

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 24, 2024

Federally Backed Upgrade Will Ensure Local Sewage Keeps Getting Screwed Up



LEVAVI PHOTO

Right to left: Jesse Lederman, regional director for US senator Ed Markey; Markey legislative aide Claire Kaufman; Montague wastewater superintendent Chelsey Little; town administrator Walter Ramsey; USDA rural development director Scott Soares; and Koby Gardner-Levine, district representative for US representative Jim McGovern, at the repair project's official launch Wednesday.

By BELLA LEVAVI

MONTAGUE CITY – The screw pumps are getting a much-needed upgrade.

On Wednesday morning, October 23, town and federal officials celebrated the “groundbreaking” of the project at Montague’s Clean Water Facility (CWF), located at 34 Greenfield Road.

“This facility is going to benefit Montague for decades to come,” said Koby Gardner-Levine, representing US Representative Jim McGovern (D-Worcester). “Waste-

water treatment has major environmental benefits, as we know this allows the water to be used safely for other purposes... [which] also supports economic opportunity.”

The construction they were celebrating will ensure the CWF stays in compliance with environmental standards by upgrading the primary effluent screw pump station. The upgrades include new screw pumps, a lubrication system, 40-horsepower motors, and motor starters, as well as structural, electrical, and HVAC improvements see **UPGRADES** page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Study Group Urges Town To Welcome Gift of Forest

By GEORGE BRACE

At Tuesday’s Leverett selectboard meeting, members of an *ad hoc* study committee handed in a report recommending that the town accept a 150-acre gift of land from retired forester Bruce Spencer for the purpose of creating a town forest.

“It’s not just any old 150 acres,” began committee member Eric Donnelly, who provided a summary of the committee’s findings. Highlighting the “unique” nature of the property, he reported that Spencer was the head forester for the Quabbin forest district before he retired and has been personally managing the “model lot” for decades according to “progressive and idealistic” principles.

Spencer first offered the land to the town in June 2023, and the committee was created last fall to study the proposal.

“In the forestry industry, people know about this property,” said Donnelly. “It’s a topic of interest in the profession.”

Addressing the board’s question of who would manage the property, Donnelly said the committee had

see **LEVERETT** page A5

GILL SELECTBOARD

It Seems Like Everyone In Gill Is Trying To Be Helpful

By KATE SAVAGE

Monday’s feel-good Gill selectboard meeting was full of positive news and residents volunteering in various ways to make things better for their neighbors.

In news for the young ones: a gaga ball pit is coming to Gill Elementary School. In gaga ball, which has been dubbed “a kinder, gentler version of dodgeball,” players run and jump around a hexagonal or octagonal court surrounded by a low wall, trying to hit opponents’ feet and shins with a ball.

The game, which was a staple of Jewish summer camps in the 1970s, has gone mainstream in the last decade. In 2012 the *New York Times* reported kids were teaching gaga ball to their parents, and not vice versa. “It’s not like baseball or football or tennis, where they have to emulate someone else,” a camp official told the *Times*. “Kids own it.”

In a letter to the selectboard, Gill Elementary principal Walter Huston explained the importance of the see **GILL** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

More Murals for Montague

By JEFF SINGLETON

Monday’s Montague selectboard meeting was dominated by news of grant-funded infrastructure projects, including a costly electrical connection at the wastewater treatment plant, a bid for work on the Eleventh Street bridge that vastly exceeded the money set aside for it, and a potential roundabout at the dangerous intersection of Routes 63 and 47 near Montague Center.

But wedged in between these projects was a proposal by River-Culture director Suzanne LoManto to attach temporary “wheatpaste murals” to six buildings next spring

and summer. Whether this counts as “infrastructure” LoManto did not say, but the board approved the proposal with no opposition, perhaps due to the apparent success of the larger and more permanent Shea Theater mural project.

“We had learned a lot from that,” LoManto said, referring to the Shea. “I think this is going to be a piece of cake after that.”

LoManto began her presentation by describing a program the town is participating in called “Making It Public,” administered and funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Boston-based see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Mobile Home Park Owner Files Superior Court Appeal Of Orange Board’s Ruling



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Leisure Woods Estates, comprised of nearly 150 mobile home lots between the Orange airport and the Millers River, has been the site of a contentious rent dispute.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

ORANGE – The owners of Leisure Woods Estates are challenging the Orange Mobile Home Park Rent Control Board’s decision to allow a rent increase of about 25%, phased in over the next two years, instead of their request for a 43% increase retroactive to last fall.

In an appeal filed on Tuesday in Franklin County Superior Court, an attorney representing the park owners argued that the town’s decision was “unreasonable, arbitrary and wholly unsupported by the evidence,” and should be overruled. It took too long for the board to schedule a hearing and rule on the

proposed rent hike, attorney John Kuzinevich argued, and the permitted increase will not be enough for the owners to earn a “fair rate of return” on their property.

“The Board ignored real numbers and eviscerated the budget simply to keep the rent increase low,” Kuzinevich wrote in the appeal. “It was unsupported by any evidence and it will not cover operating expenses nor provide funds to provide the owners with a fair rate of return as determined by the Board.”

After four public meetings, many clarifying questions and requests for additional financial records, and intensive deliberation, the board voted see **APPEAL** page A8

High School Sports Week: Regional PVIAC Tournaments

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The regular fall high school sports season concluded this week, and the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) tournaments began. Franklin Tech’s field hockey team competed in Class B while Turners Falls was placed in Class C.

In volleyball, Turners was seeded third in Class D, and Franklin third in C. The hybrid girls’ soccer team at Tech was unable to make the tourna-

ment but will compete in the consolation bracket, and the school’s football team played a complete game to preserve its perfect record.

Major milestones were also achieved this week by players in football and field hockey.

Football
FCTS 38 – Greenfield 8

The Tech Football Eagles remain perfect on the year, erasing the Green Wave of Greenfield last see **SPORTS** page A6



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin County Technical School senior Josiah Little (left) has a clear lane into the end zone for a touchdown last Friday. Little surpassed 1,000 yards rushing during the play, a record he has now achieved all four years at Franklin Tech. The Eagles soared to a 38-8 win over the visiting Greenfield Green Wave.

Source Not Yet Confirmed Of Distant Droning Sound

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL / ERVING – The source of a distant humming sound some locals have reported hearing recently may be coming from the railroad tracks, where heavy equipment is being used to perform track maintenance, according to a *Montague Reporter* investigation.

Tom Ciuba, vice president of communications for Genesee &

Wyoming Railroad Services, told the *Reporter* this week that he could not confirm whether ongoing work is the source of the reported sound, but said that it may be coming from equipment being used to work on the railroad lines.

“Machinery for track work typically includes backhoes, geometry testing vehicles, a tamper, etc.,” Ciuba wrote. “The equipment is see **SOUND** page A8

Leaves Are Best Peeped, Not Blown

Remembering Mark Stevens.....A2	1874: The More Things Change.....B1
Local Briefs.....A3	Max Provides the Transit News.....B1
Sixty-Four Reps Speak Out.....A3	Your Sick Friend Bears Witness.....B2
Highlights from the Erving Selectboard.....A4	Montague, Gill Police Log Highlights.....B3-B4
Highlights from the Wendell Selectboard.....A5	Our Monthly Spanish Page.....B5
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week.....A7	Three Comics & the Montague Cryptojam.....B6
Ed Provides the Bridge Report.....A8	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....B7
West Along: Someone Put Them There.....B1	Old Head Prepares for Halloween.....B8



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The Swing Set

Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Michigan, Arizona, Wisconsin, Nevada. These states are home to 18% of the country, 19% of its registered voters, and 17% of its Electoral College votes – and are the only states considered to matter in this presidential election.

Those roughly 32 million registered voters, 10% of the overall US population, are currently enduring one of the most rigorous, extensive, and microtargeted propaganda campaigns in history. Analysts slice and dice their demographics and bombard them with messaging.

For example: last week the *Huffington Post* reported that an Elon Musk-funded dark-money super PAC, Future Coalition PAC, is targeting zip codes in Michigan with high Muslim and Arab populations with phone ads stating that "Kamala Harris Stands With Israel" – and zip codes with high Jewish populations with ads stating that "Two-Faced Kamala Harris Stands With Palestine, Not Our Ally Israel."

(Another Musk-backed PAC is warning Black voters that Harris intends to ban menthol cigarettes.)

This month the Center for Working Class Politics (CWCP) hired YouGov to run a poll of 1,000 Pennsylvania voters in order to test out various messaging themes. It is the largest swing state, and Harris is significantly underperforming Biden's 2020 support among the

64% of voters with less than four years of college. CWCP was interested in how her campaign might regain some of that ground.

"In line with our previous research, we found that working-class Pennsylvanians responded most favorably to populist messages and messages that emphasized progressive economic policies," they concluded. "What's more, we found little evidence that focusing on economic populism risks decreasing voter enthusiasm among core Democratic constituencies outside the working class."

You can check out the data yourself: www.tinyurl.com/CWCPpoll.

Out of the seven themes pitched, the one that polled the worst with this electorate – the only one worse than the average Trump message – was "Democratic Threat," which "calls on voters to defend democracy and liberal norms against the threat posed by Trump, highlighting his felony criminal convictions."

This week the Harris campaign pivoted precisely in that direction, with the candidate publicly calling her opponent a fascist on Wednesday. Whether or not that is correct, it may be a risky gambit for the Dems 13 days out from the election.

The other 82% of the country – and the other 99.2% of the world – can only watch it all unfold in the news, and wish that we had billions of dollars like that Elon Musk guy.



On a recent brilliant fall day Andy Skjiff, laborer-operator at the Montague Clean Water Facility, dips a tube into the secondary clarifier tank in order to measure the "solid stuff" at the bottom.

Letters to the Editors

Recollections

After reading in the *Montague Reporter* about the documentary on the Montague Farm, *Far Out: Life On & After the Commune*, we rented the movie to watch at home.

As residents of Montague and Gill from 2003 to 2014, we knew some folks from the Farm and had actually looked at the property when it was up for sale, post-Zen Peacemakers, when figuring out our next move after closing our restaurant, The Night Kitchen. The documentary was fascinating and I learned so much about the commune's leadership in the anti-Nuke movement beyond just the famed story of Sam Lovejoy and the tower on the Plains.

Thanks for your piece on the film, and for inspiring us to connect back to Montague through this documentary.

Joanna Frankel
Portland, Maine

Aspirations

One of the things I like best about the *Montague Reporter* is that I can take it to school with me to read during settle-in time in fourth grade. I think that I'm the first in my school to do that. I like the sports section best.

Another thing I like is that I can look for typos my grandma – a *Montague Reporter* proofreader – missed. The third thing I like is that I get the paper early because my sister is a carrier.

Someday I wish I could be a proofreader at the *Montague Reporter*, like my grandma, and maybe enter a comic or a wrapping paper design. I love the newspaper and thank you for all the work you put into it!

Astrid Anderson
Turners Falls

Remembering Mark Stevens, Montague's Tree Warden

By MICHAEL MARCOTRIGIANO

MONTAGUE – "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit" is a Greek proverb, still true. Trees take time. But they give us shade, support wildlife, make our neighborhoods and parks beautiful, clean the air, and positively affect our property values.

Amidst the lovely fall color, we lost our Tree Warden, Mark Stevens last week, after his long fight with cancer.

Mark realized the importance of our trees and worked doggedly to improve the tree inventory of the Town of Montague. As Tree Warden for decades Mark, also a DPW employee, took the lead role as decision-maker for the planting, removal, and trimming of trees.

I got to know him well during the years I served on the Montague Tree Advisory Committee. After Montague received a Department of Conservation grant for well over 600 new trees, Mark reached out to me so we could join forces. We had to purchase the

trees, decide which species were best, and find suitable locations in town. I spent many hours in his truck learning how much Mark knew about his town, and how much he respected and loved it and its residents. He had a mental map of the streets and addresses that was truly amazing, and a memory to match.

His dedication was unparalleled. He spent many hours of his time going to evening Tree Committee meetings, showing up for tree deliveries, and visiting residents to make sure that they were on board whenever a new tree was planted near their house. During his tenure the arduous task of establishing the first Montague Tree Bylaws for the care, removal, and planting of trees was developed.

You must be dedicated to be a Tree Warden. The financial compensation is not commensurate with the responsibilities. Mark did it because he loved trees and loved the Town. The result, as you surely have noticed, is the planting of hundreds of young trees for Montague's future residents.

On a personal note, I got to visit Mark



Mark Stevens in 2019, planting a tree in front of the daycare center in the Patch.

at his home while he was in home hospice. When I arrived, I was not surprised to see what I saw. His normally quiet house was filled with visitors – his friends, neighbors, children, and his in-laws. A testimony to a man who loved his family, as they loved him. It was moving.

With the loss of Mark, the Town has big shoes to fill. In his honor, Montague should commit itself to replacing older trees as they

die. It will be your children's children who will look up into the impressive canopy of a mature tree. For this, we have Mark to look up to. I respect him greatly and will miss him very much. We all will.

May he rest in peace.

Michael Marcotrigiano is emeritus director of the Smith College Botanic Garden, and a Montague resident.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Local families, with support from Montague Catholic Social Ministries, have created a **Day of the Dead altar** at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Learn about the tradition of leaving messages of love to honor and commemorate loved ones who have passed when you visit this shrine between now and November 2.

Greenfield Savings Bank is sponsoring **free admission at Historic Deerfield** for children 12 and under. The Museum of Early American Life in the historic village of Old Deerfield offers a kid-friendly workshop called "Creating with Colors" on weekend mornings now through November 17; participants can make their own pastels from plants in the garden and use them to draw with. Learn more at historic-deerfield.org.

Amherst author Elisabeth C. Rosenberg will read from and discuss her book, *Before the Flood: Destruction, Community, and Survival in the Drowned Towns of the Quabbin*, tonight, Thursday, October 24, at 7 p.m. at the New Salem Public Library and on Zoom.

Rosenberg dives into the complex history of the Swift River Valley's destruction to supply drinking water for the Boston area. Spot-lighting the engineers who lived in the towns and became active community members, she reveals a growing mutual respect and movingly tells both the stories and the science of the key players and the four flooded towns.

The event is free. Find a link for the Zoom talk at nsfriendsoflibrary.weebly.com/events.html.

A discussion will be held this Saturday, October 26 at 11 a.m. on the cultural history of the **Montague Plains** and the pine barrens restoration project. The event will be on the Plains themselves: the

parking area at the power lines on Old Northfield road, 0.3 miles from Lake Pleasant Road.

Joe Graveline, former president of the Nolumbeka Project; Michael Kellett, director of Restore: The North Woods; and Dr. Bill Stubblefield, biologist and forest advocate will talk about why we need wildlands, why the pre-colonial era of history is interesting and important, and the efforts and techniques involved in the pine barrens restoration.

Got pills? **Prescription Drug Take Back Day** is this October 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at police stations in Leverett, Deerfield, Montague, Erving, and Sunderland. Medicines can remain in their original containers with labels. They will take prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary medications, but no chemotherapy drugs, liquids, syringes, or IV equipment.

Leverett and Montague also maintain permanent drop boxes at their police stations.

The **Friends of the Leverett Library** invite those interested to attend their annual meeting on Saturday, October 26 at 1 p.m., followed by a presentation about "Lucy Marshall and Working Women in Early Leverett" with Professor Marla Miller.

The Friends welcome new members to join, and offer some "merch" for sale like tote bags and used books. If you have a medium or large basket to donate to the annual Holiday Basket Auction, you may drop it off at the library by November 2.

A contra dance benefiting the campaign to build an accessibility ramp at the **Montague Common Hall** is planned for this Sunday, October 27, from 4 to 6 p.m. All donations will be matched up to \$5,000. The callers are Mo Brachfeld and Imogen Mills, with the Pick-Up

Band and Becky Hollingsworth and Rebecca Weiss providing the music. "Come dance some serious spare change out of your pockets to help us fund our landscaped accessibility ramp so *everyone* can access the Montague Common Hall!" reads the announcement.

To see sketches of the ramp and more ways to donate, visit MontagueCommonHall.org.

Folklore and oral historians Michael and Carrie Kline will teach their approach to interviewing at a workshop at the LAVA Center in Greenfield called "Listening for a Change." Based on 30 years of experience, they will teach intensive, deep listening techniques, and how to respond and encourage sharing in ways that are non-verbal, in order to document life stories with a deeper sense of meaning.

The workshop will be this Sunday, October 27 from noon to 5 pm. Contact matthew@thelavacenter.org or (413) 474-0979 for more information.

Montague residents are invited to review the **Avenue A streetscape** improvement plan at a virtual community input session via Zoom on Tuesday, October 29, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The proposal would include ramps to many businesses.

