

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 31, 2024

Celebrating 30 Years of Inclusive Service, 'Catholic Ministries' Adopts a New Name



By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – “This is one of my proudest moments in my nine years here,” Heather Wood reflected after the new sign was unveiled Wednesday at the Heartwing Center, formerly known as Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM). “It’s very, very important to me that the name of the agency reflect the level of inclusivity that we actually live.”

Visitors and well-wishers ate cider donuts and took photographs during the brief Third Street ceremony, and then Wood and her staff headed inside to tackle the finicky task of migrating their email addresses to the long-running social service agency’s new domain, heartwingcenter.org.

“Our values are still faith-based, but we are moving forward in a broader direction,” Wood, an executive director since 2015, explained of the change in brands. “We’re not shifting any of what we do internally.... But anytime you put specific words like that in a title, it’s going to come with assumptions, and



JACKSON PHOTOS

Founding board member Father Stan Aksamit and executive director Heather Woods, second and third from left, unveiled the Heartwing Center’s new sign on Wednesday with the agency’s staff.

see **NEW NAME** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Patch Will Be Accessible During Repairs; Habitat for Humanity Project Still Stalled

By JEFF SINGLETON

The renovation of the Eleventh Street bridge across the Turners Falls power canal, mandated by the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT), will begin in March, but residents of the “Patch” neighborhood will still be able to access their homes during the work. Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, who presented Montague’s contract with Davenport Trucking for the work at Monday’s selectboard meeting, said that traffic may at times be reduced to one lane next spring, but the bridge is not expected to close.

The approval of the bridge contract kicked off a meeting in which nearly every topic involved infrastructure, including renovations of the Carnegie Library basement, a \$27,000 federal block grant for a “decarbonization study” of town buildings, a \$50,000 earmark for continued renovations



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Officials believe the work scheduled for the Eleventh Street bridge next March can be accomplished without closing the bridge.

of the senior center on Fifth Street, and the relining of dozens of manholes.

Nolan-Zeller began the discussion of the Eleventh Street bridge by saying he had several “curveballs” to throw at the selectboard, see **MONTAGUE** page A8

ERVING SELECTBOARD

No Deadline For IP Mill Demolition

By KEITH WATERS

The Erving selectboard held a joint meeting Monday with the finance and capital planning committees. In order to avoid the confusion that developed last year between town hall and the Erving school committee, the groups agreed to “pre-review” FY’26 department budget requests together this year, and scheduled the first session to take place December 2. Budgets are due December 4.

Responding to the trend of software li-

censes – and many other things – adopting subscription pricing models, the joint committees also decided to add a category this year to show how a given line item will impact subsequent years’ budgets.

Keeping it modern, the selectboard approved a policy for the use of electronic signatures on town documents.

The board wrote job descriptions for several positions which are filled, but did not have descriptions on record: the representative

see **ERVING** page A5

High School Sports Week: Brackets, Bumps, and Forfeitures

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – It was a tough week for the Turners Falls and Franklin Tech sports programs. After Tech’s field hockey and volleyball teams were eliminated from the Western Mass tournament last Wednesday, Turners’ teams were sent packing on Thursday. The Franklin Tech Football Eagles lost to Ware on Friday, the Turners boys’ soccer team was kicked out of their tournament on Sunday, and the Tech field hockey team lost to Blackstone Valley in the small vocational championship on Tuesday.

The bright spots were the hybrid girls’ soccer team, which defeated Westfield Tech in a consolation contest and then tied St. Mary’s, and a Turners boys’ soccer win over Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion on Wednesday.

But, as many people said this week, “It’s only a game!” And the Tech field hockey and Turners volleyball teams will both play close to home in upcoming MIAA tournaments.

Girls’ Soccer

FCTS 4 – Westfield Tech 1
FCTS 1 – St. Mary’s 1

Last Thursday, the Tech girls’ soccer team won a road game against the Westfield Tech Tigers in a PVIAC consolation match. Laken Woodard scored all four goals for the Lady Birds while Mia Marigliano gave three assists. Kylee Gamache made five saves.

On Monday St. Mary’s Saints came to visit

in another consolation game. Though the Lady Birds missed the PVIAC tournament, they could still qualify for an MIAA spot: “We need to win or tie,” coach Jason Butynski explained.

The uncharacteristic warm spell had ended

see **SPORTS** page A6



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Maddie Dietz jousts at the net with Mohawk Trail’s Emmalee Inman during the Thunder’s victorious second set in the PVIAC Class D semifinal in Buckland last Thursday.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL / ERVING – Next to a vent billowing steam on top of the Erving Industries paper mill is a piece of equipment called a vacuum pump. The thick curved pipe on the rooftop is connected to a massive spinning machine inside the mill that helps remove water from recycled paper pulp. It emits a loud, engine-like sound that we have to raise our voices to speak over.

“We want to be good neighbors, but we also want to keep making paper,” said Erving Industries vice president of operations Mike McAuliffe.

McAuliffe handed me ear plugs and protective eyewear before our brief tour of the paper mill on Wednesday afternoon. We walked on wet concrete floors among huge machines churning, pressing, and rolling out new paper products, then climbed a staircase to the roof. Standing yards from the vacuum pump I found it loud, but not painfully so, when I took out the earplugs.

Since mid-September at least 16 Wendell residents report that they have been bothered by a faint humming noise heard irregularly during the day and night, and some have started to suspect the paper mill is the source

see **HUM** page A5

VIBE CHECK

Blue-State Enthusiasm Hard to Gauge; Local Trump Supporters Seem Less Shy

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The long-awaited 2024 presidential election is upon us, and most of the attention has been focused on whether the Democratic candidate Kamala Harris or the Republican, Donald Trump, will be able to win in the half dozen so-called “swing states” likely to determine the results in the Electoral College. These of course do not include Massachusetts, which has only voted Republican four times since 1924 – twice for Dwight Eisenhower, and twice for Ronald Reagan.

Still, the results in the state could help determine who wins the popular vote, which may be a source of legitimacy for the winner. And despite the fact that Democrats seem pre-ordained to win Massachusetts’s Electoral College votes, citizens in our state and in our coverage towns continue to vote in very large numbers, in some cases approaching the iconic turnout levels of the mid- to late-19th century.

In 2016 a total of 4,490 residents, or 71.2% of those registered, voted in Montague; 2,858



SINGLETON PHOTO

Above: Some of the less controversial banners Montague Center resident Gary Turn has hanging up this year.

opted for Hillary Clinton (63.7%), and Donald Trump received 1,094 votes (24.4%).

In 2020 the total vote in town rose to 4,853, or 76.9% of those registered, with Joe Biden garnering 3,468 (71.5%) and Trump 1,200 (24.7%). There was a much lower third-party vote here in 2020.

Will these trends continue into the coming election? Will divisions among the Democratic

see **ELECTION** page A7

Clocks Fall Back This Saturday Night!

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Mandy Caught in a Rally.....	B1	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....	B7



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Good Luck ...



... To Us All!



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN TENNIEL, "THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS," 1871



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Ed Hines, president of the Wendell Historical Society, stains the access ramp at the Society's future historical museum in the old Wendell Depot post office building and store. Thanks in part to a \$25,000 state grant, the plan is to renovate the structure to current standards and make it a repository of local history, heritage, and genealogy – and maybe a coffee bar and bangout for that end of town.

Letters to the Editors

Veteran Says No

I am a combat veteran of Vietnam. I, like all veterans, swore to protect and defend the constitution of the United States from all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

I therefore cannot understand how any veteran can vote for Donald Trump, who calls POWs "losers," and believes we should terminate "all rules, regulations and articles, even those found in the Constitution" to overturn the 2020 election, and to be a dictator on the first day so he can jail his political enemies.

If any veteran votes for him, they are violating their solemn oath.

**Brian Emond
Leverett**

Hello neighbors,

If you live anywhere in Montague and have not voted by mail or early, and if you might experience difficulty in getting to your polling place to vote this Tuesday, November 5, I have taken a vacation day off of work so that I may drive as many of our neighbors as possible, free of charge, to their polling locations.

Your candidates of choice are irrelevant to this offer. In fact, I prefer that it remain a taboo topic for this day. Every voice matters in a democracy. Call me at (413) 239-7511 or email robsinventiveartistry@gmail.com to set up a pickup time. (I'm new to this, so please have patience with me.)

Vote. Be heard. Your opinion matters. To quote my favorite band, Rush, from their song "Freewill," my favorite lyric in all of rock'n'roll: "If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice."

Your neighbor Robert

Looking Back at the Warning Signs

Where to begin? We have about a week to go until the election. According to the news reports it looks like we may end up with Trump as president.

The likelihood of this is based on several issues I have been reading about. It appears that corporate America and many of the ultra-wealthy have seen someone like Trump as the way to control the government in favor of profit making.

In the latter parts of the 20th century people in the lower and working classes were awakening to the need to have protections from the corporate greed that we knew was causing all kinds of problems in the world. Large movements took hold to demand unions, workers' rights, protections for our environment, the right to healthcare, diplomacy instead of war, civil rights, and equality for all.

The corporate elite were threatened by these movements and slow-

ly developed think tanks, like the Heritage Foundation, to find ways to change minds and redirect the blame for all our problems on governmental interference.

Governmental protections to help the poor and middle class, minorities, civil rights, women's rights, and immigrants of color arriving in our country are blamed, not the thievery of corporations. Large trade agreements were formed to move our businesses overseas for write-offs for taxes and cheap labor. Global corporate rights were increased, and world courts were set up to protect corporate interests.

Early on, much of the harm was done to other parts of the world, not here in the US. Horrible things were done overseas, especially to the lands, environment, and people of Third World countries, yet we didn't hear about any of it.

Citizens United was passed here in the US, and our federal courts

were filled with industry-favored justices. The agencies formed to protect us and our environment have been stifled by threats of lawsuits by corporations which put profits over the wellbeing of people. Stories of this happening rarely appear in newscasts.

Anyone paying attention can now see that the government is indeed becoming more controlled by corporate demands, and is less willing to defend true democracy. Elon Musk and his friends see Trump as their pawn to move our country even further in the direction of complete corporate control of our lives.

When we look back at all the warning signs of what has happened to America, we will remember that the signs were there, but one had to investigate for themselves to find them.

**Miriam Kurland
Williamsburg**

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The **Rag Shag Parade** will not take place this Halloween in Turners Falls after all. A "Use of Public Property" permit was not obtained, according to Wendy Bogusz, executive assistant to the Montague selectboard.

Greenfield Savings Bank has distributed Halloween-themed signs to downtown businesses participating in trick-or-treating, so that is still on from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday

In light of Chris Sawyer-Lauçano's passing on October 3 after a long illness, the *Montague Reporter* invites you to **submit poems in honor** of him and/or Patricia Pruitt for our Poetry Page next week. (Both were editors of the Poetry Page.)

Perhaps you have already written a poem that reminds you of Chris or Patricia that you could send our way. If you can't submit a poem before then, feel free to send one later on. We'd love to publish it. If you're not a writer yet, now is a great time to start, but perhaps you know of someone who also knew Chris or Patricia and might like to contribute, and could pass this message on to them.

Please send submissions to poetry@montaguereporter.org.

The *Reporter* is **looking for a new carrier** for our mid-hill route in Turners Falls: Park, Central, and Prospect streets; the upper K Street area; High Street, and the neighborhood behind Kostanski's Funeral Home some call "the Perch."

The route takes about an hour with a car, and who-knows-how-long by an ambitious walker. A small stipend covers wear and tear on a vehicle or on sneakers. We are very grateful to the Katsoulis family, whose members have covered this route for years!

Please contact me, Nina, if you

are interested in knowing more: subscriptions@montaguereporter.org or (413) 834-8800.

As we approach the election, helpful information comes from the Communities That Care *Connections* newsletter about the **2024 Election Misinformation Dashboard**, where you will find help figuring out if information is trustworthy or not.

The fact-checking dashboard is maintained by the nonpartisan News Literacy Project, who maintain a running list of viral information on various topics. Find it at misinfodashboard.newslit.org.

The Northfield Mount Hermon theater program will perform **William Shakespeare's comedy Twelfth Night** as its fall play this weekend. *Twelfth Night* is a humorous love triangle with mistaken identities, and students have given a modern interpretation by setting the drama on the Mediterranean coast in the 1950s.

Performances are open to the public and take place tonight, Thursday, October 31, and Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rhodes Arts Center at the Gill campus. A matinee is planned for Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance at tinyurl.com/12nightnmh.

This Friday, November 1 is a special **"Art & Apples" First Friday** event in downtown Turners Falls.

There's another **gumball machine takeover** at Sadie's Bikes, 83 Canal Street in Turners Falls from 5 to 8 p.m. Art by Angela Zammarelli, Maisie Sibbison-Alves, and Cameron Kaufman will be available in the bike shop's gumball machines this month.

LOOT Found + Made in Turners Falls joins in from 5 to 8 p.m., too, at their 62 Avenue A shop. "We're

celebrating CiderDays with **cider tastings and art**," reads their announcement. "Our friend and former Franklin County resident Dan Young will be here pouring delicious libations from his cidery in Michigan, Tandem Ciders, and Uncle John's Cider too. We'll also be featuring all of the local and regional makers we sell in the shop."

Saints James and Andrew's Episcopal Church in Greenfield is hosting a free community conversation next Friday, November 8, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. titled "Sage Stage of Life: **Empowering Older Adults through Supportive Conversations**."

Participants can learn how to best communicate and support older adults, with expert guidance. Register at tinyurl.com/sageconvo, or leave a message at (413) 587-6478 for more information.

Friday, November 8 is also the last **Coffeehouse Concert** of the year at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Zydeco Connection will provide a night of foot-stomping Cajun and zydeco standards, two-steps, waltzes, boogie-woogie, and a few surprises.

The doors open at 6:30, and the music starts at 7 p.m. Refreshments are available all evening. There's a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15 at the door.

A reception will be held at the Discovery Center on Saturday, November 9 at 1:30 p.m. for the hallway exhibit mounted by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA), **Deep Roots: A History of Agriculture in the Connecticut River**.

