The Montague Reporter

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MILLERS FALLS

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Turners Falls Fire Chief Sets Date for Retirement



TFFD chief Todd Brunelle.

By MIKE JACKSON

The Turners Falls fire department posted an opening on Friday for the fire chief position, with applications due October 2. Chief Todd Brunelle, who has served on the department since 1997 and became chief in the fall of 2022, told the Reporter that he had notified the fire district prudential committee of his intent to retire next April.

At the prudential committee's August 25 meeting, agenda topics included an executive session and "Chief Hiring Process."

Montague Center fire chief Dave Hansen retired this summer and was replaced by Luke Hartnett, who will

see CHIEF page A3

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Insurance **Giant Urged** To Provide Claims Data

By KATIE NOLAN

At Monday's joint meeting between the Erving selectboard and finance committee, treasurer Jennifer Watroba estimated that the town would pay \$270,000 more for employee health insurance this year after a 20% increase in Hampshire Group Insurance Trust premiums. The increase will take effect October 1. Employees will also pay 20% more for their share of insurance premiums.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said the town should look at other options for health insurance, including the state Group Insurance Commission. However, potential providers would want information on the number and types of the town's subscribers and its claims history.

"We need data to shop other providers," he explained, but Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which provides the insurance through the Hampshire Trust, says it will not provide subscriber data to employers with fewer than 100 employees. According to Jacob Smith, there are over 70 towns using the Hampshire Trust, and 60% to 70% would not

see **ERVING** page A6

Bill on Beacon Hill Would **Repay SNAP Theft Victims**

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY Though many of the 221 local recipients who reported falling victim in May to an extraordinary wave of theft from their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) accounts were dismayed to learn that funding to restore stolen food benefits no longer existed, their balances

LAKE PLEASANT

may one day be reimbursed. Though a bill to restore Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to victims of identity fraud, H.254, did not pass during the summer session, it was referred last Friday to a hearing of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabili-

ties scheduled for September 16.

The bill, introduced by representative Sally Kerans of Danvers, would "promptly replace the full amount of financial assistance or nutrition benefits stolen through electronic benefit transfer card skimming, card cloning or other fraudulent methods" for as long as the federal government fails to provide such funding.

A 2022 federal provision to reimburse SNAP theft victims lapsed last December, and efforts to restore it have been unable to find traction in the current session of Congress.

Because EBT systems are administered by the states, there is also no organized federal effort to roll out fraud prevention technology

see THEFT page A2

Local Film Explores Impacts Of Climate Change on Farms

By BEN GAGNON

GREENFIELD

The debut screening of a 31-minute documentary exploring the climatic and financial challenges facing farmers in Franklin County inspired a long ovation from more than 75 people crammed into

the Community Meeting Room at the Greenfield Public Library Mon-

Rising River's Edge features interviews of local farmers from Clark Brothers Orchards in Ashfield, Red Fire Farm in Montague and Granby, and Just Roots/Greenfield Commu-



The 2023 floods, shown above at Just Roots' Greenfield Community Farm, provided an entry point for the filmmakers to discuss climate change with farmers.

of extreme weather events in 2023 and the precarious financial position of family farms.

"The climate is going more and more haywire, and becoming more and more unpredictable," observed Red Fire Farm owner Ryan Voiland.

Voiland recalled 2023 starting with a warm winter followed by a frost in late May that damaged young plants. In June and July, extreme dry periods alternated with exceptionally heavy rains and flooding. "We had a \$450,000 loss," he said, "in terms of what we planted and what would have been

The documentary showed footage of local flooding in June and July 2023 as Fran Kleinsteiber, farm manager at Just Roots, recalled fields being inundated with up to two feet of water when creeks overflowed.

Clark Brothers Orchards in Ashfield dates back to 1886 and is now run by the fifth generation of the Clark family. Part owner Dana Clark explained that while some

see FILM page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Double-Special Fall in Store For Town Meeting Members

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague's representative town meeting is headed for an unusual two meetings this fall. On Monday the selectboard scheduled the usual fall "special," which may contain a formidable list of articles, for October 22 and discussed a November meeting to vote on whether to replace the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley school districts with a single district.

This could be a challenging introduction to town governance for the

large number of new meeting members. Town meeting consists of 126 members, divided into six precincts, with 42 seats coming up for reelection each year; this spring, 24 members were elected for the first time.

The board also read a lengthy plan for town capital improvements over the next six years, authorized a nearly \$50,000 contract with an engineering firm to investigate the proposed site of a new library in Turners Falls, and discussed the water main

see MONTAGUE page A4

FAIR CREATURES



Photo beat guy Joe R. Parzych went to the Franklin County Fair on Saturday morning, before the rain. "I had an awesome time with my sister," he reported. "I saw a baby alligator and had apple fritters.... There was entertainment of all kinds, and arts and crafts displays. Everything was fun and the turnout was great."

Above: Future farmer Oakley of Kelley Farm in Shelburne gets ready for the youth show with his Brown Swiss cow Hadley.

