need more housing and more sustainable energy. Not less. No isn't working anymore.

> Mark Lattanzi Montague

es. Not always an easy feat on the narrow back roads.

We certainly cannot thank the host of volunteers enough as they showed up early, got damp, but willingly did every task required. This makes organizing the race an enjoyable task.

Sponsorship support included Eagle Construction, Greenfield Savings Bank, Moretti & Sons Landscaping, Rau's Towing, Turn's Lawn Care, the Montague Mill, Clarity Wealth, Renaissance Builders, Falls Farm, and McCarthy Funeral Home. A great group of local businesses, thank you.

Hope to see you next year. And support the local races held throughout the year, they are a lot of fun and support great causes.

> Ann Fisk, Race Director Montague

Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August. No paper the fourth week of November, or the final week of December.

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:

The Montague Reporter 177 Avenue A **Turners Falls, MA 01376**

Advertising and copy deadline is MONDAY at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:

\$40 for walking subscriptions; **\$50** for driving route subscriptions; **\$75** for mailed subscriptions; \$40 to \$75 for digital subscriptions.

Call us or contact subscriptions@montaguereporter.org with any questions.



\$20 6 months (23 issues) for our walking routes 4¹/₂ months (18 issues) for our driving routes 3 months (12 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

This month's CinemaStorm double feature at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls is a "**stunt spectacu-lar**" of *Hot Rod* (2007) and *Hooper* (1978). Admission is free and the fun starts at 7:30 p.m. this Friday, September 13. There's a little trivia game before the show, and beer and snacks are available.

If you're not a fan of those action movies you might want to check out some live music across the street at the Discovery Center at 7 p.m., where the Bork-Tinen-Kahn Trio are on the docket at this month's **Great Falls Coffeehouse**. These three singers use guitar and keyboard to emphasize their songs about the vitality of the human spirit. Organizers say their contemporary acoustic and electric music may be enjoyed by folks of all ages.

There's a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15, and refreshments are available.

Find out about the **"Three Sis**ters" planting tradition with Dan Shears and Brian Chenevert at the Great Falls Farmers Market at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls this Saturday, September 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shears and Chenevert will also discuss other traditions practiced by the Abenaki Nation and share their collection of traditional handmade baskets and dried native foods.

Montague Villages, the organization that connects volunteers with elderly neighbors who need a little help to age in place with dignity and independence, will host a meet-and-greet this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Gill-Montague senior center in Turners Falls. Meet some of the people involved, ask questions, and learn more. Learn about the diversity, resilience and abundance of **oak trees** at the Fisher Museum in Petersham this Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m. Researchers at the museum, which is part of Harvard Forest, will present their discoveries on how oaks respond to climate change and more. There will be a short, level walk as part of the two-hour presentation, which is rain or shine, open to all who have interest, and free.

Great Falls Books Through Bars will hold a volunteer day this Saturday, September 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 104 Fourth Street in Turners Falls. Help respond to letters from incarcerated people and pack up books to send to those behind bars. They are also looking for donations of manga, comics, and graphic novels. If it is your first time, let someone know, so they can show you around the space which is shared with the Finders' Collective and a free store, library, and community pantry. Masks are required indoors.

The Montague Common Hall Open Mic this Saturday, September 14 features E. Horace Winston III and the Midnight Swerve performing "tales of passionate love and songs of daring romance drawn from 1920-30s Tin Pan Alley."

The rest of the evening, which runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., will draw on the talents of those who have signed up for the ten-minute open mic slots. Bring your own refreshments and enjoy the show for a small donation.

For those interested in the food movement and regenerative agriculture, the film *Common Ground* screens for free at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 16, followed by a discussion at 8:15 p.m. The event is sponsored by NOFA and CISA, and takes place at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas. Register at *nofamass.org/event*.

Anika Lopes, a generational Black Indigenous resident of Amherst, will present a lesser-known history of **Black and Afro-Indigenous residents of the Valley** next Tuesday, September 17 as part of Greenfield Community College's Senior Symposia Series. Lopes will give her talk, "I See the Valley: Stirring the Ashes," at 2 p.m. on GCC's main campus.

Free tech support will be offered at the Wendell Library on Tuesday, September 17 as part of GCC's "Cyber Seniors Connecting Generations" campaign. Reserve a spot or walk in between 2 and 5 p.m.

A new release of **Don Wright's documentary**, *Cathedrals*, will be screened at the Greenfield Public Library next Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. Wright is a Greenfield resident and peer-to-peer leader in the recovery community and beyond. Admission is free.

The film is about movie director Dan Algrant, who worked with Wright on the 1976 version of *Cathedrals* which focuses on a Boston housing project, setting out to reconnect with his former co-producer. "Algrant's quest reveals how deeply entrenched American policies have impacted lives, offering profound insights into issues of race and inequality that have evolved over the past 48 years," reads the description.

In honor of the Harvest Moon, five to ten local authors will share a curated collection of **poems and short pieces on the theme of "harvest"** at the Montague Center Library. The readings are geared towards older youth and adults, and refreshments will be served. The event is on Wednesday, September 18 at 6 p.m.

Rachel's Table is looking for volunteers to help glean at local farms. After commercial harvesting is done, there are still edible fruits and veggies that can be picked or gathered by hand. Crews of volunteers comb through orchards and fields every year thanks to Rachel's Table, who make sure that this produce gets on the tables of those in need. Find out more and sign up to help at *feedwma.org*.

Got one of those "Big Ideas?" An **entrepreneurship accelerator program**, courtesy of the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, can help you turn ideas for a new business or service into reality.

The free 12-week series of workshops will meet at the CDC offices at 324 Wells Street in Greenfield on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. starting September 25.

Participants who are 16 to 24 years old, are not in school, and face barriers to employment because of justice involvement, unstable housing, or substance use may qualify for stipends. Find out more at *tinyurl.com/upstartcdc*.

The 28th annual **Source to Sea Cleanup** will be held September 27 and 28. The banks of the 410-mile Connecticut River will be cleaned by thousands of volunteers during this weekend event to remove trash from the waterway.

You may register to participate at *sourcetoseacleanup.org*.

The **Montague wood bank** has half-cord units of cut, split, and dried firewood available to low-income Montague households. The wood is obtained through tree removal and cleanup by the Montague highway department and processed by local volunteers, DCR staff, and the Montague tree advisory committee.

The gross income guidelines for recipients are the same as for fuel assistance: \$45,392 for a single-person household, \$59,359 for two-member households, \$73,326 for three-member households, and \$87,294 for four-member households. Residents who already receive fuel assistance, SNAP, Masshealth, WIC, or disability income are automatically eligible.

Applications are available at the Gill-Montague senior center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, or by telephone at (413) 863-9357.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

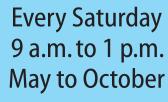
SEEKING APARTMENT!

Woman of a certain vintage looking to rehome in a one-BR apartment starting in October, November, or December.

30-year Montague resident, occasional writer for the *Montague Reporter*. First floor preferred, and reasonably affordable. I'm responsible, am a current homeowner, and can do pet care!

Please contact at chestnuthilldog@gmail.com. Thank you!





Peskeompskut Park Turners Falls





Two More Letters to the Editors

Diminishing, Inaccurate Phrase

In the article "Neighbors Sue to Discontinue Public Access to Blueberry Patch" in last week's paper [*Page A1*], I was the person referred to as being wheelchair-bound.

Most people who use wheelchairs wince when they are described as being "wheelchair bound" or "confined to a wheelchair" or any number of other diminishing terms for their *use* of assistive devices relative to their mobility struggles. I certainly do.

Now I am not insisting that all you temporarily mobile folks be all P.C. about it. I say temporarily mobile because aging has a way of making most of us in need of "using" a wheelchair or cane or walker at some point in our lives. But I do wish you would be a little more accurate about who, how, why and what language you use to describe folks who do use assistive devices.

For instance, I am not bound to my wheelchair with duct tape when I *use* my wheelchair. Nor am I confined to my chair so that I cannot get away. I simply *use* it.

Now, it is no one's business but my own as to why I use a wheelchair ,but what the heck, let me tell you anyway. In my 20s I could lift 50- to 75-pound boxes of books and other needful things with ease and bravado, that is until I badly threw my back out. In my 30s I slipped on a small hanger used to hang socks in Big Y, and my knee dislocated and left no ACL behind. In my 40s I hefted big rocks to build temporary stairs for my home.

Now at 72, I have a seriously twisted spinal column from stem to stern as a result of a collagen deficiency or a connective tissue disorder called Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and so *use* a wheelchair. I hope I have managed to get my point across.

So, to quote a friend of mine, "Buck up and fly straight." Please use accurate language. Sincerely and sarcastically,

> Cheryl Howland Leverett

Howdy

Hello, long time first time here. I just wanted to drop you a line to say I enjoyed Mike Jackson's article on Charles Light's upcoming film. It was kismet for me, because I just happen to have picked up *Famous Long Ago* and *Home Comfort* from the library for a decadal reread.

I first found a copy of *Home Comfort* when I was living on a farm with friends in Gill and was somewhat affected by it. I particularly remember we adopted the recipes for banana bread and homemade tortillas as staples of our kitchen. Anyway, good to know there are other sickos out there... Cheers,

> Jake Goldman Turners Falls

BOOKS Events

MUSIC RIVERBED EMMA GEIGER NORMA DREAM FRIDAY, SEPT. 13 • 7pm

BOOK LAUNCH WHITE DOE by Maria Williams W/ Amirthanayagam FRIDAY, SEPT. 20 • 7pm

A HAPPENING: LEVIATHAN hosted by Cloudgaze Productions SUNDAY, SEPT, 22 • 6pm-8pm

MOVIE NIGHT Todd Haynes Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story w/ shorts by Harry Smith & Jane Campion FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 + 7pm

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!





Dealer in used Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE . COLLECTIBLES . DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield Featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets

Call (413) 834 - 3128 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

MASK REQUIRED . EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING!

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

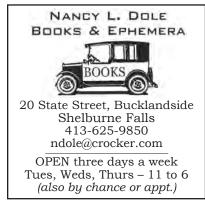
106 West Street Hadley, MA. 01035 Hampshire: 586-3161 Franklin: 773-9497





- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone







PERSPECTIVE from page A1 once the dam opens up, go back.

For this ecosystem, for this river and its fish, you'll get an idea of the hellish manipulations that starve the Connecticut of life here. For a week it will look like there really are "great falls," like the ones hyped in the name Great Falls Discovery Center. It's rarely an apt name for what occurs here.

Then, take a walk down the bike path to the canal and witness the sand, muck, and rock desert FirstLight has revealed by suddenly re-diverting flow denied yearround here to the river. If you get there early Monday just as the light returns, you'll find an eerie scene: scattered pools of draining water and acres of muck, spreading downstream toward the Conte Lab and Cabot Station.

Crows mill around, calling. Geese flock and stand nearby, clucking and confused by the emptied beds. Blue herons, egrets, and cormorants settle along the edges of shrinking pools, agitated and waiting to gobble the suddenly-exposed bounty of thousands of stranded, panicked fish from over a dozen species. Young eagles hover nearby, waiting to scavenge the strandings there too.

If you get your muck boots on and walk early through that eerie mess, you'll witness the desperate mortuary created by this annual plow-out. Tiny, panicked youngof-the-year fish by the hundreds attempt to flee each looming shadow that nears their shallow, draining pools with no escape. Finger-sized shad, perch, bass, and shiners flit desperately along watery rills without openings. Larger fish, stranded with no current, flop on their sides, their gills struggling to siphon the water as it drains down to nothing.

Freshwater clams by the tens of thousands sit exposed and dewatered. They'll desiccate for days beneath a potent September sun.

It's a heartrending scene, witnessed by very few. Many years I've gotten in early to bear witness - knowing that in the few hours it will take the canal to fully drain,

tens of thousands of those youngof-the-year fish will suffer invisible, mud-covered deaths. Feverish gills and fins will flail, until they help bury themselves alive, unseen, in shallow, draining graves. It feels awkward, unfeeling, to snap pictures, but otherwise all that river life in the sprawl of that killing field would remain uncounted and unknown.

An hour or more later, when the light is up, a few handfuls of people enter the canal as part of an annual "rescue" of baby sea lamprey - one of the many species stranded in the jilted flows. A few hundred of these finger-long amoecetes are collected for science, or for later, live transport into other river systems. But the main mass of desperate, struggling life here will ultimately perish in muddy graves in just a few hours. In the days that follow the telltale smell of death will rise as leftover rotting fish get scavenged by flies, crows, and vultures.

Just upstream in the broader canal, two large, deep pools always remain water-filled during the drawdown. There, dozens of two- and three-foot carp appear to be sole species flourishing via this grim week of eco-chaos. They swim lazily in the ample pools, gobbling up all the unlucky surviving fish and prey in their watery tubs. First-Light's canal seems the perfect place for fat bottom feeders.

Entering at first light is the best time to bear witness there to this feverishly sad and panicked tableau. I've long made it a point to take photos. This remains an annual slaughter that should not be covered up.

In other states - on other rivers - industry pays compensation to the public for any annual killings such as these. Each species and each fish lost at corporate hands has an actuarial value, one that gets quantified and repaid in compensation. Here on the Connecticut, an untallied slaughter carries on for free.

Karl Meyer lives in Greenfield. He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.