Peter Thomas will give a talk at 2 p.m. about farmers and farming in the valley, with a slide show and presentation of oral history, including the experiences of Polish and Ukrainian immigrants. The state Commissioner of Agricultural Resources will also discuss the state of farming today, and what might be coming in future decades. For youth and adults.

Find out about the **ancient practice of grain weaving** at a work-

shop at the New Salem Library on Saturday, November 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. Kathy Morris will help participants create unique decorations weaving grain into gifts for oneself or others. Registration is required; call the library at (978) 544-6334 or email n_salem@cwmar.org.

Singer-songwriter Erica Wheeler kicks off the Big Read, sponsored by the PVMA and Montague libraries, during an "Autumn Orchard Saunter" at the Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield on Sunday, November 10 at 1 p.m.

Stroll through the orchard and stop for reflection and conversation about our connection to place, inspired by Ross Gay's poetry book and Big Read selection, *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*. Writing prompts will be offered, and the invitation says you will leave "feeling more connected to yourself, your place and your community."

Musician Jason Davis presents **Climate Stories Music** in a performance at the Discovery Center on Thursday, November 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Davis will discuss his work creating climate narrative music, featuring recorded voices of people around the world speaking about their personal responses to the climate crisis, and perform solo pieces for double bass which include excerpts from recorded stories.

The performance is geared to ages teen to adult, and admission is free.

LifePath is conducting a survey of **the needs of adults ages 60 and over** and their caregivers. The data will inform their plans for programs, activities, and investments over the next four years. The survey takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete online at tinyurl.com/survplan. If you prefer a printed copy, call (413) 773-5555.

The agency is also looking for a group of **caregivers to join a panel for a one-time training**. This panel will host a discussion with LifePath staff, volunteers, and community members about caregiving and caregiver needs. Express your interest at tinyurl.com/carepan.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

UNNAM EABLE BOOKS EVENTS

POETRY
KEVIN MCLELLAN & LIZ YOUNG
SATURDAY, NOV. 9 • 7pm

BOOK LAUNCH
THE KARMAN LINE
by Daisy Atterbury
w/ Andrea Lawlor
SUNDAY, NOV. 10 • 7pm

POETRY
DARA BARROIS-DIXON
MATTHEW ROHRER
DOBBY GIBSON
ALAN FELSENTAL
SATURDAY, NOV. 16 • 6pm

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- 11/2 Poetry Book Release! - "Nickel Coil Queen" by Beverly Ketch 6pm Music by Weeping Bong Band
- 11/4-12/9 COMEDY WORKSHOP with Mo Schweiger (6 wks) 6-8pm \$150
- 11/6 Botanical Posters Riso Workshop 6-8pm all materials included \$60
- 11/7 & 11/21 Figure Drawing 6-8pm \$10

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Another Letter to the Editors

Headline Readers Harass Town Employees

Hello, my name is Noah Diamond and I am the lab manager at the Montague Clean Water Facility. I'm writing in concern of your front-page headline "Federally Backed Upgrade Will Ensure Local Sewage Keeps Getting Screwed Up."

The reason I'm writing is because this headline, that most people will read while waiting in line and therefore never read the content, will actively harm how people view our facility.

We discussed the headline at length this morning, after several employees had dealt with retributive friction from the community, who now think that we are using federal grants to continue *screwing up*.

How did anyone at your "paper" think this was appropriate?

Whether you know this or not, our facility's function is essential to

our community. Without us here, doing the frankly incredible job that we do, you would have literal shit and industrial pollutants destroying the Connecticut River. This isn't conjecture, it's absolute fact. We literally clean up the mess that humans make in this area. We work day and night, doing a job that most people would gag to even think of performing. We do this happily, because we love making our community a better place, and we all deeply care for the environment and natural ecosystems.

So again, now people think all we do is screw up and take federal money. So the job we have now, which is a difficult career and often very unpleasant to begin, has now added harassment by the community to our list of things to deal with.

We would like you to correct this headline, and to please discuss

your reporter's attempt at humor in an otherwise humorless article. The rest of the article is very positive, so it seems out of place that your journalist would be permitted to title the piece with an insult. Because that's exactly what it is, whether it was intended or not. Can I give you an example? I assume that your office has a recycling dumpster in the back? So what if it accidentally caught fire. Could another newspaper proclaim "Montague Reporter is a Total Dumpster Fire?"

Because that's *precisely* what you've done to us.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to seeing a prominent correction of your libelous headline in the next issue.

Sincerely,
Noah Diamond
Montague City

An editor replies...

This feedback is eye-opening on several levels, but we certainly regret having apparently triggered the harassment of several town employees, especially with such a groaner of a pun. (The article concerned funding to replace the plant's two large Archimedes pumps, which rotate to literally screw sewage upward from the primary to the secondary clarification tanks.)

While we can't always predict where poor comprehension might intersect with cruelty, this is a reminder that not everyone who sees our "paper" is a longtime reader, and so not everyone will take as a given the very high regard in which we have always held the complex, necessary, and undervalued work of wastewater treatment. Our apologies.

- Ed.

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OP/ED Facing Mortality? Day of the Dead Can Help

By JANINE ROBERTS

LEVERETT – When my granddaughter Cadence was three and a half, the first story she wrote and illustrated on her own was “10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1” on lined paper. The 7 was backwards, the 8 snowperson-like. She printed the word “GO” and drew a square with a round opening in its center, a tall triangle on top, and two side fins. Orange flared out the bottom of her rocket.

I saved it, and that page has become a comforting yet stark symbol for me, at age 77, and my siblings: We’re on our last countdowns.

My younger brother died several years ago. My older sister had a stroke and is paralyzed on part of her right side. My older brother has Parkinson’s, and I can barely hear him on the phone.

What’s coming for me? When? How can I embrace my remaining years as possibilities? Do I have five more, so I can see my granddaughter graduate middle school? I try to count down – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 – with the innocence and wonder of a toddler.

Or maybe I have nine years, and can help her launch from high school? 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, I say with feigned child excitement.

Honorary cousin Sharon, beloved matriarch of our extended family, has terminal cancer. Recently, using a wheelchair, she boarded a glass-domed train in western Washington State *en route* to Chicago with her two sisters. Sharon’s last fling up and over the Cascades and Rockies to see the mountains she loves.

A longtime friend is in a fracas with four different kinds of cancer.

My daughter’s father showed down a brain tumor, but his lungs are

ricocheted with inoperable ones.

Death in myriad holding patterns, looking for opportunity. When will my remaining sibs GO? When will I?

When she was two, Cadence experienced her first family death. Greatgrama Ga, my mother, died on the December solstice three months shy of 100. My daughter and son-in-law played violin and guitar at the memorial service, on what would have been Ga’s hundredth birthday. I cried with joy and sorrow as Cadence clung onto one of her mother’s long legs and sang “I’ll Fly Away” with them.

In preschool that fall, she cut out purple, gold, and pink *papeles picados* and learned about Day of the Dead. I texted her photos of elaborate skeleton violinists from altars in Puebla, Mexico where I was working, all because Ga studied art there decades ago.

When I returned home, I told Cadence about following paths of orange marigolds (*cempasúchiles*) up to *ofrendas* in strangers’ houses where you learned about people who had died that year. I gave her a picture book about the movie *Coco*, authentically set in Mexico. Later, Cadence saw it. “I loved the movie, but it was a little scary.” Next *Día de los Muertos*, she asked to make an altar in her home for Greatgrama Ga.

I doubt I’ll live to be a great-grandmother, but if I do, what small things might I teach them about death? Or about telling stories? What might be the first story they write on their own?

And what will be the last story I write before my countdown: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 GO!

Janine Roberts, a professor emerita at UMass Amherst, lives in Leverett.

OP/ED We Know How To Deal With Bullies...

By RICHIE DAVIS

MONTAGUE – I’ve known bullies since early childhood.

Some were in my school.

Some were relatives, even though some family members in those years just after the Holocaust wore numbers tattooed on their forearms from fascist bullies they had managed to escape in Germany.

Sometimes I was the victim, and sometimes, I now regret saying, I was a silent bystander, fearing retribution for speaking out. On one occasion, I even knowingly joined with other kids to torment a friend. Those mildly guilty memories, some from elementary school, are a burden I carry to this day.

I write this now because I not only viscerally know a bully when I see one, but also know a bully’s chilling effect on anyone who has survived domestic violence, or outright bullying, or even the subtly veiled menacing behavior from a family member, lover or spouse, boss... or anyone in our midst.

As part of my faith tradition, and my inner compass of wrong from right, I feel compelled to call out bullies wherever I see them. I am called to always support the victim.

It’s clear to me that as a society, we’ve allowed Donald Trump to use his masterful barrage of bullying – threats, name-calling, misogynistic attacks, racial epithets and slurs, coded dog whistles, and outright verbal assaults – to build a mob-like following while at the same time playing the victim. Using less than complete sentences, he often stops just shy of an outright threat in a venomous attack to provide plausible deniability.

Regardless of policy proposals, irrespective of stated positions on issues before us, a candidate’s words and those of surrogates carry real meaning. Past actions and character are far more important than any prescriptions any candidate utters about how he’d work to solve our nation’s serious problems.

As part of my faith tradition... I feel compelled to call out bullies wherever I see them.

If Trump were to be elected, how he would lead, where he would lead – and whose interests would be served by his audacious brand of leadership – are critical questions we need to confront before handing this bully the awesome power he would seize, by his own admission, in total disregard of the Constitution he swears to uphold. We have seen him disregard his oath of allegiance to the Constitution in the past – for which he was twice impeached.

After eight years of standing by, this much should be clear: An obvious bully, who has already threatened to punish anyone who disagrees or disobeys his will, should never be allowed to assume the most powerful position on Earth, free to punish all adversaries perceived or real.

We threw off the rule of kings 225 years ago and defeated fascist tyrants 80 years ago.

We should know what to do now.

Richie Davis lives in Montague.

NEW NAME from page A1

there were assumptions my staff and I were always sort of having to work against.”

The new name and logo – a simple contour of a bird with a heart symbol for a wing – are the result of the organization assessing its 30-year history in downtown Turners Falls, with the help of the Florence-based marketing agency Brigade and a grant from a local bank.

“It was a very cool experience,” Wood told the *Montague Reporter*. “They spent several months talking with the staff, the board, and community partners, and then kind of fed back to us what they had surmised from what everyone had shared.”

Though staff at the Heartwing Center offer the community a range of services, including an emergency basic needs program and support visits to households involved with the Department of Children and Families, its two core programs, the Women’s Center and Family Center, stretch back to its origins.

Father Stanley Aksamit of Our Lady of Peace Church, a board member *ex officio* and one of the organization’s founders in 1994, recalled MCSM’s earliest days.

“In the beginning, there was a lot of domestic violence, so we were involved in community organizing,” Aksamit said. “When the Strathmore paper mill closed, we tried to help out people from there. When Railroad Salvage closed, we tried to help them out... We had three churches [downtown], so there was some extra real estate.”

In those first years the agency was staffed by nuns from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, who lived in the Sixth Street rectory of

St. Anne’s church and organized a children’s playgroup in the church hall as a way to draw in parents, primarily low-income mothers. The group was incorporated as a non-profit.

“It had the backing of what were then the three parishes, but the word *catholic* with a small c means ‘universal’ – we didn’t see it as kind of a big-C arm of the church,” Aksamit explained. “From the start I wanted it to be independently incorporated, so that it could kind of develop organically in relation to community needs, and be protected from the whims of whoever might come along.”

“It has its roots in very general, but very important, Catholic social teaching,” he added. “There’s a whole body of teaching that social justice is a constitutive part of the Gospel, and not an accidental thing... Instead of giving fish, we wanted to teach people how to fish.”



JACKSON PHOTO

In 1997, MCSM moved to its current Third Street location. The Family Center, which grew up alongside the Women’s Center, offered regular after-school homework support.

Heather Wood, a Gill native whose father served as the first board president, worked for the organization for the first time around 2000 in the homework program.

“My son was one then, and I could bring him to work with me,” she remembered.

The homework support program survives to this day, now running Monday through Thursday evenings, sometimes via Zoom. “It’s filling a very significant and glaring gap in the school system,” Wood said.

The playgroup is also still running every Wednesday morning, though it now offers a structured curriculum known as Coordinated Family Community Engagement.

“Before it was just, you know, ‘Come one and come all, we’re going to sit on the rug and play,’ said Wood. “It’s now completely bilingual, too.”

In 2006 the parishes of St. Anne and St. Mary of the Assumption merged, forming what is now Our Lady of Peace. Four members of the church still sit on the agency’s board of directors, and parishioners are often called on to volunteer, gather resources, and donate funds.

Though Heartwing has expanded over the last three decades, both Aksamit and Wood told the *Reporter* that it has stayed flexible enough to meet the community’s shifting needs. Aksamit said an early objective was to “build bridges between different parts of the community,” including the downtown and Hill neighborhoods, an effort that he feels has largely been successful.

Still, he said, as the 30-year anniversary approached, “a feeling came over us that we wanted to look at where we’ve been, and

where we’d like to go.”

“From the start, if people saw the word ‘Montague’ and they were from somewhere else, they thought, ‘Well, that can’t be for me,’” he said. “Or if they saw the word ‘Catholic,’ they thought ‘Well, these services are for Catholics, not for me.’”

The parish priest, who grew up on Montague City Road and graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1969 before leaving for seminary, grinned and summed up the brand update: “I consider this being like the ‘Young Men’s Christian Association’ becoming the Y.”

“With all due respect to Catholicism, it just constantly felt like an uphill battle – whether it was with funding, or assuring people that they didn’t have to be Catholic [to participate],” Wood told the *Reporter*.

“Or people calling us because they thought we *were* Catholic, and wanted to have faith-based conversations with us... Sometimes I would even find folks who were Catholic would be disappointed if I had to reveal, at some point across the conversation, that I’m not.”

Wood praised her “fabulous” staff and said she hoped the new name would encourage new participants to stop by to check out the agency’s offerings.

“It has been a very cool process watching the evolution of the board – and the Sisters who then sat on the board, and Father Stan – really take their time with listening to the staff and participants about the need for this name change,” she continued. “I think it unfolded in exactly the way that it should have.”



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ERVING from page A1

to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority; the representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and an alternate; an engineer; and a surveyor.