Based on public comment from this and an in-person session held last week at the Shea Theater, the town wishes to submit a new streetscape proposal as part of its FY'25 Community Development Block Grant application. Send questions and comments to bmchugh@ferhra.org with subject line "Avenue A Streetscape Improvements." Find the Zoom link and more information about the project, which would include ramps to many businesses, at tinyurl.com/streetTFMA.

Next Thursday is Halloween, and from there we start the increasingly fast-paced slide into winter holidays until after New Year's, when we drop into our warm cocoons until spring.

Trick-or-treating takes place between 3 and 5 p.m. on Avenue A in Turners Falls as local businesses and organizations invite costumed youngsters into their workplaces with sweet rewards. Look for Halloween-themed signs displayed in local business windows or doors as

the welcome sign, from town hall to Cumberland Farms.

The annual **Rag Shag Parade in Turners Falls** starts in the Food City parking lot at 5 p.m. Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters, and costume prizes will be awarded.

Montague Villages, an all-volunteer organization serving people over 60 years of age in the town of Montague, will begin providing services on Friday, November 1. For those interested in receiving services, volunteering, or simply learning more, call (413) 672-3095.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus** presents a concert, *Visions of Utopia*, on Saturday, November 2 at 4 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew in Greenfield. Described as a nostalgic and uplifting program, the chorus and chamber singers will perform older works by Rheinberger, Bainton, and Schütz, and more recent works by Gwyneth Walker, Alice Parker, Emma Lou Diemer, Dolly Parton, and the young Boston composer Grace Coberly.

Sliding-scale tickets are available at pvsoc.org/tickets. Contact boxoffice@pvsoc.org or (413) 773-3664 for more information.

The annual **Cider Days weekend** is coming up on the first weekend in November. Orchard tours, apple lectures, cider pressing demos, tree pruning and care discussions, book talks, cider samplings, apple pancake breakfasts, pomological exhibitions, and other events are scheduled all around the county.

Check out the various events at ciderdays.org – many are free of charge.

As part of the Cider Days festivities, there's a **Big Read Book Give Away** on Sunday, November 3 at 10 a.m. at Clarkdale Fruit Farm in Deerfield. Pick up a free copy of Ross Gay's *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, the Big Read Book, and maybe buy some fresh apples, between 10 and 11 a.m. (The Big Read was featured on page B3 of last week's paper, in case you missed it.)

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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OF
by
Kai Ilns
w/ Scout Turkel
Hannah Brooks-Mott
SUN. OCT 20 • 3PM

POETRY READINGS
from
Dara Barrois/Dixon
Matthew Rohrer
Dobby Gibson
Alan Felsenthal
SAT. NOV 16 • 6PM
66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

OP ED

Letter to the President and Secretary of State

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken,

We write to you with deep concern regarding the ongoing restrictions on media access to Gaza, which have persisted since the outbreak of hostilities one year ago. It is imperative that the United States urge Israel to allow independent access for U.S. and international journalists, in the interest of transparency, accountability, and the fundamental principle of press freedom.

In July, over 70 media and civil society organizations signed an open letter calling on Israel to grant journalists access to Gaza.¹ Yet foreign media remains largely prohibited from entering the region, except for a few controlled trips arranged by the Israeli military. This effective ban on foreign reporting has placed an overwhelming burden on local journalists who are documenting the

war they are living through. Tragically, at least 130 journalists have lost their lives since the start of the war, and those who remain face conditions of extreme hardship and danger.²

The International Federation of Journalists has reported that the mortality rate for media workers in Gaza is over 10 percent.³ Seventy-five percent of all reporters killed worldwide in 2023 lost their lives between October 7 and the end of the year.⁴ In December 2023, just two months into the conflict, the Committee to Protect Journalists declared Gaza the "most dangerous ever" war zone for reporters.⁵ These staggering statistics underscore the critical importance of allowing independent journalists to document and report from the ground.

The restrictions on media reporting have created significant challenges in obtaining accurate,

verifiable information from Gaza, leading to increased skepticism about the limited reports that do emerge. At a time when reliable information is more critical than ever, the restrictions on foreign reporting undermine the very foundation of press freedom and democratic accountability.

We urge the administration to take immediate action to advocate for unrestricted, independent media access to Gaza. A free press is essential to ensuring that the world can bear witness to the realities on the ground and hold all parties accountable.

We thank you for your attention to this critical issue and look forward to your leadership in upholding the principles of press freedom and human rights.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern (MA-02)
Lori Trahan (MA-03)
Seth Moulton (MA-06)
Ayanna Pressley (MA-07)
Stephen F. Lynch (MA-08)

... and 60 other members of Congress.
October 11, 2024

1. "Media organizations urge Israel to open access to Gaza," *Committee to Protect Journalists*, 7/11/24
2. "Israel is deliberately targeting journalists in Gaza: Experts," *Al Jazeera*, 9/23/24
3. See www.ifj.org/war-in-gaza.
4. "Israel-Gaza war propelled journalist killings to near-record high," *Committee to Protect Journalists*, 2/15/24
5. "Gaza war 'most dangerous ever' for journalists, says rights group," *Reuters*, 12/21/23

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GILL from page A1

equipment for the school: "Once soccer season is over, there is little for the older students to do on the playground." He requested \$4,900 from the Quintus Allen Fund to buy and ship the premade structure, which includes heavy plastic HDPE timber walls and thick rubber mat flooring.

The selectboard approved the request.

The Quintus Allen Fund is named after an original trustee of Greenfield Savings Bank, who established a fund in 1884 for education-related expenses in Colrain, Gill, Leyden, and Shelburne. Gill held around \$15,000 in its account before this latest purchase, town administrator Ray Purington reported.

Parent volunteers will assemble the gaga ball pit when it arrives. It is expected to be recess-ready around late November.

Residents Dig Compost

Gill's new compost collection program has already gathered a host of supporters. "I've been doing this for a long time, and it's surpassed even my estimates," said Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD).

Ameen said 62 households have already signed up for the service, which allows residents to bring a five-gallon pail of food waste – including bones and other animal products – to a "composting coop" near the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The food waste is sent to Martin's Farm in Greenfield, where it is composted.

The program began after the Compost Cooperative stopped serving Gill in August. Sign-up information was sent to Riverside residents in September, and to the rest of the town more recently. If residents have not received a flyer in the mail with information about signing up, they can reach out to town hall for more information.

"Everybody's just been so thrilled and so excited that the town is offering this," said Ameen. "It's not only diverting food waste by taking it out of the trash, but in general the residents who are using it

are so pleased and grateful."

Ameen said she would share information about the program with state officials. "It's just simple and it works, and it's pretty affordable," she said. "This is a model that is pretty low-maintenance and low-key, but obviously is very successful."

Ameen thanked Vicky Jenkins, Gill's representative to the FCSWMD, for helping with the project and delivering town-provided kitchen pails to interested participants.

Town Elders Roll Up Sleeves

Gill resident Ray Steele attended the meeting to announce that he and two friends are forming a "Grayheads Club" of handy elders to repair crumbling town property at the Riverside Municipal Building. "We'll maybe meet and have coffee, shoot the breeze, and – with the OK of the board – do some of the maintenance," he said.

The club would be open to all interested residents. Under Steele's plan, they would offer their work and expertise for free, and the town would reimburse them for materials.

The town frequently receives complaints about the Riverside building's crumbling stairs and wobbly handrail. Though money has been allocated for repairs, few have been completed. "It really needs some things taken care of," said Steele. "I think it's a liability to the town, but also if you don't take care of things all of a sudden you're going to have a huge bill."

Selectboard member Randy Crochier said the town attorney should be able to create a waiver that protects both the town and volunteers from liability concerns, and Purington could work with them to prioritize repairs.

Fire Equipment

The fire department will be paying Pete's Tire Barn a little over \$1,000 for six all-season off-road tires for the new brush truck. The price includes a trade-in of the truck's present tires, and will still keep the total truck cost under budget.

After the selectboard denied the department's request to pay for

Montague Community Television News

A Lot Going On

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

member! Stay tuned...

TURNERS FALLS – What do Ooze Fest, the Wizard's Castle, the Farmers Market, selectboard meetings from Gill and Montague, a GMRSD school committee meeting, and a community input session for the proposed Avenue A Sidewalk Design have in common? Answer: All are new videos up on the MCTV Vimeo page this week.

Wow, there is a lot going on in this town! And we are still playing catch-up from all of the events from this summer. Maybe Christmas in July will finally air in No-

All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9 as well as being featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. If there is a meeting, event, performance or happening in the Montague area that you think MCTV should capture, let us know! And if you also have an idea for a show, MCTV is always available to assist in local productions as well. Just reach out!

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram @montaguecommunitytv. Find videos and more on our website, montaguetv.org.

painting the new tire rims red last meeting, Doug Smith of Doug's Auto Body reached out with an offer to paint the rims and mount the tires for free. The town will pay the company \$40 per tire for balancing.

"Doug's done a lot for the town over the years," said Crochier.

Deputy fire chief William Kimball announced that the other new engine is expected to arrive this week.

Other Business

A Digital Equity Open House will take place Wednesday, October 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Slate Memorial Library. This is an event where Gill residents can drop in to give feedback about internet affordability, device access, digital literacy, online security, and more. The feedback will help the town create a Digital Equity Plan, which will be used to apply for state grants.

The board approved an updated fee schedule for the zoning board of appeals. The current schedule, which dates to 2009, didn't represent the growing cost of legal ads and postage, explained Purington.

Under the new plan, which will go into effect November 1, the fee for appealing a building inspector's decision will increase from \$150 to \$250. The same increase will apply to special permit applications and

site plan modifications or extensions, along with some other fees.

Nona LaGrenade was appointed as administrative clerk, replacing Tim Batchelder. Kyle MacLeay was appointed as a firefighter through June 2025. Adam Elie and Alexander Tirrell were also appointed as firefighters, contingent upon satisfactory results from medical evaluations.

The board signed a sewer bill payment of \$55,712. Purington said he hopes the board will be able to appoint additional sewer commissioners soon, so the expanded board will be able to address sewer rates. "Montague did increase the rate that they charge Gill, so it's time for us to look at it," he said.

Purington announced upcoming craft events on Thursday evenings at the Slate Library. Gelli plate printing will be taught on October 24, and block print gift wrap on November 7.

Once again the recreation committee is selling purple Gill t-shirts. Order forms can be found in the town newsletter.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m., at the Riverside Municipal Building, as town hall will be preparing for Election Day.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Decides to Hire Different Lawyers

By KATIE NOLAN

At their meeting Monday night, the Erving selectboard voted to replace long-time town counsel Donna MacNicol with the firm of Mirick O'Connell of Worcester. Mirick O'Connell has provided specialized legal services to the town in the past.

At the board's September 30 meeting, chair Jacob Smith had started a discussion about the town's legal requirements, noting that Erving often needed specialist legal advice in addition to general counsel support. "Donna has worked with us for many, many years and has done a lot for us for a long, long time," he said, but he suggested that a larger firm with specialized lawyers might better meet the town's needs. He said he had informed MacNicol that he was going to bring up the topic.

According to selectboard member Scott Bastarache, MacNicol has provided "good work" for the town, but he observed that she is a single lawyer with one staff member, and "the timelines that Erving is looking for can't be met."

Selectboard member James Loynd agreed, saying, "The body of work that we receive is quality work, but in my time on the board, I've

experienced the want for a quicker response because the situation dictated it."

At this week's meeting, the board reviewed a scope of services letter from Brian Falk of Mirick O'Connell and then voted unanimously to engage the firm as town counsel.

As water commissioners, the board members approved a new water connection that will separate the water service for the apartments at 65 French King Highway from the service at Weatherhead's Convenience Store at 63 French King Highway.

Water and wastewater superintendent Peter Sanders said he would observe the installation of the connection to assure it was done correctly.

Town administrator Bryan Smith provided a draft calendar for developing the FY'26 town budget, starting with submittal of departmental budget requests by December 6 and completing the budget by March 6. Jacob Smith asked that the selectboard be ready to finalize the schedule at the October 28 joint meeting with the finance and capital planning committees.

The board discussed providing office space for public works employees in trailers or a modular building. Currently, the water and wastewater superintendent has office space at town hall

and the highway superintendent has an office at the senior center, but these are not considered permanent.

A budget was approved for new office space, but the amount might not be enough with current construction costs. The board asked Bryan Smith to discuss office space needs with the highway, water and wastewater department heads and report back.

The board reviewed a draft of the police community services cadet job description, made comments on how to apply the evaluation benchmark checklist, and asked police chief Robert Holst to provide a final draft for the October 28 meeting.

The board also reviewed an amendment to the town's senior citizens tax work-off policy. The annual start date for the program would be moved from July 1 to March 1, with income guidelines published by January 1 each year.

The board accepted the resignation of Pamela McNamara as the wastewater maintenance laborer, and the resignation of Erik Eichorn from the recreation commission and the board of assessors.

The board appointed Jacquelyn Boyden, Michele Turner, and Elizabeth Sicard to a screening committee for a financial services clerk.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Symptoms of Interior Rot

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard's October 16 meeting began with a tree hearing attended by two National Grid representatives, senior associate project developer Ryan Keyes and distribution line work supervisor Zachary Horne. The hearing's focus was 28 trees the power company had assessed as hazardous, especially one pine that tree warden Cliff Dornbusch said he considered sound.

Wendell citizens Chris Queen and Court Dorsey, both from No Assault & Batteries (NAB), also came to the hearing. Dorsey and Queen said they were concerned about a recent purchase by National Grid, of 52 acres close to both Wendell's three-phase power lines and the site of New Leaf Energy's now-stalled 100-megawatt battery proposal.

Dorsey said NAB had gotten no response from National Grid to a letter of concern they sent about the purchase. He and Queen were told the hearing was not the time for their questions, and when the hearing ended, they left the meeting room with Keyes and Horne.

Dornbusch, who came to the meeting by Zoom, protested the cutting of one white pine, saying he saw no mushrooms at its base, and that the tree might live five or ten years longer.

Keyes said Dornbusch may have looked at the tree later, when the mushrooms had gone by or were eaten. He said the tree had a crack, and likely had interior rot, and that

National Grid had higher standards for hazardous trees, especially after the three-phase line was extended to connect with Shutesbury for redundancy and more consistent supply in Wendell.

Dornbusch conceded that the liability would fall on him or on the town if the pine is not cut and then falls on the lines, and said National Grid could remove it.

No property owner came to the hearing, and the selectboard voted to allow National Grid to cut 27 trees, and trim one, as requested by the company.

Town Projects

Project manager Phil Delorey announced that Wendell had been awarded a \$156,000 grant for re-decking the Farley Road bridge. The state will need to do a Chapter 85 review of the engineering plans, and work will not start until spring.

Wendell also received a grant to install safety rails at the open-top metal and construction debris containers, after they are moved behind the WRATS office.

Delorey said he plans to put concrete aprons under the library roof downspouts to direct rainwater away from the stone foundation, which has allowed water into the cellar. The bulkhead needs repair.

Delorey said he was looking for tax money to come from the state's 2022 Fair Share amendment for repaving West Street next year, and maybe even Farley Road. He expressed the opinion the town has not been getting its share of state road funding.

Rules for Sharing

Selectboard member Gillian Budine and chair Laurie DiDonato meet monthly before the full selectboard meetings to discuss town policies.

DiDonato said she made some improvements to the application for use of the town hall and kitchen, to include information about insurance and liability and be "clickable." She said it should be reviewed by town counsel before it is adopted.

Budine said the fees for renting town furniture should cover the cost of maintenance and replacements. Chairs have been returned damaged, she said, and accordingly she proposed increasing the cost for chair rental from 20 cents per day to \$1, and for tables from \$1 to \$5.

Exemptions for memorials or town events may be approved by the selectboard chair.

Other Business

Budine reported that she had a successful day recruiting committee members at WRATS, with a potential new finance committee member.

The board appointed Michelle Wilder as library custodian.

They went into executive session at the end of the meeting, "to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; and to comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements (approval of executive session meeting minutes)."

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A
VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File #610656

A Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements at Route 47 (North Leverett Road) and Route 63 project in Montague, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, November 6, 2024

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements at Route 47 (North Leverett Road) and Route 63. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: Intersection improvements on Route 47 (North Leverett Road) to remove the skew with Route 63. This project will include the construction of a roundabout to slow down traffic and improve the approaching roadway geometry and sight distance. The provision of a shared use accommodation consisting of a wide outside travel lane with shared lane markings have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices, and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TDD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult-to-arrange services including sign-language, CART, or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

LEVERETT from page A1

learned there are state requirements for managing town forests, including a volunteer three-member management committee.

Eva Gibavic, who also served on the *ad hoc* committee, said that three of its members indicated they would volunteer to serve on a forest management committee.

Donnelly added that Spencer was interested in helping out initially, and commented that over the longer term, "there's a lot of tree people in town," and "a lot of expertise" available.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson suggested the possibility that other forested town land might also be managed by such a committee.