Town Looking at Grants To Hook Up Infrastructure For New Senior Housing

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night the Erving selectboard accepted two resignations – Erik Semb from the school committee and Janice Vega-Liros from the planning board – and appointed Daniel Hammock to a previously vacant school committee seat. The school committee, meeting jointly with the selectboard, also approved his appointment.

The board had advertised for volunteers to fill the vacant school committee position in the June and August Around Town newsletters. Hammock said he waited "until the last minute of the last day" to submit a letter of interest, hoping another candidate would come forward, but no other candidate did.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith announced that just before the meeting, Eric Semb informed the board that he was resigning, leaving the committee with a new vacancy.

The seat Hammock was appointed to and the one Semb resigned from will both be open for voting during the May 2025 town election.

Sewer for Seniors

The selectboard considered a \$118,700 proposal from engineering consultants Tighe & Bond to handle the preliminary design, final design, and permitting for the extension of the town sewer to the proposed senior housing project on Care Drive.

The board asked the company to revise portions of its proposal to distinguish between water and sewer infrastructure, as the sewer work can be covered by the wastewater enterprise fund and the town plans to use other sources, includ-

ing grants, for the water supply. The board will review the revised proposal at its next meeting.

Senior housing committee chair William Bembury and committee member Jacquelyn Boyden said they attended the meeting to support moving forward with the engineering.

Bembury also informed the board that the committee will meet on September 13 with state senator Jo Comerford to discuss grants for the project.

Other Business

The selectboard voted unanimously to use the federal Housing and Urban Development income guidelines for Franklin County to set eligibility for the senior citizen property tax work-off program.

Under the program, incomeeligible residents aged 60 or older can receive an abatement of up to \$2,000 per year on their real estate taxes by working for the town. The abatement is calculated at the state minimum wage for each hour worked.

For a second time the board reviewed a list of used computers, a monitor, and a printer, all characterized as "not functional" by Jacob Smith. The computers' hard drives have been removed. Smith said it was unlikely that anyone would want the equipment, but the town may make them available to residents after the third review is completed.

The board voted to accept the low bid of \$428,650 from Warner Brothers of Sunderland for resurfacing North Street, and to accept the only bid received for surveying historic properties in the town, \$38,350 from Brian Knight Research of Manchester, Vermont.

Why Start Learning Any New Skill Now? **OP ED**

By DOMINI LENZ

GREENFIELD – "AI will work alongside us." "AI will be a tool, not competition."

On and on the thinkpieces flow, like grains of sand in an hourglass.

The working class will not be displaced, they say, but will simply have new tools at our disposal that make our jobs "less repetitive." We will need to "upskill," we are told - we will still be required for cognitive tasks that AI can't handle. What these tasks are, exactly, the allegedly human writers never say. This question is left to the reader's feeble, fleshy imagination.

Comparisons are made to the industrial revolution, to the cotton gin, the assembly line, the calculator. We are encouraged to envision a future where, like these things, AI merely changes the nature of our labor, supplementing and empowering us to focus on more human tasks. Less often are we encouraged to consider what happens two, five, ten years after this imagined future, as progress in machine learning continues on its exponential trajectory.

The seeming material reasons behind the flood of such articles are straightforward enough. Who would work hard to advance at their job believing that in 10 years their entire

field may not contain a single human worker? What would happen to our economy, to our owners' profits, to the class structure of society?

With the carrot of retirement gone, there is only the stick of poverty and state violence to hold people to their functions within the machine. This fact is front and center in our leaders' minds as they vote, year after year, to increase funding to increasingly mechanized and inhuman police and military forces.

For all our society's emphasis on democratic values, it is ultimately a small number of humans who decide among themselves how things are run. For all of recorded human history, the labor of others has been necessary for these few elites to maintain their lifestyles, forcing them to allow for the allocation of resources toward feeding, housing, and educating the masses. What happens when that necessity is gone? Will they generously continue to provide for us purely out of the goodness of their hearts? When in history has goodness been their motivation for anything?

These issues run deeper than the question of whether people will continue to physically exist. We have been taught our entire lives to view ability and achievement as the primary source of an individual's value. Where does that value go when there is nothing left to achieve? One might wish to

become an author, a painter, or a musician, to put something of worth out into the world. But there is a question growing in the back of our minds like a tumor: Why bother? Why start learning any new skill now, when machines will likely be superhumanly competent at it years before one could reach any level of mastery?

Of course, this is the wrong question, a selfdefeating question on which we have been taught to base all our decision making. The idea that there should be a point to the things we do, that a human should "have value" goes against the core of what it means to be alive, to exist at all.

Any number of quarters on my desk are decades older than me. They are nothing to me. I keep them in stacks to feed meters, a practice I am convinced is mostly unnecessary - no one seems to bother feeding meters here. Without their value, they are fascinating objects: they have changed hands so many times, lived so many lives, seen so much more than I have. But, because they have value, they are nothing.

What else we can do – or should be – is not something this society encourages us to consider. If we don't start considering it, though, we will soon be nothing at all.

Domini Lenz lives in Greenfield.



RAIL from page A1

in the report, the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is leading an effort to drum up support for passenger rail from towns along Route 2. FRCOG executive director Linda Dunlavy said in an interview this week that passenger rail would be "transformational" for the region.

"Because of how rural we are and because the population density is low, it's always the case that cost-benefit ratios are going to pose challenges," said Dunlavy. "That doesn't mean the state shouldn't invest in the welfare and well-being of Franklin County. Sometimes investment is needed because it's the right thing to do. We're hoping local cities and towns will see this as a transformational investment for western Massachusetts and Franklin County."

FRCOG recently sent a letter to area towns asking them to "sign onto a general Northern Tier Rail support letter," adding that additional support could come in the form of emails to key MassDOT officials.

State senator Jo Comerford sent a similar letter to every community along Route 2 from North Adams to Fitchburg. The letter was on the Montague selectboard agenda Monday night.

"This report has been a long time coming, and it's up to all of us to seize its promise," Comerford wrote. "Constituent input and advocacy has already been instrumental in demonstrating the game-changing significance of this rail service. Now we need you to help bring this home by sharing your comments and showing your support."

"I know we're still a long way from getting this implemented, but it won't go anywhere if local communities don't show any interest," Montague town administrator Walter Ramsey told the selectboard.

The board voted to endorse the letter. "The report has a bunch of different options," said selectboard member Matt Lord, "but the letter is just like, 'Let's do this project,' and that's really where I feel I'm at right now."

Greenfield mayor Virginia "Ginny" Desorgher also announced her support of passenger rail Tuesday by submitting testimony to MassDOT.

"The Northern Tier Passenger Rail would be a critical connective link for Massachusetts," Desorgher wrote. "I encourage anyone interested in this project to make their voice heard by submitting public comment."

The overall negative tenor of the draft report is reflected in various statements on the potential of Northern Tier passenger rail, including that "projected (ridership) volumes are at the low end of currently operational regional intercity rail services in the United States." The report added that "the benefits may not offset the capital costs required for implementation," noting that federal grants "are highly competitive, with success depending in part on presenting a strong case with respect to benefit-cost analysis... "

Information in the report included annual boarding information for the Amtrak Downeaster passenger rail service between Boston and Brunswick, Maine, currently at 542,000. The Ethan Allen Express from New York City to Albany and Burlington, Vermont carries 86,000 passengers a year.

The report suggested a fundamental challenge to Northern Tier passenger rail service is the existing pattern of travel in western Massachusetts, which is more frequently north-south rather than east-west. One of the report's "key findings" was that "[t]he West segment" – from Orange to Williamstown – "has a strong northsouth orientation for trips, suggesting that many people living in the region travel to Pittsfield and Springfield for work, medical care, or other trip purposes."

The report recommended that "further coordination" among the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), and Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) "would improve intra-corridor mobility and connectivity."

The study evaluated six alternatives for passenger rail, each running five trains a day. The "low investment" alternative called for making signal improvements and upgrading some tracks at a cost of \$878.5 million, resulting in a three-hour and 55-minute trip from North Adams to Boston.

The "high investment" alternative called for track improvements that support "superelevation," allowing trains to bank around curves at higher speeds. The estimated cost of those upgrades was \$1.5 billion, resulting in a two-hour and 48-minute trip from North Adams to Boston.

The electrified service alternative would incorporate the same track upgrades as the "high investment" alternative, but electrification carries substantially higher costs for a total of \$2.9 billion.

Another alternative would have extended non-electrified passenger rail to Albany using the "high investment" track upgrades at a total cost of \$1.9 billion. Another option would have additional stops at Shel-

Great Falls Creative Movement

Offering unique, holistic dance programming for children ages 0 -12 and their families in downtown Turners Falls

greatfallscreativemovement.com

burne Falls, Athol, Gardner, and Porter Square in Cambridge.

Electrified service and full local service achieved the highest estimated ridership levels of the six potential alternatives. Still another option anticipated a passenger rail line that could allow rider sto switch over to the existing commuter rail system in Fitchburg.

The study of the six alternatives included an inventory of potential impacts on wetlands, waterways, floodplains, designated open space and recreational parklands, historic districts and properties, and state-designated "areas of critical environmental concern" (ACEC). An extensive list of permits that may be required was compiled.

Despite the negative tenor of the MassDOT report, Dunlavy was undeterred.

"We're currently looking at projections for a declining and aging population in this area. Passenger rail would open up job opportunities and transportation opportunities to prevent those projections from coming true," she said. "If people are interested in seeing passenger rail in western Massachusetts, they can easily send in their comments online and express support." While the outlook for Northern Tier passenger rail may appear dim for the foreseeable future, the Mass-DOT report supported investment in freight service, "including needed potential projects such as Hoosac Tunnel renewal, bridge strengthening, clearance projects to allow double-stack service, Ayer intermodal terminal improvements, and investments that may mitigate severe damage from flooding caused by climate change."

The report also noted that "[t]he MassDOT Patriot Corridor Double-Stack Clearance Initiative has identified 23 structures that require modification for double-stacked container trains. Further action will depend on the availability of funding for design and construction."

In its "Conclusions" section, the report states that "[g]iven the competitive options for freight service that this route offers, the societal and environmental benefits of freight rail, as well as utility for mitigating increasing climate risks, ensuring a long-term future for this route is warranted."

The most direct link to register a public comment about

the report online is at *tinyurl.com/NTPRSdirect*.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Frets Over Fees, Goes Dot-Gov, Needs Wood Stacked

By JOSH HEINEMANN

After an almost three-hour-long open meeting on September 4, the Wendell selectboard went into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad. They agreed to meet briefly this Wednesday, September 11 to decide who will be Wendell's 2024 citizen of the year, and their next regular meeting on September 18 will be preceded at 6 p.m. by a he should be replaced. Doud said he knew someone who might be interested in the job.

Unlike the wiring and plumbing inspectors, the building inspector is salaried, and therefore is not directly concerned with fees. Budine found that the last update to building Wendell's inspection fees was in 2016, and board members agreed to increase them to align with FRCOG's.

Appointed Tree Warden

The store abuts the town well property, and in early summer Scutari approached the selectboard about connecting to the town system. The town well has a slow recharge rate, but it can collect over time. Town engineer Jim Slavas has said connecting is feasible as long as the store has a large enough tank.

The selectboard has already authorized the Wendell Meetinghouse, which would also be using a large tank, to connect, and the total expected use by both buildings is less than the well can provide. Minutes taken at the time of construction, about 2005 to 2007, are not clear about connection to a private business. Johnson-Mussad said he could contact town counsel. Answering Budine's question about compensation for the town, Manley said the connection is "typically... considered a betterment, and is added to the tax bill."

mittee set it up, and the other board members agreed with him.

Other Business

Tax collector Penny Delorey reported that her assistant, Kathryn Soule-Regine, wants to ease out from working in Wendell. There is no hurry to replace her, but she does not want to stay indefinitely. Soule-Regine has already written a job description, and started showing Delorey the computer work she has been do-

discussion of town policies.

At last week's meeting, the board continued an ongoing discussion of building, electrical wiring, plumbing, and gas inspections, as well as related fees.

Wiring inspector Gary Terroy has proposed a higher fee schedule, based on what he charges in Petersham. Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said the economics of Wendell and Petersham are not alike. Member Gillian Budine said those fees would not line up well with those charged by the Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) inspectors, but said she was concerned that if Wendell insists on lining its fees up with FRCOG's it may be left with no wiring inspector.

Board member Paul Doud said Greenfield's fees are even lower than FRCOG's.

With Doud abstaining, the board voted to negotiate with Terroy, and accept his fee schedule if necessary. The new fees will start October 1 and continue at least through spring. Johnson-Mussad agreed to write a job description and posting for an alternate wiring inspector.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley has said that plumbing inspector Casey Bashaw has not turned in any paperwork, and that she thinks

Manley outlined the procedure for changing an elected position to an appointed one. She said that by law, a tree warden is elected unless a town meeting vote authorizes making the position appointed. That town meeting vote must then be affirmed by voters at the next town election, at least 60 days later.

Therefore, a special town meeting vote this fall could be confirmed in the May 2025 election, but a vote taken at the annual town meeting in June 2025 would not be confirmed until May 2026.

Budine said a job description would be necessary with an appointed position, and Johnson-Mussad said he would create one, and check in with town counsel to make sure the town is proceeding legally.

Country Store Water

The state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has given Wendell Country Store proprietor Patty Scutari an extension until September 30 to create a plan for the store's water supply. As more than 25 people drink the water at the store, the state considers its water a public water source, requiring monthly testing and reporting. It currently has a shallow well, which can become contaminated after a heavy rain. Budine suggested inviting MassDEP to a selectboard meeting.