With the help of police chief Robert Holst, the board finished the wording for the community services cadet position. It was clarified that the position is supposed to end with the cadet going on to police training, and possibly returning as a police officer after that, but in any case not returning as a cadet.

IP Mill Demolition

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said there was “not necessarily much of an update” regarding the town-owned former International Paper Mill complex, the demolition of which was rejected by town meeting.

Town officials have been concerned that a grant for partial demolition from MassDevelopment will expire, but the agency, he said, is “still interested in working with us, or assigning someone to dive in the details with us a little bit more, understand what we’re doing and how that will proceed, and then potentially offer feedback.”

“There’s no stated timeline, so I can’t advise how long that’s going to take,” town administrator Bryan Smith added.

“If it takes a little longer to get to closure, then so be it,” Jacob Smith concluded.

Negotiating Hookups

New water and sewer connections were approved for Edward Wilcox of 50 River Road – now 50A – to build an accessory dwelling unit at 50B.

On the subject of new houses in town, the selectboard dealt with some last-minute negotiations relating to new houses on North Street.

Frank Fellows, who owns and lives in a house on North Street and owns three other lots on the street, was looking for three new sewer connections for those lots.

According to Fellows, the town owns 1,000 feet of sewer line connecting to 219 North Street, which the town was not aware it owned. This section of pipe is on the other side of the street from the properties Fellows was looking to connect.

“I happened to be a selectboard member at the time, and I do remember them running the line up,” said capital planning committee member Linda Downs-Bembury. “I can’t tell you how big the line is... The only other thing I can add is, unfortunately, we had a town administrator who did not always do what we asked them to do, or kind of bring things to fruition.”

Downs-Bembury said she thought the work would have been done “19 years ago.”

The town was planning on repaving North Street this week, and as the town understands it, a state minimum wait time on any digging through new pavement may kick in after this paving happens, which would make it much harder for Fellows to connect the properties.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache explained that the board cannot issue permits for connections to a section of pipe the town does not know it owns. Fellows presented an idea for his permits to be used to put in “stubbed” pipes, which do not connect but could easily be made to do so later. If the town then determines it owns the sewer line, he can connect to it.

Fellows and the selectboard, with input from highway superintendent Glenn McCrory and water and wastewater superintendent Pete Sanders, worked up an agreement much like the one Fellows proposed. He would be permitted to install three pipes under the road, which could be connected later.

The selectboard got Fellows to upgrade what he was intending to be 4-inch pipes to 6-inch pipes, on the idea that the houses may someday get accessory dwelling units, at which point the extra capacity would be useful.

Mike Jackson contributed additional writing.



HUM from page A1

of the sound. The *Montague Reporter* is continuing to investigate the phenomenon.

Corwin Ericson, who hiked up Sears Road and along the power lines last Friday until he reached the river bank opposite the paper mill, says he feels certain it is the source of the hum.

“The noise became very evident when I got to where Sears Road joins the power lines,” Ericson wrote in a posting on the Wendell Townsfolk listserv that night. “I walked past the sandpit and turned right at the intersection of power lines. This leads directly down to the back of the paper mill.

“It was loud at the sand pit and very loud at the mill itself. There were also other noises from the mill, including a higher pitched (closer to the sound of tinnitus) whine/drone, which I have not heard from home.”

From his house near the intersection of Stone and Wendell Depot roads, Ericson says, the sound

is quieter, but changes considerably from day to day. He describes it as close to a “C” note, corroborating an observation last week by Stone Road resident Sam Birch.

“There’s been a few times when it’s just been plain loud,” Ericson said. “Sometimes I can hear it *inside* my house.”

McAuliffe said the machinery at the paper mill runs constantly, and questioned whether it could be the source of a noise heard intermittently. He said that nothing changed in September that would have made noises coming from the mill more audible.

“We are a 24-hour operation here, so the noise would be continuous,” he said.

As a condition of our tour, the *Reporter* agreed not to record the noise coming from the vacuum pump, or take any photos of machinery inside the mill. Train tracks run directly behind the mill, but the trains no longer stop there to deliver paper, according to McAuliffe.

Tom Ciuba, vice president of

communications at Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, said last week that the railroad company has been performing maintenance on tracks in the area, which could be the source of some noise, and offered to review a recording. This week he listened to an audio file submitted to the *Reporter* by resident Todd Muller.

“[T]hree of us turned it up to 100 and could not hear anything that sounded like a locomotive (or other rail equipment, at that),” Ciuba wrote.

When contacted by the *Reporter* about the sound, National Grid spokesperson Bob Kievra asked whether any “private developers” happened to be operating solar farms in the area.

Ericson, who lives near the solar array at the intersection of Farley and Wendell Depot roads, said he has heard a whining sound coming from it in the past, but not at a frequency or to a degree that he would complain about. Three larger arrays sit north of Route 2A in Orange, about a mile and a half east of the paper mill.

Kievra did not respond as of press time this week.

On Wednesday evening a low crackling sound could be heard under the high-tension power lines leading to the array near Farley Road, and National Grid’s substation between Wendell Depot Road and the Millers River was emitting a barely-audible hum.

“The sound was not coming from the National Grid site, nor was it emanating from the power lines themselves,” Ericson argued. “The source of this noise pollution is definitely the paper mill.”

Further tips and observations – including logs of when the sound is audible, and from where – may be sent to editor@montaguereporter.org.



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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), TTD/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

Montague Community Television News

Onward & Upward

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

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ROBERTSON PHOTO

Used paper products arrive at the Erving Industries paper mill in large bales, ready to be turned to pulp and then remade into paper. Some Wendell residents over two miles away believe they have recently been hearing machinery at the plant, but a company spokesperson said nothing has changed.

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On the Street: Which Ballot Question Are You Most Interested In?



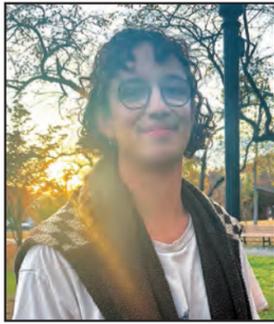
Ian: Yes on 3.

"What's most important? The right to unionize. I think organizing labor is probably one of the most powerful things we can do right now, in a country where wealth disparity is growing and growing. That seems like a good thing for people to be allowed to do.... A picture? I'd rather not.... A picture is forever! What kind of [expletive] registry am I going to be put on for being pro-labor?"



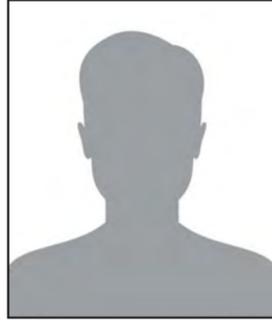
TJ: Yes on 2, Yes on 4.

"I plan on voting, but I don't even know what all the questions are.... [Question 4], I'm down with that. The MCAS one [Question 2], I'm also down with that – not making it a requirement to pass? I agree with that."



Brian: Yes on 2.

"I think it's going to have a pretty big impact for some people, and it feels like a pretty common-sense move. I think it's likely to pass."



Eric: Yes on 3.

"Why wouldn't they? It seems like a no-brainer."

Can I take a picture?

"No, I'm all scrubby."



Laura: Yes on 3, 4, and 5.

"Unions are important. That's my opinion. I'm in a union, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and I think it's valuable... And psilocybin, I also think that seems fine. Oh, and definitely [minimum wage for] tipped workers."



Allen: Yes on 2.

"I've been a teacher in my past.... The tests are going to be there, so you're going to know if someone's really far behind and needs some help.... I think there will be some challenges around quality, but I think in the long run, more teachers will be more enthusiastic about being able to go into a classroom and build up a culture of learning for learning's sake... Can you do without the picture?"

SPORTS from page A1

by that evening, and temperatures dipped into the mid-30s. At least one person said they felt snowflakes, and players were asking about wearing gloves.

The Saints scored early on after being awarded a penalty kick on a tripping call, and Sofia Moreno tied it up with four minutes left in the half. And that was it – the game went back and forth, but neither team could breach the crease.

MIAA plans to release the play-off brackets this Friday.

Boys' Soccer

Smith 3 – TFHS 1

TFHS 3 – Chinese Immersion 1

At high noon on Sunday, the Turners boys kicked off in the Class C quarterfinals against the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy. The purple-draped Hatfield fans took the far side while the true Blue faithful sat in the near-side bleachers, and the crowd was loud and vocal.

Blue mostly played ball control, keeping the play in Smith's territory, but midway through the first half Smith's goalie sent the ball downfield to a Falcon who shot it in the net. Smith's second goal came from an offside call: Turners were in perfect position to shoot, but a whistle halted the attack, and Smith scored immediately upon taking possession.

Late in the game, with the Thunder down 3-nil, Yolvin Ovalle-Mejia jiggled a fake, causing the goalie to cheat right, and shot it into the goal to prevent the shutout.

The Thunder defeated Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion 3-1 in a PVIAC consolation game on Wednesday, strengthening their hopes for a favorable seed in the MIAA tourney.

Field Hockey

Greenfield 8 – TFHS 1

Blackstone 1 – FCTS 0

The Field Hockey Thunder was eliminated last Thursday in the semifinal round of the PVIAC Class C tournament. It was warm and comfortable, and fans were wearing short sleeves and sunglasses.

Greenfield came out of the gate shooting, forcing the Thunder to play back on their heels. Blue protected

the net desperately, resulting in five corner penalties in the first quarter alone, but the defense kept the ball out of the net for the most part.

The field at Greenfield High School is fast. "I swear it's like ice hockey," one of the mothers said as Greenfield continued to clear the ball down the entire field. That seemed to be part of their strategy: every time Thunder worked the ball into Wave territory, Greenfield would intercept and shoot it down the entire field where several players were waiting. This forced the Thunder players to race down the field just to break up the attack. With only two reserves, there was no rest for the weary.

In the second quarter, with Greenfield leading 2-nil, Ledwin Villafana raced from midfield and slapped the ball in to put Blue on the scoreboard. When Greenfield scored a third goal coach Renee Tela called a timeout to settle her troops, but more pressure and more corners widened the deficit to 5-1 by half-time, which is when I left for the volleyball game. Greenfield would go on to score three more times.

On Tuesday, the Blackstone Regional Beavers edged out Franklin Tech 1-0 in the small vocational championship, held at Blackstone, but Tech is still in the playoffs. Currently ranked 29th in Division 4, they travel to South Deerfield this Friday to challenge fourth-seeded Frontier Red Hawks.

Volleyball

Mohawk 3 (forfeit) – TFHS 1

Later on Thursday, the Turners volleyball team was eliminated in the PVIAC Class C semifinals by the Mohawk Warriors.

Although Mohawk won the game, they were forced to forfeit the match. According to Turners Falls athletic director Jen Luciano, the team didn't meet the deadline to fill in placeholder spots when they revised their schedule, and thus did not comply with the rules. This seems a little petty, but the MIAA follows protocol – a couple years ago Tech's field hockey had to forfeit against Nantucket in the playoffs, and way back when, Greater New Bedford forfeited a



Turners Falls' Madi Liimatainen sends the ball to the setter during the first set of last week's semifinal game against the Mohawk Trail Warriors. The Warriors won 3-1, advancing to the final, and took the title 3-2 against #1 seeded Lee.

championship title to Turners Falls.

The PVIAC rightly allowed Mohawk to continue – and eventually win the Western Mass championship – while MIAA, the statewide body, lowered Mohawk's seed after handing them two forfeits. It took an extra day to produce the brackets for field hockey and volleyball because two schools sued the MIAA over the policy.

During Thursday's dustup the Buckland gym was on fire, as Mohawk kids and adults screamed and chanted from the opening serve to the final point. The Turners fans also let their voices be heard. As with any task, the noise sometimes gets in your head – in the first set, Mohawk built up their lead while their boosters chanted "o-ver-rated" – but when Turners came from behind to win the second set, the chanting stopped.

There were a couple game-changers in the next two sets. With the battle tied at one apiece and the rubber match knotted at 20-20, Mohawk hit the ball out of bounds, but the officials ruled the ball had brushed against a Turners player, and the serve and the momentum

went back to Mohawk.

Turners began making mistakes. At one point two players backed off, each expecting the other to go after the ball. A timeout by coach Kelly Liimatainen grounded the team, but Mohawk held on to go ahead 2-1.

In the final act Mohawk played with confidence. Standout striker Palmer King began blasting the ball, and the returns frequently hit the ceiling or shot into the bleachers. When he served the Mohawk kids chanted "Mi-chael Jor-dan," to which one of the visitors quipped, "Michael Jordan didn't play against girls." Turners tried to keep pace as King's teammates fed him the ball so he could blast kill shots.

Then came the next gut-crushing moment. Late in the battle, with Turners playing catch-up, a call disputed by the entire Turners section gave a vital point to Mohawk. The girls' faces fell and Mohawk finished strong, winning the set and the game and eliminating the Thunder from the PVIAC playoffs.

Factoring in the forfeits, Mohawk slipped to the 18th seed in Division 5 while the Thunder rose to #15. Ironically, the two teams meet

again for the Round of 32, this Saturday at 1 p.m. in Turners Falls.

Football

Ware 20 – FCTS 6

Last Friday night the Football Eagles saw their perfect season blemished by the Ware Green Indians.

Ware had won a contest to receive funds from T-Mobile to revamp their facilities, so all sorts of giveaways were available including winter hats and foam fingers, and anyone entering the stadium had to agree to allow the company to use their image for promotional purposes.

Tech got the ball first, but the Indians began hitting their runners right at the line of scrimmage. This forced coach Joe Gamache to run sweeps and pitches to the outside, and he frequently used all four downs just to keep drives going. Josiah Little scored first to give Tech a 6-0 lead.

Ware's runners were often hit early, but Tech had difficulty tackling on first contact, and Ware tied it up with 3:52 left in the first.

For the most part the Ware fans were civil, but three gentlemen slipped under the rope and perched on the track behind the goal line yelling ungentlemanly things to the kids on the field. They weren't removed until the fourth quarter, but the Franklin supporters didn't stoop to their level.

In the second quarter Tech came up empty on a fourth-and-11, and when Ware took over they scored to make it 13-6. On their next possession they ran a screen. ("I know Little," one of the Ware fathers said before the game. "We studied the tapes.")