Another concern the report addressed was a small bridge on the property which the town would be taking responsibility for. Donnelly said it was difficult to come up with a dollar figure for its annual maintenance, but that it was "really solid," in "great shape," and would last "a long time before it needed replacement."

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher commented that he was "99% sure" the bridge was small enough to be eligible for the state's small bridge program, which might provide financial support when needed.

Board member Jed Proujansky asked if the committee thought there would be opposition to hunting and logging on the property. Gibavic said she thought that while many residents are opposed to hunting, there are "still many hunters in Leverett," and a "general acceptance" of the practice. She pointed out that all of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust's properties, except one, allow hunting.

Gibavic also noted that the land was already under a conservation restriction, so no building would be allowed on it, and that the

current property tax was only \$251, which meant the town would lose little revenue by taking ownership.

Donnelly said that according to Spencer's wishes, the land was not intended to be a "cash cow," but what minor costs were incurred could be offset by the sale of timber resulting from managing the forest, and possibly by grant money.

"People in Leverett love woods," said Donnelly, citing as benefits the ability of residents to enjoy time in the forest, the educational opportunities provided by the parcel's "exemplary forestry," and the possibility of creating a town "wood bank."

The town plans to hold a public forum on the proposal, which would need to be approved by town meeting.

Nature Trails

Gibavic and Steve Weiss received approval to act on the selectboard's behalf to pursue three specific funding avenues for the Rattlesnake Gutter road restoration and improvement project.

At the request of historical commission chair Susan Mareneck, the board agreed to write a letter of support for a Community Preservation Act grant to conduct a site survey of the Graves Iron Works.

The iron works site is part of the Heritage Park and Nature Trail adjacent to the North Leverett Sawmill, which is in the process of being redeveloped. Mareneck said that increased traffic on the trail has exposed more of the historic iron works and generated interest in the structure.

Word has spread among industrial archeologists nationwide, she said, who have advised that surveying and mapping the area is the first step in learning more about its history and preserving the site.

Transfer Station

Transfer station coordinator Annette Herda provided an update, reporting that "everything's going well" and she had heard "no complaints." She said her staff was getting ready for winter, her equipment was "all fine," and she did not foresee any large capital expenses next year.

Hankinson commented that he and town administrator Marjorie McGinnis had recently visited the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield, and wondered how Herda felt about the possibility of separating glass for recycling.

Herda said that the Franklin County Solid Waste District has been looking at the idea, and said that while it was "market-driven," she would "totally entertain" the idea and look into it further. She added that she believed townspeople would be behind it, noting that Leverett was one of the top towns in the district for recycling.

Roads and Bridges

McGinnis announced that she had received notice from the town of Montague of two traffic projects which will affect Leverett.

The first is a redesign of the intersection of Route 63 and North Leverett Road, which Montague is "expecting to be a roundabout." The state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will hold a public information meeting on the project on Wednesday, November 6.

Montague also reported that it expects to begin construction work next summer on the North Leverett Road bridge over the Sawmill River.

McGinnis added that construction work is getting underway on the Millers Road bridge in Leverett.

McGinnis also announced that the town

had received a \$1 million state grant for drainage improvements to Dudleyville Road. She and planning board member Richard Nathorst received a round of applause for their work in pursuing the grant.

Boucher reported that one of the town dump trucks had suffered a catastrophic engine failure, and recommended that it be replaced rather than repaired. He said it wasn't a "super-emergency," but that he needed the truck for snow plowing, and would meet with the finance and capital planning committees about a solution. He suggested shifting funds from other capital expenses to cover the cost.

Other Business

The selectboard approved hiring of a student co-op worker from the Franklin County Technical School for the highway department.

The board unanimously voted to draft a letter opposing a 100-student increase at the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School. "Until they figure out a way to fund charter schools that does not bankrupt the regular elementary schools," Proujansky said, "I can't support an increase."

The board voted to adopt a joint Digital Equity Plan with the town of Shutesbury. The plan is designed to aid the towns in improving residents' internet access and usage through grant funding and other means.

Resident Isaiah Robison thanked the town's 250th anniversary committee for the festivities it sponsored this year, and said the feedback he had received indicated that people want another parade, another car show, and a bonfire. Fire chief Brian Cook, Robison said, was "totally into" bringing back the town bonfire.

Others at the meeting spoke approvingly of large bonfires in neighboring towns.



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UPGRADES from page A1

to the pump station building, and new control panels.

The \$2.8 million project is being paid for with a \$1,616,000 long-term, low-interest loan from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office and a grant from the same office for \$860,000, as well as \$330,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The current screw pumps are unreliable and in poor condition, according to the town's press release about the groundbreaking. Their efficiency has decreased considerably due to mechanical failures and corrosion in the infrastructure.

CWF superintendent Chelsey Little explained that out of the eight pump stations in the town, the worst alarm her department could receive is that the screw pumps have failed. These pumps have to be manually controlled, and upon failure of the pumps, the wetland surrounding the station could fill in only two hours.

"After we have these replaced, we are all going to be sleeping a

little bit better," Little said.

"The nuts and bolts of local government – or in this case the screw pumps of local government – are too often overlooked," Jesse Lederman, regional director for US Senator Ed Markey, read from a statement written by the senator. "All of you here today understand the reality that without these important investments, our safety, public health, and the environment would be in grave danger."

"It has taken a powerful local vision to advance and fight for these upgrades," he continued, "but I always say a vision without funding is a hallucination. That is why I am committed to ensuring that the federal government remains a strong partner to Montague."

"It takes support... Small towns like Montague can't bear the cost on our own," town administrator Walter Ramsey said at the groundbreaking event. "We are trying to deal with this legacy that was built for other purposes and repurpose it for the future, and that is a challenge we have to deal with."

The facility treats industrial and

residential wastewater from the Montague villages of Turners Falls, Montague Center, Montague, and Lake Pleasant, and the Riverside neighborhood in Gill.

Engineering for the screw pump project has been provided by Wright-Pierce, and construction will be done by the Associated Construction Company, based in Hartford, Connecticut.

"Keeping essential services that are affordable and avoiding escalating costs is what these programs are all about," said Scott Soares, USDA rural development director for Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

"In general, in places like Montague and throughout the country, we are dealing with old infrastructure," said Ramsey. "Portions of this plant date back to the 1960s."

Representatives for Markey and McGovern both touted the project as an example of good use of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

"When we think about investing in our nation's infrastructure, we need to include clean water infrastruc-



CWF superintendent Chelsey Little addresses the visiting dignitaries on Wednesday. The plant's iconic twin Internalift-brand Archimedes screw pumps, last replaced in 2002, lift the sewage from the plant's primary clarification tanks uphill to the secondary clarifiers. Little said that if both aging pumps were to fail, the plant and its surrounding wetlands would be flooded with sewage in a matter of hours.

structure," Gardner-Levine said.

Lederman said the planned demolition of the Strathmore Mill complex is another example of the federal government's involvement in improving Montague's infrastructure.

"We are here now," Soares, the USDA rural development director, told the local officials. "We will be here in the future, and we look forward to our continued work with you all."

**SPORTS** from page A1

Friday. After the previous week's fourth-quarter meltdown against Palmer, the coaches blamed themselves. "We're going to make it right," coach Joe Gamache promised earlier this week. "We'll get it right in practice."

Well, something seemed to work, as the Eagles played hard from whistle to whistle in their 38-8 rout of Greenfield.

The bleachers were full, and the sidelines were stacked with spectators. While many in the crowd were admiring the waning Hunter's moon, some were holding up signs encouraging Josiah Little to reach 1,000 rushing yards for the fourth straight year. Little only needed 10 more yards to hit quadruple digits.

It didn't take long. Less than two minutes into the contest, Little charged into the end zone for a touchdown, surpassing the threshold. It wouldn't be his last yards of the night, either – by the end of the game Little had racked up 193 yards, giving him 1,183 rushing yards after just six games.

Ethan Smarr caught the 2-PAT, and Tech was off to the races. Six minutes later, Tyler Yetter ran a keeper into the end zone and Little added the 2-pointer. By halftime Tech was ahead 24-0, and in the third they went up 32-0.

Greenfield did have some success, especially in the air. In the first half the Wave faced a first-and-goal after a late hit penalty, but Tech's goal line defense held up, keeping them off the scoreboard until the third. By then it was 32-8.

The Tech fan base held their breath in the fourth quarter, hoping the Eagles would play an entire game. They needn't have fretted – Tech continued to play hard throughout the contest. At the end of the game, with players in scoring position and leading 38-8, Gamache displayed good sportsmanship by having his QB take a knee instead of pouring on the points.

Yetter completed one pass for 39 yards, threw a 2-pointer, and rushed for two touchdowns and two conversions. Little gained 193 yards and scored three touchdowns and a 2-PAT, and Maxon Brunette (38) and Nathan Sabolevski (21) also carried the ball for Franklin. Joseph Disciullo kicked off six times, averaging 30.5 yards, and punted twice for 65.

Hunter Donahue led the team in tackles, caused a fumble, and knocked away a pass while Brady Gancarz, Madix Whitman, and Cole Gamache recovered fumbles.

This Friday, the Eagles travel to Ware in their quest to remain unbeaten.

Girls' Soccer

FCTS 4 – Pathfinder 1

Smith Voc 3 – FCTS 0

Greenfield 1 – FCTS 0

Last Thursday night, in front of a rowdy crowd, Tech's Eagles out-kicked the Path-



Pamela Gomez moves the ball upfield against Smith Vocational defenders Sophia Rego (left) and Kate Wolcott (right) at Franklin County Technical School last Friday. Gomez, a senior at Turners Falls High School, competes on co-op soccer team at Franklin Tech.

finder Patriots 4-1, keeping their slim hopes of a playoff spot alive and kicking. The Tech girls needed the win, while the Patriots sought to play spoiler.

And the game was a physical slugfest. The collisions, shoves, and hip checks started immediately, and the officials handed out cards just to keep order.

Seventeen seconds into the battle, the visitors scored to take a temporary 1-nil lead. This didn't sit well with the home team and their supporters. The Northfield elementary school's three soccer teams were in attendance, waving signs, and never stopped chanting "Let's go Eagles! Let's go Eagles!" all game long. They held a scrimmage at halftime.

Mia Marigliano tied it up, and Sofia Moreno kicked in the go-ahead goal. In the second half, Marigliano ran a fast break and went one-on-one against the goalkeeper, but instead of rushing her shot she stopped, eyed the goalie, and methodically shot the ball into the net.

When Zoe Duda scored Tech's fourth goal, the Pioneer goalkeeper had had enough. She went on a rant and was sent to the penalty box. The game cooled down a bit as her replacement strapped on her pads, and Franklin rode out the clock, keeping their playoff dreams alive.

On Friday, though, those hopes were dashed as the Smith Voc Vikings eliminated Tech from the playoffs with a 3-0 shutout. On Monday, the Eagles lost a close one against Greenfield. Both teams made six shots on goal, but only one slipped by, giving Green the win.

The Eagles travel to Westfield Technical Academy for a consolation matchup this Thursday.

Field Hockey

FCTS 5 – Holyoke 0

Southwick 4 – FCTS 0

The Franklin Tech field hockey team concluded their regular season on a high note last Thursday, blanking the Holyoke Purple Knights.

Holyoke used to be the elite team in the conference, but have struggled in the past few years. In last week's game they had difficulty getting the ball out of their own end.

The timing of this game sandwiched nicely with the girls' soccer game, so I was able to watch most of both battles. Interestingly, Tech's field hockey team was wearing white jerseys, while the soccer team was wearing navy blue. It was Senior Night, but much of the attention was on goalkeeper Madison Markwell, who only needed one more save to reach 200.

Because Tech controlled the game, Holyoke did not make a single shot on goal until the fourth quarter when they were granted a corner penalty. Markwell kicked it away easily for her 200th.

By this time Lillian Inman, Abby Dobias, Kenzie Sourdiffie-Phelps, and Hannah Gilbert had already scored and Tech had been granted 10 corners. When Kailey Steiner received the ball from Talia Pederzini-Curtis, she slapped it in and the mercy rule kicked

in, running the clock down continuously.

On Wednesday the third-seeded Eagles were eliminated from the PVIAC Class B semis by the number-2 Southwick Rams, 4-0. This does not end their season, however: they'll still compete in the vocational tournament, and then the statewide MIAA tourney.

Meanwhile, the third-ranked Thunder cross the river this Thursday to challenge the second-seeded Green Wave in Class C action.

Girls' Volleyball

FCTS 3 – Athol 1

FCTS 3 – SICS 0

TFHS 3 – Veritas 0

Mount Greylock 3 – FCTS 0

In their last game of the regular season, the Lady Birds outlasted the Athol Red Bears three sets to one.

In the first, Tech was on top 20-16, but the Bears clawed their way back to top them 25-23. The next set was never in doubt as Tech jumped out to a 19-6 cushion and never looked back. Franklin edged out the Bears 25-23 in the third, and coasted 25-19 in the deciding set to head into the playoffs on a winning note.

Sarah Beckwith led the team with 15 digs, Madison Pettingill made eight kill shots, Janiyah Wan had five digs and two aces, and Amelia Rider ended with four digs and two assists.

On Monday, Franklin "upset" the fourth-ranked Springfield International Charter School in a three-set sweep – 25-22, 25-22, 25-20 – in the PVIAC Class C quarterfinals. Emma Petersen led in digs, Shelby O'Leary gave 11 assists, Pettingill had five kills and five digs, and Lily Baldwin made a block.

The Eagles lost their away semifinal match against the top-seeded Mount Greylock Mounties on Wednesday, but stats were unavailable at press time.

In the Class D tournament, meanwhile, Tuesday saw the Turners Falls Spiking Thunder defeat Veritas Prep 3-0. There weren't a lot of people at the game, probably because Turners was the odds-on favorite, but the stage band kept the spirit in the gym electric. The Thunder never looked past this game to their upcoming war against the top-seeded Mohawk Trail Warriors.

Blue took large leads in all three sets, and Veritas played catchup all night long. By the end Turners was liberally substituting reserve players, resting their starters for Thursday's matchup with the Warriors. Madi Liimatainen led in aces and kills, Maddie Dietz served seven aces and made seven kills, and Addison Talbot ended with four aces and a dig.

This Thursday, Blue Thunder rolls up the trail in the hopes of knocking off the Warriors and avenging their two regular-season five-set losses.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The program involves a six-week training, which was attended by LoManto, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, and public libraries director Caitlin Kelley, “to gain knowledge about how to execute public art and placemaking.”

Completing the training leads to a \$15,000 grant for a temporary public art project.

LoManto said RiverCulture is considering creating six “wheat-paste murals” to be attached to buildings in town. This technique, which she said has “been around since ancient times,” consists of “fixing printed material like paper onto a surface using a mixture of flour and water.” The plan is to attach the murals to historic buildings in May 2025, and power-wash them off in September.

The town would hire three artists, each of whom would produce a thematic “pair of designs.” One pair would be located in downtown Turners Falls, one pair on the Canalside Rail Trail, and one pair in Millers Falls.

After describing the criteria for choosing the artists, LoManto asked the board to endorse the project and approve the use of town hall and the Colle Opera House building for the downtown murals. The board unanimously endorsed the request.

Blacksmith Shop

Dobosz updated the board on the progress of the Montague Center park project. He said the swings and other structures in the new playground have been installed, though that portion of the project will not be completed for use until the spring. Other elements, including a pollinator garden, an improved ball field, and parking spaces, will be installed next year.

Dobosz then reviewed a “Phase 1” report on the historic building, known as the “blacksmith shop,” which sits near the playground and ball field. The report by Tristram Metcalfe of Metcalfe Associates Architecture, after giving a favorable review of the building’s structural integrity, “strongly recommends preservation and reuse of the building’s areas as built.”

The shop is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a “contributing resource” to the Montague Center Historic District. Dobosz shared photographs of the building which indicated that it is currently the site of extensive public art, created at no cost to the town.

The board then voted to approve spending \$5,000 from the town’s “unanticipated engineering” account to fund Phase 2 of the evaluation, which will give a more detailed assessment of options for the building.

Public Pools

Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little requested a change order in the town’s contract with Collins Electric Company to connect the electric box for the new main generator to be installed at her facility with a transformer that will have been relocated by Eversource.

“It’s been a very intricate project, and we’ve had some change orders,” Little said, suggesting that it might be possible to fund the extra work with the money already appropriated for the project by town meeting, but that she wanted a “placeholder” to make sure the wiring could move forward. The board

agreed to appropriate \$14,949 from the town’s “bid overrun” account to fund the change order.

Little updated the board on the project to replace the meter and valves on the main water line, located in the lower operations building. Showing a picture of the ancient-looking unit, she said her staff was able to install a meter and valves “so we were able to keep everything together.”

Little reported on a letter from the state Department of Labor Standards responding to the facility’s efforts to address 20 “action items” resulting from a February inspection. She said some of the items were “a little bit tricky” and required more time, but that state and federal standards “have been satisfied.”