Government Names

Proud City, Wendell's internet provider, recommends that Wendell change the toplevel domain of its town website from ".us" to ".gov." This change would be free, and would give protection against unauthorized use of the website. The website committee supports the idea.

Budine said she wondered why the change was not made when the new town website was created. The only downside would be the need to change email addresses, but Johnson-Mussad said he can work with Entre Technologies to help with that process. Budine suggested using aliases to automatically forward the old email addresses to the new ones.

Doud proposed letting the website com-

ing. Manley has begun helping with the work.

Johnson-Mussad said Highland Press has finally printed, and distributed, bound copies of Wendell's 2021 and 2022 town reports. He has copies available for people who have requested them, and some extras.

He said the 2023 report will come when Sue Hoyle returns to work.

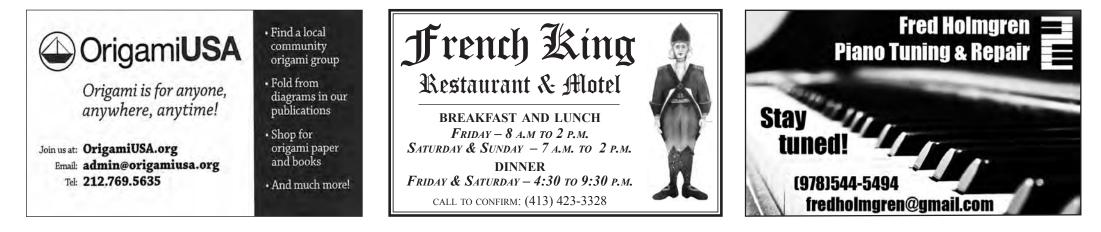
Board members agreed to subscribe to the Franklin County sheriff's animal control and dog shelter, a cost of \$2,261 for the remainder of FY'25. \$800 was allocated for animal control this year, so the town must find a source for the remaining \$1,461.

The community policing fund has \$6,000, and if the finance committee approves, that money may be used for that purpose.

Budine said applications for wood from the wood bank are available via a QR code posted in the vestibule of the office building. Paper applications are also available. This year's wood is unseasoned, and volunteers are wanted for stacking wood as it is delivered.

At the end of the meeting the board went into executive session to "conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Town coordinator)."

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!



MURAL from page A1

American Rescue Plan Act.

"After a year of planning, discussion, and community engagement, we are thrilled to unveil Turners Falls' newest piece of public art," Montague town planner Maureen Pollock stated in a press release. "Please stop by downtown Turners Falls to see the mural being painted in person," she added, "and once it's fully completed."

A ribbon-cutting event has been scheduled for this Saturday, September 14 at 4 p.m. to celebrate the piece's near-completion.

Fleming was chosen to paint the mural in part due to his background in designing murals with community engagement. He explained that Britt Ruhe, director of Common Wealth Murals, hosted a community input meeting and gathered feedback for the project from over two dozen people.

He took written feedback, totaling 13 pages, and created a design based on the input from local residents which was then approved by the mural steering group.

"The main point I got from the feedback is that people love the surrounding area and the nature around here," Fleming said. He noted that he can often be found hiking or playing disc golf in the woods when he's not painting.

Fleming said he came to appreciate the local love for nature even more as he stayed in the area to complete his work. He enjoys seeing the trailheads along Route 2 and longboarding along the Connecticut River on the Canalside Rail Trail each night throughout his stay.

"We live in a beautiful place, and there's now another exceptionally



Fleming, a North Carolina artist, said his main takeaway from input local residents provided about the mural was their love for the region's natural environment.

beautiful thing about it," Shea Theater Arts Center managing director Linda Tardif told the *Reporter*. "I feel so lucky to be able to steward a public building that is owned by a town committed to public art! What an amazing thing to live in and work for a community that not only understands the power of art, but invests in it on the 3,000-square-foot scale."

"This is the first of many murals we hope to complete in Montague," Suzanne LoManto, Montague assistant town planner and director of the RiverCulture program, stated in the press release. "It has been an excellent learning process for the town, and we are grateful for the professionalism and guidance provided by Common Wealth Murals." Fleming began his mural career about six years ago while working at a brewery. He started by making chalk drawings during his shift and eventually got hired to create chalk drawings during his off hours, eventually leading to his first mural at the same business.

After completing his first mural, Fleming received more requests and transitioned to working as a full-time artist. His largest mural to date was four times the size of the Shea Theater project, totaling about 12,000 square feet. He has traveled as far as Utah and Montana for other mural projects. Self-taught, Fleming credits his rapid learning to taking on projects that he believed were beyond his skill set and experimenting. While most murals start with projecting the outline on the walls, Fleming has freehanded the Shea project. He uses large airless sprayers for the base layers, a smaller "quick shot" airless sprayer for finer details, and aerosol cans for detail and hard lines. For the nature elements of this piece, he plans to use brushes and rollers to achieve a "trippy" effect.

Fleming said he enjoys working in New England, appreciating its distinct culture compared with the South. With his father hailing from Maine, Fleming relishes the blunt sensibility of New England culture. During this visit he has stayed in both Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant, exploring many of

Montague's five villages.

"This is an incredibly awesome place," Fleming said. "I would not have experienced this if it hadn't been for art."

He hopes this project will inspire others to undertake mural projects and encourage Montague and surrounding towns to allocate more funds for murals in the future. For aspiring muralists, he advises, "Challenge the hell out of yourself. Paint things you think are outside of your skill set. If you are feeling nervous about it; that is a great thing."

Fleming is enthusiastic about the project, stating that his philosophy on public art is "there should be lots of it, and it should be



SPORTS from page A1

In goal, Maddie Markwell has been a wall, while Kenzie Sourdiffe-Massee leads in goals scored, followed by Avery Heathwaite. Abi Dobias, Katy Lengiza, and Kailey Steiner have registered assists.

Turners, on the other hand, tied Northampton in their first game of the season, but have dropped four straight since the opener. Ledwin Villafana leads the team in goals, followed by Jessi Berly, with Ella Larouche chalking an assist. Goalkeeper Connor Glennon has registered multiple saves, though, keeping the contests relatively close.

I attended the East Longmeadow match on Monday. At least three groups of fans reminded me that the team is heavy with middle schoolers. "And some of them are probably going to go to Franklin Tech," someone speculated. When I arrived the score was 5-0 in favor of the visitors, but for the remainder of the contest it was pretty even, with both teams mounting attacks and getting shots on goal. Unfortunately for the Thunder, their lone goal was called back because the shot was taken from outside the striking circle.

scored for the Eagles.

This Thursday, they play their home opener against Duggan Academy.

Girls' Soccer

The girls' soccer team remains a co-op, with Turners girls filling the Tech roster. I've been to a couple of their games. They do well with passing, shooting, and attacks, but until Wednesday's game against the Renaissance Phoenix, they had not scored one goal.

That changed on Wednesday. Twenty-three minutes into the contest, Zoey Duda found Laken Woodard in front of the goal and Woodard hit paydirt, giving the Eagles their first goal of the season.

The Eagles then blocked any attempt to advance the ball past midfield, keeping the action in Renaissance territory. At 35.00, the Phoenix goalie dove out of the crease to retrieve an errant ball, but she wasn't quick enough, and Elise Wolfe beat her to it. Wolfe kicked the ball to Kailey James who shot it into the open net to make it 2-nil.

The Lady Birds did not sit on their lead. Late in the game, Alyssa Peters scored an unassisted goal to drive up the score to 3-0. Shaylee Martin and the Birds' defense took

over at that point, and they ran out the clock to preserve the shutout.

as accessible as possible."

The Kicking Eagles get back on the pitch next Thursday the 19th against Gateway.

Volleyball

Last year the Thunder Volleyball Ladies went 22–3, winning the Northern Conference title in the process. This year, they are 2–1. The loss came against the undefeated Mohawk Warriors in a 15-13 fifth-set heartbreaker.

So far, Madi Liimatainen leads the team in aces and kills, Maddie Haight in assists, and Maddie Dietz in digs. This Thursday they take on the Mahar Senators.

The Franklin Tech volleyballers, mean-

The Eagles host Amherst this Thursday, and on Friday the 13th the Thunder travel up the Mohawk Trail to challenge the Warriors.

Boys' Soccer

The Turners boys' soccer team is no longer co-oping with Franklin Tech, depleting their numbers. But the team has split its first two games, losing 3-2 against Springfield International and beating Athol 4-2.

Yolvin Ovalle-Mejia is leading in scoring, with assists from Noali Kolodiey and Molses Berraye. On Friday, the Pioneer Panthers come to town.

Across the road, the Tech team is coping with the loss of those Turners boys. The Eagles have dropped two away games against Hampden East and Saint Mary. Sorin Marin, Nate Trude, and Jack Gancarz have all



Franklin Tech's Madyson Lynde steps in to kick a forward pass as the Eagles blanked the visiting Renaissance School Phoenix 3-0 on Wednesday.

while, are 1–3, with their lone win coming against Pioneer Christian in another 15-13 fifth-set nailbiter. So far this season, Taylor Underwood leads the team in digs, Emma Peterson in kills, Madison Pettingill in aces, and Emma Little in assists.

The Eagles host Greenfield this Thursday.

Golf

The Turners Falls golfers have lost their first two matches. Last year they went 12–2, but with the losses of Joey Mosca to graduation and Jack Day and Grady Deery to Franklin Tech, the team's fortunes have fallen on the shoulders of senior Darian Burnett. Burnett has placed on the leader board in both matches.

This Thursday, the team goes club-to-club against Hopkins at Thomas Memorial.

Tech, on the other hand, who went 9–6 last season, have won their first three matches, besting Hopkins, Athol, and Easthampton. Senior Gabe Mota has consistently led Franklin, with Day, Deery, Ayron Hemingway Jr., William Belval, Braeden Talbot, and Owen Stoddard also tallying points for the Eagles.

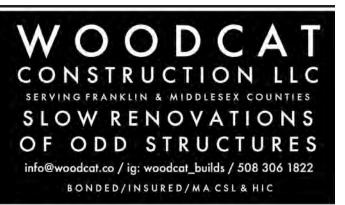
Next Monday at Thomas Memorial, Turners and Tech will go head to head.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



BKONFONQEQWIYSS.IPY HMZGESCGQVQFHJW.MMO FONTLVPEAXQAHDO.SHC LJKEVOBFBFNAPGR.RED SECRETBROADCAST.NET a weekly secret message podcast



Board Insists on Secure Dog Pen

By SARAH BROWN-ANSON

During Monday night's meeting, the Gill selectboard voted unanimously to give Rothgar the dog's owner a final seven days to comply with an order to construct a securely enclosed pen, kennel, or dog run, or to risk a fine of \$500 per day for noncompliance.

The selectboard also voted to impose two additional conditions: that Rothgar be currently licensed and vaccinated against rabies – a condition the board had failed to impose during Rothgar's June 17 dangerous dog hearing – and that he be physically restrained with a leash while in the backyard until the securely enclosed pen, kennel, or dog run was in place.

Rothgar's owner, Michael Chudzick, had written to the selectboard on August 23 requesting a change to the conditions imposed as a result of the hearing. In his letter, Chudzick wrote that he had tried to address the issue of Rothgar's enclosure "by investing in \$7,000 worth of stockade fencing," and reiterated the plan he had presented during the June hearing to sell his property and move to New Hampshire.

Chudzick requested that the board consider his fence as an outdoor dog pen, writing that installing a kennel or dog run could reduce the property's resale value.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier said that a property's value is not a factor that the board takes into account when making orders regarding a dangerous dog. "This isn't about value on a house in my mind," said Crochier. "This is about whether the dog is restrained properly or not."

Kyle Dragon, the regional animal control officer (ACO), was present to answer questions from the board, and provided them with a video showing the stockade fencing enclosure. Dragon said that for an outside enclosure to comply with the requirements, it must have either a solid floor or a fence embedded at least two feet into the ground to prevent a dog from escaping.

Asked by selectboard chair Greg Snedeker whether Chudzick had shown good faith in complying with the other conditions the board set at the dangerous dog hearing, Dragon replied: "Every other condition, minus the building of the kennel in his backyard, has been met."

Several neighbors attended the meeting, and four spoke to ask clarifying questions and express concerns about Chudzick's request to waive the pen, kennel, or dog run requirement.

Both the neighbors and the selectboard members pointed out that gaps in the fencing in several places could allow a dog to dig his way through and escape.

Crochier said he hoped the town would be able to send the order to Rothgar's owner by Wednesday using the civil process division of the Franklin County sheriff's office. Upon receipt of the order, Chudzick would have seven days to comply.

When asked by a concerned neighbor how the public would know whether Rothgar's owners have complied with the order, Snedeker replied, "We won't have to come back here." The board, he said, would have to revisit the issue if the dog's owner had failed to comply with the order going forward.

"You can always reach out to [town administrator] Ray [Purington] or the ACO program of the sheriff's office," added Crochier, but he said he did not want to set a precedent of notifying abutters of the result of inspections.

Other Business

Snedeker acknowledged the hire of new police sergeant John Richardson, and welcomed him to town.

The selectboard appointed Mark Beaudry to the planning board through June 2027.

In their capacity as sewer commissioners, Snedeker, Crochier, and fellow selectboard member Charles Garbiel granted sewer bill abatements to Cathleen Demars and Jeff Suprenant.