The Eagles orchestrated a goal-line stand at the end of the half to keep the margin at 13-6, but in the fourth Ware scored their third touch of the night, putting the game out of reach.

Although the loss takes a bit of wind out of Tech's sails, they are still in a wonderful position. "A win on Senior Night this Friday against Mahar," coach Gamache said, "will secure a league title, guarantee a top-two seed in the state vocational playoffs, and hopefully be enough to secure a spot in the statewide playoffs."



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ELECTION from page A1

Party base, particularly over foreign policy concerns, weaken enthusiasm for the Harris/Walz ticket? How will the five referendum questions on the ballot influence turnout?

And will the massive volume of pro-Trump signage seen on certain lawns – which suggests that supporters of the Republican candidate are no longer as “shy” as pollsters once suggested – have an impact?

We interviewed several residents of Montague Center to explore these questions. The neighborhood is located in Precinct 1, which perennially boasts the highest voter turnout in Montague – 81.3% in 2016, and a whopping 85.1% four years later. Residents there consistently cast a wide majority of their votes for Democrats.

Individual signs for Harris and Walz have recently begun to dot the village’s landscape. There are also a few signs for eliminating the MCAS test as a high school graduation requirement and for auditing the state legislature, two of the more popular ballot questions this year.

But suspended right in the middle of the village is a long rope, from which hang a number of very large pro-Trump signs with familiar slogans about making the country great and supporting news commentator Glenn Beck. These appear in front of the property of Gary Turn, who owns a local landscaping company and is famous for the neighborhood barbecues with live reggae music he hosts each Halloween.

We began our research into this perhaps atypical community by interviewing Leslie Lomasson and Ferd Wulkan, who own a duplex on Main Street. They are political activists and union members, and their property is adorned with signs supporting Walz and Harris, opposing MCAS as a graduation requirement, and warning against a Republican presidential victory.

Neither Lomasson nor Wulkan seemed overly concerned that divisions among the traditional base of the Democratic Party would reduce turnout on that side of the ballot. “People are energized,” Lomasson told the *Reporter*, noting that she and other residents of the neighborhood had been mailing handwritten postcards to likely Harris voters in swing states. “People feel strongly, because Trump is so extreme.”

Wulkan agreed, predicting that the concerns about Palestine expressed this year by many Democrats were unlikely to significantly change voting behavior in Montague Center. He also mentioned that two members of his local pickleball club are spending a month working for Harris in Pennsylvania.

Lomasson and Wulkan, it turns out, had recently invited Turn and another neighbor to their house to discuss his signage. Both said they felt very positive about the discussion, and indicated that Turn had agreed to temporarily retire the political signs during the village’s Halloween celebration.

Next we spoke with Marina Goldman, who lives further down Main Street. Goldman told us she recently traveled to Georgia, dressed as a suffragette, to canvass for Harris, and will be doing the same in New Hampshire before the election. I asked her about her feelings on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and she said that while she strongly opposed the Netanyahu government and supported a “two-state solution,” she would be “voting on different issues – like women’s rights.”

“Gary put up those signs partly so he could start conversations with residents of the community,” Goldman, who also attended the meeting with Turn, told the *Reporter*. “Gary cares about his neighbors.”

Asked why her own Harris/Walz sign appeared to be leaning against the wall of her garage behind some pumpkins, Goldman said she had taken it down for Halloween after Turn promised to remove his banners that day.

“We’ve got a bunch of characters in the town,” she said. “You and I are two of them.”

After several tries this reporter was able to meet with Mr. Turn, an old friend and former neighbor, in front of his house. There was only time for a few quick questions.

I asked him if he thought it was important for everyone to vote even if they did not agree with him on Trump. “I sure do,” he said. “People should do their civic duty. That’s a concept I learned living in this village.”

Turn gave this reporter original printed material about the Trump campaign, which he referred to as the “Main Street American Experience,” and its antagonist, a global

movement promoting “a purposeful, patient plan of Federally funded, surreal, sinister, morose managed decline.”

I asked if he was concerned that the quantity and size of his signage might be counter-productive, by energizing the opposition. “I really hadn’t thought anything about that,” he said. “Am I trying to poke the bear? No.”

Turn said he did not intend to mingle politics with the annual Montague Center Halloween celebration, which has been going on for 30 years by his estimate. The Trump banners will come down that night, he said, and he is still trying to schedule a band to play the Halloween gathering, one having withdrawn due to a commitment to the Shea Theater.

Leaving Turn’s house and Montague Center I could not resist knocking on the door of a Turnpike Road apartment building, also covered with pro-Trump signage, which I had passed numerous times over the past month. The man responsible, Christopher Monti, is a comrade of Turn’s and accompanied him to the meeting with Lomasson and Wulkan.

Monti said he was impressed by the “open communication” in Montague Center and, like everyone we spoke with, said he believed all registered voters should vote next week. “It’s easy to point fingers,” he said. “But if I’m not exercising my right, shame on me.”

Asked if he thought the volume of signage might cause a counter-reaction, he told the *Reporter* he was “choosing to exercise his First Amendment rights.”

“If some people don’t like it, that’s okay,” Monti said. “It may entice them to participate.”

Voting in Montague will take place next Tuesday, November 5 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in three locations: the Montague Center fire station for Precinct 1; the Franklin County Technical School for Precincts 2, 3, 4, and 6; and the Gill-Montague senior center for Precinct 5. See montague-ma.gov for more information, including precinct maps.

Voting takes place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the town halls of Gill, Erving, and Leverett, and at the town office building in Wendell.



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

Here’s the way it was on October 30, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Skating to the Finish Line

On Monday afternoon Montague selectboard members Chris Boutwell and Mike Nelson received a giant novelty check for \$272,000, a state PARC grant to help build the Unity Skate Park. After nearly 17 years of lofty dreams, hard work, and gritty persistence, they weren’t the only ones to be thrilled.

“I’ve been friends with a lot of people who were fighting for this since we were teenagers,” said Amy Podlenski.

“I think this is going to make an incredible addition,” added Nelson. “That derelict parking lot over there is going to look completely different in less than a year.”

Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz had even driven the grant application across the state to make sure it didn’t get lost in the mail.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that if all goes well, the ribbon-cutting will be next fall.

When It Rains, Fax 911

Erving highway foreman Glenn McCrory presented the selectboard with a quote from Comcast of \$14,532 for a high-speed internet line at the highway offices and wastewater plant and providing internet, telephone, alarm, and data services over a three-year contract.

McCrory said that the current system is inadequate, with emails sometimes taking a day to appear in the highway inbox. Also, he said, “sometimes the fax machine dials 911 calls when it rains.”

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 28, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Railroad Salvaged?

Leaving traffic concerns for another day, Montague’s Zoning Board of Appeals last night gave preliminary approval to Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk’s plans for a \$4.5 million renovation of the 110-year-old former Griswold Mill, known as the Railroad Salvage building, on Power Street.

Kislyuk hopes to put together financing to purchase and redevelop approximately 120,000 square feet of mixed commercial and residen-

tial space, with two-thirds divided into 60 one-bedroom apartments, 16 two-bedrooms, and 12 studio apartments. The commercial space will go for offices, or for other use with ZBA approval.

Wild Goose Chase

A gaggle of binocular- and camera-laden birdwatchers from near and far are flocking to Migratory Way hoping to add a rare Massachusetts sighting of a Ross’s Goose to their lifetime list. “This is only the third or fourth documented sighting for this particular bird in the state,” said naturalist Mark Fairbrother of Montague Center.

125 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on November 1, 1899: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

In accordance with the town vote, the track of the street railway near the Farren memorial hospital is to be moved back to its rightful place. Probably by the end of the week the job will be finished. The old Rugg store has been raised and moved aside so as to admit of straightening out the road. Later the building is to be moved away along with other buildings standing near the hospital.

The firemen demonstrated their ability to successfully fight the fire demon under all conditions. There was much interest shown in the races between the hose companies.

All persons interested in foot ball whether their hair is foot ball length at present or not, are requested to meet at the Farren house, tomorrow evening. It is proposed to organize a foot ball eleven to play a game with the Greenfield team soon.

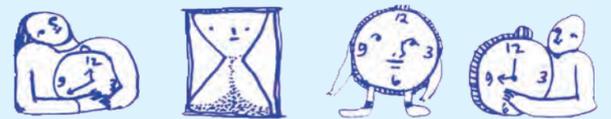
A surprise party of the first

magnitude was given to Mrs C. L. Buswell in G. A. R. hall. All present wished Mrs. Buswell much happiness and prosperity in her new home in N.H. She was presented with an elegant solid gold ring and also with a very handsome silver mounted china fruit dish as a token of remembrance from her Massachusetts friends.

A leak in the water main on the Avenue in front of Allen Brothers’ store was discovered on Monday. It took considerable time to locate the leak and more than one spectator killed a good deal of what life is made of in watching the workmen. After the break was once located it was speedily repaired.

Wm. E. Howard, who recently returned from the Philippines, went to the island as a member of Co. H, 1st Washington Volunteers, and left for Manila Oct 28, 1898. He has been engaged in 38 battles and skirmishes and still lives to tell the tale.

Mr. J. Pettengill, formerly a conductor on the street railway, sailed Saturday from New York for Cuba with a party of friends. They will spend some time looking around the island for a business opening.



SINGLETON PHOTO

Lomasson and Wulkan’s Montague Center home displays a Harris/Walz sign and also support for Question 2, which would eliminate the requirement of passing the standardized MCAS test before high school graduation.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

so “there’s lots to discuss tonight, and I hope I’m not taking up too much of your time.” He reminded the board that the previous week they had voted to meet the low bid by Davenport, which came in \$64,354 over budget, by using all of the town’s remaining funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as well as some money from the “project overrun” account.

After a review of these funding sources with town accountant Angelica Desroches, Nolan-Zeller said, it was determined that \$6,000 more had been left in the ARPA account than was believed, and that the board could officially end two smaller projects, resulting in a total of \$6,678.49 in available ARPA money. He suggested that the board rescind its allocation from the project overrun account and use the remaining ARPA funds on the bridge.

The board agreed to officially end the smaller projects, but selectboard member Matt Lord objected to spending the remaining money on the bridge project, arguing that the town should “try to maintain an ARPA balance because it gives us lots of flexibility.”

The rest of the board agreed, leaving the money in the ARPA account and approving the \$142,000 Davenport contract with the funding sources approved the previous week.

Nolan-Zeller was asked when the project would start, and if the bridge would be open throughout construction. He replied that it would not be closed to pedestrian or vehicle traffic, though at certain times travel may be reduced to one lane “with someone temporarily directing traffic.”

He went on to say that Davenport is expected to start in late winter or early spring. “The date I was given is March, as an estimation,” he said.

Housing Project on Pause

Town administrator Walter Ramsey reported on the status of the project by Habitat For Humanity to construct five or six affordable homes on First Street, where a town parking lot now sits. The project is currently on hold because fill containing hazardous chemicals was discovered under the lot.

The town, Ramsey said, has now undergone several rounds of testing to evaluate the condition of the soil, and is working with the Franklin Regional Brownfields Program to develop a remediation strategy.

In the meantime, he said, Habitat’s grant from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which would have helped cover construction costs, has expired. The organization has been encouraged to reapply, but is opting to wait until the contamination issue is sorted out.

“Honestly, it’s going to be a cost threshold where it makes it viable to have housing there or not,” Ramsey said, “so hopefully we’ll have that in the next two or three months.”

Town-Owned Buildings

The decision not to spend out the ARPA account proved fortuitous, as the board later confronted a request for a change order in the project to rehabilitate the moldy and decaying Carnegie Library basement. The contractor doing the work, General Contracting Solutions (GCS) of Southwick, had reportedly come across some unanticipated decaying framing.

The library building committee, library director Caitlin Kelley, town building inspector Bill Ketchen, and GCS all endorsed the more costly of two options, which would bring the structure up to code at an additional price of \$12,280. Kelley noted that there was already a \$7,000 contingency in the bid award, so only \$5,280 more would need to be appropriated.

The selectboard voted to draw the money for the change order out of the ARPA account, leaving \$1,398.49.

On Nolan-Zeller’s recommendation the board endorsed a \$27,000 federal block grant, channeled through the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER), to study ways to reduce the carbon footprints of nine town-owned buildings. The next step will be to sign a contract with Power Options, Inc., the Boston-based non-profit energy consulting firm chosen to work on the project.

At Ramsey’s request the board formally accepted a \$50,000 grant from the state Office of Administration and Finance for “senior center upgrades,” according to the meeting agenda.

The funds are part of a legislative earmark initiated by state representative Natalie Blais, which Ramsey said was for any “infrastructure upgrades” to the building. “It’s not a traditional grant where you have to identify the projects,” he explained. He presented a list of potential uses: renovating the small kitchen in the basement, the replacement of an old boiler, window improvements, and the conversion of the gas furnace to mini-splits.

Any work would have to be done by June 30, he said, “so we have a fairly tight timeframe.” No decisions were reached.

The town has undergone several rounds of testing to evaluate the condition of the soil, and is working with the Franklin Regional Brownfields Program to develop a remediation strategy.

Nolan-Zeller reported that the large metal structure used for storage by the public works department – sometimes called the “Butler Building” – had been removed from the town hall parking lot, along with a small shed previously attached to the town hall annex.

Repaving the parking lot should

begin next spring, he said, and the temporary boarding of a window at the annex is under study.

“We’re going to have to come up with a long-term plan for that window,” Ramsey warned.

Leaky Old Holes

Nolan-Zeller updated the board on the effort to repair and reline a total of 51 manholes, primarily in Turners Falls with a few in Millers Falls, to reduce water infiltration and inflow into the sewer systems. The I & I, as it is called, increases the water in the sewers, leading to more frequent overflows into the Connecticut River at Turners Falls and to budget overruns in the town’s contract with Erving, where sewage from Millers Falls is sent.

The project, which is being funded by a \$500,000 state Rural and Small Town Development grant, will be put out to bid in November, with bids opened on December 10.

This is Phase 1 of the project, with the second phase primarily involving relining the sewer pipes themselves, according to town administrator Walter Ramsey. Although the town has many more manholes, Ramsey explained, these 51 were identified by the engineering firm Wright-Pierce as being in need of repair in order to satisfy the town’s federal pollution discharge permit.