One example Little gave was the installation of safety railings on stairs near the primary treatment tanks, built in 1962, “so that people won’t fall down the stairway into a tank.”

Little announced that she had accepted a nomination to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Rural Water Association, beginning September 18. “The hours that I would be putting into this are very minimal,” she said.

Sticker Shock

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller presented the board with options for addressing a large funding shortfall for the renovation of the Eleventh Street bridge, mandated after state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) inspections in 2020 and 2022. Town meeting appropriated \$77,646 for the project last year, but the lowest bid, from Clayton D. Davenport Trucking, came in at \$142,000.

After considering a number of options, the board agreed to allocate all of Montague’s remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds (\$51,738) and most of the money left in the “project overrun” account (\$12,616) to plug the \$64,354 gap.

The project will not begin until spring, so the vote may have created another “placeholder” until a special town meeting this winter can appropriate more funding for the project.

Nolan-Zeller then announced some “better news”: an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the state Department of Energy Resources. The \$27,000 grant will be used for a “decarbonization study” of nine town buildings: town hall, the Clean Water Facility, the public works building, the Colle Opera House, the Unity Park fieldhouse, two school buildings, and two libraries.

The funds will be used to hire a Boston-based non-profit, Power-Options Inc., to produce a “road map” that includes energy emissions calculations, efficiency recommendations, and carbon reduction targets. The board did not take a vote on the good news.

Nolan-Zeller announced that MassDOT would be holding a virtual public hearing on a project to improve the dangerous intersection near Montague Center where Route 63 meets Route 47. Current plans, he said, include the construction of a roundabout at the intersection, and residents who plan to attend will need to pre-register.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey said the project was initiated by a letter from the selectboard to MassDOT “four or five years ago,”

and is slated to begin in 2028. Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he believed the letter followed a fatal accident at the intersection.

Bridges Bridges Bridges

Just up North Leverett Road from that intersection, MassDOT is also planning to replace a bridge over the Sawmill River, according to public works superintendent Sam Urkiel. Urkiel said the project is still in its design phase, but the state plans to keep the bridge open to alternating one-way traffic during construction. He said the project is slated to begin “next year.”

Urkiel also gave an update on the Fifth Street bridge across the canal in Turners Falls, which is being repaired during the canal’s extended drawdown. He said that the bridge closure is “going to go up through” this Friday, October 25.

Finally, Urkiel reported that the project to replace a culvert on South Ferry Road in Montague Center should be completed this week or next week with the installation of guardrails. The road is now open, he said.

At Urkiel’s request the board appointed Brandin Coates to a 40-hour building maintenance position. “He has a strong skill set with a lot of building stuff, a lot of concrete work, and seems like he’ll be able to hit the ground running,” said Urkiel.

Ramsey noted that the position has “been vacant for a while now, and you guys have a lot of backlog of projects to get to.”

Other Business

Ramsey announced that the town had received two grants related to infrastructure – \$62,000 to plan changes in the zoning around the former Farren Care Center property, now called the Montague City “Village Center,” and \$25,000 for a “Rural Downtown District Pilot Project” in Turners Falls.

“We’re still not exactly sure what this program is going to look like,” said Ramsey, noting that the latter initiative was being undertaken in conjunction with several other towns in the region.

Near the end of the meeting, Ramsey presented the board with a timeline for developing the next fiscal year’s town budget, which will be presented to town meeting in May. In the first week of November, he said, he will give department heads guidance on the format for their budgets, which will be due to his office “around December 9.” Around that time the board will hold a hearing with the assessor’s office to determine next year’s tax rates for different classes of property.

By January the board will be “digging in” to department budgets under its jurisdiction, finalizing recommendations for the finance committee by the third week of that month. Meanwhile the capital improvements committee will be working on requests for capital projects. There would be a special town meeting in February, and the annual meeting will be held the evening of May 5.

“Busy times,” commented Kuklewicz.

The board retired into an executive session to discuss the town’s collective bargaining strategy in light of its recent pay and classification study. The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, October 28.



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

Here’s the way it was on October 23, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Powers Block Plans

Robert Obear of Obear Construction Company presented the Montague selectboard a description of the proposed project to renovate the Powers Block and several adjacent buildings in downtown Millers Falls.

Obear showed an artist’s conception of the renovated block, with a Mexican restaurant called La Mesa Del Molinero on the ground floor. The second and third floors will be designated for office space. The adjacent building, 30 East Main Street, will feature a laundromat, while Obear’s own firm will lease space at 34 East Main.

Obear provided a timeline for demolition and construction, as well as estimates of both temporary and permanent jobs created by the project. He said he intended to invest nearly \$1,000,000 in

the renovation. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio stated that the next step for the town is to negotiate a development agreement with Obear.

Ash Garden for the Deceased

With cemetery space scarce in Gill and his congregation aging, pastor Gary Bourbeau has come to the selectboard with a novel idea for a final resting place for the remains of any who might prefer an above-ground setting from which to slough off this mortal coil and move into the afterlife.

“A scatter cemetery – or scatter garden – that’s what we agreed we’d like to offer to the town,” said Bourbeau. “It’s a very space-friendly use; you would just need room for the markers.”

Bourbeau, who recently joined the cemetery commission, explained that cremation remains could be scattered in raised bed gardens, surrounded by a wheelchair accessible pathway, benches, and solar lighting.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 21, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Punctilious Preservation

The Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, and their non-profit housing development wing, Rural Development Inc., are halfway through a \$3.5 million top-to-bottom rehab of the Moltenbrey

building on the corner of Third and Avenue A in Turners Falls.

With careful attention paid to preservation and restoration of the building’s historic detail, the upper floors will be remodeled to 26 single-room occupancy units, reserved for sober housing for people in recovery from substance abuse. The Moltenbrey started life as a grand hotel before becoming a boarding house.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 21, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

(Note: This edition included a word that in most contexts has been used as a racist slur, but appears to have been used in this case to mean small children in general, without racial connotation – we felt the entry was otherwise interesting enough to include, but nevertheless blocked out these letters. – Eds.)

Local Matters

The State “Cops” paid us a visit last Friday, and some of our citizens look “glum.” One has disappeared.

It is now decided that we are to have a bridge. The petition of A.W. Stevens and others has been granted, and the County Commissioners will locate in December. The contracts will not be made until Spring. It is reported that an engineer who was recently consulted said that he would build a wrought iron bridge for \$10,000 or a Howe truss for \$35,000.

We are soon to rejoice in a telegraph. The posts are now being placed in position. It is just what we have long needed, and will

prove a great accommodation to our business men. We understand the Turners Falls office will be located in Braddock & Webster’s hardware store.

On Tuesday, last, James Moore, his wife and sister were out riding when all were thrown from the carriage, Mr. Moore receiving a compound fracture of the clavicle. Dr. Coy attended him and he is doing well.

Prospect Street bridge is nearly completed. The timbers have been placed in position, and it is ready to receive the planking. Couldn’t they make it a little rougher?

The “last sensation,” in our vicinity, is a party of Gypsies who encamped last Thursday, on the road leading to Greenfield. Many of our people have gratified their curiosity by visiting their camp. They are about thirty in number, and make their living by telling fortunes, trading horses and stealing “p-----s.” Mothers be warned in time.

Timothy, son of Cornelius Leary, was hurt pretty badly on Tuesday, by falling from a tree while chestnuting. Nothing serious is anticipated.



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SOUND from page A1

used to measure things such as track gauge and to remove and replace crossties.”

Last week 15 residents posted on the Wendell town listserv to share thoughts and concerns about the noise, which many said they have heard irregularly for hours at a time. Bear Mountain resident Sam Birch, who introduced the topic, said the first time he heard the humming was on September 19, and that the sound was recently clear enough at night that he measured it with a cell phone spectrometer app and found the frequency to be about 500 hertz.

“I don’t want to give the wrong impression here: this is a minor intrusion into my otherwise extremely peaceful environment,” Birch told the *Reporter*, “nothing at all like the background noise that city folks live with, let alone the dystopian racket of that Bitcoin mine in Texas that is driving neighbors from their homes.”

Some residents noted the noise is louder near the Erving Paper mill, while others wondered whether it could be an idling train or an electrical substation.

“None of our operations has been idling engines/locomotives in the area recently,” Ciuba wrote. “What residents might be hearing, however, is equipment we’ve been using during the day to carry out routine track maintenance.”

Contacted on Tuesday, Erving Industries vice president of operations Michael McAuliffe said that nothing out of the ordinary was happening at the mill, and that he had not heard the sound. “There’s steam that shows up, but there really shouldn’t be much you could hear,” McAuliffe said. He also noted that the train tracks run directly behind the mill.

National Grid, which owns an electrical substation near Wendell Depot, did not return a request for comment by press time.

“Any chance someone has a recording?” Ciuba asked, offering to share it with an engineer who may be able to identify the sound. “[W]e can only guess this might be what locals might be hearing.”

Readers may send field recordings to editor@montaguereporter.org.

**APPEAL** from page A1

in September to allow Leisure Woods management to increase the rent for land and access to utilities at the park from \$410.40 to \$462 beginning December 1, and to \$512 one year later.

As they scrutinized budgets submitted by the owners, board members said they found inconsistencies that led them to reduce a number of claimed expenses related to the park’s maintenance, staffing, and other line items. These reductions brought the estimate of the park’s annual operating cost from \$727,150 to \$576,500, a decrease of about 21%.

“The Board crafted its decision in a non-public meeting with counsel in advance of the September 24 hearing,” Kuzinevich wrote. “Inexplicably, the board decided to ignore the actual expenses incurred and use a budget that [management] admitted was confusing but which would be clarified by using actual numbers.”

The appeal also contends that the decision was “unreasonably delayed” because it took more than 60 days from the time Leisure Woods’ owners requested the increase in October 2023 until the first hearing was held in June.

The 1985 town bylaw that established the Mobile Home Park Rent Control Board says that the body

“shall make all reasonable efforts to conduct a hearing within sixty (60) days after the date of filing,” and that if more time is necessary “the Board, or its Chairperson, shall confer with the parties to establish, in writing, a time schedule for the parties to complete any necessary pre-hearing preparation.”

At the board’s September meeting, chair Jane Peirce said that she was undergoing cancer treatment in June, and apologized for being unable to schedule the hearing earlier. Attendees, including many residents of Leisure Woods, applauded.

Leisure Woods Estates is one of seven mobile home parks co-owned by Glenn Gidley, who also owns Salem Manufactured Homes, a New Hampshire-based business that transports and sells the modular domiciles. Throughout the hearing process Gidley and Kuzinevich have maintained that the park’s finances are entirely separate from those of Salem Manufactured Homes. Kuzinevich previously told the *Reporter* that though Salem Manufactured Homes has at times lent money to Leisure Woods, “there is no commingling of assets and nothing is done off the books.”

Ledgers submitted with the Leisure Woods Estates appeal indicate

the business paid \$17,657 to Salem Manufactured Homes in the first nine months of this year. Some of the expense covered maintenance work done in 2018 and 2019, while other bills were to repay past loans to cover the park’s mortgage and insurance bills.

The park’s actual payroll expenses, meanwhile, increased from \$69,988 in 2020 to \$141,526 in 2023, according to the ledgers, and in justifying its requested rent hike the company budgeted a further increase to \$170,000 for 2024.

Gidley’s son, Adam Gidley, works part-time as the operations manager for Leisure Woods, a fact which several Leisure Woods residents present at the meetings noted they had not been aware of previously. The board questioned whether Adam Gidley’s responsibilities justified the \$50,000 budgeted for his position, and asked for clarification as to how his job differed from that of the on-site park manager.

Leisure Woods representatives say the rent control board overstepped its authority in making judgements about how the Gidleys should run the business, and weighing which expenses were appropriate.

The balance sheets for Leisure

Beware All Hallows’ Eve!

In twilight’s grasp, where shadows creep and children wander, take heed!
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Franklin County Tech To Host Sixth Annual Halloween Celebration

TURNERS FALLS – Come and enjoy a spooky and fun Halloween celebration at Franklin County Technical School’s annual Trek @ Tech next Tuesday, October 29 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. This trick-or-treating event is free and open to children ages pre-K through 6th grade, with parents or guardians. Franklin County Technical School is located at 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

This year will be the sixth time the school has hosted the event, which has been very popular. FCTS students, faculty, and staff volunteers decorate the school for the event and hand out candy at designated locations throughout the building. The FCTS Art Club will provide face painting.

The volunteers go all out to transform the school for this festive Halloween celebration. Teachers decorate the doors of their classrooms, volunteers dress up in their Halloween finest, and spooky music resonates through the halls of the school.

Trek @ Tech is organized by FCTS director of information technology Jamie Noel and Barbara Williams, executive assistant to FCTS superintendent Richard Martin. Williams said Trek @ Tech is a terrific way to showcase the school and the programs and activities it has to offer, but is mostly a way to host a free fun event for the community.

“Our Halloween celebration is an opportunity for parents to give their kids a trick or treat experience in a place that’s safe and welcoming,” she said. “The kids love to come dressed up and you get to see all of these awesome costumes. Even parents sometimes dress up. It’s great to see and they have a great time.”

For more information, contact the Franklin County Technical School at (413) 863-9561 or visit www.FCTS.US.

ED GREGORY PHOTO



“Bridgework spanning the Sawmill River at Montague Center is beginning to take shape,” photographer Ed Gregory reports. “We’re at the southeast corner of the project, looking north. [At] lower left is the basal abutment for the south portal of the new bridge. Heavy steel sheeting driven deep into the earth maintains dry work areas on both sides of the river as it casually meanders 2.5 miles southwesterly to its confluence with the Connecticut River.” This photo was taken on Sunday.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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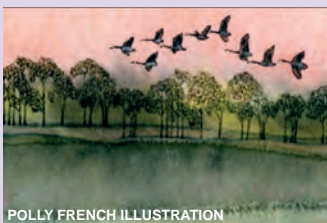


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OCTOBER 24, 2024



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE MYSTERY STONES ON MINERAL MOUNTAIN

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – The mountain has always been there, overseeing the same trials and tribulations of the family in this old homestead. That mountain has many moods, but most people down here take it for granted, don't much care about what's going on up there.

These days of autumn bring a blaze of color to the mountain that overlooks this small neighborhood hamlet I call the Flat. The sheer cliff that rises up hundreds of feet from the shores of the north-flowing *Paguag* river is covered with bright red, some yellow and the greens of hemlock, pines, and maple.

Indigenous people gave the *Paguag* its name meaning "flowing through a cleared place." Some call it the Millers River nowadays.

East Mineral and twin sister West Mineral are the home and haunts of the black bear and great horned owl. Both come down to the Flat to visit when the mood strikes them.

In winter after a snowfall, the east-rising sun strikes the top of the ridgeline creating a festival of crystal lights that rivals anything conjured up by human technicians.

Warming rays work their way down the east slope, sometimes melting the snow and ice from hemlock branches. Other times the sparkling landscape lasts all day.

In late afternoon, whatever the season, the mountain throws its shadow over our corner of the river valley while the neighboring Montague Plains stay bright and golden until the sun sinks over the western horizon.

In the upstairs north bedroom

where I'm now writing this, I can barely see the Mount through the trees. That'll soon change when the leaves come down.

Up here in this room that serves as a time capsule, I've found a passage in my mother's TFHS Class of 1945 yearbook, a passage about Mineral Mountain written by a girl from Millers Falls, Rose W., way back then:

Near my home is a mountain which I call Mt. Mineral, and on which I spend most of my time during the fall months. I have a wonderful sensation everytime I go up to this mountain, singing merrily as I skip along, my two dogs trotting ahead. As I reach the top, a most beautiful sight confronts me. All around can be seen the beauty of New England...

The class motto of that year was *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, meaning "To the Stars through Difficulties." Truth be told, all of those classmates are now up there somewhere among the stars, every last one.

That mountain has always been there. Always, as in forever.

Some tectonic cataclysm hundreds of millions of years ago pushed up the sheer face of rock to the heavens, higher than what we see now.

Modern-day geologists tell us that our twin hills are separated by the Eastern Border Fault. That fault stretches across the northeast and right through here between the Mineral Hills and on up the Connecticut River. The 420 mile-long river now flows along the fault's crack in the earth's crust.

More recently – that is, around see **WEST ALONG** page B8



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

A standing stone on East Mineral Mountain.

Above: A rainbow at Montague's town hall last week.

Older Letters to the Editors

In compiling our "Looking Back: 150 Years Ago This Week" feature, we sometimes notice the letters readers of the time were sending to Addington D. Welch, editor of the Turners Falls Reporter. Here is a small compilation of letters submitted in the fall of 1874. They include correspondence from Charles W. Hazelton, treasurer and clerk of the Turners Falls Company, as well as local disputes about decorum – and development. The archives have a three-week gap that fall, after which the 24-year-old Cecil T. Bagnall appears as editor. We hope you will enjoy! - Eds.