It was once again announced that two events will be held on the last weekend in September: a Community Contra Dance on Saturday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at the town hall, and the Gill Harvest Festival, on Sunday, September 29 from noon to 3 p.m. on the town common.

Gill's next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.

INVITATION TO BID 11th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The Town of Montague is accepting sealed bids for repairs to the 11th Street Bridge over the Utility Canal in Turners Falls, MA.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "11th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project" and be delivered to the Selectboard Office, Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376. This IFB is offered per M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M and work is subject to Prevailing Wage Requirements.

Sealed Bids must be received by Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at which time all bid packages will be opened and read at the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room at the same address listed above. No exceptions or allowances will be made for late submittals.

A bidders' conference will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 11th Street over Utility Canal, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Attendance is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. The IFB is available at *www.montague-ma.gov/BIDS*. Registration is required. Once registered, any addenda or notifications will automatically be sent to the email address of registrants on record. Written questions can be submitted to the Project Manager, Chris Nolan-Zeller, at *chrisn@montague-ma.gov* until Wednesday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Qualified proposers who are Minority/Women/Disabled Owned Business Enterprises (M/W/D/BE) businesses are encouraged to apply. Other qualified proposers are encouraged to partner with disadvantaged businesses. A listing of certified disadvantaged businesses can be found at *www.mass.gov/sdo*.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in total or in part as they may deem in the public's best interest.

Walter Ramsey, Chief Procurement Officer

The Town of Montague does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or gender with respect to admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities.

Dof the week ...

Boating season might be ending, but your boat is still at risk of a total loss while in storage due to fire, theft, and other hazards. Contact us to get a policy that offers coverage for your boat all year round.



MONTAGUE from page A1

a potential contract overrun on a screw pump replacement at the Clean Water Facility, a contingency for the screw pump job, and upgrades at the Carnegie Library – which can start by December 31. These totalled \$431,707, which left \$64,714 available, which members agreed should be set aside for "contingency."

Town administrator Walter Ramsey said that a ramp for handicapped access to four storefronts on Avenue A was no longer on the ARPA list, because the town had received a cost estimate from a contractor of \$225,000 for the ramp. "We'll have to look creatively to get that project done," he said. "Possibly with grants." "It seems like we don't need one," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. "There are a couple of little things, but I think we can deal with them some other way." No vote was taken.

Wage Study

The longest topic Monday was a classification and wage study of town jobs by the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts. The study, which has been in progress for over a year, is designed to evaluate wages and job classifications to judge both equity among staff members and alignment with the labor market in the region. The study also checked whether job descriptions were up to date. sider offering any prospective officer who is already certified by the state, and thus does not need to attend the police academy, a \$10,000 signing bonus, phased in during their first year. He said that the city of Greenfield is offering a similar bonus, and that it would help the town avoid lengthy absences for academy training.

The chief stated that the tuition at the academy, which the town covers, is \$3,000, "and then you're paying somebody six months of pay and benefits, and car usage and gasoline to go to Holyoke." Williams said he had sufficient money in this year's budget to pay for a bonus.

Sergeant Peter Lapachinski, who attended the meeting, said the officer's union supported the proposal, and that "in the long run, it will probably pay for itself." "substantial costs and logistics" in demolition, but would require "subdividing" the property and issuing a public solicitation for developers to buy the building.

There was little support for this course of action on the board. "I have no appetite to dispose of this property, and I would prefer that it get destroyed," said Lord. "We have been screwing around with the Strathmore for far longer than I've been here."

Kuklewicz expressed concerns about the cost and complexity of subdividing the property, though he said he also worried that the cost of tearing it down could exceed current grant funding.

"I've been through so much with that building," said Boutwell. "The sooner it's down, the happier I'll be."

Town Meetings

Ramsey said he had contacted the school district about the availability of the high school auditorium next spring for the annual town meeting. The selectboard has decided to move the "annual" from the traditional first Saturday in May, when it generally runs morning to afternoon, to an evening meeting, similar to most towns with representative meetings.

The Saturday date is set in the town bylaws, which may require a town meeting vote to change, so the board has called the change next spring a "one-year trial," in Ramsey's words. He proposed that the meeting be held at 5:30 or 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, with a second meeting on May 14 "if we can't complete all the business in one day."

Board members expressed support for this scenario, but questioned the starting time as too early, particularly for members with children. Executive assistant Wendy Bogusz noted that special town meetings generally start at 6:30 p.m. Board members appeared to support that starting time, but did not take a vote.

There was no discussion of a fall special town meeting, which generally takes place in early October, which would require that notice be sent out soon. The board was asked if this meant there would not be one.

The presentation, by Collins Center senior associate Mary Aicardi, featured approximately 10 slides with numerous bullet points, many reviewing the Center's methodology, which was based on interviews with staff members and comparison with other municipalities. There was an emphasis on the difficulty of finding "similar towns" to compare with Montague.

Asked whether there were any major conclusions or "takeaways," Aicardi was hesitant to articulate a bottom line. "We're not there yet," said board member Matt Lord. "We're so far from digesting all of this.... We're still trying to figure out what those main conclusions are."

Kuklewicz pointed out, as Aicardi had, that the report found that compensation for top-level staff in Montague was below the norm for comparable communities.

Police Signing Bonus

Police chief Chris Williams recommended that the board make a offer of employment to Rachael Emerson as an officer, conditional on an additional interview and testing to be able to attend the police academy in December. The board approved the conditional offer.

Williams also proposed that the town con-

Lord said he was not in favor of the bonus "at this time," because the town had been able to hire new officers "pretty reasonably... with great candidates, so I do not see any urgency on this."

Williams replied that the department is currently short two officers. "It's starting to take its toll on officers forced on overtime to cover the shifts," he said.

Kuklewicz suggested that the board put a hold on the decision, and discuss the proposal again in two weeks. Lord and fellow member Chris Boutwell agreed.

Neighborly Interest

Ramsey informed the board that interest had been shown, by a "direct abutter," in the freestanding Building 11 of the town-owned Strathmore Mill complex, all of which is slated for demolition. He said the interested party – whom he did not name, but who would be Tom Cusano, owner of the former Southworth paper mill – would be interested in securing the building, putting a new roof on it and "mothballing" it for several years, and then "activating it for light industrial use" after the rest of the complex is demolished.

Ramsey said this would save the town

"I'm hearing direction from the board not to issue a solicitation at this time?" Ramsey said, and all heads nodded.

Other Business

The board was informed that the library trustees had approved a new contract with libraries director Caitlin Kelley. Ramsey, who described the three-year contract, said that Kelley would remain at the same pay grade, and that the only significant change was that she would be allowed to work up to seven hours per week from home.

The board endorsed a letter of support for the construction of a "Northern Tier" passenger rail, which would follow the path of a freight rail route where passenger service as far west as North Adams was offered until the 1950s. (*See article, Page A1.*)

The letter, circulated by state senator Jo Comerford and representative Natalie Blais, follows the release on August 13 of a report on the costs and benefits of such a project. Without discussion of the study the board voted to endorse the letter.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!



Town Hall Gets Its Ducks in a Row **Ahead of Housing Negotiations**

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett's selectboard reviewed a draft agreement between town committees on Tuesday, as the town continued preparing to address a proposal to build a large housing development on the former estate of Yankee Candle owner Michael Kittredge.

In July, representatives of the Kittredge estate on Juggler Meadow Road communicated an interest in building a 150-unit housing development for residents 55 and older on 40 acres of the estate on the Leverett side of the Amherst town line. One-quarter of the units would be designated as low- or moderate-income housing.

They also proposed that the Leverett units be constructed under the state's Local Initiative Program (LIP), described as a "friendly" rather than "traditional" Chapter 40B process.

Under Chapter 40B of Massachusetts General Law, a town such as Leverett which does not meet a sufficient threshold of affordable housing may not use local zoning to prevent a development that includes it. If the town and developer agree to enroll in the LIP, they would receive technical aid from the state to work collaboratively, avoiding a potentially adversarial process, and the state would sign off on the results.

Leverett has never dealt with a Chapter 40B proposal, according to selectboard chair Tom Hankinson, and is working on developing its approach to the matter.

In response to the selectboard's suggestion that it "take the lead" in negotiations with the estate, the planning board previously asked for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) clarifying its responsibilities, along with how to evaluate the plan. At Tuesday's meeting, the selectboard reviewed a draft of this MOU.

According to the draft, the planning board would be responsible for "planning activities surrounding the development," including a public forum on the proposal, along with further forums to inform the public as more information becomes available and solicit feedback. The planning board would also be asked to summarize the town's nearly-completed Comprehensive Plan, and its bearing on the proposal. The MOU also defines roles for the zoning board of appeals, the board of health, and the conservation commission and specifies that representatives should be designated for communication between the various committees. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis is named as the "primary conduit of information," and given a number of additional tasks and responsibilities.

The selectboard is responsible for "executive" decisions, including requesting information from the Kittredge estate, disbursing it to the other boards, and hiring an attorney who specializes in Chapter 40B, a step that has already been taken.

Finally, the selectboard would be responsible for publicly reviewing all the available information and deciding on a final "course of action for the town."

Resident Jacob Park commented that guidance on questions of strategy was missing from the MOU, and suggested that before the planning board decides whether a comprehensive review of an LIP is worthwhile, the Kittredge estate should further explain its concrete benefits over a traditional 40B proposal.

"The onus should be on them to do the legwork," Park said, adding that he felt the MOU should state clearly that if the planning board does undertake a comprehensive review, it would then make a recommendation to the selectboard.

Resident Carol Heim said it was important to be clear in the MOU that the town has not yet decided to consider an LIP, and also suggested that the selectboard's signatures be required on an LIP application if one is submitted, as this would create "more of a sense that it was an open decision."

Heim added that it was important for an attorney to spell out the risks of an LIP before the town gets too far into evaluating it, in order to avoid wasting time if the process is too risky. She also recommended that selectboard members attend all public meetings on the matter in order to hear directly from residents, and to keep the topic on their own agenda.

Heim and Park both noted that the town was not yet dealing with an actual developer, which will be required for an LIP application.

Hankinson reported that the

erties for inclusion in the state's Neighborhood Renewal Program that meet its criteria, such as property tax delinquency and board of health violations. He said it was worth exploring whether there were cases where the program could be a benefit to the property owner as well as the town.

As in previous discussions on the topic, planning board member Richard Nathhorst said he did not object to using the program, but warned that it should not be used for historical preservation purposes.

A draft Digital Equity Plan is now available on the town website, along with a link for public comment.

McGinnis noted that the town had not yet received any applications for a vacancy in the police department.

The selectboard will kick off a recruitment drive for open town positions at its next meeting on September 24 with a few words from a school committee member.

The board announced that PVTA bus service will be available in Leverett beginning September 30, with a stop at the town hall. Hankinson commented that the town had been seeking this stop for "decades."

"Credit should go to many people over the years," he said after the meeting, "but I think the Council on Aging and its chair, Judy Fonsh, should get the nod for bringing it home."

He added that "honorable mention" should go to resident and commercial bus driver Roy Kimmel.

On Wednesday, Fonsh announced on the town listserv that PVTA transit director Paul Burns will be a guest at a Leverett senior center luncheon at noon on Friday, September 27 at the town hall.



Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs! 159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

Affordable HOME OWNERSHIP Housing Opportunity

68 Solar Way, Greenfield

Energy efficient condo 3 bedroo

Energy enicient condo	Household Size	Maximum Income
3 bedroom	2	\$70,100
	3	\$78,850
\$200,117	4	\$87,600
This home is deed restricted.	12	\$94,650
Applicants must be income eligible. Other restrictions apply.	6	\$101,650

Your total household income must be at or below the listed amounts. Total household income includes earned and unearned income received by all members of your household who are 18 +. The application process and criteria will includes 3rd party income verification, preapproval letter from mortgage lender, proof of assets and other verifications

Initial Application Deadline: October 3, 2024, 4:00 PM

If more than one application is received by the Initial Application Deadline, then a lottery will be held to select a homebuyer.

For an application contact Rural Development, Inc.: 413-863-9781 or TTY/TDD 800-439-2370

Online: https://fcrhra.org/affordable-homeownership/ Email: RuralHomes413@gmail.com

Reasonable accommodation and language assistance is available upon request



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Relax Investment Policy, Bank Suggests

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE - A Montague seat on the regional school committee is currently vacant, following the resignation of John Irminger. "Everybody works so hard, and puts in so many hours," Irminger said at the August 20 meeting. "Some people are really putting in their lives." Volunteers interested in holding the seat until the town election next spring may send letters of interest to the district office.

Sheffield Elementary (see article, abandoned that policy. Page A1), appointed Carol Jacobs

Patterson called the List "very limiting," explaining that it is comprised of "about 20 stocks," of which a quarter are pharmaceutical companies. Many municipalities and districts, he said, have replaced this with a requirement to comply with the Uniform Prudent Investor Act. "This topic has become our focus recently," business manager Joanne Blier wrote, "after receiving a call from an Alumni wishing to establish a significant scholarship fund."

town had still not received answers to its initial round of questions to the estate. "We're basically sitting here on hold," he said, adding that there will be "more motion" when the town receives a response.

Selectboard member Jed Proujansky noted that it was early in the process, and that "nobody is going to approve a 40B tomorrow."

The draft was sent to the planning board for further review.