“A lot of the time these are old manholes – a hundred-plus years old – that haven’t been touched in that period of time,” he marvelled.

The board did not take a vote on the manholes.

Other Business

Ramsey reported that the Fifth Street bridge across the power canal, which had been closed for repairs this month during the extended canal drawdown, has reopened, but now has a weight limit of 17 tons for a two-axle truck – three tons below the “state statute.”

The bridge itself, he noted, is “slated for replacement around 2027 or 2028,” and he added that the Turners Falls and Greenfield fire departments would be able to apply for waivers of the weight limit in the meantime.

The board accepted a \$33,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture toward the purchase of a police cruiser, which is traditionally financed under the police department’s annual budget, and approved a request from the Eversource electric company to install three new poles in the area of 151 Meadow Road in Montague Center in order to “mitigate” long spans and low wires.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held Monday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Ramsey said the board will discuss preliminary revenue projections for next year’s budget, as well as a strategy for maintaining “excess capacity” – i.e. collecting less in taxes than the maximum amount allowed by Proposition 2½.

MONTAGUE REPORTER



Ann Roche of Portland, Maine and her son Jon Roche of Turners Falls read our 1,000th (August 8) issue at Farm 23 in Boothbay Harbor, successor to the former 2nd Street Bakery in Turners. Ann is a mail subscriber, and Jon prefers to buy his off the rack as a treat. Daughter and sister Amy Roche of Westbrook, Maine took this photo in late August.

ON THE ROAD



One edition later and another hundred miles down east: Jude, Hadley, and our August 22 edition, at Acadia National Park.

(MAINE EDITION)



With her back to Mount Abram in Madrid, Maine, Joan Pillsbury of Gill catches up on news from home – in the April 11, 2019 edition, which was apparently still in her car for some reason last month.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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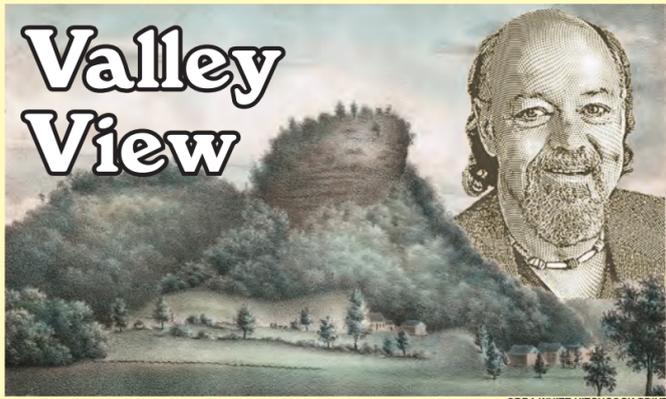
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

OCTOBER 31, 2024

Above: Unity Park, as viewed from Riverside. Thanks to reader Don Plante for the view!

Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

Notes From the Bench

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Seated in a parlor looking out the window on a brilliant fall morning. Gentle southern breeze separating small, bright-red, burning bush leaves from their stems, and guiding them to feathery landings on the lawn and flagstone walk.

The latest *Sun* magazine in hand, sunlight peeking over the eastern treetops to illuminate this shedding, the visual stimulated my imagination, which drifted off to colorful hardwood ridges I used to wander, usually alone with my thoughts and a shotgun. I'd slither through the forest, my senses finetuned to every detected movement, every sound, always alert for the shaggy gray bark of hickories – to me, forest royalty.

Sometimes, I found them. Other times, I suppose, it could be said they found me. That is, of course, for those who can handle the esoteric concept of inanimate finding animate. On a good day in the right place, I can.

I've read about communication between trees and plants. How they help each other fight danger. Maybe they can interact with us, too, if we learn to listen. It helps to be alone, and the possibilities seem to be enhanced by whispering ridge-top winds. At least for me, elevation and isolation seem to matter.

Why my mind jumped to upland hardwoods as I sat in my parlor preparing to read my favorite magazine is another matter altogether. Hard to say why. I guess, placed in the right setting with the proper stimuli, an old man's mind is apt to entertain interesting twists and turns. It just happens from time to time. Seldom, though, do I feel compelled to capture my thoughts in writing. This is one of those days.

Why? Who knows? All about timing, I suppose. When the time is right, it just happens. Spontaneous combustion, perhaps.

Then again, it could be the right-hip problem that came out of nowhere and slowed me down – along with a lingering June rotator-cuff injury – entering the an-

nual pheasant season. Either that, or perhaps the skeletal profile of the huge, naked walnut across the road moved me, its yellow leaves tidily heaped inside the edge of my neighbor's tree line. Possibly nothing more than the glorious fall morning, and inspiring colors on the steep western backdrop ridge screaming *hunting season*.

Soon the sound of distant shotgun blasts will be heard from the bottomland marsh and ridgetop spines. Archers' arrows make no sound. They're silent killers.

I feel no great immediate urge to chase a rambunctious bird dog through dense, thorny marshes. The weather's been far too warm, my hip too tender, for the busting-loose kind of hunting I prefer.

Which isn't to say I don't think about it, despite sunny, 80-degree days. Who wants to navigate punishing swamps in summer-like weather? Not me. Give me gray, frosty, damp and windy, with temps in the 30s and 40s any day of the freakin' week.

So, no, I'm not in a hurry. The best days are ahead. Mud splatters can wait. My hip will ring the opening bell. Hard to admit, but I ain't 35 anymore – I'm more than double that, and must be cautious. Even conservative, if that's possible. When I last pushed it three weeks ago and, trying to walk out the pain and loosen up the joint, the pain arose not in the hip itself, but in my right groin and hamstring. At least, it feels like the hamstring or related soft tissue.

I'm no kinesiologist. For some reason it seems to bother me most in bed, and during the day it's helpful to sit up straight. No recliners. In fact, it may have been caused by slouching down for three days in my favorite recliner, skimming through Matthew Patten's 545-page, 18th-century, Bedford, New Hampshire diary to compile a handwritten fishing index.

Leg discomfort is nothing new to me. For many decades I've battled knee and ankle problems, which don't get better over time. Just the opposite. But this hip stuff is new, and quite unwelcome.

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B6

RECIPES

Tough, Tart, Buoyant – and Good On Meat

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Fresh cranberries are among the few fruits that have only a limited season. Unlike almost all other fruits and berries, which are available in supermarkets year-round, fresh cranberries usually arrive in early October and disappear by mid-December. If you want them for winter, chuck a bag or two in the freezer during fall. Freezing makes other berries mushy but has little effect on cranberries, which emerge pretty much as good as new.

Toughness under stress is only one of the cranberry's special powers. Another is the pocket of air in the middle that allows them to float. Growers take advantage of this by raising them in watery bogs. At harvest the berries are scraped from the stem and left to float until machines come and scoop them up.

Southeastern Massachusetts has the biggest area of bogs in the US, and cranberries – the state berry – are our largest agricultural export.

In the days of sail, cranberries provided the Vitamin C that sailors needed to avoid scurvy. Long before that they were vital to North America's indigenous people, who crushed them with fat and meat to make pemmican. Thanks to yet another special power – a natural supply of benzoic acid, a natural preservative – cranberries preserved the meat and fat for winter food.

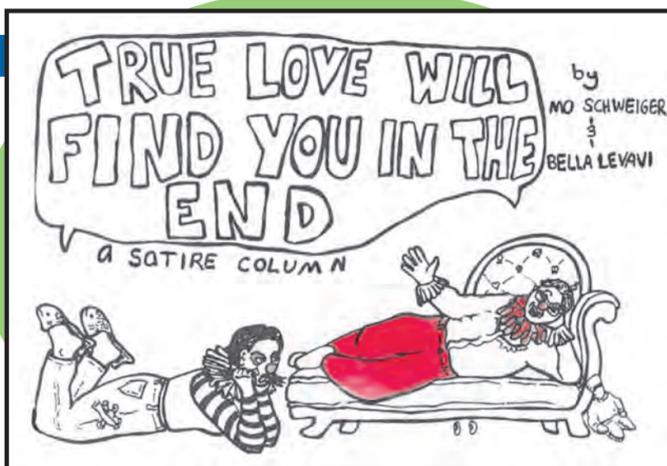
The 17th-century colonists were suitably impressed and exported pemmican to England. They were used to enjoying tart sauces, and quickly took to using cranberries. As the English visitor John Josselyn noted in 1672, "The Indians and the English [colonists]

see **RECIPES** page B8



HOPLEY PHOTO

Cranberries growing in a bog earlier this month in Carver, Massachusetts.



by MO SCHWEIGER & BELLA LEVAVI

Maura Healey Visits Greenfield To Announce Free Bus Service

By MANDY MUDBULL

GREENFIELD – I was one of Governor Maura Healey's bus passengers, and in my opinion, you get what you pay for.

I have to admit, it was my fault. This story all started last week while I was trying to shove a piece of TFOP (Turners Falls House of Pizza) down my gullet while driving down Route 2 on my way to do

a cold plunge in the Millers River when I struck a deer.

My freezer was filled, but my car was totaled. So I have been sentenced to riding the ever-touted, barely-ridden FRTA bus (a.k.a. the FART bus).

What's cool about the whole operation is it's totally free to ride, and also, as recently announced, free to take their door-to-door service in a minibus. (I had used this

one time previously, the morning after a late-night soiree.)

What's less fun is the schedule. Buses usually run during work hours about every two hours, and while the new weekend service is smashing, they seem to cancel it every week, days before I have my weekend dramaturgy practice at the Smith College Dance School.

So I was five minutes late for my bus at the John Olver Station last Thursday when I was told another was about to come.

As I waited, about a hundred of the biggest pencil pushers in the county, wearing their cleanest clothes, all lined up at the bus station next to me. I guess deer vs. car was the trend this week.

Everyone who seemed to actually be waiting for the bus was shoed off the platform and told to wait at the next station over.

They said we could get on the bus, but we just needed to listen to five extremely powerful women – who are all surprisingly short compared to Charlie Baker, who once gave me a broken neck when I attempted to look him in the eye – give speeches

see **TRUE LOVE** page B3

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'MINNOS'

Minnos took up residence on her finder's porch when her family moved away a long time ago. It was convenient, rent-free, and her "porch person" took good care of her. Recently she had kittens, and her finder decided to bring the little family to Dakin.

Minnos is an affectionate, talkative gal who seems to have a little canine DNA in her. She followed her "porch person" around on his daily walk. She can't get enough petting, but isn't a fan of being picked up. She's not into playing that much but will bat a toy or two around. When her finder brought her in the house, he discovered she liked to cuddle

and jump on his lap, looking for pets.

Minnos's kittens are ready to be adopted, and she's looking for a new place to park her paws. A porch would be nice, but a house with a bed and someone to cuddle with would be even better.

Looking for a kitty companion with a dash of canine traits for good measure? Minnos is the girl for you! She has not been a big fan of other cats, but may do well with a very slow introduction.

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.

NOVEMBER LIBRARY LISTINGS

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
 Montague Center (413) 367-2852
 Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
 Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
 Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
 Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455
 Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

MONTAGUE

All month: Grab & Go Bags. Craft: paper bag fall tree. At all branches while supplies last.

Every Saturday: Chess. All ages. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to noon.

Sunday, November 3: Big Read Kickoff. Enjoy Cider Days, pick up a copy of this year's Big Read book. Clarkdale Fruit Farms, 10 to 11 a.m.

Monday, November 4: Let's Sew Slithering Snakes. Ages 5+ with adult. Montague Center, drop in 4 to 6 p.m.

Monday, November 4: Friends of MPL Meeting. Email kristopherlangston@gmail.com. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Imagination Station. Drop-in craft for ages 6 to 12. Carnegie, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: LEGO. Carnegie, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6: Knitting Club. All ages. Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 10: Autumn Orchard Saunter with writer and musician Erica Wheeler. Clarkdale Fruit Farms, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12: Meet and Greet with Montague Villages. Millers Falls, 3 to 4 p.m.

Thursday, November 14: Book Club. Amy Harmon, *What the Wind Knows*. Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 14: Montague Center Oral History Kickoff. Music, refreshments, stories of the village. Common Hall, doors at 6:30 p.m., panel at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20: Artist Reception: Collages by Susan Dorais. Montague Center, 6 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 21: Family Crafts and Story Hour. Ages 3 to 11. Millers Falls, 4 p.m.

Friday, November 22: Meet and Greet with Montague Villages. Montague Center, 10 to 11 a.m.

Saturday, November 23: Make a Fairy House. For children with caregiver. Discovery Center, 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday, November 25: Craft Club. All ages. Montague Center, 4 p.m.

ERVING

Monday, November 4, 18, and 25: Playgroup. For ages 0 to 5. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 7: Friends of the Library. Monthly meeting, open to all. 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 10: Puzzle Swap. All ages, no puzzle

required. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 10: Genealogy Drop-In Help. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 10: Cider and Donuts with artist John Lake. 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 17: Craft Day. Sign up after November 5. 1 p.m.

Thursday, November 21: Book Club. 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 24: Red Cross Hands-Only CPR. Free 30-minute class, all welcome. 11 a.m.

Tuesday, November 26: All-Abilities Social. All are welcome; sign-up required. Two sessions, noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m.

LEVERETT

All month: Art Exhibit. Moonlight Magic by Jeanne Weintraub-Mason.

Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m.; beginners 11 a.m.

Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong. See leverettlibrary.org or email communityqigong@gmail.com for info. 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 5: Exhibit Reception. 5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5: Craft Circle. For adults. 6:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: CNC Playgroup. Ages 0 to 5 with caregiver. 10:30 a.m.

Every Thursday: Mah-jongg. Beginners welcome. 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16: Science Saturday. Ages 4 to 7. 11 a.m.

Saturday, November 16: I Ching Divination. 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19: True Tales from Extraordinary Lives. 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21: LEGO Builders. For ages 5 to 12. 4 p.m.

WENDELL

All month: Art Exhibit. Hooked rugs by Phyllis Lawrence.

Every Friday: LEGO. 4 to 5 p.m.

Every Sunday: Yoga. 10 a.m.