— October 7, 1874 —

MR. EDITOR:

Sir – While attending a session of the "Millers River Baptist Association," at North Leverett, recently, it was my good fortune to hear the Rev. Mr. Wyman, of your town. His discourse on that occasion was a very high order of excellence, and gave the assembled delegates a most favorable impression of his abilities as a thinker and speaker. It certainly argues well for your now city that such workmen are employed on its moral foundation. Nor would it be otherwise than unfortunate if strangers should be alone in their appreciation of such gifts; and should your citizens wake up to their value, only when they had taken their flight to more genial latitudes.

HIGHLAND.

— October 14, 1874 —

Plymouth, Oct. 15, 1874.

MR. EDITOR:

Dear Sir – After hearing the REPORTER, which came a day or two ago, read through, the remark was made "that we ought to let the Editor know how much pleasure it has given us. Perhaps it might cheer him up a little to know that away up here among the mountains they have tried to appreciate his effort this week."

It seemed, as it gave us the Turners Falls and Greenfield news, like meeting an old friend, and was very welcome. we hope it will not fail to call again next week.

My stay away from Turners Falls is being made much longer than was originally intended. I left there four weeks ago intending to take about a week's vacation and rest. The day

after I arrived here I took my bed and have been resting in it ever since. But I am on the gain, now, and hope to get around soon. I never realized before, what typhoid fever was, and hereafter to know that any of my friends are down with it, will at once excite my warmest sympathies, especially about the fifth week, after their appetite comes around.

After going four weeks without eating or rather drinking anything but a little beef-tea, chicken broth, or milk with a little spirit in it, I can assure you a person feels (if he is on the gain,) as though he wouldn't be very particular about what he did get to eat. For my breakfast, this morning, they let me smell the meat and potato cooking, and gave me a little rye pudding and a very little toast. It looked small; but with the

see **LETTERS** page B4



Travel with Max By Max Hartshorne

Transit tidbits: Bus, rail, ferry, and parking news.

By MAX HARTSHORNE

SOUTH DEERFIELD – You can now take a bus to Leverett! The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority is launching a new weekday round-trip service from Amherst to Greenfield that, for the first time, will include a stop in Leverett.

The agency announced this week the start of the Monday-through-Friday route that heads north each day at 8:30 a.m. from the Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk in Amherst, with the nearly hour-long rides also leaving at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

After arriving at Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, 15 minutes later, the bus will stop at three Sunderland locations: Cliffside Apartments, 248 Amherst Road; Sanderson Place, 120 North Main Street; and Sugarloaf Estates, 28 River Road.



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

No more overflow lot: Logan Express in Framingham is adding 1,000 new parking spots, building three new levels for parking on your way to the airport.

The final two stops are in Greenfield, at the John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, and Baystate Franklin Medical Center, 164 High Street. The final stops are sched-

uled for 9:26 a.m., 11:26 a.m., and 1:56 p.m. Four minutes later, the bus leaves Baystate Franklin on its return trip through each stop to Amherst.

see **TRAVELS** page B6

Pets of the Week



'ANNA AND ELSA'

Meet Anna and Elsa, two adorable doves looking for their next home – together, of course. Just like the sisters in *Frozen*, Anna and Elsa are inseparable. These feathered sisters are friendly and gentle, but just like Elsa in the beginning, they can be a little shy when meeting new people. With a little time, they'll warm up and be ready to make you smile, and can even be gently handled.

Doves need safe out-of-cage time every day to exercise and socialize. They should be fed a mixture of seeds, grit, and fresh greens, and please include a mirror in their

cage – they love to see themselves in the reflection!

Doves fly horizontally, and their cage must be at least 32" wide by 21" deep by 24" tall, with solid platforms, not just bars, for perching.

Don't "let it go" – Anna and Elsa are waiting for you! The adoption fee for one dove is \$10, each additional adopted at the same time has a discounted adoption fee of \$5. Come in during open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., or call the Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org for details.

MR Wrapping Paper Edition • Artist Profile #3

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for our fourth Special Wrapping Paper Edition, to be printed in late November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. Seven of these pages will feature the work of local artists chosen from the proposals we have received, with an in-house cover design as the outer page.

We are introducing our winning artists and their design proposals every week leading up to Thanksgiving, when the Edition is printed and put out for sale online and in stores.

We have asked each artist the same three questions, and solicited a selfie from them.

Roxanne Boyd is featured this week. Her bold design, *Blue Botanical*, is a positive/negative botanical print made using local vegetation.

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

RB: When someone gets a package wrapped in my artwork I hope they feel seen and understood. Like the person giving the gift thought about them and thought that my botanical print suited them perfectly in some way.

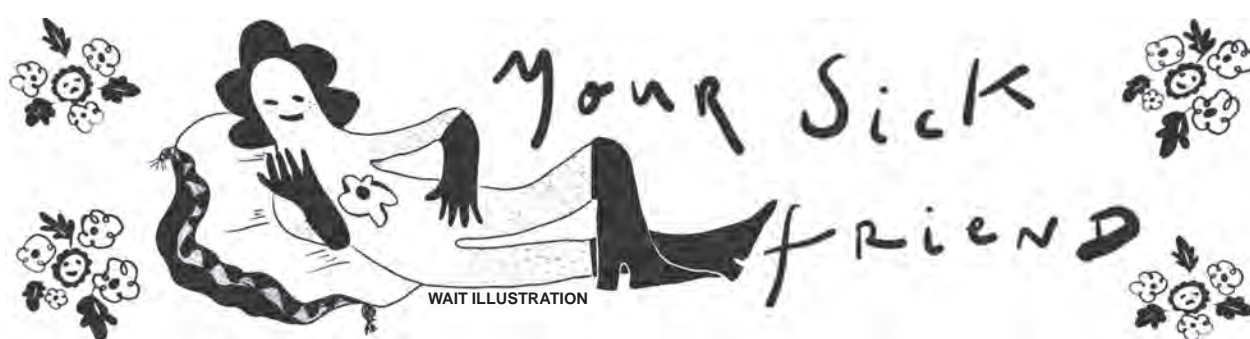


MR: What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?

RB: Art supplies and books. The art supplies don't have to be fancy or expensive. The latest product that Crayola has developed or a couple of colored pencils from a brand that I haven't tried. Books about art making, creativity, or artists that I admire.

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

RB: Information and entertainment. Whenever I go on vacation I visit the library and find a local paper. I learn a lot about what is important and valued to that community.



Oh world, oh oppressive world! It has been the hardest 15 consecutive genocidal days in northern Gaza, the worst days of ethnic cleansing. Continuous bombing and raids, dozens of martyrs, and the targeting of all the hospitals in the north. Starvation, siege, forced displacement from shelters, and arrests. They are destroying homes on top of their owners' heads and they are not allowing civil defense and ambulances to reach them.

– A doctor working in Gaza, quoted October 19, 2024 @gazamedicvoices

By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Dear Readers:

October is a month associated with death and grief for many cultures around the world. This year, death feels startlingly close and the grief, overwhelming. At the time of writing it is the 381st day of the Israeli genocide of Gaza, which last month expanded horrifically to Lebanon. Official death counts have hovered around 40,000 for months, but this number doesn't account for the estimated 11,000 souls stuck under rubble – and doesn't necessarily include "indirect" forms of genocidal murder, such as deaths from starvation and disease.

Last month on World Children's Day, the official Instagram account for the BDS movement posted a list of names of all the children killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023. The first 14 pages were children under the age of one year old, 115 pages were of children under 10, and 215 pages were of children killed under the age of 18.

James Baldwin once wrote, "The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality."

Last week my feed was full of one image – a young man engulfed in fire, flailing in pain and terror. His name was Sha'ban Al-Dalou. He was burned alive inside a hospital tent while still hooked up to an IV. He was only a few days shy of his 20th birthday. I will never forget the image of his death. I will never

forgive Israel or the United States for burning him alive. The horror – let it touch you.

At this very moment, in the north of the Gaza strip, Jabalia camp is being systematically exterminated. Food and aid have not been let into the area since the beginning of October, and the Israeli army is simultaneously calling for residents to evacuate the camp while also shooting anyone who steps out onto the street. Over the weekend my Instagram Stories were full of images coming out of Jabalia that posters likened to photographs of Dachau and Auschwitz: long lines of men and boys – children! – leading to massive holes where these human beings were then buried alive.

My heart breaks. My stomach drops. My brain goes blank. I have friends in the southern Strip and I'm terrified for them. Every day I prepare myself to never hear from them again, knowing that if they are killed, their fate will likely remain unknown to me – I'll simply stop getting their WhatsApp messages.

Every few days, I send my friend Basil pictures of our new kitten, just to give him something sweet to look at for a moment. He asks me how I am, and says that I should keep the money I've been raising for him and his family because he worries about my chronic illnesses. I am floored by the kindness of this 19-year-old man, living through a year of genocide and still having the capacity to care for me, an American whose taxes bought the machinery of war used to kill his friends and family. I refuse to keep the money.

The America that funds genocide

in Palestine is the same America that leaves Appalachians under feet of toxic floodwater, to literally sink or swim; the same America that subjects all of us to endless COVID infections, debility, and death; the America that condemns Cubans to mass death as Hurricane Oscar rapidly approaches their island, already struggling since the failure of its national power grid only a few days ago; the America that is hurtling the world towards climate collapse faster than even the most pessimistic doomers expected.

I enumerate these crimes against humanity not to induce despair but to emphasize that the world over, from Palestine to North Carolina to western Mass to Cuba, our struggles are intimately connected. Capitalism feeds on our bodies. It also feeds on our apathy.

Please, allow yourself to feel the horror and brutality of this moment. Because only by feeling it, allowing our hearts to crack open, can we begin to move towards something better for all of us. Grief can be one of the most powerful catalysts for transformative change.

"They are forcing us to watch spectacles of death so we feel hopeless & become selfish in our complicity," Dr. Kerry Sinanan writes on Twitter "In the face of this, insisting on life – disabled life, 'guilty' life, poor life, Indigenous life, Black life, Arab life, all the wretched of the earth – as precious, is our task." Please, I beg you, take up this task with me. Arms embargo, ceasefire, right of return, land back – now!

With love and rage,
Your Sick Friend

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 1

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 10/28

9 a.m. Good 4 You
10 a.m. Seated Dance
12 p.m. Pitch
1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 10/29

9 a.m. Interval
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringers
12 p.m. Halloween Lunch with Bobby C.

Wednesday 10/30

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/31

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
12 to 3 p.m. Flu and COVID Shots

Friday 11/1

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

For more information, please call 863-9357.

Monday 10/28

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Ice Cream Social

4 p.m. Tech Special Topics Class:

The Cloud & Google Docs

Tuesday 10/29

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
10 a.m. Grandparents Raising Teens
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday: Drop-In Tech Help
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 10/30

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

Thursday 10/31

10:30 a.m. Psanky Class (pre-register)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
11 a.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 11/1

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

LEVERETT

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

Contact (413) 548-1022 x2 or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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.

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REFLECTION

A Letter to a Place I Love

By JASON CHAPDELAINE

GREENFIELD – Hello Again, I hope that this note finds you thriving in every way. I just wanted to reach out and let you know that it has been what seems like forever since we last saw one another and that you have always been near and dear to my heart since I was a young child when we met in summer camp. It was very long ago but I remember you like it was yesterday. I was enamored by you instantly with all your offerings and wanted nothing in return but just for us to be friends. The first thing that comes to mind when we are close is the fresh air that I breathe and then a bunch of other emotions come rushing through as if I am transported back in time to 1977.

You, Mt. Tom, are a place that symbolizes freedom and peace for me.

Here, it's so clean and fresh and far from the bustling of the city and all of its man-made structures. I remember moments as a child and having so much nature all around and trees so tall I would almost fall over trying to see the tops of them. Such great memories were made here with family and friends alike. I

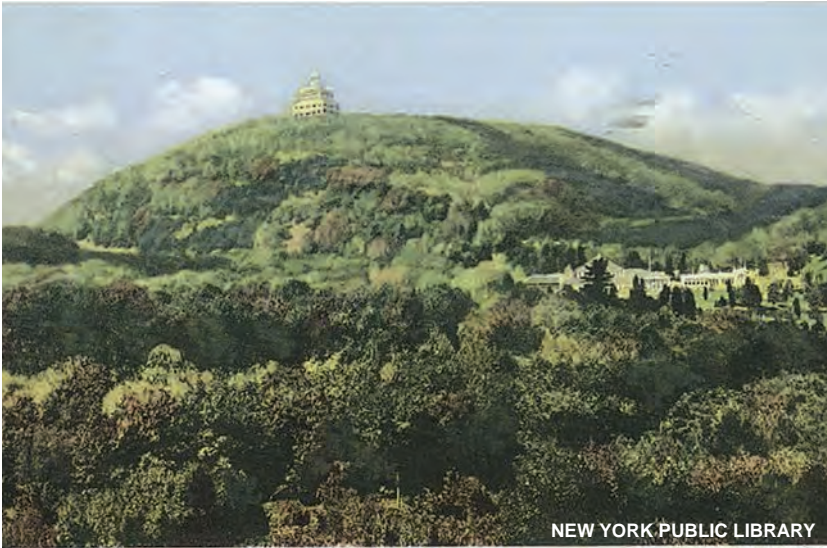
often wonder how many other people feel this way and how it was for past generations.

My favorite memory of being at the mountain (there are many wonderful ones) is drinking the fresh water that was coming right off the rocks. It was always so cold to touch with your hands but so refreshing when you drank it. Sometimes you would have to wait to drink it because the man who got there first was filling up many bottles for home consumption (very frustrating). I always loved to share the water with my dog Penny. She was a good girl, but I think she drank the water just to make me happy.

Mt. Tom is a place that symbolizes freedom for me. Being in jail, I can't physically go to this place at the moment, but I think this is one thing I have in common with many people here.

I hope all of you have that one special place that brings peace and joy to your soul, and that you get to go there again real soon, because it's out there just waiting for you.

This article first appeared in The Light, a newsletter by Franklin County Jail and House of Correction (FCSO) residents.



Mt. Tom and Mountain Park from the East, Holyoke, Mass. The New York Public Library Digital Collections: Postcards, 1898-1931.

ENTERTAINMENT

Pureflix's *Destination Heaven* (2024)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I once saw a movie called *An Interview With God* and I liked it, so when Pureflix decided to do a new TV miniseries called *Destination Heaven*, consisting of various people having a conversation with God as played by Harry Lennix, I was interested.

It turned out to be an all right TV series. I wasn't surprised to find Kevin Sorbo has a part in one of those episodes. He has been in a lot of stuff like this. The other person I wasn't surprised about being a part of this is David A. R. White. He has a much bigger list of doing this kind of stuff when it comes to acting than Kevin Sorbo does.

The first episode features Sorbo playing a homeless man, who is helped out by a woman played by Emily Rose. Part of the episode consists of her learning a valuable lesson through this. I don't know what the lesson is, exactly, but something resembling "don't judge a book by its cover" comes to mind, and maybe that people

should take a more hands-on role when it comes to this problem.

A little bit of that is reflected in her getting a coat of hers to a homeless person who needs it. She does that twice, in fact. The metaphor of being a shepherd to sheep also comes into play – I believe she got that idea by the end of the episode.

I am not trying to say giving money to an organization that helps the homeless is a horrible way to help out, but this episode appears to suggest that a hands-on role is a better way to go about helping.

I believe in some of the next episodes God will help people out with some of the kinds of things you would expect God to help you out with – that is, problems that are going on in your life.

The preview that first made me interested in this series didn't show much about what the other episodes in the season will be about, but I believe there will be one in which God helps a woman out with concerns about her marriage. That episode shouldn't be too uninteresting.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Not As Reported; Breakdown In Drive-Through; Sewer Odor; Gunfire; Neighbor Woes; Family Ties

Tuesday, 10/15

12:24 a.m. Caller from Third Street states upstairs neighbors are playing loud music; ongoing issue.

12:44 p.m. Walk-in reporting that he believes someone is sneaking into a vacant apartment above him at night. He can hear someone walking round and can hear them on the stairs. Advised of options.

1:19 p.m. Caller from Davis Street states that there is some damage, likely caused by vandalism, to the outside of his home. Damage was from a lawnmower operated by the Montague Housing Authority. Homeowner will work things out with them.

4:32 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that the downstairs tenant is using paint thinner again and it smells; it is affecting her asthma like it did in the summer. Requesting FD air it out again.

8:30 p.m. Detective assisting Greenfield PD with arrest on Avenue A.

Wednesday, 10/16

11:37 a.m. Motorist reporting an injured deer on Federal Street near Hunting Hills. Officer dispatched deer; DPW notified.

3:39 p.m. 911 caller from Griswold Street reporting an attempted breaking and entering overnight; advises that she found cigarettes and a knife that did not belong to her at the back door. Caller also advises that she has heard weird noises for the past three nights. Officer advises not as reported.