Other Business

Hankinson renewed a suggestion that the selectboard identify prop-

On Tuesday the committee approved \$25,000 from the school choice revolving account to help salvage the after-school program at as an alternate delegate to the state Association of School Committees conference this fall, and greeted the new student representative, Khiarieliex Huertas Hernandez.

Members also heard a presentation from treasurer Ryan Mailloux and Chuck Patterson, senior vice president at the Worcester-based bank Bartholomew & Company, suggesting the district change its policy on investments. Policy "DFA" restricts the district's funds to the state's List of Legal Investments, but policy subcommittee chair Heather Katsoulis said many districts have

Committee members thanked Mailloux and Patterson and agreed to have the policy subcommittee review the proposal.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



YEAR 22 - NO. 37



FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Above: Any downtown Turners residents who have heard a rooster crowing recently are probably hearing this guy (at left).

SIGNS... OF A VILLAGE'S VALUES

By PAT HYNES

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls, once a planned industrial community with paper manufacturing companies, cotton mills, and the largest cutlery factory of its day – all powered by the Connecticut River – is now a discreetly thriving post-industrial village of the town of Montague, with 23 *Peace* signs on downtown windows and doors.

These signs, provided by the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, span the downtown from the Country Creemee, LOOT, Breakdown Records, the Upper Bend restaurant, and the Avenue A Market to the Music Connection, Aubuchon Hardware, and the United Arc of Franklin County.

Off of Avenue A, they hang at Albita's Tailoring Shop, Montague Community TV, the Brick House, and the Rendezvous.

I asked a handful of the shop owners and community organizations who had welcomed posting the sign in their windows: "If



One of the Traprock Center's Peace signs hangs in the window at Basically Bicycles.

would it say?" A stream of responses flowed forth.

Librarians Angela Rovatti-Leonard and Scott Schmith replied: "If the *Peace* sign in the window of the Carnegie Public Library could talk, it would say, 'All are welcome here!' The sign, placed in a spot seen by patrons inside and passersby on the of our three libraries to everyone it meets: 'The Montague Public Libraries offer materials, services, and programs to foster educational, cultural, and recreational enrichment in the community.' Everyone is welcome through our doors."

Dave Carr, owner of Basically Bikes, a full-service bike shop and



By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – Linger awhile, there is no rush.

The August summer that we didn't seem to have has been pushed into September. The wet, on-again-off-again summer season is now here in the ninth month of the year. Sure, the days are shorter already, but this is nothing like what's coming in November and December.

The morning chill is almost a Zen slap in the face; the coffee never tasted better.

Our hummingbirds linger, but are clearly less frequent at the sugar water than a week ago. It'll soon be time to bring that nectar in, so as to not carelessly entice the hummers to linger into the cold of coming days. They have been known to grow torpid in low temperatures, especially in an unexpected chill over the night.

A cloudbank of jewelweed has been hovering around the edge of the porch and fading off into the days since the calendar turned to September. And now the air is crisp and clear, with a promise of good weather for at least a week.

Sunday, morning of peace, though no church bells ring around here anymore. Up in the village the Church of St. John's has long been closed. The place of my parents' marriage, my grandparents' marriage, even my own baptism, is now abandoned. Maybe, in the next town over, the churches of Our Lady Of Peace or Czestochowa will ring their pre-recorded chimes.

Down here on the Flat, the only Sunday sounds are the loud jays or the Sunday-inspired wren – who, by the way, will sing in the rain, the snow, and the heat, and likely even on Doomsday.



your *Peace* sign could speak, what sidewalk, would convey the mission

see **REFLECTION** page B4



For a weekend getaway, consider the Second City.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – Sometimes spur-of-the-moment travel can lead to unexpected fun. This was the case a few weeks ago, when my partner asked me if I wanted to go to Chicago for the weekend... on a Wednesday. Sure!

Our three-day visit to the Second

City turned out to be fast-paced and exciting. It felt like we did it all, from the highly recommended Chicago architecture boat tour to the legendary deep-dish pizza, taking in art exhibits and even late-night stand-up comedy. All of the kinds of things you just can't do in little

Millennium Park in downtown Chicago is full of people and festivals all year long.

old Deerfield or Montague.

Nope, it was time for a true city break. After a 2½-hour flight from Boston, we were soon on the train that goes from busy O'Hare International Airport to the Chicago Loop. So many US cities outside New England have made getting to the airport an easy-peasy train ride instead of expensive car parking, shuttles, and hassles. In Chicago, the CTA's Blue Line whisks you 17 stops from the middle of the city to the airport monorail, and then to the gate, for \$5. Try that in Boston!

We found a centrally located inexpensive hotel in Chicago's theater district, the Cambria, which had a lobby and decent-sized rooms. This was a great home base for our explorations, which began with finding some of the deep-dish pizza the city is famous for.

While the famous joint, Lou Malnati's Pizzeria, has a huge subterranean dining room that is always packed, and the wait was long, we

see TRAVEL page B4

distance towards the woodshed in an Impressionist-like swath, softening all the lines of picket fence and posts. This wild and fragile orange-jeweled gift is permitted to engulf the premises; the shed, carport, even the automobiles are left in the blossoms of this ephemeral border. Its banks of flowers are a heaven for bumblebees, hummingbirds, and all manner of unnamed insects.

We tolerate and even encourage the jewelweed in its annual takeover of the yard. It's known as *touch-me-not* because it has a seed-dispersal mechanism that shoots out seeds when touched.

These plants are fragile and ephemeral, but even so the whole creation of these banks of flowers has now lasted for more than a month. In comparison, the beebalm tarnished and faded under the numerous summer showers, and the lilacs are already bare and barren, discouraged by the same endless damp. Many maples and apple trees have already cast down their foliage too early.

The scrawny apples of the heirloom Baldwin tree hang starkly on its bare branches or have dropped. They'll be turned into applesauce by the woman of the house. Already the sweet, tangy autumn scent of apples fills the front hall and kitchen.

On this most recent Sunday morning I found myself once again admiring my cloudbank of flowers, glistening after a night of cleansing rain. For a change, it hadn't rained for a stretch of ten

The jewelweed overtakes the author's backyard.

As it happened, the stretch of sunny weather lasted until this past Saturday, around 4 p.m. That's when the mist moved in over Lake Siog. Out in the wilds of Quabaug country, the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians were deep into their annual powwow. I had traveled out from the Connecticut River Valley to join friends Liz Coldwind and her son, Ite Little Arrow. Both have been working with us at Wissatinnewag and during the ongoing study of the terrible events at the Falls in 1676.

I also had a mission to accomplish: Matt, a high school classmate of mine, is a collector of sorts. He was weary of keeping two weighty Indigenous artifacts that were turned up by a tractor in his family's fields along the Sawmill River decades ago. He wanted me to turn them over to the citizens of this Nipmuck band.

see WEST ALONG page B8

Pet the Week



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day!

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2024 household hazardous waste collection next Saturday, September 21 at Greenfield Community College (GCC) and the Orange transfer station.

Residents and businesses must register by Friday, September 13. Registration is open online at franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in forms are available at participating town halls and town transfer stations. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring waste to the collection; the time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of most participating towns: Athol, Barre, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. (Note: Barre and Sunderland residents must pay to participate, as space is limited.)

Businesses may participate, but must pay for disposal

costs. For business registration, call (413) 772-2438.

This event provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A list of acceptable items is at *franklincountywastedistrict.org*.

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats will not be accepted. These items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should never be put in trash or recycling. Handle carefully, bring to a municipal transfer station or a regional hazardous waste "super site" (see website for more information), and hand to attendant.

In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types) and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

'ILLEAH'

Illeah came to Dakin looking for her next home. Her previous owners describe her as a sweet, affectionate, talkative, cuddle-bug type of cat. Illeah loves treats, and pats are on the top of her favorite list. She has lived well with another cat in the past, but we always recommend a slow introduction of new pets in the home.

Illeah loves fishy foods and goes crazy for tuna and salmon, so be sure to have some tasty food stocked up! She can be a bit shy in new situations, so the transition to the shelter has been a big change for her. Come meet Illeah today and give her some gentle pets to help her warm back up.

Interested in adopting Illeah? Please call Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or visit www. dakinhumane.org for information.

Want your pet featured in The Montague Reporter? We accept reader submissions! Just email a high-resolution photo to jae@ montaguereporter.org along with a paragraph or two about why your pet is simply the best.

Senior Center Activities

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, please call 863-9357.

Monday 9/16

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Kitchen Club 6 p.m. Cemetery Commission Tuesday 9/17 9 a.m. Chair Yoga 11 a.m. Money Matters 3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 9/18 9 a.m. Veterans' Agent 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 11:45 a.m. Friends of the Senior Center Meeting 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo 1 p.m. Food Pantry 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Thursday 9/19 10 a.m. MV Board of Directors 10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share 1 p.m. Pitch Friday 9/20 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 2 p.m. Chair Dance

SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH 20 days from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 9/16

9 a.m. Interval 10 a.m. Chair Dance 1 p.m. Yoga 1 p.m. Wreath Making **Tuesday 9/17**

Elders Beware: Scams Abound!

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE - People my age (nearly eighty) were brought up to be polite. At my childhood home, whoever answered the phone said, "Uttmark residence!" before engaging with the caller.

It therefore feels unnatural to realize how careful we must be these days. When answering the phone, a simple "Yes" - as in, "Yes, this is this Lee," - can be enough for someone to make a voice print of my voice, and then use artificial intelligence to simulate my voice into different messages. These fake voice messages can then be used for solicitations, or to confirm purchases I didn't make.

Stolen voice prints have been used to simulate desperate grandchildren begging for money, and compassionate grandparents have fallen for it. They have sent money to strangers, money they can never retrieve. It is unsettling to know that what appears real may not be, and that instinctive acts of kindness can lead to financial ruin. Older Americans are perceived by crooks as easy marks. Imposters disguised as bank personnel, the Social Security Administration, friends, or long-lost relatives are organized to separate us from our savings. The only defense is information and healthy skepticism. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Think of the email messages promising a huge deposit into your bank account once you send your account information. Phony ploys such as this must work, because they continue, while their level of sophistication keeps growing. Keeping a few basics in mind is the first step in protecting yourself.

ident and head of the bank's community engagement team, to make a presentation about fraud protection. They offered practical measures we can take to protect ourselves.

Roberta Potter, the director of the Council on Aging, said, "Older people are targeted, but it's not because we're unintelligent or incapable - it's because we were raised to be polite, and generally to trust people." "Also," she added, "we're more likely to have the money – if we're well-off Boomers - or to need the money, if we're on an extremely low fixed Social Security income."

Here's a summary of Roberta's thoughts, and the presentation, to help guide and protect us going forward:

• Social Security, Medicare, MassHealth, and the IRS will not telephone you. They send letters.

let it go to voicemail.

• If you get a call from someone who says they're from a business or agency that you know and they ask for personal information, say "No, thank you." Hang up and call the agency using a phone number that you know - from a bill or other correspondence - to find out whether that agency really needed to speak to you.

• You can't have won a contest vou didn't enter.

• Be wary of door-to-door salespeople who pressure you for a contract or a deposit. Get references before committing to any product or service.

• If you do find yourself talking to a telemarketer, don't use the words "Yes," "Okay," or "I agree," because they can be recorded and used to validate a purchase you didn't want to make.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fri-

9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Line Dancing 11 a.m. Social Stringer Wednesday 9/18 9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning 10 a.m. Chair Aerobics 12 p.m. Bingo Thursday 9/19 9 a.m. Barre Fusion 10 a.m. Pilates Flow Friday 9/20 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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

Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

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. Contact (413) 548-1022 x2 or

coa@leverett.ma.us.

The Gill-Montague senior center recently welcomed Ashley Costa, a fraud prevention analyst from Greenfield Savings Bank, and Linda Ackerman, an assistant vice pres-

• Microsoft, Apple, Comcast, and Verizon will never call you and ask for your computer password. If you need help with your computer, find someone reliable to help you out. Many libraries and senior centers have tech help available.

• Don't give your Social Security number to anyone except trusted agencies that you know, and make sure you are talking to the agency and not an imposter. Asking for your SSN is a red flag. Most agencies will ask for just the last four or six digits.

• If you get an email from someone you don't recognize, don't open it.

• Do not ever click a link in an email. If you do business with someone online, always open the link that you know, not one that comes to you in an email.

• If you have an answering machine, screen your calls, and don't pick up until you know it's someone with whom you want to engage.

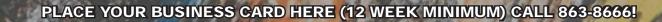
• Most smartphones have caller ID. If you get a suspected scam call or a call from an unfamiliar number,

• If a grandchild calls and needs money to get home or to get out of jail, it's probably a scam. Say "Is that you, Freddy?" or any other fake name. The scammer will say "Yes, Gran" and then you'll know it's a scam, since you made the name up.

I was surprised to learn that paying bills online is safer than sending a check through the mail, as long as you're using a secure Wifi connection. Online payment allows you to track your account daily for inconsistencies or false charges.

If paying bills online is not possible, deliver your mail to the post office. Do not leave envelopes containing checks in your mailbox. Don't let delivered mail sit in your mailbox, and consult your bank immediately if you suspect any suspicious activity.

It's disheartening to know that so much creative effort has gone into these malicious frauds, but it's comforting to know that some forethought and healthy skepticism can keep you safe.