Sunday, November 3: Cookbook Book Club. 4:30 p.m.

Mondays, November 4 and 18: Fiber Group / Mending Circle. 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, November 5 and 19: Cyber Seniors Tech Help. 2 to 5 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Art Group. 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday: CNC Playgroup with Sylvia. 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: Movie. November 6: *Destry Rides Again*; November 13: *Meeek's Cutoff*; November 20: *The Gunfighter*; November 27: *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*. 4 p.m.

Every Wednesday: Yoga. 6 p.m.

Monday, November 25: Film Screening followed by Q&A with the filmmaker. *The Return of Old Growth Forests*. 6:30 p.m.

NORTHFIELD

All month: In-Library Kids' Scavenger Hunt.

Friday, November 1: Coffee/Tea Social. 10 to 11 a.m.

Saturdays, November 2 and 30: Puzzle Pick-Up. For info, email friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting/Crafting. Join fellow knitters, crocheters, and crafters to chat and share projects. 6 to 8 p.m.

Every Wednesday: Storytime: Music and Movement with Robin. For toddlers and preschoolers. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 6: Readers' Choice Book Group. Maggie O'Farrell, *The Marriage Portrait*. Pick up at the library. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 6: Tech Help. Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 7: Spice Club pickup starts. Sample and recipes while supplies last. This month: nutmeg.

Thursday, November 7: Chain Reactions for Kids. Make your own Rube Goldberg machine. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12: Green Burial Massachusetts presentation. 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13: Readings Group. Herman Hesse, *Steppenwolf*. Pick up at the library. 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 14: Trivia Night. Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 14: Environmental Book Group. Steve Nicholls, *Alien Worlds*. Pick up at the library. 6:30 p.m.

Friday, November 15: Take-and-Make Craft. This month: cupcake-liner turkey puppet. While supplies last.

Saturday, November 16: Local History Talk. Peter Weis, the 1934 murder of NMH Headmaster Elliott Speer. 10 a.m.

Thursday, November 21: LEGO. 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27: Poetry Discussion with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH 8

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 11/4

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

Tuesday 11/5
 Closed for voting.

Wednesday 11/6

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent
 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
 10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
 4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 11/7

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
 1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 11/8

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.

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 11/4

9 a.m. Good For U
 10 a.m. Seated Fitness
 1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 11/5

9 a.m. Ask the Nurse
 9 a.m. Stretch & Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing
 11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 11/6

9 a.m. Interval Training
 10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
 12 p.m. Bingo

1 p.m. Veterans' Service

Thursday 11/7

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
 10 a.m. Pilates Flow

12 p.m. Brown Bag

Friday 11/8

9 a.m. Friends Apple Pie Baking

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting, open sew

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ARTIST PROFILE

Sally Prasch's Glass

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I found this cool artist who makes glass-blowing creations on the Sawmill River Arts website and decided to do a profile on her. It took a couple of calls, but I ended up interviewing Sally Prasch.

"I have been doing this since 1970," Prasch said when I asked how long she has been doing her art. She was a part-time apprentice in glass-blowing at the University of Nebraska when she was 13 and in junior high. "I keep in touch with Lloyd Moore, the man who originally trained me," she said.

"A day to a week" is the amount of time she said it takes her to make one piece. Some examples of her art that I like are a glass heart and a tower-shaped piece.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Above: a piece from Sally Prasch's "Neon" series. An opening reception will be held this Sunday, November 3 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Leverett Crafts & Arts for Oh Beautiful Glass, an annual exhibit curated by Prasch showing a diverse group of glass local artists.

She also has been a teacher of glassblowing – her website says her greatest fulfillment comes from teaching. She has taught workshops at some diverse places, including Urban Glass in New York City, where she taught a one-week flame-working workshop, and the famous Nijijima Glass School in Japan where she taught for two weeks.

The diversity I mention doesn't just connect to the places she taught at. It connects to the people that have taught her, who besides Lloyd Moore are named William Bernstein, Ray Schultz, and Lino Tagliapietra. She took workshops with all of these people, and she actually keeps in touch with all of them.

Prasch also does scientific glass blowing – she makes equipment for scientific research. She has a degree in this and fine arts. She also teaches scientific glass blowing at the University of Massachusetts.

As for shows, she does one every year in November at Leverett Crafts and Arts. Another one she held, called *Lights Forms*, was at Fuller Craft Museum outside of Boston.

Prasch started her glass business at home, and she started attending the Glass Art Society Conferences in 1978. She has done demonstrations at these conferences, and she told me she still participates in the Glass Art Society to this day.

On top of her going all over the world because of her art, she gets lots of commissioned work. "I have always done very well," she said. "I make my living from creating glass."

I got the story behind the heart piece I mentioned. She made it at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina. "That is made with a red glass we mix ourselves," she said. "It probably took a couple of hours to make."

I asked her why she does what she does with her art: "I usually try to tell a story with my art," she told me. "It usually comes from life experience."

Sally Prasch's art can be seen at praschglass.com, and she can be contacted through her website.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Argument On Bus; Very Drunk Driver; Empty Can of N₂O; Counterfeit Coins; Failed Attempt to Pass; Mower On Fire

Monday, 10/21

8:17 a.m. Tier 1 hazmat incident at Element Brewing on Bridge Street. TFFD and other departments responding to the scene. Road Closed signs being requested to block off Bridge Street to through traffic. Area safe for travel now.

10:39 a.m. Caller from Wendell Road states that someone hit some items on his property with a vehicle Saturday or Sunday evening and did damage. Plastic car pieces were also left behind. Report taken.

6:28 p.m. Greenfield PD received fourteen 911 hang-up calls; number comes back to a female on/near the General Pierce Bridge. 8 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that a neighbor is stomping and banging, trying to disturb the party below her, but she is causing things to fall off the wall of the caller's apartment. Quiet upon officer's arrival; parties advised of complaint.

Tuesday, 10/22

6:52 a.m. 911 caller states she was involved in an accident that just occurred on Montague City Road. No injuries. Report taken.

9:13 a.m. Caller states that a neighbor keeps dumping his things into a property that the caller manages on L Street. Officer will follow up with neighbor.

9:41 a.m. 911 caller reports that her mother is arguing with a woman who is there to pick up a dumpster from the property. USA Recycling dumpster company on scene. They explained that they will send landscapers to properties that get damaged from the dumpster rentals. Peace restored; caller advised of options.

12:33 p.m. Animal control officer advising he responded to a barking dog/neglect caller on Hillside Road. He was in the area for a while but did not hear any barking. He left a note for the homeowners to contact him.

1:09 p.m. FRTA advising of an active fight on a bus. The bus has pulled over on Millers Falls Road near Lake Pleasant Road. Verbal argument only among three people. One male party left on foot back towards his home. All parties advised of options.

Wednesday, 10/23

6:17 a.m. Caller who resides next to the Montague Post Office states she heard what sounded like arguing inside the building. Caller reports it appeared that people were lying down on the floor and possibly smoking. Officer advises she located three juveniles who were near the post office boxes (not inside). Officer states they advised her that they have been out most of the night and are currently waiting for the bus. Officer states juveniles moved along.

10:56 a.m. 911 caller reports seeing a gold-colored Toyota Corolla hit another vehicle in a parking space on Avenue A, back up, and leave the scene heading over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Employee from Spirit Shoppe in Gill called to report that a male party driving the same vehicle just tried to buy alcohol but she refused because he seemed very impaired.

He left and headed toward Turners Falls. Officer located vehicle that was struck parked as reported, on Avenue A by the Pizza House. See next call.

11:02 a.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop on Unity Street. Vehicle was witnessed striking another car and leaving the scene. A 48-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor over .08%, third offense; marked lanes violation; leaving the scene of property damage; and operating to endanger.

11:58 a.m. ACO advising that he picked up an animal from a trap on Sunderland Road.

1:56 p.m. Gill police chief advising of the potential for stolen items from recent breaking-and-enterings in Gill to be stashed under the Eleventh Street bridge. Area checked; nothing seen under or around bridge area.

5:17 p.m. Caller reports that he is at the skate park with his grandson and found a bottle of nitrous oxide, believed to be full. Would like an officer to pick up the item. Officer pulled to other call while

en route. Large container of nitrous obtained. Empty container. Item has been disposed of.

7:21 p.m. Caller from Federal Street left message reporting that there was a rabid raccoon in her yard that charged at her when she was feeding her horses. Her husband shot it and would like the number to contact the ACO tomorrow morning. Call returned; information provided.

Thursday, 10/24

1:45 a.m. Shelburne Control received fire alarm direct from business on Canal Road; reports FD discovered broken glass and a broken door; appears forced entry was made. Requests PD response. Officer requesting keyholder; message left. Officer responding; DPW contacted and advised. Officer advises FD restored the alarm. Premises were searched as safely as possible. Damaged items were noted inside the building. Officer states he called out to anyone potentially inside the building, announced his presence, and advised that the door was going to be re-secured; nobody responded. DPW secured door and placed boards on window.

10:24 a.m. School resource officer transporting a juvenile male with a warrant from Turners Falls High School to court.

11:27 a.m. Caller from Davis Road states that he had a goose attacked by a pit bull that ran across the brook. When the caller ran towards it, the dog took off. Caller states he has had multiple birds attacked over the past couple of weeks. ACO *en route*. Investigated.

2:48 p.m. Caller from Gary's Coins and Antiques states that someone just sold him counterfeit coins. Caller states he has cameras and got the male's phone number. Officer advises male who brought in the coins is coming back to correct the error and will file a report with his local PD. Caller will follow up if not resolved.

5:16 p.m. Caller requesting officer, stating a male party followed her from Greenfield to the fish ladder parking lot and won't leave her and her friend alone. GPD has report of incident earlier. Caller advised of options going forward.

9:47 p.m. 911 caller from Main Street reports her neighbors just lit a huge bonfire that could easily get out of hand, next to a wooded area. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Caller called back stating that the FD came and put out some of the fire, but not enough; wants them to go back and put the

rest of it out. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

Friday, 10/25

6:50 a.m. 911 call; officer advises of minor motorcycle crash near the Federal Street train bridge. Motorcycle attempted to pass cruiser, which caused the operator to bail off his bike. Requesting medical to scene. Shelburne Control advised. Officer requesting tow. Summons issued.

9:55 a.m. Caller reports that she and her husband own an AirBNB on Federal Street and noticed that four solar lights were taken from the end of the driveway. Advised of options.

12:07 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that her mailbox was stolen. Would like on record in case it happens again in the future.

3:03 p.m. Caller states that there are used needles and a purse left inside the porta-potty that was placed in the Third Street parking lot by a company doing work on a nearby building. Services rendered.

7:54 p.m. Caller struck a deer on Bernardo Drive while driving home. Deer went into the woods. When caller got home, he noticed some damage to his front end. Report taken.

Saturday, 10/26

2:40 a.m. 911 caller states that kids have been drag racing up and down Sunderland Road for about 30 minutes. Unable to locate.

12:17 p.m. 911 caller reported brush fire on Millers Falls Road, then quickly stated "Never mind" and hung up. Shelburne Control advised. 911 caller reporting back that the fire is out of control. Control advised.

1:19 p.m. 911 caller reporting a riding lawn mower on fire near a building and the treeline on Old Sunderland Road. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

6:02 p.m. Caller from Old Northfield Road advises that he observed a bear cub that appeared to be alone and walking funny; suspects it may be injured. Environmental Police advised of call; they advise that as long as the bear cub is mobile, they are going to leave it alone. MPD officer checked area; bear cub gone on arrival.

6:22 p.m. Officer advises that at the end of Old Northfield Road, where the pavement turns into a dirt road near Lake Pleasant, there are multiple potholes greater than 12 inches deep, which could cause damage to vehicles. DPW advised via voicemail.

Monday, 10/28

1:20 a.m. A 41-year-old Greenfield man was arrested and charged with no inspection sticker and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense.

TRUE LOVE from page B1

for about 20 minutes. (These are available to be viewed in full on Greenfield Community Television's YouTube channel.)

We all lined up, boarded, and Governor Healey made the same joke over and over, asking for a fare and then saying "just kidding" before we found our seats.

She posed for the cameras and then gave the same speech to each of the news cameras fighting for the best angle.

She then drove us three feet forward. This was not even far enough to get to Poet's Seat Tower, where I was planning on adding my regular tag to the ancient structure. And it really doesn't help with the negative stereotype around lesbians and driving.

Healey then got off the bus and spoke with the real bus driver. "Now tell me, why is it so hard for us to find FART drivers?" she asked him.

"Well, ma'am, it's the wages," he responded shyly. "It's a bit ridiculous to have a CDL license and make \$21 an hour."

She winced and responded, "We'll work on that."



"This is a huge priority for our administration," Healey said at last Thursday's press conference. "It's a modern transportation infrastructure that supports our economy. It's good for the environment, and helps us reach our climate goals. It connects folks to school, to jobs, to groceries, to doctor's appointments -- to everything they need to do. To have the full positive impact we want it to have, transit has to be equitable. Everybody needs to be able to use it. And it has to provide good service as well -- service that people can actually depend on, count on. That means students, families, seniors with lower incomes, people with disabilities, residents who aren't connected to urban centers. I grew up in a rural community of 1,700 people -- you need to make sure that transit is actually connecting to people all across the state. We're an administration with a huge focus on geographic regional equity, including recognition for our rural communities. I'm proud to be the first governor to ever appoint a Director of Rural Affairs... Regional transit authorities [are] a lifeline. They're so, so critically important to our state. And I'm just so proud to be able to make this investment in fare-free regional transit."

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

A 'Golden' Opportunity to Learn About Urine Recycling

MARLBORO, VT – Urine, rich in essential plant nutrients, can be reclaimed as a sustainable fertilizer while preventing pollution in watersheds. This process, "peecycling," is a strategy for both nutrient management and sustainable sanitation.

The Rich Earth Summit is a global event dedicated to advancing urine reclamation. The 2024 Summit marks the 10th annual gathering organized by Rich Earth Institute.

The Summit brings together over 250 researchers, practitioners, and advocates from countries around the world to share knowledge, showcase innovative projects, and foster new collaborations. The 2024 Summit will be a hybrid event, in person in Marlboro, Vermont and via Zoom. The format enables presenters to join from around the world, includ-

ing France, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, and more.