4:42 p.m. Caller from Main Street looking to speak with sergeant about having a vehicle towed off his property; the owner is upset. Caller did reach out to MPD in September about having the vehicle towed but never spoke with an officer. Sergeant advised caller to tell tow company not to touch the vehicle and make arrangements to get it back to its owner. Caller will be calling back.

7:45 p.m. Walk-in from Turnpike Road requesting to speak with an officer regarding an incident earlier today in the neighborhood. Advised party of options.

Thursday, 10/17

6:03 a.m. Fire alarm at Judd Wire. Caller advises someone struck a water pipe with a forklift; no fire or smoke. FD on scene at time of call due to box alarm.

6:32 a.m. E-911 caller reporting a vehicle all over the roadway on Wendell Road. Officer advises both units saw the vehicle pass them; no erratic operation observed. Officer located vehicle in Nouria parking lot; spoke to party who advises the car behind him was attempting to pass on a solid line. Driver advises he was speeding up, then attempting to pull off the road to let the vehicle pass.

Advised of complaint.

9:35 a.m. Cumberland Farms employee reporting that a female came in, stole a pack of cigarettes, and threatened the staff. Summons issued.

2:37 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls High School states his vehicle was struck in the parking lot by a student. Minor damage. Parties will handle it amongst themselves.

4:10 p.m. Party calling on behalf of a customer in the Greenfield Savings Bank drive-through whose vehicle won't start. Customer did not want the vehicle towed; stated he would contact his uncle. Officer checked drive-through; no vehicles broken down.

4:14 p.m. Report of a subject harassing staff and customers in front of an Avenue A business and recently at Food City plaza. Male stated his name and that he was recently released from prison; asked parties what they were doing and other questions that made them uncomfortable; followed at least one client as they walked out of the business. Area checked; unable to locate.

4:37 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer regarding a call from someone claiming they had received three harassing calls from her phone; states she did not make those calls. Advised of options.

5:30 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reporting a tenant is banging on the walls in the hall and stomping on the floor, threatening to beat her up; stated to her that she is not afraid to go to jail. Involved party advises she was banging because the caller was using racial slurs toward her. Caller denied accusations. Parties advised of options.

5:59 p.m. 911 report of loud disturbance on East Main Street at rear of building. Caller unsure who is involved or which unit they are in. Officer advises same female involved in previous call. Parties advised of options; peace restored.

6:21 p.m. Caller from Crescent Street reports that a white van is parked near her residence and people inside are talking. Advises that this van has parked there before and the occupants talked all night, disturbing her peace. Officer checked area. Van is unoccupied and parked on the opposite side of the street, two or three houses down.

7:36 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting a strong odor of sewage. Shelburne Control notified; TFFD responding. SRO unable to locate odor. TFFD found an odor coming from a sewer drain; requesting to contact DPW.

8:27 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting officer to locate a vehicle that may have been

involved in a hit-and-run. SRO advises vehicle not at the address provided; GPD notified. GPD requesting an officer return to the residence; states new information presented and that the vehicle struck a person, not another vehicle. No answer at door; vehicle still not there. GPD advised.

11:48 p.m. Burglar alarm at Millers Falls Rod & Gun. Officer states door wasn't fully secured when someone left, tripping the alarm.

Friday, 10/18

3:19 a.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road states it sounds like someone is trying to get into a window or into his residence. Nobody located at this time.

3:56 a.m. Caller from Third Street states an individual on the second floor of the building is causing a disturbance via music with loud bass. Several previous calls to location indicate that officers cleared without hearing any noise; lights are off at involved location.

5:10 a.m. Caller from East Main Street reports her neighbor is causing a noise disturbance intentionally to wake her up and disturb her sleep. Caller states she has spoken to officers about the matter several times and does not know what to do about it. Ongoing issue between neighbors. Officer advises he spoke to the caller and listened to her concerns. Advised of options.

8:28 a.m. Caller would like on record that he struck a deer on Turnpike Road. Deer went off toward a wooded area. Truck has minor damage to bumper.

8:35 a.m. Cumberland Farms employee requesting a customer be removed from the store. She is causing a disturbance and shoplifted yesterday. Female left prior to officer arrival. Employees advised of options.

11:54 a.m. 911 caller from Federal Street reports two aggressive dogs just chased after her husband on their property and he fled into the house. Animal control officer notified and will be responding. ACO checked area and spoke to caller; no loose dogs in area.

1:04 p.m. Caller concerned about a dog at Fourth and L streets that is left outside for long periods of time and barks constantly. ACO will respond.

1:20 p.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian accident on Turners Falls Road.

3:04 p.m. 911 caller reporting another knife on her porch; she's not comfortable picking it up at this time as the same thing happened two days ago. It does not appear that anyone attempted to break in at this time. Officer retrieved item.

6:42 p.m. Caller from Country Club Lane reports pickup trucks have been speeding up and down the

road; nervous due to children playing. Report taken. 6:42 p.m. 911 caller reports hearing a loud explosion on Millers Falls Road. Does not see smoke or flames; unsure what direction it came from. Officer checked area; nothing showing. Possibly noise from a soccer game at the high school.

Saturday, 10/19

1:23 p.m. Caller from Central Street reports a female is attempting to break in to her neighbor's house. She called her neighbor, and the female is not supposed to be at the house. Officers advise female was parked in parking lot and not actively trying to get into the house. She has been verbally trespassed from the property and advised of her options.

3:08 p.m. Caller wants on record that his wife was involved in a fender-bender on Avenue A and the parties exchanged information; when she got home they noticed more damage than they originally thought.

7:19 p.m. Caller from Swamp Road states she has been hearing gunshots for the last hour; concerned about someone shooting in the dark. Area checked; nothing heard.

Sunday, 10/20

6:26 a.m. 911 caller on Greenfield Road reporting a vehicle crashed into a tree in front of his house; operator is not injured. Rau's requested for tow. Summons issued for marked lanes violation; operating with a revoked registration; and uninsured vehicle.

8:56 a.m. 911 caller reporting an abandoned purse on the lawn of Our Lady of Peace Church; contents on the ground around it. Wonders if someone stole it and dumped it; would like an officer to pick it up. Items recovered; undetermined if stolen.

11:07 a.m. Caller reporting she can hear gunfire from the shooting range at Millers Falls Rod & Gun and it's too loud.

6:47 p.m. Caller reporting seeing a hit-and-run outside her window by the Brick House; vehicle description provided. Officer located vehicle, which had damage on the driver's side door. Owner called in reporting the car belongs to her son; she is *en route*. Officer will attempt to make contact with male party.

Monday, 10/21

3:01 a.m. Caller from Central Street states her sister just came to the house and is banging on the door trying to get in. States she doesn't want her there and that her sister stole a car from her father. Female previously trespassed from property. Vehicle and female gone upon officers' arrival; will be on lookout. Caller called back with the plate number; vehicle does come back as stolen.

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 for general town business,—go to H. H. N. Oak-
 man (Montague City), Edw. N. Demond (Montague
 Center), and D. V. Allen (Montague Millers Falls),
 Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Town.
 For all information concerning the schools, school
 houses, books, teachers, salaries, etc., go to the Rev.
 L. P. Frost, Turners Falls, Superintendent of
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 For all information and complaints concerning
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 to look upon titles, ascertain boundaries,
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 deaths, for dog licenses, to pay all bills and taxes,
 to examine the records, for general information
 about town business,—go to J. H. Root (Centre),
 Town Clerk and Treasurer.
 To pay taxes,—go to H. N. Oakman, Collector.
 To make complaints and obtain warrants for
 criminal offences,—go to Geo. L. Barton and J. H.
 Root, Trial Justices.
 For all services requiring a Sheriff,—go to W. W.
 Thayer, (Centre), Deputy Sheriff.
 For information connected with the Water works,
 to pay water rates, etc., go to Wm. P. Crocker, Esq.,
 Engineer Turners Falls Company.

LETTERS from page B1

comforting assurance "that if it didn't hurt me I could have more to-morrow." I cleaned the dishes and laid back to count the minutes until I should see more.

Every thing seems to be going along at Turners Falls in the usual quiet manner, except I notice there are several quite important changes. I for one shall be very sorry to lose, from the place, R.N. Oakman, Jr. Pleasant and obliging, he has always seemed to be the right man in the right place. But few people, I think, realize the amount of patience required to always show a pleasant face at a cashier's window. Polite and accommodating public men are so scarce that when one is found he ought to be appreciated.

Charlie Kuhn, I hear, also takes a step higher. The grocery trade of Turners Falls will miss him, but Charlie is fortunate in securing such a position under so thorough a teacher as Mr. Farren.

The country around here for the past week has been looking very beautiful. The trees have had on their autumn dress, and the colors have been very fine, but the weather is getting cold, the leaves are beginning to fall, and heavy overcoats and gloves are in demand. Hoping that before many days have passed I may be able to see you at Turners Falls, I am, with best wishes,

Yours very truly,
CHAS W. HAZELTON.

— November 18, 1874 —

MR. EDITOR:
Dear Sir—Allow me through the columns of your paper, to call attention to a matter, that has been on my mind for some time past.

As a member of the great family of christians who claim an interest in the blood of Christ, I of course, am anxious, for the welfare of my adopted church in this town. It has been evident to myself and many others for some time, that the cause of Zion is being injured in this town by the uncourteous demeanor of the sexton of the M. E. church.

Many instances of his almost insulting behavior to worshippers and visitors to the church, comes to me at this moment, two of the most recent occurring on Saturday evening and Sunday morning last, respectively.

It seems on Saturday evening, that a gentleman coming in, stopped at the stove a moment to warm himself, when he was ordered to take a seat. He replied that he would do so as soon as he could warm himself. Whereupon the demand was repeated in an insulting manner, when the gentleman, feeling hurt at such treatment, left the church. Again Sunday morning, some ladies did not get in to the church soon enough to suit him, and they were gruffly requested not to keep that door open all day.

These are but two of numberless such instances, moving beyond a doubt that the position might be in better hands. Will not the Stewards and Directors of the church look into this matter, and see if they cannot find some one, who will at least, show something of the disposition of their Lord and Master, by their demeanor to members and visitors.

A HUMBLE CHRISTIAN.

— December 16, 1874 —

A Vindication.
Dear Reporter: We had supposed that the object of a village newspaper

was to disseminate general intelligence, to place before the public the correct news, to discuss the various social problems of the day, to rebuke public wrongs that can be reached in no other way, and to advance the general interests of the community, not a vehicle of personal malignity or petty spite, or for the redress of private wrongs which could be the better adjusted in some other way.

We were therefore surprised as we read in the last issue of the REPORTER the uncalled for attack upon the worthy sexton of the Methodist Church. He has often been asked not to allow persons to stand around the stove longer than necessary during service hour. It would surely seem that with a hot fire, fifteen minutes was long enough for a person to get sufficiently warm to have occupied one of the seats nearest the stove, several of which on the specified evening were unoccupied.

The present sexton has served without fee or reward for nearly a year and a half, and no man could have done better. Always prompt, always ready with the chapel clean and well dusted, with an eye and heart for everyone's comfort, he deserves no such rebuke as came from the pen of "Humble Christian." He has spent hours, early and late, in the preparation of the chapel for those who worship there, where, we fear, "Humble Christian" was not praying.

The other case referred to is not worth a passing notice. But, as trustees and stewards of the church, we do not propose to argue the case, but as private citizens to protest against having purely personal matters, which can be better adjusted in some other way, dragged before the public.

We feel that our village newspaper has too often been made the spectacle of personal animosity, and if it would desire to receive the patronage of the public there must be improvement in this respect.

I.P. Kimball, Steward.
G.L. Rister,
H.O. Streeter,
Geo C. Adams,
Trustees of the M. E. Church.

A Question.
RIVERSIDE, Mass., Dec. 15th.

Mr. Editor: I do not often trouble the newspapers, but I ask the space of a few lines for a question. No accident of any kind having happened to persons crossing the ice during all the Fall, although people have been crossing and re-crossing at all points between the dam and the ferry, is it not strange that the men most anxious for the speedy construction of a second bridge should break through the ice in crossing the river the evening previous to the meeting of the County Commissions, and then use the fact before that body as an argument in the bridge's favor?

Inquiringly,
ROSWELL FIELD.

— December 23, 1874 —

'Taint So, Doctor.
RIVERSIDE, Dec. 18.

Dear Reporter: In reply to Dr. Field I wish to say that the ice when the river closed was all alike, as far as we could judge, but the heavy wind after the first freezing broke up the ice where Mr. Wood went through, and on the second freezing it was consequently weaker than on the rest of the river.

The statement that people crossed and recrossed at all points between the dam and the ferry is not correct as the doctor probably is as well aware of as the rest of us. If the ice was perfectly safe why did the doctor heed the warning of the men who broke through, and take the path pointed out by them, in crossing the day after the accident?

SMITH.

Why We Want a Bridge.
RIVERSIDE, Dec. 22.

Mr. Editor: Why do we want a bridge?

Because the *Gazette and Courier* says that two hundred people crossed the river safely last Sunday?

Because one hundred of them fished on Barton's cove and the rest skated up and down the river?

Because blooming lasses dressed in blue frequently tumble down when they skate across the road where horses travel?

Because the merchants of Turners Falls wish to draw trade from Riverside?

Because Riverside wishes to get trade over here?

Because the Turners Falls Company wish to sell building lots?

Because the ferriages have fell off one half within a year, that is if they have been rightly reported heretofore?

Because there never was any one drowned here in the memory of man, by crossing the ferry or by getting through the ice?

Because it is the democratic principle to help corporations and individuals at the expense of the people?

ROSWELL FIELD.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Carp Baiting; Drums; Foot Pursuit; Eviction; Mange

- Sunday, 9/1**
4:18 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with despondent male.
- Monday, 9/2**
9:07 a.m. Barking dogs reported, West Gill Road.
10:40 a.m. Same caller reported dogs barking non-stop for a half hour.
- Tuesday, 9/3**
5:10 p.m. Caller saw a party using a "Chuck It" stick to throw stuff into the river. All OK: the party is baiting for carp.
Wednesday, 9/4
10:13 a.m. Caller reports a bicycle lying on the side of Main Road.
12:29 p.m. Disturbance in the dining room, French King Highway.
3:13 p.m. Main Road caller found a person inside their apartment who left without incident.
3:41 p.m. Main Road caller reports a motorbike stolen.
- Friday, 9/6**
2:37 p.m. Kiddy pool on the French King Highway.
- Saturday, 9/7**
12:12 p.m. Main Road caller reporting smoke from the back of the store.
1:06 p.m. Greenfield dispatch reporting a fast sports bike heading east-bound on Route 2.
- Sunday, 9/8**
11:04 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with medical emergency.
12:51 p.m. Chappell Drive caller asked police to witness noise from their neighbor. Neighbor is playing drums, which is legal.
8:30 p.m. Caller advises heavy smoke on Route 2.
- Tuesday, 9/10**
8:38 a.m. Riverview Drive caller states a little smoke is coming from the front steps and it looks like a fire.
2 p.m. Mini-bike found in the grass, Main Road.
- Wednesday, 9/11**
7:15 a.m. Main Road caller reports her dog took off after a squirrel again.
4:21 p.m. Left a message for resident to pick up a lost phone at Montague PD.
6:34 p.m. Caller reporting a loose dog in a cemetery.
7:33 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with disturbance.
- Friday, 9/13**
1:27 p.m. French King Highway reporting car blocking a dumpster.
2:27 p.m. Assisted another agency with perimeter for bailout with foot pursuit, Bernardston Road and Route 2.
6:11 p.m. Report of a motorcyclist down, French King Highway. Assisted Greenfield PD with single-bicycle accident.
10:40 p.m. Officer requested, Main Road. Female involved in a pursuit earlier today may be in Gill.
- Saturday, 9/14**
2:41 p.m. Caller reports a disabled boat in the river.
4:10 p.m. Assisted Montague PD, Fifth and L streets. Child struck by car.
4:38 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD, motor vehicle accident with injuries.
9:01 p.m. South Cross Road caller saw people with flashlights in the woods behind their house.
- Sunday, 9/15**
2:22 p.m. Barton Cove Road caller received a call from the crew of a tour boat claiming a boat "towing kids" is doing circles around them.
- Monday, 9/16**
1:04 p.m. Boyle Road caller reporting past larceny.
4:39 p.m. West Gill Road caller reports two motorcycles speeding, passing on solid lines, and almost striking oncoming traffic.
- Tuesday, 9/17**
7:22 a.m. Abandoned bicycle recovered from Main Road roadside.
- Wednesday, 9/18**
5:50 p.m. Main Road resident came to station to report possible identity theft.
- Thursday, 9/19**
8:46 a.m. Assisted with eviction, West Gill Road.
1:30 p.m. French King Highway caller reports a woman with a black eye came into the Spirit Shoppe.
5:35 p.m. Chappell Drive caller reports the cover of a storm drain fell in.
- Friday, 9/20**
9:26 a.m. Caller reports a political sign on West Gill Road stolen overnight.
- Saturday, 9/21**
8:40 p.m. Caller reports a crack pipe, lighter, and cigarettes on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge sidewalk.
- Sunday, 9/22**
1:37 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a motor vehicle accident, Avenue A.
- Tuesday, 9/24**
10:20 a.m. Setback Lane caller states his dog took off a half hour ago.
- Wednesday, 9/25**
10:34 a.m. Mountain Road caller believes he was hacked and would like to speak with an officer.
1:43 p.m. Report of a mangy-looking coyote near the elementary school.
7:36 p.m. Vehicle with a broken axle, French King Highway. AAA en route.
- Saturday, 9/28**
3:57 a.m. Main Road caller reports there is a truck on her property.
- Sunday, 9/29**
3:33 p.m. French King Highway caller reports she was rear-ended. No injuries or fluids.
Monday, 9/30
7:19 a.m. Riverview Drive resident requesting assistance with a lockout/jump.
12:36 p.m. Traffic hazard, French King Highway and Camp Road.
3:58 p.m. Lockout, NMH lower fields. Entry gained with no damage.