Bryan Hobbs Remodeling LLC

Blown Cellulose Insulation . Spray Foam Insulation Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

> Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com Now Accepting Credit Cards

> > mass save

PARTNER

Office: (913)775-9006 Lic # 083982 Reg # 139564

Bryan G. Hobbs PO Box 1535 Greenfield, MA 01302



EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Work by Molly Almeida, Lydia M. Kinney, and Judith Bowerman. Drawings, paintings, and prints.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: Jasper Alexander presents block prints from his Salted Snail Studio, through October.

Montague Center Library: Meaghan Schwelm, paintings exploring the everyday and the familiar. Through October 30, with a reception Wednesday, October 23 at 6 p.m.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: Literately Inspired, group show of art inspired by words, through September 15.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon: Tertiary Effects, sculptures, prints, and drawings by Jess Star, through September 29.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: Nature Elementals, paintings by Lori Lyn Hoffer and fabric beasts by Jacqueline Straus, through September.

Leverett Library: Trees and Mills, drawings and etchings by Frank Waugh. Through October 29, with a talk with curator Annaliese Bischoff Saturday, October 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: limn•inal, paintings and kinetic sculpture by Donnabelle Casis, through November 2.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: It's Never Too Late to Create, work by Tim Gorts, through October 11.

Greenfield Library: The Day After Yesterday, portraits of dementia by Joe Wallace. Through September 28, with a reception Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Every Vote Counts, art installation by A.L.R. Keaton. Reception and presentation this Friday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. Enter a voting booth, read the graffiti there and add your own, and cast a unique ballot. The Art of Recovery, artwork from participants at the Recover Project, through October; reception Friday, September 27, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Gallery A3, Amherst: When Matter Talks Back, mixed-media installation by Rebecca Muller, through September 28.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: Treasured Memories, group exhibit by member artists depicting scenes that trigger memories or emotions, through September.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: Wings of the Wind, paintings by Margaret Loyd, and The New Herbarium, cyanotypes by Madge Evers, through October 28.

Club George, Northampton: Fragment: Sculpture and Works on Paper, by Winifred McNeill, through September 15.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: Frida Kahlo, Her Photos, images from Kahlo's personal collection which were locked up in a bathroom at the artist's residence for more than 50 years, through September. Look Again: Portraits of Daring Women, woodcut and collage prints by Leverett artist Julie Lapping Rivera celebrating the achievements of women who defied the status quo, through February.

So That Happened; Playing Around; Separation; Malicious Pull; Found Puppy; Not Water Balloons

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Monday, 9/2

Avenue A screaming into Tuesday, 9/3 the phone that she needs 1:27 a.m. Caller does not stuff out the window. work this morning. Very a detective. Can hear call- wish to give name but Peace restored. er and male party arguing states there is a dog next Thursday, 9/5 tinued banging phone on officer check on dog. the ground and screaming 12:10 p.m. Multiple 911 for trailer or TT unit. Re- Message printed for ACO; "Fuck you" into the mi- callers reporting a transvolved male called in, stat- nue A. Shelburne Control up banging on his door PD responding. female uncooperative; did her house and threatened and slammed the door.

PD with follow-up on vised of options. Main Road.

a skunk got its head stuck ing another person who were on top of a car and He says his mom's name is in the drainage pipe at is curled in a ball on the fell off as it was driving Ella." Post was created by the base of the dumpster ground on Third Street. away. Someone blew the a fake account under the on the property of the Boyfriend and girlfriend remains out of the road- name of "Pamela Sand-Country Creemee. Caller playing around; mom was way with a leaf blower. is a resident in the area on scene. but is not affiliated with 9:24 p.m. Officer off with 10:35 a.m. Caller would that a male party is yell-

7:57 a.m. 911 caller from may call back for the ACO. ment, but she has locked the side of the road on the

states she does not owe

the business. Call placed two vehicles off the side to animal control officer, of Millers Falls Road. who was off duty; mes- Reporting accident with sage left. Advised caller he airbag deployment. Concould notify the business; trol contacted for FD perhaps they have some- and EMS. Tow requestone they already use for ed. Male party Mirananimal issues. If animal is dized. Couple of trees are they got in, the female phone and went under the the tow; requesting DPW to scene. Adult male ar- with caller. rested; details redacted. Wednesday, 9/4

> smell of gasoline in the two nights ago. video footage.

9:33 a.m. Caller from Fifth renewal. Street states that her barn 10:38 p.m. TFFD advis- Apartments and there is Referred to an officer. 10:13 a.m. Anonymous reports that a truck is beand they are driving it to a nearby dumpster and party admitted to throwing trash in the dumpster. He went and retrieved the 1:04 a.m. Caller states he Advised of options. bags he had thrown in. 1:15 p.m. Caller concerned that there is someone sit- female that started on Av- he had an Amazon package ting in a car at the end of the alley on Twelfth to Fourth Street. Nothing picture confirmation and Street with a dog on a able to locate.

him out and is throwing way to Farren Avenue for

with each other. Attempt- door barking on Park 6:32 a.m. FD requesting has puppy; he declined ed to see if she needs PD Street. While on phone, PD to Industrial Boule- to bring it to the shelter or EMS; caller uncooper- caller stated it might be vard for a tractor-trailer and would like to keep it ative. Requested to speak done, but then said no, it's unit that struck a cable box at this time; if the ownto male party. Female con- still happening; requesting that leads underground. er contacts the PD they

port taken. crophone; would not put former on fire with flames 3:15 p.m. Caller reporting 10:25 a.m. Multiple calls ing female had woken him and Eversource notified; Fourth Street. Officers Turners Falls/Montague" advised.

screaming at him and say- 6:25 p.m. Caller from 6:05 p.m. Caller reports tures of a small child stating "911." He did not open Third Street states that that a vehicle just stopped the door. Officer advises some woman came to on Millers Falls Road and last night walking behind not want PD assistance her about paying money; the window; there is now falls. Deputy Sam Jenson 12:30 p.m. Assisting Gill the woman anything. Ad- Officer advises he spoke the Police Station but no 7:07 p.m. 911 caller states that the remains of a ce- the neighbors don't know 4:27 p.m. Caller states that there is a person kick- ramic plate and spoon him or how he got there.

Friday, 9/6

like on record that on Sepanswered her door holdsheared off and impeding held on to the knife the bridge when it started whole time. Officer spoke raining.

Street would like it on re- loud music playing; has 8:29 a.m. Caller from Av- cord that his bicycle was made this complaint in the enue A concerned about stolen from his front porch past. Quiet upon arrival.

third-floor hallway. TFFD 6:07 p.m. 911 call reporting that the music at Millers toned out by Shelburne accident on Third Street. Pub is a little loud as she is Control. FD requesting One vehicle rear-ended building owner to scene another. Both cars still on sic is at a reasonable level. due to strong smell of gas- scene; no fluids leaking; no Sunday, 9/8 oline. Unknown source of flames. Two parties agreed odor. Landlord will review on solution. Male party Avenue A reports that a did roadside registration woman is bringing peo-

was vandalized overnight. ing that they responded an argument going on. to the Moltenbrey Apart- One party is stepping on ments for a malicious pull caller from Fifth Street of a fire alarm. Multiple faces, and making threats. residents reported seeing All parties advised of oping filled up with garbage a male and a female pull the fire alarm, then run off. Cameras are in buildthrowing it in. One male ing; Housing Authority made aware.

still there in the morning, his stuff from the apart- up a lost female puppy on friendly; no tags or collar. Contacted party who Insurance info not on file can contact him about it. Control advised.

male on the phone. In- at Second Street and Ave- two men, not residents, reporting that a post was peeking into windows on made on the "Everything Facebook page with picing, "Little boy was found threw glass bottles out a home here in #Turnersglass all over the road. saved him and took him to to neighbors, who report one knows where he lives, ers." Officers advised.

> 5:57 p.m. Caller reports ing obscenities under the tember 3, a tenant of hers bridge on Spring Street. Caller has her nine-yearing a knife. Caller was old grandchild with her there with another agency and they can hear everyto check the apartment. thing. Officer spoke with Caller advises that once the party, who was on his

> 10:55 p.m. Caller states Pi-2:18 p.m. Caller from G oneer Valley Brewing has

> > 11:37 p.m. Caller states trying to go to sleep. Mu-

10:30 a.m. Caller from ple into the Moltenbrey people, getting in people's tions. Situation mediated. 6:52 p.m. 911 caller from Moltenbrey states that someone in the building is harassing her and she doesn't know what to do.

ARTIST PROFILE The Flippenout Trampoline Show

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – A show on a trampoline doesn't really sound like much of a big deal when you first think of it. But it has been done for over a decade with worldwide success. It's called the Flippenout Trampoline Show, and last weekend it was at Franklin County Fair.

Thomas Theobald has been the show's owner for the last seven years. They have done fairs, festivals, and halftime shows for the NFL, NBA, and NASCAR. They have performed worldwide,



and "it is extremely popular," Theobald told me. "We perform close to 100 shows per year."

The company knew it would be popular since their very first performance. "The crowd gave us a standing ovation and chanted Utah, Utah, Utah!," he said. "This is where we are based out of... For the next 10 years, we perfected and finetuned the jokes, banter, stunts, etc."

There are six performers for the show, and each show includes two to four performers, depending on what is needed for the show. For anyone who wants to learn to do this kind of stuff, Theobald points out that it takes years to master, and advises to do it with instructors from great gyms.

Interestingly, they rarely get booked in Massachusetts, according to Theobald; the most "popular" part of the country they go to is in the Midwest. He mentioned that they would love to be in New England more often, though he added that they travel around the country in a pretty even fashion.

Two of the festivals they have performed at are the Florida Strawberry Festival and the Wildflower Festival in Richardson, Texas. Another fair was the Arapahoe Country Fair in Colorado.

Before the show at the Franklin County Fair, I saw that a decent crowd of people had shown up to see them. One member did a flip while appearing to walk on a glass wall panel. At one point, he was on top of the panel. A second performer joined him on top of it, and at one point jumped from the trampoline even higher than the panel. I learned that this second performer had been on the American Ninja Warrior TV show.

The two brought people from the audience to judge like they were holding a competition. The scores were one 9 and three 10s. One of the performers did flips with skis on his feet, which was impressive, and then his partner did it with a snowboard. One trick that was especially cool was when he jumped up and landed on top of the glass panel with both feet. He ended up doing that twice.

Judging from the level of applause, the rest of the audience seemed to enjoy the show as much as I did. "We plan to keep the show going on for

3:29 p.m. A 51-year old arrested on a straight warrant and also charged with quent offense.

Street states that they are stored. separating as of today and

Saturday, 9/7

between two males and a physical reported. Officer the package was stolen. cated one male who stated

of a Class B drug, subse- Aspen Dental, yelling and screaming

10:21 a.m. Officer advises loons outside on Fourth

can hear a verbal dispute 7:09 p.m. Caller from Veterans Street reports that enue A and worked its way delivered at 6:20 p.m. with

leash outside the car. Un- advises area checked; lo- 8:24 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that the he had too much to drink resident in the apartment Turners Falls man was and was headed home on above her is throwing wafoot. Caller advises male ter balloons out the winparty is currently on Av- dow. Officer advises that two counts of possession enue A walking toward the resident was not present; spoke to someone else obscenities. who stated that they were 6:37 p.m. Caller from K Officer advised. Peace re- not using water balloons. There are pieces of bal-

he is trying to get some of Eversource crew picked Street, but no water. many, many years still," Theobald told me. PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666! LIC #36550-EL 1-413-345-1687 Doug's Auto Body **ROOT YOGA STUDIO** Doug Smith - Owner ELECTRICIAN 51 11 TH ST., TURNERS FALLS CHRIS M. STRAKOSE 413.676.9076 RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL · INDUSTRIAL **ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM** ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS EMERGENCY SERVICE MA Reg. #RS2190 9 SWAMP ROAD Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road MONTAGUE, MA 01351 **NEW STUDENT SPECIAL** Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354 EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM FREE LOANER CARS FREE ESTIMATES **THREE CLASSES FOR \$40** REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION

TRAVELS from page B1

managed to grab seats at the bar and soon the thick discs of pie were set in front of us. All of the toppings are buried inside the sauce in these pizzas, and the crust is thin and buttery. Different and tasty.

One aspect of Chicago's downtown that surprised us was the flower beds – carefully arranged hydrangeas, hostas, and so many other flowering plants, all taken care of, watered, and just out on the streets in row after row. The prolific flower beds, and the relative lack of litter or graffiti scars, made Chicago feel so welcoming.

Although it has to be the most touristic thing you can do in a city, we had a chorus of locals tell us that the Chicago Architecture boat tour was very interesting. We found out that four different outfits all offer the same tour, and the boats are all packed. But the facts you learn about the buildings from the unique perspective of the Chicago River help you to understand what makes up the city. You can even see the famous flag of Chicago with four stars and two bars. There are so many things to see that this \$50 tour is worth it.

The next morning we were in for an unusual kind of treat that could only be developed in Japan. Hanabusa soufflé pancakes were on tap, but first we had to wait outside in a long line for one of the few tables to free up. These very thick pancakes are as light as air. They are made with whipped egg whites and topped with savory and sweet toppings, like custard and sugar melted with a torch. When you slice into one of these pillows, it's like you're taking a bite of air...so good, and worth the long wait.

And no more than about 15 minutes to finish and leave. People are waiting!

It was a festive feeling Saturday morning in Chi-town, and the sunny city was full of tourists checking out the river tours and the splash fountains at Millennium Park. I was surprised to see how many families were visiting the city, as well as college-aged travelers with fun on their minds.