The in-person component hosted in Marlboro will feature a mobile urine recycling unit created by the Burlington-based company Wasted and an open house on November 13 at the Research Center of the Rich Earth Institute and their spin-off company, Brightwater Tools.

The Summit includes sessions for those new to the topic as well as advanced presentations on research and practical implementation. The Rich Earth team will present their *Farmer Guide to Using Urine Fertilizer*, informed by their partnership research, including collaborations with Yellowbud Farm in Northfield fertilizing nut tree seedlings.

An interactive session will focus on co-designed principles for equi-

ty in reclamation and strategies for scaling diversion systems, while breakout sessions will enable attendees to connect further.

Sarah Nahar, M.Div., Syracuse University, will present the Keynote: "To Have Excretory Justice, We Have to Deal With Our Crap." Additional topics will include climate-resilient systems and sanitation justice; applications in agriculture; navigating policy pathways; knowledge sharing and collective action; and virtual tours of recycling facilities.

Registration is now open; tickets are sold on a pay-what-you-can basis to ensure the Summit is accessible to all. The open house on Wednesday, November 13 is free and open to the public. For more information and to register, visit www.richearthsommit.org.

FACES & PLACES



ANNE JEMAS PHOTO

Turners Falls reader Anne Jemas spotted these cats on Avenue A earlier this month.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY – Readers, apologies for my summer-long hiatus! I have been busy writing a book for student/learning mental health clinicians titled *Sexual Health: Foundations, Treatment, and Resources* (Springer, 2025). It includes many of the columns I have written here as easy reference articles for curious clients.

Thanks to gathering material for the book, I recently read two interesting books I'd like to discuss further this month.

Peggy Kleinplatz and A. Dana Ménard have spent decades researching the components of good, great, and magnificent sex. In their seminal work, *Magnificent Sex: Lessons from Extraordinary Lovers* (2020), they interviewed 75 individuals who self-identified as having experienced "great, remarkable, wonderful, and memorable sex," asking in-depth questions in order to discover the commonalities within the reports and descriptions. They also interviewed 20 sex therapists on their perspectives on what extraordinary sex is.

From these qualitative interviews, Kleinplatz and Ménard identified eight common components of magnificent sex, which I briefly wrote about in September 2022. Here is expanded information on those eight components:

1. *Complete mindfulness*, i.e. "being completely present in the moment, embodied, focused, and absorbed." They noted that this quality was often the first and most prominent aspect mentioned in the interviews. Some also described it similarly to a state of "flow." If we consider the idea of sexual brakes and accelerators, then this would also correspond with all brakes being off – no awareness of laundry on the floor or emails waiting in the inbox; just being fully present and absorbed in the sexual activity.

2. A fully "in sync" connection / merger / alignment, often described by respondents as "electricity, energy, and/or conductivity" between partners.

3. "Deep sexual and erotic intimacy... characterized by deep feelings of mutual respect and trust for their partners," with no mention of any particular sexual activity.

4. "Extraordinary communication and deep empathy," including ease, openness, and receptivity with verbal communication, non-verbal communication, and a focus on kissing as a communication method. This aspect is in glaring contrast to many erotophobic messages humans receive in development that they should not openly discuss sexual interest and pleasure, not ask for needs and boundaries, and simply "tolerate" unpleasant interactions.

5. "Genuine, authentic, transparent," and uninhibited, i.e. unselfconsciously sharing one's deepest fantasies, fears, and wishes.

6. "Vulnerability and surrender," i.e. "letting go... being swept away, going with the flow," and even experiencing a "loss of conscious thought."

7. *Exploration, safe risk taking, and fun*, i.e. playing, pushing and expanding boundaries, incorporating fun, humor, and lightness, experimenting, and being comfortable with making mistakes and recovering from them – in opposition to a focus on technique.

8. "Transcendence and transformation," i.e. a "combination of heightened states – mental, emotional, physical, relational, and spiritual."

These eight qualities starkly contrast the ubiquitous negative erotophobic messaging we receive – or the lack of any kind of messaging, whether negative, neutral, or positive. In fact, the majority of the respondents mentioned having to unlearn societal expectations and stereotypes around sex. Most did not include intercourse as a mandatory sexual action, instead mentioning things like deep kissing, erotic touching, ongoing communication, and curious exploration as central to their experiences of magnificent sex.

A second book I read recently was *Women, Sex, Power & Pleasure* by local Hilltown writer, midwife, and sex counselor Evelyn

Resh. This book was written in 2013, before Emily Nagoski popularized the metaphors of sexual "brakes" and "accelerators," and before most sex writers adopted the habit of writing to include genders beyond the female/male binary. (This book is geared towards cisgender women.)

As I read this book, I mentally added in the language of brakes and accelerators, and generalized some of her observations to people of any gender.

Resh's book is a bit of a stream of conscious flow, divided into these chapters on why sex ends up being last on cisgender women's lists: "I'm too busy" (exploring probable sexual brakes); "I'm too fat" (focusing on self-acceptance, and understanding that romantic partners love their partners as they are); "I can't right now"; "Menopause is killing me" (more probable sexual brakes); and "It's all he thinks about" (tackling this stereotype).

She begins the book with an overview of markers of emotional well-being, stating that the six critical markers she looks for in herself and patients are "self-confidence and self-esteem, health-seeking behaviors, spiritual satisfaction, creativity, resilience, and compassion."

Resh then goes on to point out that the lack of pleasure in women's lives is often correlated with overall dissatisfaction and unhappiness. In her introduction she names her thesis: although countless books and articles discuss how to increase happiness, very few actually mention the importance of "pleasure, sensuality, and sexuality" within this context as essential ingredients.

Resh herself discusses her own solution for dealing with times when her sexual energy is non-existent: a return to her belief that "pleasure begets pleasure," and that "in order to increase [her] pleasure quotient, [she] needs to feel powerful." For her, the equation to regain sexual interest and energy is "emotional wellness equals powerful living equals increased interest and access to all pleasures, including sex." If she is not feeling emotionally sturdy, then she works on increasing that sturdiness and well-being.

Resh notes that for the women who state

that they could care less if they ever have sex again – despite deeply loving their partners, and feeling attraction to them – she surmises the low energy is often related to trouble with one or more of the six markers of emotional well-being. In other words, one or many sexual brakes has likely been engaged for some time, to the exclusion of being in touch with sexual accelerators.

I really appreciate how Resh defines spiritual satisfaction: a combination of "optimism and faith," not contingent on any specific religious dogma. I laughed often at her witty writing, as well, especially when she discussed the damage of helicopter parenting on everyone's well-being, and how it directly assaults parents' prioritizing their own sex life.

Her chapter on body image has many helpful suggestions on how to reframe negative thinking, and her chapter on menopause includes this lovely gem: "when hormones decline (which all do) a conscious hedonism – a genuine willingness to try new things and a good sense of humor – should take their place and is more than capable of compensating for changes in biology."

Resh also describes something she coined, *sensual atrophy syndrome* (SAS), a marked estrangement from life's pleasures. This also ties into Emily Nagoski's discussion of Kate Manne's *human giver syndrome* in her 2019 book on burnout: a system in which one caste of people ("givers") are expected to offer their time, attention, affection, and bodies willingly to another class of people (the "human beings").

I encourage everyone to read Kleinplatz and Ménard, Resh, and Nagoski's books so that we all can more easily reclaim life's sensual pleasures – and give a little loving hedonism to ourselves.

Stephanie Baird is a certified OWL facilitator and an EMDR psychotherapist and consultant who encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She is the author of the book *EMDR Therapy and Sexual Health: A Clinician's Guide* (2023). She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE



FINDINGS

Key Protein Structures Exhibit 'Spooky' Behavior

By SPENCER SHORKEY*

MILLERS FALLS – While classical physics deals with the interactions between definite particles, quantum mechanics deals with the reality that particles, such as electrons or photons, at times also exist as a combination of many potential states at once, known as a *superposition*.

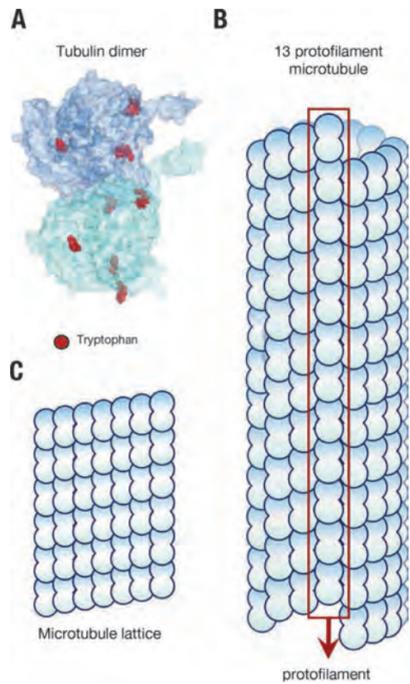
This superposition can be mathematically expressed as a probabilistic function of many possible waves, or a *wavefunction*. When a wavefunction is “quantized” – when it is measured by a device or observer – it collapses into definite positions and momentums. The concept that the observed and defined particles with which we interact coexist alongside non-deterministic wavefunctions of broader possibilities may lead to some interesting ideas, if one thinks about it too much.

Quantum entanglement, famously dubbed by Einstein as “spooky action at a distance,” occurs when two or more particles are described by a single wavefunction, creating a shared quantum state that links them instantaneously regardless of the distance between them. When this wavefunction collapses due to measurement, the properties of each particle become defined in ways that maintain the interdependent relationships established by the quantum entangled state.

The collapse appears to transmit information about each particle’s state instantaneously, though no known physical signal travels between them. This challenges classical concepts of locality and causality.

Some smart people believe that the brain functions as a quantum computer, and theorize that consciousness arises from such embodied non-deterministic processes which probabilistic wavefunctions can produce. Some other smart people believe that the brain exists as a deterministic “classical” computer, and that consciousness and free will are an illusion; cause and effect, they say, produce our actions based on the physical laws.

Intriguingly, studies of key cellular protein structures known as *microtubules* show evidence of quantum effects having a meaningful impact on a protein’s behavior. Each micro-



Microtubules formed from a lattice of tubulin. A: The tubulin dimer, with tryptophan residues marked in red; the C-termini “tails” can be seen protruding from each monomer. B: The structure of a microtubule, showing constituent arrangement of tubulin dimers and the presence of a “seam.” C: The repeating “lattice” of tubulin dimers in a microtubule. (Source: Kalra et al., “Electronic Energy Migration in Microtubules,” ACS Central Science Journal, January 2023)

tubule is a circular lattice of subunits, which form long, crystalline protein tube structures that extend across cells. They physically stabilize the cell’s shape while providing a road-like network for molecular transporters to transit the cell in an organized manner.

Each protein subunit is made of a few hundred amino acids, several of which are the uniquely electron-rich amino acid tryptophan, which is known to absorb and emit some wavelengths of light.

A recent study of interactions between microtubules and UV light, “Ultraviolet Superradiance from Mega-Networks of Tryptophan in Biological Architectures,” showed that when the light is absorbed and emitted by collective entangled networks of tryptophan electrons rather than individual tryptophan amino acids, “superradiant” phenomena occur. *Superradiance* is a quantum phenomenon in which quantum entangled particles release energy in a collective burst.

These results leave open the possibility that quantum behaviors of these key cellular components could have biological effects. The authors suggest a possible function for superradiance: UV light produced as a result of chemical reactions of metabolism are absorbed by microtubules. The authors further suggest that “photons from brain metabolic activity could be absorbed rapidly via superradiant states for ultrafast information transfer.”

The orchestrated objective reduction the-



In this neuron-like cell, mitochondria are stained red, nuclear DNA is stained blue, and microtubules are stained green.

FRONTIERS

Measuring ‘Sixth Senses,’ and More

By SPENCER SHORKEY**

MILLERS FALLS – The idea of a “sixth sense” and other extrasensory perceptions (ESP) and intuitions are entangled in many cultures and spiritual practices worldwide. Although a large variety of such phenomena have been credibly reported, the sporadic and highly personal nature of these experiences often makes it relatively challenging to apply scientific methods to these reports with the typical rigor.

Even so, there are a growing number of scientifically rigorous studies detailing ESP.

Many people report a subjective feeling that they can tell when someone is staring at them, even without seeing the person. English biologist Rupert Sheldrake has conducted numerous experiments and published results suggesting that people can detect when they are being stared at to some degree. Sheldrake’s studies typically involve volunteers attempting to detect whether or not someone behind them is staring at them, with random and equal intervals of staring and non-staring conditions.

Sheldrake reported success rates that were statistically significantly higher than chance in several studies in the 1990s. A key study in 1999, “The sense of being stared at confirmed by simple experiments,” published in *Biology Forum*, found that over 13,900 trials, participants correctly assessed that they were being stared at 60% of the time during the staring intervals.

Although many skeptics voiced their opposition to Sheldrake’s results, it’s worth noting that even skeptical researchers have successfully replicated the 60% correct result, with statistical significance, such as in the 2000 paper “The ability to detect unseen staring: A literature review and empirical tests” published in the *British Journal of Psychology*.

Many people also report the experience of thinking of a loved one immediately before receiving a text or phone call from them. Developing research protocols to measure this experience, dubbed “telephone telepathy,” has been another focus of Sheldrake’s research in more recent years. A 2015 study published in *Explore*, “Automated Tests for Telephone Telepathy Using Mobile Phones,” found that when one of three possible callers was randomly selected to call a recipient, the recipient was able to guess the callers identity 41.8% of the time, significantly greater than the chance expectation of 33.3%, over 2,080 trials.

In one interview, Sheldrake gave this inter-

pretation of the observed phenomena: “What I’m suggesting is that our minds work through extended fields that stretch out far beyond our heads into the world around us, linking us to other people, and to our environment.”

One of Sheldrake’s other interesting assertions includes the concept that our sun has conscious properties. Could a dynamic celestial object which is a million-trillion-trillion times the size of a human brain possibly embody conscious aspects? I’ll leave that question to the reader’s intuition to decide.