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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del *Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.



OPINIÓN

El voto latino ante las próximas elecciones presidenciales.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Estamos a menos de un mes de las elecciones presidenciales y nada está decidido por ahora. El resultado final depende mucho de los llamados “estados bisagras,” y por supuesto también de los 36 millones de latinos que pueden ejercer su derecho al voto en los Estados Unidos.

Hacer un conjunto de todo el voto latino no sería justo, ya que depende mucho de cada estado y de la procedencia en origen. Generalizando podemos decir que el 46% está a favor del Partido Demócrata y un 34% está a favor del Partido Republicano. Esto indica que el voto latino no apoya específicamente a un partido o a otro, y todo está por ver.

En cuanto a estados, los que cuentan con un mayor número de votantes latinos son Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Nuevo México, y Texas. La peculiaridad es que Arizona y Nevada son estados en los que los votos a uno u otro partido pueden ser decisivos a la hora de ganar la elección presidencial.

Las diferencias de género respecto al voto son también importantes: 6 de cada 10 mujeres latinas apoyan a la vicepresidenta Harris, y solamente el 45% de los hombres latinos. Un 50% de las mujeres latinas creen que Harris podría desempeñar muy bien el papel como presidenta, y solamente un 33% de los hombres latinos votantes piensan esto mismo.

Hace unas semanas, Harris decidió lanzar una campaña publicitaria, que no se ha visto en Massachusetts, llamada *Hombres con Harris*. Esta campaña está destinada a los estados que tienen un gran número de voto latino y se consideran indecisos en cuanto a voto. La directora de dicha campaña es Maca Casado, ya que es la directora de campaña de Harris y Walz para los medios hispanos. La campaña trata de llegar a los hombres latinos en los lugares que frecuentan como bares, barberías, eventos deportivos, o incluso videojuegos.

Trump sigue teniendo especialmente apoyo entre los hombres latinos, incluso después de usar en sus campañas vídeos claramente insultantes hacia los inmigrantes y

asociando a estos con crímenes y atrocidades varias.

Hace unas semanas el periodico nacional *New York Times* realizó una encuesta en colaboración con *Siena College* y publicó los resultados de esta en la que el 56% de los votantes latinos tendrían previsto votar al Partido Demócrata y el 36% al Republicano.

Mirándolo así parece que el

51% dijo que no se sentían incluidos en las palabras de Trump.

Interesante es también otro dato del *NYT* que dice que un tercio de los votantes latinos apoyan la construcción total del muro en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos y la deportación de todos los inmigrantes indocumentados que viven en el país. Hay que añadir que también algunos votantes demócratas, especialmente los nacidos en Esta-



voto a Kamala Harris triunfa entre los latinos, pero si ponemos más atención vemos que en el 2016 el voto latino al Partido Demócrata era de un 68%, y en el 2020 de un 62%. Esto significa que los latinos no confían en los demócratas tanto como en el 2016. Al contrario, el voto latino en el 2016 fue del 28%, en el 2020 del 36% y la estimación de voto en el 2024 a Donald Trump es del 37%.

Así pues la intención del voto para los republicanos ha ido subiendo dentro de la comunidad latina. Como dato curioso, *NYT* añade en su artículo que el 70% de los latinos votaron a Obama, y desde entonces el Partido Demócrata ha ido perdiendo intención de voto dentro de este grupo demográfico.

La vicepresidenta Harris no ha conseguido sostener la intención de voto entre los latinos que se muestran sensibles especialmente antes estos tres temas: Inmigración, crimen y economía.

El *New York Times* preguntó en su encuesta a los latinos si se sentían incluidos en las palabras del ex-presidente Trump en sus mítines. Entre los latinos nacidos en Estados Unidos, el 67% no se sentía incluido en los mensajes anti-inmigrantes del candidato republicano, y entre los latinos nacidos en otro país, el

dos Unidos, apoyan estas medidas respecto a la inmigración.

Otro tema importante a la hora de votar para los latinos es la economía, ya que la mayoría de ellos (59%) piensan que es el principal problema de este país, seguido de la falta de empleo y el acceso a la vivienda.

Como he mencionado anteriormente no se pueden aunar a los latinos en un todo inseparable, como un gran bloque de piedra. La periodista Paola Ramos, hija del también famoso periodista Jorge Ramos, se ha preguntado la razón por la que los latinos estarían dispuestos a votar en contra de sus propios intereses o al menos contra su propia identidad. ¿Por qué los latinos se alinean con la extrema derecha? ¿Qué papel tiene la tradición o la religión en esta intención de voto?

Ramos responde a estas y otras preguntas en su último libro: *Defectors: The Rise of the Latino Far Right and What It Means for America* (“Desertores: El aumento de la extrema derecha latina y qué significa para Estados Unidos”). Piensa que ser latino es algo complicado, que cada individuo es un mundo, cada latino tiene una historia complicada y diferente y que no se asemeja al de al lado, aunque provenga del mismo país o incluso del mismo estado.

En sus libro, Ramos entrevistó a un cubano-americano que había sido miembro de los *Proud Boys*, Gabriel García; una peluquera dominicana con una ideología anti-afroamericana; un latino de El Paso, que trabaja como vigilante en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos; algunas miembros de *Moms for Liberty* que son un grupo ultraconservador de Florida que no aprueba los derechos de la comunidad *LGTBI+*; y pastores de diferentes iglesias cristianas.

Ramos ha sido criticada por entrevistar a latinos pertenecientes a estos grupos tan conservadores, aunque ella alega que solamente hablando con estas personas es como es posible llegar a descubrir que las conversaciones al final no son sobre política, sino sobre la experiencia personal de cada persona respecto a la pertenencia a este país, a Estados Unidos.

Ramos reflexiona en su libro acerca del apoyo a las deportaciones masivas por parte de los latinos, a la corriente anti-afroamericana, al aumento de las iglesias evangélicas, o a la cruzada contra los derechos de las personas transgenero. Ramos afirma que los latinos tienen internalizado el racismo, influido por un tradicionalismo adquirido a través de siglos de colonización. Para ella, la decisión de una dominicana de definirse como hispana en lugar de afroamericana viene de esta sociedad que discrimina la piel oscura y que criminaliza a los afroamericanos, y por ello eligen sentirse más blancos definiéndose como hispánicos. Dice que no es que sean racistas, es que han internalizado ese racismo.

Todo esto proviene del sistema de castas de los españoles que premiaba ser más blanco, y por ello tienen estos discursos antinmigrantes o con muy poca empatía con los afroestadounidenses.

Los latinos, afirma Ramos en su libro, encuentran en Trump el liderazgo firme en un mundo que es caótico para ellos. Muchos latinos confían en dirigentes autoritarios en tiempos de crisis como se puede observar en muchos países de Latinoamérica.

Aún con todo esto, las previsiones dicen que la mayoría del

voto latino irá a parar al Partido Demócrata. Los estudiosos de este tema dicen que los latinos son muy pragmáticos en cuanto a su voto. Es por ello, que los latinos estadounidenses tienen miedo al socialismo y se sienten más atraídos por el capitalismo. Este discurso antisocialista funciona muy bien con los cubanoestadounidenses de Florida, pero no está demostrado que funcione en otros estados de la misma forma.

Los estudios dicen también que las nuevas generaciones se han ido asimilando más rápido y la mayoría se sienten estadounidenses, no hispanos y hablan más en inglés que en español. Esto hace que aunque sus padres fueran más conservadores, las nuevas generaciones ahora son mucho más liberales.

Hasta esta elección el voto latino no se ha considerado importante. La mayoría de las campañas solamente hacían pequeños esfuerzos como repartir propaganda en español en algunos distritos, pocos y elegidos, o incorporar en los mítines algunas palabras o frases en español si el lugar lo merecía, y como máximo invitar a una banda de mariachis o cualquier otro tipo de música folclórica.

Este año, el partido de Trump ha cambiado algunas letras de canciones en español con mensajes contra la candidata opositora. Los demócratas han intensificado su propaganda electoral en español y se han dirigido a los latinos en su propia lengua especialmente cuando el tema era economía o inmigración.

Los medios de comunicación en español también están jugando un papel importante en ambas campañas dirigidas a los latinos. Por ejemplo la cadena conservadora de noticias Fox ha empezado a emitir un programa diario de noticias en español que ya compite con otros que llevan años de liderazgo como Telemundo o Univisión.

Los candidatos de ambos partidos se esfuerzan en conseguir ese 15% de latinos indecisos que viven en los estados decisivos y que pueden cambiar el rumbo de las elecciones. La dirección del voto latino es todavía una incógnita.

En mi humilde opinión, infórmese, y vote.

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TRAVELS from page B1

These buses are all free to ride. For more information, look for the "Amherst-Greenfield" or "AG" route schedule at www.pvta.com.

North Adams to Greenfield

The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), in conjunction with the neighboring Franklin RTA (FRTA) and Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), has been awarded \$4.5 million for two new bus routes that will connect Pittsfield to Northampton and North Adams to Greenfield.

These new routes will make it theoretically possible – with lots of transfers – to ride from Cape Cod to Williamstown using only public transportation. And the best part? The rides are free.

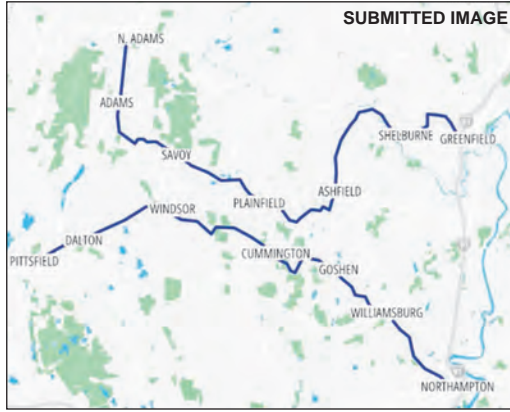
Under a draft schedule, the two bus routes would each run four daily round trips, with two in the morning and two more in the late afternoon.

New Parking at Logan Express

For anyone who has parked in the Logan Express's convenient, easy-to-get-to lot right off the Mass Pike in Framingham for a flight out of Logan, you'll know that often it gets full. So then you needed to park in what I always call the "dreaded overflow lot," which involves making a second stop to pay for the parking and grab the windshield form... a pain.

But there is great news for everyone, more spots are coming!

A new project in Framingham will add



The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority has been funded to develop new bus routes between North Adams and Greenfield and between Pittsfield and Northampton.

1,000 parking spaces to the existing Logan Express garage, allowing Massport to further grow the service and in the future increase the service frequency to and from the airport from every 30 minutes to every 20 minutes.

Construction at the Framingham Logan Express site is expected to begin this fall and be completed by the winter of 2025. Massport will also add sustainable features to the site, such as solar panels and EV charging stations.

So soon there will no longer be the threat of having to park in the dreaded overflow parking area on Flutie Pass, even though it is Framingham's best street name! For more information on the various ways to get to and from Logan, go to www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan.

New Ferries to the Vineyard

Two new additions to the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority fleet are expected to be in the water by the end of March, director of marine operations Mark Amundsen told the *Vineyard Gazette*.

The fares for cars, passengers, and parking in Falmouth, however, are all going up quite significantly next season. The Steamship Authority said that this is due to rising costs for everything from training their seamen to the new ferry boats coming on line in 2025.

The Authority's two new identical boats, M/V Aquinnah and M/V Barnstable, have spent more than nine months at a shipyard in Mobile, Alabama, where a staff member has been overseeing their conversion from offshore energy tenders to freight ferries that can carry passengers and cars. The two boats were converted into freight boats for \$10 million each.

A third sister ship, M/V Monomoy, is berthed in Houma, Louisiana awaiting its turn for conversion.

The Train in Maine

Midcoast Railservice, Amtrak, and the Maine Department of Transportation have discussed using the Coastliner to extend Amtrak service from the Brunswick Visitors Center 57 miles north to Rockland, possibly as soon as next year.

The scheduled passenger service is planned to make up to three round trips between Rockland and Brunswick each day to provide a

safe, reliable, public transportation option for residents and visitors along the Route 1 corridor. The Coastliner's Bath stop would be downtown, while the Wiscasset and Newcastle stops are still being reviewed, said Midcoast Railservice vice president George Betke.

Midcoast Railservice leased the tracks, which were built in the 1870s and rebuilt in 2004, from MaineDOT last year through 2025. It started running freight cars before its planned passenger line. Betke said the tracks are in good condition.

Sleepers from Chicago to Miami

Starting on November 10, Amtrak will be launching its limited-time Floridian route. The route will combine the current Capital Limited and Silver Star lines to give passengers the unique opportunity to ride from the Midwest in a curvy route down to Florida.

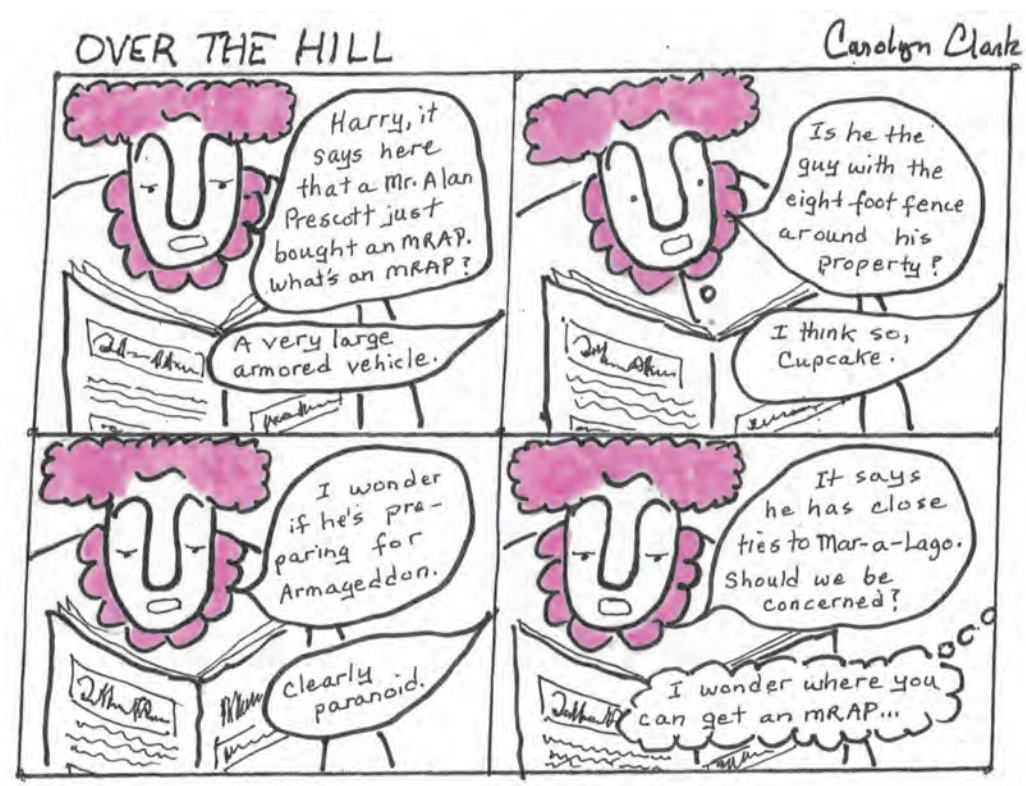
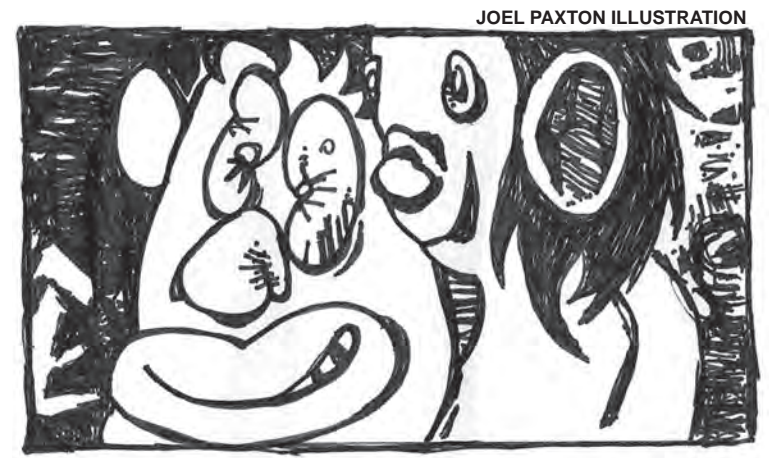
The Floridian route will only last two years, as it is providing relief for the East River Tunnel Rehabilitation Project. The Rehabilitation Project is an initiative that will be "modernizing the tunnel infrastructure to serve customers for another 100 years" in New York City.