My hunch was confirmed when I read that Chicago was topping the charts this summer, with the city ranking the #1 American city for meetings and events volume for the months of April, May, and June.



Many river boats offer the Chicago Architecture Tour.



The Japanese soufflé pancakes at Hanabusa were out of this world.



The late-night Just for Laughs showcase at Zanie's in Old Town.

mous by the hit TV show *The Bear*. Every bit of wall space inside the cramped restaurant is filled with dusty photos of stars who had their cago, but this is the world's largest!

For Saturday night in the Second City, we took a city bus across town and visited Chicago's Old Town,

REFLECTION from page B1

New England's leading recumbent bike dealer, expressed that his *Peace* sign spoke ardently to his greatest concern: "Our country's deepening division... No rational country would elect a convicted felon."

Mary King conveyed why they welcomed the sign at Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM): "We were glad to hang the *Peace* sign on our window because it reflects MCSM's core mission, to promote non-violence and harmony in our community. Peace represents feeling safe, accepted, and welcome for all of the newcomers to Turners Falls.

"It is gratifying to see so many signs around town, because it means that people long for peace and are willing to show their commitment in a visible way."

"To me peace starts from within," Sage Botanicals founder Laura Torraco replied, "and with our work here at the apothecary we support folks as they navigate their goals through an initial place of radical self-acceptance. This self-acceptance is to me, the initiatory step towards liberation and peace.... [Peace] requires holding complexities and nuance whether that is between the self, another, and even larger.

"In many ways working with plants has helped me to expand my capacity to hold more of the nuance of the world, and to be conscious of the interrelationship between the entire ecosystem, the human and nonhuman."

One of the many volunteers at the Finders Collective, the free store, community space, and lending library run on Fourth Street, responded easily: "At the end of the day, we just want more peace as opposed to senseless fighting. Who doesn't want more peace? Finders Collective is based on trust – that people will take what they need and share with others. We act from an assumption of peacefulness."

Sadie's bike shop owner Nik Perry answered without missing a beat: "Why wouldn't I put a *Peace* sign in my shop window... It's a no-brainer! I have a passion for bikes and wanted to open my shop and feed into the community that was here with its distinct spirit. I think about this a lot; otherwise, life can be aimless."

Evelyn Wulfkuhle, owner of Harvey's restaurant, said she chose to display a sign because of her conviction that "Violence is never the solution. While it can be an effective tool for gaining control and war, it fundamentally disrupts the grounding necessary for sustaining a peaceful future." at our "world of ongoing crises" with "too many trends moving in the wrong direction," and then asked *where* we can begin to make change. "That place is the communities and bioregions where we live," he writes. "We must begin to build the future in place."

In their unique ways, each of the shop owners and those working in social organizations who chose to display *Peace* signs are expressing their community values working in the village of Turners Falls.

Turners Falls has a much longer history than its settlement by white colonialists, industrialization, and now post-industrial revitalization.

For more than 10,000 years Native Americans lived at what is now called Turners Falls in a rich, sustainable relationship with their Mother Earth – fishing, hunting, farming, and holding burials and other ceremonial activities. Many regional tribes traditionally joined the local Pocumtuck confederacy to share in the abundant seasonal salmon and shad harvest, including at what was then-called Peskeompskut, a gathering place where fish would defy gravity and scale the dramatic Falls.

In the early morning of May 19, 1676, Captain William Turner and his troops made a surprise attack on a sleeping multi-tribal encampment at Peskeompskut and massacred 200 to 300 Native people, mostly women, children, and the elderly.

Later, the falls and the village were named after the murderous Captain Turner.

In recognition of the tragic nature of the colonial militia's massacre of original inhabitants of the land, the Board of Selectmen and Town of Montague, on the 328th anniversary on May 19, 2004, joined with representatives of various Native American tribes in a reconciliation ceremony.

Anemone Mars, granddaughter of the Narragansett medicine woman Ella Sekatau, gave the invocation, first in Narragansett and then in English. She invoked the spirits of those massacred, which "remained in a state of limbo, and without rest for centuries, for over 121,000 days, never at peace. At this time we come here, we ask the Creator to help us restore a level of healing to this place."

How concordant with this reconciliation are the *Peace* signs on display in downtown Turners Falls.

We made our way to the famous Art Institute of Chicago, where one of the highlights was a new exhibit of paintings of New York City by Georgia O'Keeffe.

The museum's collection is vast, with room after room of stunning Impressionist paintings as well as a very unique gallery called the Thorne Miniature Rooms, a collection of at least 68 amazingly detailed interiors. These rooms document European and American interiors from the late 13th and the 17th century, respectively, up to the 1930s. Constructed on a 1:12 scale, they are made largely of the same materials as full-sized rooms, and some even include original works of art.

These tiny windows into another time are remarkable to see!

After checking off these two famous Chicago activities, the boat and the Art Institute, we set out to find another of the city's most famous foods, the beef sandwich. We got in line outside of Mr. Beef on Orleans to savor the meat for ourselves. This classic dive has been made fa-

photos taken enjoying the soggy beef sandwiches – none more recently than 2000, but it made the point.

This is one of the most no-BS joints you can imagine; it felt like we were getting soup from the Soup Nazi. "Cash only, no substitutions, no bathrooms, no trays, no questions, no slowing down the line..." All laid out in a tongue-and-cheek sign...You get it.

But take a bite of that roasted, thin-sliced, savory beef and peppers and prepare to swoon. It was damn good!

Chicago is a great walking town, and in all of the Loop and Downtown and Old Town areas we felt safe. We found ourselves moving as we often do in a city, putting in thousands of steps as we stopped by other interesting sites like an empty area near the river – the future site of a giant new development the city is building.

Another spectacle was a fourstory Starbucks Reserve Roastery, which was like four huge cafés all on top of one another. We learned that there are 184 Starbucks in Chiwhich was about 20 minutes away, and changed from skyscrapers to two and three-story buildings with lots of clubs, bars, and restaurants. We found an inexpensive café, the Old Jerusalem Restaurant, where we enjoyed Middle Eastern specialties sitting out on the street.

A few blocks away was Zanie's, where the stand-up comedy show would commence at 11:15 p.m. We squeezed into our seats and enjoyed a slate of six comedians with only a few duds in the mix.

Chicago for the weekend proved to be both invigorating and inspiring, and didn't break the bank. City breaks are a great way to throw some excitement into your summer!

Max Hartshorne, a local travel editor, writes about traveling around our region and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNO-MAD Travel and hosts the shortform GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, which you can hear at anchor.fm/ max-hartshorne. All of these responses took me back to a recent piece by the author Patrick Mazza, who looked Pat Hynes of Montague is a board member of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, and its Peace sign project director. Contact her at traprockinfo@crocker.com

if you would like a Peace *sign for your own shop or organization.*





That's a Peace sign in the window at the Carnegie Library, too.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!







Scene Report: RPM Fest

By BEN HERNANDEZ

MONTAGUE – As I traveled the forty minutes criss-crossing through countless amorphous roads of northern Massachusetts, I wasn't sure what to think. The picturesque rolling farmlands of Montague were something out of a painting and somewhere, in this grand pastiche of idealized Americana, nestled in these endless trees was a four-day heavy metal festival that I would be attending for the first time. I didn't know what to expect, aside from four days in the wilderness surrounded by death-metal rockers and their voracious fanbase. It was honestly very intimidating.

However, what I found was nothing I'd expected in my wildest rock-fueled dreams.



Vibrant banners usher attendees onto the campground.

"Community is what we're all about," said Bryan Westbrook, co-founder of RPM Fest. "It is like a family reunion to a family you didn't know you had until you were invited."

Community was the last thing on my mind as I entered the idyllic campus of the gun range. I was born in the late '80s during the full swing of the Satanic Panic that swept across the country like a devilish blanket. Combine that fire-and-brimstone upbringing with my introverted personality and my social anxiety flared like the hot summer sun.

I was far out of my depth, surrounded by an alien counterculture I'd only been warned of in inflammatory rhetoric pitched from a Roman Catholic pulpit. Yet it was community that I found in those woods when a volunteer stopped as I was unloading my car packed with camping equipment I had hastily bought from Amazon.

"I am heartened by the support for the trans community here," Liv said as she carted me away from the blossoming campus on her golf cart into the forest, weaving through rows of gnarled trees with the grace of a NASCAR driver. She mentioned that she'd been coming to RPM Fest since 2018, choosing this year to give back to the festival she so clearly adored.

As we parted ways a new, almost indescribable feeling washed over me. Everyone here was so pleasant, so peaceful and accommodating, and so willing to jump at a by metalheads across the region.

"Everybody here is a friend, a family member," Westbrook added with a faint satisfied smile. "Community is the biggest thing. It wouldn't happen without different communities coming together as one."

There was nothing here that I expected: Clusters of metalheads gathering together for yoga classes, laughing children playing cornhole while proud parents with black t-shirts emblazoned with "Dimmu Borgir" watched. It was nothing like the world the priest described from his towering pulpit. I saw humans, good people with good hearts comfortable with themselves and at harmony with the world about them, chomping at the bit to help and nurture someone in need.

The ease I felt as I mingled among the avid crowds as ripping guitar solos wafted across the lazy campgrounds was nothing like I'd ever experienced before. I'm an anxious and quiet person and somehow this delightful world of growled vocals and mosh pits left me with a strange sense of inner peace. As quiet as I am in real life, I found myself conversing with everyone with the ease of a seasoned extroverted social butterfly. I found friendship in unlikely places: with pro-wrestling promoters, music coordinators, horror authors, and a full-blown horror movie production house. I even participated in the main match of a pro-wrestling event as a member of the villain's entourage.

"It's sick," Erik Thorstenn replied with the hilarious delivery of a stand-up comic when I asked what RPM Fest meant to him. Thorstenn is the lead singer of the death metal band Bonginator. Despite how brief his comment was, I could see in his face all the words he didn't say. It was in the gravitas he offered those words, in the reflective way he said them, in the welled tears in his eyes that he tried to blink back, in the way his chin raised like a proud parent watching their child's first steps.

Though Thorstenn left the interview soon after, called to do something else by a fellow bandmate, I found his words strangely poignant as a summation of all my thoughts about the event. There is so much RPM Fest is: a festival, a fellowship, a collection of passionate people coming together to celebrate their passion for music, life, and each other. Everyone I talked to told me that RPM Fest was a home away from home, a place to connect with friends new and old, and a form of collective therapy.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on September 11, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Art On the Inside

The terms institutions commonly use for the millions of people incarcerated in this country, such as "prisoner," "convict," "offender," or "inmate," can take away their humanity, Greenfield Community Colllege sociology professor Revan Schendler explained when asked a question about artwork created by "inmates."

Showcasing their humanity is the goal of the Franklin County Inside Art exhibit opening Friday. The visual art and poetry exhibited is all created by residents of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) jail in Greenfield. Schendler prefers to refer to her collaborators as "incarcerated men."

Clay Perri, a poet whose work will be on display, said that the exhibit is "calling attention to the many creative individuals who have made mistakes. There are better alternatives than just locking us up and forgetting about us."

From Babies to Teens

Judith Weinthaler's request that the Montague selectboard issue a special proclamation endorsing National Diaper Need Awareness Week was approved. She noted that diapers can cost \$100 a month, producing a "diaper gap" in the United States.

At the same meeting, Montague police chief Chip Dodge presented a draft "graffiti bylaw," a response to complaints about spraypaint in downtown Turners Falls. The bylaw, according to Dodge, is geared towards having the existing graffiti removed in a timely manner, and would make it illegal for any person under age 17 to possess any aerosol container of paint.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 9, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Time Capsule Fun

It was a rainy Wednesday on June 21, 1944. In Turners Falls, Wallace Skowron was busy fitting boards on the upstairs porch at 3 H Street. Neighbor John Urban, age nine, was helping out. Skowron suggested that it would be fun to tack up notes inside the porch wall and see when they were found. The two, using sheets from a pocket spiral notebook, signed their names, the day and date, and their ages. They noted that it was raining. The slips of paper were then boarded over.

The faded notes were found on August 23, 2004 by Hyrum H. Huskey, Jr., current resident of 3 H Street. Urban, who still lives in Turners, met Huskey on September 2. It seems scraps of writing can provide tiny, if puzzling, glimpses into someone else's life or even connect us to other humans in enriching ways.



Here's the way it was on September 9, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Sickness seems to be the order of the day just now.

ten little ones in the nest has been the result. It is a shame. They do no harm to anyone, and being all fancy breeds cannot but add to the attractions of the town.

Bartlett Bros. have taken the contract for the painting, frescoing etc. to be done to the new town homes at Erving. They are now pretty well filled with orders here. The new school house, the new Montague mill, and several private dwellings are calling pretty heavily upon their resources. They have hung more wall paper the past month than at any time since they commenced business here. Glad of it. Riverside has found a new way to punish melon thieves. A short time since two bashful young men were detected in the act of appropriating some of the aforesaid fruit, and were cruelly driven before the muzzle of a murderous revolver into the presence of a dozen pretty girls, in whose company they were compelled to improve an agonizing half hour, until the return of the lord of the manor when he introduced his shoemaker to their tailor and – exit melon thieves.

moment's notice to help out their fellow person.

"Back in 2014, myself and John Gulow founded RPM Fest," commented Westbrook when I asked about its founding. He created it to fill the hole created by the end of another festival, Eganstock. That family-friendly cookout experience inspired him to create his own festival, which started as a modest gathering on his family's land. Ten years later, it has flourished into a bustling carnival of lights and sounds beloved



Colorful lights line the path to the campsites.