Another well-studied form of ESP is the “remote-viewing” phenomenon. The term was first used during studies at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) by researchers Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff in the early 1970s. They were conducting experiments on psychic phenomena, specifically focusing on whether individuals could describe or “view” distant or unseen locations using mental faculties alone.

SRI was a government contractor involved with intelligence gathering, most famously with the “Stargate” program conducted between 1978 to 1995. Some files from the program are now declassified, thanks to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests acted on during a spurt of transparency during the Clinton presidency.

During a remote viewing session, viewers typically enter a meditation-like state and attempt to gather information about a distant or unseen target using only their mind, without relying on any known senses. The process typically involves describing or sketching details of objects, locations, or events.

Success rates were found to be relatively high for skilled viewers. However, even the most skilled viewers experienced some amount of failure.

Remote Viewer #1, Joe McMoneagle, openly describes many of his experiences with remote viewing in interviews, including one key session where he accurately described a new secret Soviet submarine which was under construction at the time.

Puthoff acknowledged the mixed outcomes of remote-viewing experiments, referring to the results as a blend of “brilliant successes” and “many total failures.” He is transparent about the difficulties of conducting such studies, stating: “The integrated results appear to provide unequivocal evidence of a human capacity to access events remote in space and time, however falteringly, by some cognitive process not yet understood.”

** 90% by Spencer Shorkey, 10% by ChatGPT.

ory (Orch OR), pioneered by Stuart Hameroff and Nobel laureate Roger Penrose, speculates that the structural properties of microtubules enable them to act as quantum information processors. This theory asserts that microtubules are not merely structural but also computational, with quantum states within them collapsing to create moments of proto-consciousness.

There are many skeptics of Orch OR, as with any theory of consciousness. Criticisms include the lack of direct evidence linking

microtubule quantum behavior to consciousness, and the inherent difficulty of maintaining quantum coherence at biological temperatures.

However, these findings about microtubule superradiance are significant in that quantum coherent states were maintained for seconds or longer, demonstrating that even in the brain’s warm and noisy environment, microtubules may provide a stable substrate for quantum processing.

* 75% by Spencer Shorkey, 25% by ChatGPT.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Most troubling, its origin is foggy at best. No fall or traumatic injury. Not even a disturbing little click or clunk during my brisk, now temporarily discontinued, morning walks. Must be wear and tear over more than half a century of stubborn abuse. Penance for my sins? Could be. I guess old Northwoodsmen who scrape their spruce gum off tree bark would call it "chickens coming home to roost."

My wife goes by the book. She suggested a doctor's opinion. A visitor with a history of hip problems suggested a physical therapist. I'm gonna try to ride it out and hope it comes around with rest. I'm not anxious to join the ballooning artificial hip and knee fraternity.

Still fresh in my memory is the advice of a respected Yale-Harvard internist and friend I long ago taught to pheasant hunt. When I told him an orthopedic surgeon told me I was a candidate for left-knee replacement at age 36, he looked me square in the eye, cracked a wry grin, and cautioned that office visits don't buy surgeons' vacation homes, or sailboats. I got it. He knew the game.

That dear friend died young and

never toured deer country with me. So, I never introduced him to the hickories I know and love – or, one may even say, worship. In fact, there are few people with whom I've shared the special hickory groves I've discovered and revisited in woodland solitude.

Perhaps it's precisely that peaceful seclusion I've shared with hickories, and associated outcroppings of ledge, that forged our sacred relationship.

To me, shagbark hickory groves represent something wild and special. For whatever reason, they spin my wheels and lift me to a special place I love to visit. It doesn't matter whether I'm experiencing forest encounters, hearing breeze-blown nuts rattling down through hard hickory branches, or cooped up in my parlor, freeing my imagination to pirouette off to the high, lonesome ridges.

That's where I stand today. Pondering my next move. Wondering when my battered legs will refuse to take me to the forests where shagbarks thrive.

Today, my legs weren't necessary. Those red, backlit, wafting, airborne burning-bush leaves carried me there.



MR Wrapping Paper Edition • Artist Profile #4

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.

Vu Nguyen is featured this week. Nguyen's design will make every box look like a cubic watermelon!

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

VN: While we all have our own version of summer, every one of us knows what it feels like to swelter and melt away on a hot summer day. And when someone – anyone – offers us a slice of that red, juicy watermelon, everything feels right with our body the moment we gulp it down.

That's the feeling I want to evoke when someone is gifted with the watermelon paper wrap – refreshing, heartwarming, and thirst-quenching.

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

VN: We want to challenge people's perceptions by wrapping items with irregular shapes with the melon wrap. Hopefully, we all could make a game out of this and the holiday season would be filled with watermelon-wrapped bonsai trees, ukuleles, or other quirky fruits. The madder the better. Let's turn this



SUBMITTED PHOTO

season into a guessing game of epic proportions!

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

VN: Over the years, I have received quite a few origami gifts made from newspapers – cranes, leaping frogs, a paper fortune teller. Also, I have got a few books wrapped up in newspapers as well. Something about the newspaper material or context always makes the gifts feel more personal.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



ROB MACHADO ILLUSTRATION



Carolyn Clark

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Pierce's Hall, Putney: *Buoyant Heart 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, beets-blog, 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, Eric Hnato, 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.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Belltone Suicide, Body of Research, Enya for Nancy*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Plan B Burger Bar, Springfield: *Oolong, Perennial, Tilted, *Secret Set*, Target Scammers, Minus Points, Posthumous Obsession, Radical Joy*. \$ 5 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: Halloween Party feat. *Carol Devine & The Mighty Fine*. \$ 6 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Weeping Bong Band*, Beverly Ketch book release. No cover. 6 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ellen 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, Belcher-town: *The Spookfish, Impure Luck, Reaches, NxCx*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. No cover. 8 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, Belcher-town: *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.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*. \$ 6:30 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.

BUI Skatepark, Brattleboro: *Torture, Splitknuckle, Blood Tithe, Fatal Realm, Split In Half, Void Bringer*. \$ 7 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Arun*

Ramamurthy Trio. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Mal Blum, John-Allison Weiss*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Gaslight Tinkers, Moon Shells*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A.P.I.E., Fast Cheetah, Whistlin' Moon Travelers*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Love Child, Lupo Citta, Phroegs*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Adrienne Lenker, Suzanne Vallie*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Odie Leigh, Charlotte Rose Benjamin*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Saliba, Two Wrong Turns, Clancy Conlin & Wallball*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst: *Angélique Kidjo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Marshall Crenshaw, James Mastro*. \$ 8 p.m.

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Looky Here's 3rd Annual Gala*. \$ 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

Palladium, Worcester: *Disco Biscuits*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Matt Swanton Band, Barrett Anderson*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Claudia Schmidt*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *JP Harris, DiTrani Brothers*. \$ 7 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Rani Arbo*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Scissorfight, theWorst, Bent*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

looking forward...

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *413Ska Sunday Matinee* feat. *Mephiskapheles, Sgt. Scagnetti, Mega Infinity, Pink Slip*. \$ 3 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *GCC Music Department Concert*. Free. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dalton and the Sheriffs, Zac Brown / Zach Bryan tribute*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Wildcat O'Halloran*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *TEKE::TEKE*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Abandoned Building Brewery, Easthampton: *All Feels, True Jackie*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kath Bloom & David Shapiro, Spectre Folk, J. Burkett, Anna-Claire Simpson*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Jalbatross*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Frank Black*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Mr. Sun Plays Ellington's Nutcracker*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College: *Juilliard String Quartet* plays *Schubert, Mozart*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Creation Station, Easthampton: *La Banda Chuska, Tipa Tipa*. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Son Little, Tonina*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*. \$ 2 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Laraaji*, sound bath. \$ 7 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. Opening reception for a new hallway exhibit, *Deep Roots: A History of Agriculture in the Connecticut River*, Saturday, November 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Susan Dorais*, collages combining natural and architectural elements to create fantastical sights. November 1 through January 3. Reception Wednesday, November 20 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Oh Beautiful Glass*, annual glass exhibit curated by Sally Prasch, showing a variety of styles from a diverse group of local artists. Opening reception this Sunday, November 3 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: *limn*inal*, 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, through December. *Community Art Exhibit*, opening reception this Saturday, November 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *When You Are Here*, paintings by Clare Churchill Seder. Through Friday, December 6, with a closing reception from 5 to 8 p.m. that night.

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.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Food for Thought*, group exhibit by member artists. Visitors are invited to bring nonperishable food donations 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: *Wool and Glass*, wool tapestries and blown glass work by coop member Peter Bott, through November 25. Reception next Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *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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RECIPES from page B1

use them much boiling them with Sugar for Sauce to eat with their meat; and it is a delicate Sauce, especially for roasted Mutton.”

We still pair cranberry sauce with meat in the classic Thanksgiving partnership with turkey, but we mostly eat them in baked goods. Cranberry muffins, breads, and pies are lovely treats, but it's worth reflecting on the long-established partnership of cranberries and meat, because it suggests other ways to use them.

In meatloaf, for example. *Our Cherished Family Recipes*, a recipe collection gathered by the Leverett Congregational Church in 1983, has a cranberry-topped meatloaf. In the version of this recipe below, the meatloaf has a spectacular crimson top and a tangy taste to match.

The Cranberry Pilaf recipe is

also vivid: a sunshine-yellow dish of rice polka-dotted with crimson cranberries and emerald peas.

Compared to such colorful dishes Cheddar-Cranberry Scones look positively sedate, but they are compulsive eating. Warm them to eat with butter for breakfast, or sandwich them with ham, turkey, or cheese for lunch.

While the season's fresh cranberries are culinary stars, we have good alternatives when they have disappeared. Dried cranberries are tangy stand-ins for raisins and replace fresh berries in the pilaf recipe below.

If you haven't time to make the topping for the meatloaf, canned cranberry sauce is a good alternative. And if you need a runny sauce to serve with it, use some canned jellied cranberry sauce, thinning it with water to the consistency you'd like.



CRANBERRY-TOPPED MEATLOAF

Serve with a mixture of favorite vegetables and any leftover topping.

For the cranberry top:

- 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 3/4 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/2 tsp. ginger

Put all the ingredients in a pan with half a cup of water. Bring to simmering point and cook, stirring often until the berries pop and the mixture thickens.

For the meatloaf:

- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 3/4 cup cranberry topping, or whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1 1/4 lb. ground beef
- salt to taste
- 2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 cup green or red pepper, in quarter-inch pieces
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup uncooked oatmeal
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups tomato juice
- 1 Tbsp. oil

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Thoroughly grease a 9"-by-5" loaf pan and line with parchment paper. Sprinkle the brown sugar over the bottom, then spread with the topping or cranberry sauce.

Crumble the ground beef into a large bowl. Season to taste with salt, and sprinkle in the thyme and oregano. Mix well, ideally by hand, to distribute the herbs. Stir in the chopped pepper and onion, and then the oatmeal. Add the egg and juice and mix again.

Spoon into the pan, packing it firmly down. Smooth the top. Using a pastry brush, paint the top with the oil. Bake for about 35 minutes.

If you have a meat thermometer, test the temperature. It is done at 155 degrees. When it's ready, the top of the meatloaf will feel firm, not spongy.

Let it rest under a kitchen towel for a few minutes. Now place a warmed serving plate on top of the meatloaf pan and, protecting your



hands against the heat, hold the pan and plate firmly together and invert them so the meatloaf falls onto the plate, cranberry-side-up.

Serves 6, with potatoes and vegetables.

CRANBERRY AND CHEDDAR SCONES

Cranberries add zing to these savory scones.

- 1 1/4 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 Tbsp. confectioner's sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 cups (about 7 oz.) grated sharp Cheddar
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan
- dash of cayenne pepper
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- about 1/2 cup milk



Mix the cranberries and confectioner's sugar in a plastic bag or small bowl. Using a can of food, bash them together to break the cranberries without totally crushing them. Let stand for 20 minutes until they look juicy.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or grease it. Turn the oven to 400 degrees. Mix the flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt in a large bowl.

Reserve 2 Tbsp. of the grated Cheddar. Stir the rest into the mixture along with the Parmesan and the dash of cayenne. Make a well in the center and add the egg, yogurt, and a couple of tablespoons of milk. Quickly mix to make a stiff, dough-like biscuit or cookie dough, adding a little more milk if need-

ed. Fold in the cranberries.

Dust a little flour onto a board. Tip the dough on it, divide it into 10 portions, and roughly shape them into circles. Place them on the prepared baking sheet. Brush lightly with milk and sprinkle a little of the reserved grated cheese on top.

Reduce the oven to 375 degrees and put in the scones. Bake for 18 to 22 minutes. They're done when a skewer poked inside comes out clean.

CRANBERRY PILAF WITH PEAS AND NUTS

This is terrific with shrimp or fried fish filets and also with sausages or sautéed vegetables. Leftovers reheat well in a microwave.

- 1 1/2 cups basmati rice
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. chopped onion
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 to 3 tsp. turmeric
- 2 cardamom pods, crushed (optional)
- 1 bay leaf
- 3/4 cup frozen peas, defrosted
- 3 Tbsp. sliced almonds or chopped walnuts

Put the rice in a bowl and cover it with cold water. Leave it for 5 minutes, swish your fingers through it, then drain off the cloudy water through a sieve and rinse. Return it to the bowl and let soak for another 15 minutes or longer before cooking.

Put the dried cranberries in a separate bowl and cover them with water until needed.

Heat the oil over moderate heat, put in the chopped onion, and fry gently until softened.

Add the butter, and when it melts stir in 2 tsp. of turmeric for 20 seconds. Drain and add the rice and stir to coat it with the buttery mixture.

HOPLEY PHOTOS



Pour in three cups of cold water, and add the salt, the bay leaf, and the crushed cardamom pods if you are using them. Boil briskly until most of the water has evaporated and holes appear in the surface – about 12 to 15 minutes. If during this time the rice is paler than you'd like, stir in another teaspoon of turmeric.

Drain the cranberries. Reserve a tablespoonful, and stir the rest into the rice, along with the peas. Cover the pan with a tight lid and set in a warm place at the back of the stove or on the turned-off burner for 10 minutes.

For serving, fluff the pilaf with a fork and spread it on a shallow dish. Put the almonds and reserved cranberries on top. Fork them in a little, but don't mix.

Serves 4 or 5.

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