Max Hartshorne, local travel editor, writes about traveling around our region and a little beyond.

Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel and hosts the short-form GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, which you can hear at anchor.fm/max-hartshorne.



COMICS and PUZZLE



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

The Hoff, Holyoke: *Bruiserweight, Hookshot, Buried with Words, Mizora, Holder*. \$ 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Saving Vice, Fight from Within, In Shallos, Kennedy Park, Your Arms Are My Legs*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *David Cross Band Plays King Crimson*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Amelia Cry Til I Die, bobbie, Silvie's Okay*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Happening IV: Leviathan*. \$ 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Omar Sosa & Tim Eriksen Present Atlantica*. \$ 7 p.m.

WarmFuzzies, Easthampton: *Blurry, Beetsblog, Jump Scare, Its Mandy, Jetties, LSDV, Toppus Bottomus, Pressure Care, Joe Mygan, Los Greys*. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Happy Valley Gas Juggers*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst: *Max Roach Centennial Celebration* feat. *Makaya McCraven*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Deluxx, Andy Goulet*. \$ 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Happening IV: Leviathan*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The EDD, The Trichomes, Jime Time*. \$ 7 p.m.

Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro: *Zara Bode's Little Big Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Sunset Rubdown, Sister Ray*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Murphy's Blues Explosion, Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light*. \$ 7 p.m.

Edwards Church, Northampton: *The Lost Tribe, Fynta Sidime, Iyawna Burnett, First Generation Ensemble*. Benefit for The Performance Project. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Roos Rohde House, Hampshire College: *Alex Zhang-Hungtai & Leo Chang, The World Babe Center, Earth is Googol, Train Gang*. Free. 7:30 p.m.

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Shokazoba Funkestra, I-Ganic Sound System*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Sunk Heaven, October Front, Creow, The Treasury, Death Spiral, Tempestade*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Creative Writing, Sky Furrows, Marasca*. \$ 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Myrtle Street Klezmer*. \$ 10:30 a.m.

Greenfield Records, Greenfield: *Christa Renee*. Free. 12 p.m.

Great Market Falls, Turners Falls: *Screening, Born in Gaza*. By donation. 6:30 p.m., with potluck at 5:30 p.m.

Quarters, Hadley: *Western MA Electronics Night*. Free. 7 p.m.

Mullins Center, UMass Amherst: *Dropkick Murphys, Pennywise, Scratch*. \$\$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sexwave*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Beyond the Grave Rave*. No cover. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Pierce's Hall, Putney: *Buoyant Cover Band Show*. \$ 6 p.m.

Brewery at Four Star, Northfield: *Head of Wantastiquet, Sagan & Sigourney, Dave Thomas & the Frosty Five*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Halloween cover show* feat. *Sleep Destroyer, Kaybug Thug, beetsblog, Magick Lantern, Ethan WL*. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Ian St. George Band, Black Pyramid, Parlor Room Allstars*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The B-52.0s, DJ Cashman*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Tysk Tysk Task, Defcon Dead, Skincrawl, Ellzabory, Minutes Unsettled, Your Arms Are My Legs*. \$ 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. No cover. 6:30 p.m.

No Fun, Troy, NY: *Guerilla Toss, Abyssmals, 100 Psychic Dreams*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Robber Robber, Brunch*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Palladium, Worcester: *The Black Dahlia Murder, Dying Fetus, Spite, Angelmaker, Vomit Forth*. \$ 5:30 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Devitalized, Apothecary, AM Psychosis, Ellzabory, Light Years Between Us*. \$ 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Final blowout show; performers TBA*. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Cloud-belly, Rocking Puppies*. \$ 7 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Flesh Shuddering, Hyper-trophy, Amplitude Death, Scald Hymn, CHS*, more. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *KISSStory, KISS tribute*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Eilen Arkbro*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Bruce Cockburn*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Juliana Hatfield Three, Hilken Mancini Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Anohni*. \$\$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben Cote Band*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lisa Pelligrino*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *The Spookfish, Impure Luck, Reaches, NxCx*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

DCU Center, Worcester: *Iron Maiden*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Clark, Williamstown: *Circuit Des Yeux, Bill Nace, kite/wing*. \$ 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Kawabata Makoto (Acid Mothers Temple) & Tim Dahl, John Moloney*. \$ 8 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Morgan Garret, Primal Rat Screw, Lucy*, more. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

The Hoff, Holyoke: *Tributary, The P.A.s, Modern Ego, Sowing, Parachute Club*. \$ 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Big Takeover, The Brighton Beat*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Judge John Hodgman: Road Court*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Happy Valley Gas Juggers*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Guided Brick, Holyoke: *Haley Fohr, Bill Nace, Sarah Araujo, Matt Krefting*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sarah Shook & The Disarmers, Chloe Kimes*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Haley Fohr & Bill Nace, Jordan Sand*. \$ 7 p.m.

33 Hawley, Northampton: *HUT XLIII* feat. *Karen Nelson, Regan Bowering, Deja Carr*. \$ 8 p.m.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Carnivorous Bells, Editrix, Landowner, Target Scammers*. \$ 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dead Man's Waltz*. \$ 8 p.m.

Space Ballroom, Hamden, CT: *Six Organs of Admittance, Tashi Dorji*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Apes of State, Rent Strike*. \$ 7 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Mariee Siou, Donnie Coco*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean, Intercourse, Crippling Alcoholism*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Minibeast, Upper Wilds, Teen Driver*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Florist*. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Palladium, Worcester: *Exodus, Havok, Candy, Dead Heat*. \$ 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Nova Arts, Keene: *Wolfman Jack, Dead tribute*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Morrissey Blvd, Autumn Drive, The Wild Brood*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

The Hoff, Holyoke: *Sinister Feeling, Dimension Six, Machines of Hate, Life Sentence*. \$ 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Cityspace, Easthampton: *COD, Corrode, Gay Mayor, YaTeVe, Taxidermists, Mark Cone*. \$ 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Jane Siberry*. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *She Said*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Bombyx Arts, Florence: *An Evening With Tom Rush*, accompanied by *Matt Nakoa*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Palladium, Worcester: *Morbid Angel, Suffocation, UADA, Mortiferum, Fulci, Knoll*. \$ 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Drake, Amherst: *Wednesday, Cryogeyser*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Suzanne Vega*. \$ 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wax, Water and String*, paintings in encaustic, watercolor, and embroidery by Pam Allan. Through January.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Echoes*, artwork by Maya Malachowski Bajak.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A First-Class Machine Shop*, local history exhibit with images, text, maps, and artifacts in collaboration with the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, through December 1. *Day of the Dead Altar*, through November 2.

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.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Making Pictures*, oil paintings by Sally Dillon and pastel paintings by Ruth Rinard, through October. In November, *Oh Beautiful Glass*, annual glass exhibit curated by Sally Prasch, showing a variety of styles from a diverse group of local artists. Opening reception Sunday, November 3 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Trees and Mills*, drawings and etchings by Frank Waugh, through October 29.

Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: *limninal*, paintings and kinetic sculpture by Donnabelle Casis, through November 2.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh Burnham School, Greenfield: *Tourist*, photographs by Anja Schütz, through December 15.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *World on Fire*, art and installation by Greenfield self-taught artist JJ White. *The Art of Recovery*, artwork from participants at the Recover Project, through October.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *When You Are Here*, paintings by Clare Churchill Seder. Through December 6, with a reception this Friday, October 25 at 5 p.m.

Rhodes Art Center Gallery, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Western Mass Illustrators Guild*, group show of artwork by local illustrators. Visits by appointment: *jrouke@nmhschool.org*. Through November 22, with a reception this Friday, October 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Food for Thought*, group exhibit by member artists. Visitors are invited to bring nonperishable food for the Northfield food pantry. Through November 3.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *To everything there is a season...*, black and white photographs by Larry Rankin, through November 2.

Science & Engineering Library, UMass Amherst: *Our Common Ground*, UMass worker artist exhibition about caring for the Earth and each other, through December 19.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Autumn Glory*, group show by member artists working in paint, photography, sculpture, fabric, wood, and more, through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Wings of the Wind*, paintings by Margaret Lloyd, and *The New Herbarium*, cyanotypes by Madge Evers, through October 28. *Lisa Beskin: Photography, photos of ice, and Anita Hunt, (Re) Imaginings*, collages made from hand-printed papers, on view November 2 through December 31 with a reception Saturday, November 9, from 2 to 4 p.m.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: *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.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

16,000 years ago—our mountain was an island. As the last glacier retreated due to a cyclical global warming, a vast inland sea of glacial meltwater covered the valley where we now live, from Rocky Hill in Connecticut to the border of Canada.

Some days when I'm wandering along the top of East Mineral, I try to time travel and look out to the south, imagining the vastness of the glacial lake waters with the island of Kunkwatchu (Toby) in the far distance. It, too, was an island rising above the icy waters.

Up here, the islands remained high and dry, towering above the estuary that formed as the river now known as the Millers flowed in braided streams through a delta that filled the valley.

That inland lake drained about 14,000 years ago. The valley it left began to support tundra-like vegetation, soon attracting large mammals such as mastodon and caribou. They came through on migrations to browse in the Plains and along the primitive Connecticut River, which was slowly seeking its ancient bed.

These herds created paths, one of which led from the Plains down the old border fault between the Mineral Mountain twins to reach the waters flowing from the Millers and Connecticut. The trail created by these large mammals later became a footpath for the earliest peoples.

Nearly 13,500 years ago, the first Paleoindians moved in from the southwest, following these large mammals across the Plains. We have found one or two of their campsites nearby. We know they camped at the edge of the Plains where they ambushed their prey at various choke points in the landscape.

We know also that over time a significant crossroads developed right at the ancient border fault where the modern-day East Mineral Road intersects with Millers Falls Road. The south-to-north path led up from Deerfield through Lake Pleasant to cross the east-to-west caribou and deer trail just above the old oxbow of the Millers.

With the identification of the ceremonial hill stone alignments situated on the edge of the Montague Plains confirmed as an important Indigenous religious site, the National Park Service declared this region, encompassing all the land within a 16-mile radius of that hill, as a culturally important landscape. It stood to reason that sooner

or later we would find ceremonial stones on our mountain, not far from the ceremonial hill.

One bright Sunday a month ago, a small family group of us wandered around the mountain to see what we could see.

I anticipated that what we thought we were looking for would be located somewhere on the southwest side of the mountain. The first Indigenous peoples would likely have placed ceremonial stones facing the direction of the garden of Cautantowit, the Creator.

Our nephew Jesse, out botanizing earlier in the summer, had found some standing stones that he thought I should see. Within an hour of seeking, we began finding intriguing stones, upright on the southwest hillside.

We found at least five stone sites that I feel we could call ceremonial. These are huge, somewhat rounded monoliths, likely set deep in the earth, with close to three or four feet of stone exposed.

When finding a site like this, one should always ask if this was some kind of accident. Did they just fall here? Or did someone place them here with intent? It would seem to me that these upright boulders, within a few yards of one another, had to be placed there by human hands. But to what purpose?

In fact, no one really knows, or likely will ever know. There are hundreds of similar stone groupings throughout our region. Most memorable and striking are those of Northfield, Leverett, and Shutesbury. They take many forms: they can be serpentine, or standing stones, groupings that resemble stone fencing lines but fence in nothing, turtle shapes, Manitou stones, and cairn-like groupings. Someone put them there.

With modern-day technology like luminescence dating, a method for determining how long ago a mineral grain beneath the stones was last exposed to the heat of light, we might find out when they were likely placed there, but it would be foolish to suppose one would know exactly who did it or why.

Perhaps we should just let the mystery be.

As for those of us living near the mountain, we are satisfied to know that these stones are there. We are not the first to have visited the site, and we are content to let the mysteries of Mineral Mountain remain as lonely timeless reminders of those who came before us.

PREVIEW

Head of Wantastiquet

By JOHN McGUIGAN

NORTHFIELD – Paul LaBrecque is one of the first people I met when I moved to the area, and he immediately showed himself to be a combination of cool and kind that is very rare, in any day. He has an extensive catalog of acoustic and electronic music created over multiple decades, on multiple continents.

He'll be performing as Head of Wantastiquet on Halloween night at Four Star Farms Brewery as part of the *Parallel Faces* event.

MR: Can you talk about the name *Head of Wantastiquet*?

PL: I had a cat named Mr. SoSo who died the night of the full moon when the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004. I later brought him up Mount Wantastiquet to bury him in a quartz boulder field on the side of the mountain.

The name is a personal road map to the trailhead and the hike up to the undisclosed quartz cairn.

MR: Is there a thread that you can see running through your various projects? What differentiates *Head of Wantastiquet* from your other work?

PL: The only thread is my hands and head. 99% of the music I've made is born from improvisation, alone or with groups, so it's things I've learned and unlearned over the past 30 years, themes and melodies that reappear timelessly.

MR: Why do synths just fit with *Halloween*? Why are they spooky?

PL: It's probably the same "uncanny valley" feeling as seeing a not-quite-right humanoid robot. Synthetic sounds generally have more sonic content to them that goes undetected to the listener's subconscious, but triggers new pathways in the brain that try to make sense of it. Like hearing a screaming coyote in the night woods that sounds like a human child pleading for help: although our brain instantly recognizes it as an animal, there's still that triggered dread that lingers.

MR: I've been thinking more lately about synths outdoors. Can you talk about any distinctions you've noticed between playing indoors vs. outdoors?

PL: It's easier to get lost in the sound when indoors. All the reflections and overtones bounce around and feed the experience in unexpected ways. Outdoors, you have to be more direct in producing sounds as they will generally not meet any resistance and continue into the aether until their energy is dissipated.

MR: Have you noticed an impact on your music in relation to where you're living?

PL: For sure. Living in a city like Berlin, with its large Turkish and Syrian population, hearing firsthand the music of the diaspora filtering out of gatherings, nightshops, and on the streets certainly informed my subconscious and led to playing with Ghazi Barakat, a German-Palestinian. We put out three LPs of music that was as equally informed by the electronic music of the Berlin School as it was by the Middle Eastern / African music that surrounded us.

I still carry those lessons, and try to build on them now here in western Mass.

MR: Can you talk about playing with *Faust*?

PL: I was asked to play the guitar role with them at the Festival of Endless Gratitude in Copenhagen in 2014. We had an instrument-less rehearsal the afternoon of the show, and then ripped it out that night. Definitely one of the most surreal musical experiences I've had.

Playing with Zappi and Jean-Hervé was amazing, after listening to them and holding that band as one of my cornerstones for so long!

MR: What are you listening to these days?

PL: There's a Lebanese band



Head of Wantastiquet will perform this Halloween at the Brewery at Four Star Farms.

called SANAM that's been on my mind lately. They're a newer band that plays this mixture of Levantine folklore, mixed with *kosmische* free jazz, that sounds really relevant to my ears right now.

MR: I've been listening to your new tracks, and I get a bit of a KLF feel – is that far off? Can you talk about the intersection of politics and your music?

PL: You're not that far off. When we talk about the relationship of music/art to where one lives, I feel the same about the zeitgeist that we experience in this ever-shrinking world of blind consumption and war.

The last record, *Marble Dust*, was mostly written during the past year of watching the Empire's dying breaths as it enacts the horror of a genocide against the people of Palestine and threatens to take the rest of humanity down with it in the name of "god" and the extraction of resources under the feet of poor Middle Easterners and Africans.

I can only react the way I know, by sending sound through the air hoping that one particular soundwave might neutralize the *evil* in one human's heart. Then we work on the next one, and the next, until true empathy and community is attained.

Head of Wantastiquet shares a bill with Sagan & Sigourney and Dave Thomas & the Frosty Five at "Parallel Faces: An Evening of Ambient Electronic Music and Visuals," next Thursday, October 31, from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield. There will be a video installation, palm reading, a costume contest, a food truck, and craft beer made with hops grown on-site. All ages are welcome. No cover.



LaBrecque, at home in North Adams.

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