Leather Lung performs to a captivated audience.

"We're not as scary as we look," commented co-founder John Gulow in a brief interview we had in the break room. He's a very busy man but cordial and radiates charisma. "If you've been thinking about joining us, we hope to see you soon."

RPM Fest, which takes place every year at 210 Turners Falls Road in Montague, was founded by the drummer of thrash band Lich King and the head of Promotorhead Entertainment. It's a four-day music festival with camping, food trucks, karaoke, and trivia contests, but it's far more than just a collection of bullet points to be scrawled across a sterile page. It's a commune, a bustling procession of bass lines and orchestrated chaos that somehow culminates into a fantastic and intriguing contradiction; wild yet wholesome, explosive yet friendly, aggressive yet serene.

In these colliding series of contrasts, something magical emerges from these woods; humanity at its best and brightest, a glimmer of a better and more beautiful world.

I'm going back next year, not as a challenge, not as a newspaper commission, but because I want to listen to crazy and chaotic music in the woods with my friends. I'm going because I now feel a part of a greater community and family, because a part of me now sees this eccentric little gathering as a home away from home – and, yes, because it's sick. Mr. W.G. Johnson has added an L to his store in Riverside and the building now presents a fine appearance.

The base ball match between the "Hotel Nine" and the "Keith Nine" resulted in a victory for the latter with a score of 22 to 18.

An auction of the household goods of John Single, Pulp block, who lost his wife and child by death a few weeks since, is announced for Tuesday next, 15th.

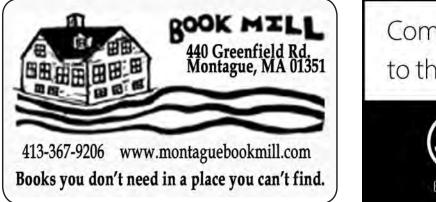
Mr. Fred Emery has nearly completed a platform at the pond lower end of L street, upon which to stand the Steam Fire Engine during practice. We learn that it will be used to-morrow evening.

He is a mean dog who kills Mr. Booker's tame pigeons for sport. So many have been either killed or stolen, that the death of



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!









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

- William Carlos Williams

Beginning

When there is finally nothing left in the world, what is of real importance will begin to flow into it like a herd of wild animals that had been held captive for centuries.

Glowing heart shaped antelopes will leap over mountain ranges and through valleys at the speed of light without having anything in their stomachs.

The flora and fauna of our land previously ransacked by misguided entities will finally begin to come back to life again in brighter colors than anyone has ever seen before.

They're in the clock

Running backwards Through blazing fires, You streaked through Life like a fireball intent On showing the way For wayward children Wandering in darkness.

Their bright melodies Only half heard in the Foyer of the old house Sustained a thousand Automatons hiding Behind the hands of The grandfather clock.

These were the secrets You always wanted to Know, crouching, shivering And hiding like frightened Children afraid to come Out in the open. guest-edited by Janel Nockleby readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter by email at: poetry@montaguereporter.org (please note we are no longer accepting mailed submissions)

September's Featured Poet: Rachel Sterling

To liven up Autumn

When everything comes to a head, the last thing you want to do is throw the baby out with the bathwater. The bathwater after all could contain many gold nuggets hidden in its murky shades of grayish brown and the baby could certainly possess many heretofore unrecognized beguiling traits. It might speak fourteen dead languages for instance. It might know the secrets as to how the Pyramids were built and it might know a formula that describes the exact distribution of prime numbers in the counting numbers. So, you wouldn't want to risk throwing out a baby which could possibly know so many rare and valuable things.

Note to David in Wellesley

You were always scary As a loosely tethered Bed sheet flapping Uncontrollably on a Badly anchored clothesline In a hurricane. You did an interesting Dance just the same, A Jamaican waltz in No particular time and The Watusi while being Drenched with smog Ridden rains imported From Martinique while Impersonating Carmen Miranda those lost Weekends in Wellesley.

These were the signs so Embarrassingly predictable To our young bodies whipped Up at the last minute from A random recipe and trying To stay afloat in flood waters Gushing from who knows where.

The Poetry Page is supported by NatureCulture WritingTheLand.org

Contributor's Note:

Rachel Sterling has published a story tited "The Man Who Disappeared," which can be read online in the New York City-based *The Mystery Tribune*.

ILLUSTRATION: JULIUS VON LEYPOLD, WANDERER IN THE STORM, 1835. CATHARINE LORILLARD WOLFE COLLECTION, WOLFE FUND.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!











THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Camp KeeWanee, Greenfield: *Whalom Park, Z3, Future Joy,* more. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Camp Kee-wanee, Greenfield: Max Creek, Mihali, Outer Stylie, Consider the Source, Moon Boot Lover, many more. \$. 10:30 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm* double feature: *Hot Rod* (2007) and *Hooper* (1978). Free. 8 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Mal Devisa*. \$. 8 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Rhubarb Duo, Made Manifest, Outerbody Palace, Ice Rasta, Death Spiral.* No cover. 8 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Feminine Aggression, Perennial, Juana B Ontop.* \$. 8 p.m.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *La Sonora Mazurén, Deejay Theory*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Camp Kee-wanee, Greenfield: Dopapod, Bella's Bartok, Leon Trout, Rebel Alliance, Ghost-Note, many more. \$. 10:30 a.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Lean, Victor Signore/ Bruce Todd Duo, Rare Geese, Xmas Sisters, Wednesday Knudsen/J Burkett, Sam Gas Can, Ron Schneiderman, Staubitz & Waterhouse, Power Trousers, Shamp of City, Head of Wantastiquet. Free. 1 p.m. 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mad Agnes*. \$. 4 p.m.

Progression Brewing Company, Northampton: *The Claudia Mal-ibu*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Everly Lux, bobbie, Taggie.* \$. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: Indian Strings In Conversation, Deep Seize. \$. 7 p.m.

No Fun, Troy: *Primitive Man, Hush, Blackwater Holylight, Carnwnnan.* \$. 7 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Ludacris.* \$\$. 7:30 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Outro, Bellwire, The Tines, Soft Fangs.* \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockitqueer.* \$. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Camp Kee-wanee, Greenfield: Alchemystics, The Englishtown Project, Yes Darling, Bella's Bartok, more. \$. 10:30 a.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Peter Blanchette, Charlotte Malin.* \$. 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Gary & Graham Higgins, Plastic Crimewave Syndicate, Allysen Callery, Frozen Corn. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Big E, West Springfield: *Chubby Checker.* \$. 2 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kimya Dawson, Sweet Petunia, Beetsblog, Wheelzie.* \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Big E, West Springfield: *Chubby Checker.* \$. 2 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Reverend Horton Heat, Big Sandy, The Incredible Ichi-Bons.* \$\$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: Glenn Jones, Wednesday Knudsen, Liam Grant, Grayson Mc-Guire, Devon Flaherty. \$. 6 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Soft Machine, Bunnies.* \$. 7 p.m.

Amherst Cinema, Amherst: Live-Scored Experimental Film Shorts feat. Bill Nace. \$. 7 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Wes Brown. No cover. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Buena Vista Social Orchestra.* \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Rod-ney Crowell*. \$\$. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: Jolie Holland, Jon Braught, Sofi Naufal, Alice George Perez. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Kalliope Jones.* \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Mesh, Eraser, Landowner, Pearl Sugar.* \$. 6 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Magick Lantern, Bonnie, Ben Hersey.* \$. 7 p.m.

Williamsburg Grange, Williams-

burg: *Etran de L'Aïr*. \$. 7:30 p.m. Pulp, Holyoke: *Greg Kelley/Yoona Kim, Ron Schneiderman, Julia Handschuh/Anna Hendricks, Jimena Bermejo/Jeff Huckleberry, Loculus.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Wolfman Jack*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Joe *Graveline with Nina Gross*. Free. 12 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Killswitch Engage, Converge, Full of Hell, Integrity, Nails, Xibalba, Machine Head, Emmure,* many more. \$. 12:30 p.m.

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Cyro Baptista*. \$. 5 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Paul Kaplan, Sarah Pirtle.* \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tony Vacca and Fusion Nomads.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Deep River Ramblers*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: Nat Baldwin, Bobby Labitch & Keiran Lally, Arien Wilkerson, Loculus. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Diplo.* \$\$. 7:30 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: Longings, Red Herrings, Phroeggs, Feminine Aggression. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Club D'Elf*. \$. 8 p.m.

looking forward...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Deerhoof, Ekko Astral.* \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Greenfield Community College: *Erin McKeown.* \$. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Nova Arts, Keene: *Steve Gunn, Geologist, Blue Cac- tus.* \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Big E, West Springfield: *Pub-lic Enemy.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Drake, Amherst: *Safe Mind, Clock Serum, Barbie. AI.* \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Thalia Zedek, Damon & Naomi.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Guerilla Toss, Rough Francis, Aspero Siacos.* \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Flore Laurentienne, William Basinski.* \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Ladybug Transistor.* \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

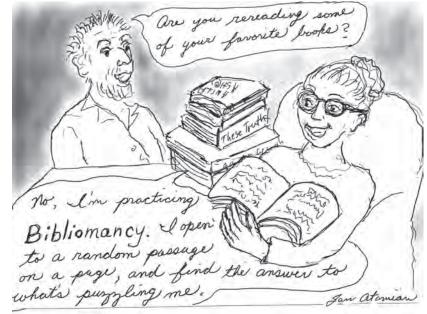
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Quiet Riot.* \$. 8 p.m.







JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



Submit your comics (and puzzles) to editor@montaguereporter.org. Original & local creations only, please!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!





SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA 295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open: 6 Main Road, in Gill (formerly Jan's Package Store) Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456 Sunderland: (413) 665-5030 Gill: (413) 863-5730



SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

WEST ALONG from page B1

As the mist advanced, the Nipmuck dancers at the powwow kept dancing: deliberate toe-to-heel steps, bending and swooping like tree swallows in flight, stalking like mountain lions, then soaring like eagles, handheld feathers and wings sweeping up to the skies, then low to the earth.

Mist, no matter. The drumming was driving the dance, joyous at harvest time, joyous at having survived all the repression, joyous at proclaiming their resistance and persistence in spite of all. Come tomorrow morning Sunday, they'll have a beautiful cool day, and they'll still be dancing.

I delivered the artifacts, visited with the people I knew, and left with the coming mist.

The rain fell heavier on my ride home through the woods of

central Massachusetts and kept up all night, but by morning, as I've written above, the day dawned, cleansed, cool and beautiful. And now, on this morning, the weight of the artifacts, and indeed the burdens of this past week, are lifted.

So now I write, scratching away in longhand, and I can begin to turn my mind to the early sun reaching the treetops, and to that crow calling from across the river. Later on, I'll consider getting started on the day's chores. Not willing to fly in the face of Buddhist advice, I will continue to only do one thing at a time.

I serenely notice that those touchme-nots have lowered themselves under the weight of the raindrops. I take comfort that they, too, will rise up under the morning sun.

Then September reminds me of cool nights, and the need for firewood. So I'll think about moving some of our supply in closer to the back door, just in case. We hate to start the woodstove too early, and we will hold off until the thought of a warm fire wins out. I will carry wood and then catch myself, remembering that this is also good weather for paint to dry, which means my annual porch-painting task is calling.

Every year I paint the part of the 1880s porch that needs it most. It puts me in touch with the old folks who, like me, used to add a fresh coat to the old balusters and railings once a summer, section by section. It's a way of honoring those past ancestors.

But for now, I'll linger awhile taking in the calm, and the late summer sounds, and only vaguely think about how to put off those chores for a lit-

tle while longer.





MONTAGUE CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS

FOR LOCAL ARTS, CULTURAL, Science and humanities projects

Help support Meals on Wheels & other LifePath programs!

Register now as a Walker or Event Sponsor!

FOR INFORMATION AND

Can't join us to walk? Donate below or mail checks to: LifePath, 101 Munson Street, Suite 201, Greenfield, MA 01301

https://lifepathma.org/events-workshops/walkathon/

Friends of the New Salem Public Library LOCAL AUTHOR SERIES

New Salem Public Library, 23 S. Main Street

7 to 8 p.m. at the library and on Zoom • Join us for readings with area authors . Refreshments . Books for sale FREE to attend



Sept. 19: Dean Cycon, Finding Home (Hungary, 1945)

Eva Fleiss survived Auschwitz by playing piano on imaginary keyboards. After liberation, she and the five remaining Jews of Laszlo, Hungary, return home to restart their lives. Can their former neighbors and friends relinquish their new status and property and overcome their roles as perpetrators, enablers, and bystanders during the Holocaust? Join Dean as he reads from and discusses this powerful and compelling novel.



Left to right: The author, delivering local artifacts to Liz Coldwind Santana-Kiser and

Ite Little Arrow Santana of the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



Feeling a mite peckish? Getting downright **HANGRY**? Stop by Green Fields Market for oodles of scrumptious hot & cold options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

00

franklincommunity.coop Green Fields Market • 144 Main St. • Greenfield







(413) 512-3540 | 187 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (603) 644-0199 | 1711 S. Willow St., Manchester, NH 03103 musicconnection.us









Harriet Paine

REALTOR®

C (413) 475-4203 0 (413) 223-1367

harriet@cohnandcompany.com cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street Greenfield, MA 01301