Below: A fairgoer holds a baby American alligator from Rhonda's Reptiles, a rescue in New Lebanon, New York. 'There were rumors circulating of a baby alligator roaming around the fair," Joe writes. "That's unusual to see in Greenfield."



LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Head Fire Job Proving Difficult to Fill in Leverett

By GEORGE BRACE

At its meeting on Tuesday, Leverett's selectboard discussed next steps for finding a new fire chief after a candidate declined the position. The board also met with Council on Aging members to assist in developing a plan for providing help to isolated seniors.

Deputy fire chief Amy Rice, serving as interim chief, said that a day earlier she, selectboard chair Patricia Duffy, and town adminis-

trator Marjorie McGinnis had discussed how to continue the search after the sole finalist declined the offer, requesting a higher salary.

Rice said the group had come up with four options: interviewing a second of the three candidates who had made it through a screening process; taking another look at applicants who had been screened out; starting from scratch with a new advertisement; and changing the department's structure to

see **LEVERETT** page A5

Trolley Barn Permit Granted, Self-Storage Plans Abandoned

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CITY – Michael Skalski of Ashfield has withdrawn his proposal to construct a selfstorage facility in a former trolley barn at 314 Montague City Road, and says he instead plans to use the building for general storage and a two-bedroom apartment.

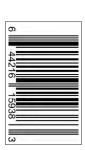
At its meeting on Wednesday, the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) granted Skalski a special permit to implement his new plan, after a debate with the building's next-door neighbor and her attorney.

The meeting was a continuation of a hearing that began on June 11,

a packed event which saw residents criticize Skalski's original proposal given that the area is zoned for "neighborhood business," which does not allow self-storage. ZBA members seemed willing to grant him a special permit on the grounds that the building had been used for storage by a variety of owners since well before the zoning restrictions entered the town bylaws, and that it was therefore a permissible "non-conforming use."

However, members also felt that Skalski had made significant changes to the proposal that appeared on the application, and had

see TROLLEY page A3



Teeth Marks All Over Town Squeezed Tighter and Tighter.. Points Unanswered. Melon Query..... Liquidated the Rest.. Gravesites Scoured. Consequences Ripple Out... Dealers of Oysters....... Hsirmums of Dpikism.. Overhead Footbridge Doomed. Narrative Voiceover Phishing Scams, Fishing Dams.... Wisdom of Snails. Jelly, Fanny, Botfly, Wet Tuna... More Secure Sensory Devices..

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THEFT from page A1

able to compete with the sophisticated "skimmer" devices thieves install on point-of-sale card readers.

The Massachusetts budget bill passed last month included \$15.5 million for the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to support "the transition to chipped electronic benefits transfer cards" by June 2027.

Rep. Kerans, after multiple failed attempts to add a new funding line directly to the budget bill, spearheaded a successful effort to amend this section to provide that "any unexpended funds available after the completion of the transition" will be given as reimbursements for stolen SNAP balances.

DTA advises anyone experiencing SNAP theft to file an official claim in case funding ever becomes available.

"The stories of people having their EBT dollars stolen via skimming or other fraud really upset me," Susannah Whipps, whose 2nd Franklin district includes Erving, Gill, and part of Greenfield, told the Reporter this week. "Any theft is wrong, but to literally steal food from the mouths of people in need is a horrible crime."

Whipps, a co-sponsor of H.254, said she hoped it would bring "more attention to this matter and some expediency in making whole those affected."

Natalie Blais, whose 1st Franklin district includes Montague, Leverett, and the rest of Greenfield, told the Reporter she also signed onto the bill on Wednesday. Blais said a number of constituents have contacted her about the issue.

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), an anti-poverty advocacy organization, praised the state for investing in card upgrades. "Implementing chip EBT cards will dramatically reduce SNAP theft, but it will take months for DTA to issue chip EBT cards to 660,000 SNAP households across Massachusetts," the organization wrote after the passage of the budget bill. "We will continue to advocate for theft victims who are harmed in the meantime to be made whole."

State senator Jo Comerford also praised the move. "I've talked to the DTA commissioner, Jeff Mc-Cue, about my concerns, because constituents were in touch with me," she said. "We need the SNAP system in the state of Massachusetts to be as secure as possible.... He made it clear that they needed money to upgrade their system."

In early May, MLRI announced that since mid-December \$3.6 million in SNAP benefits had been stolen from 7,800 Massachusetts families.

Data obtained by the *Montague* Reporter through a public records request indicate that 314 official reports of benefit theft, the equivalent of 4.0% of those cases, were filed between January and May in Franklin County, where 1.0% of the state's population lives.

In the absence of cards with chips, DTA recommends that EBT cardholders use the DTA Connects app or web portal to "lock" their cards between shopping trips, and to change the card PINs frequently so that even if account information is swiped the balances cannot be accessed.

Besides SNAP, many families use EBT cards to receive "cash assistance" through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, though local residents whose TANF balances were stolen in May reported receiving reimbursement.

"It's horrifying to think of the amount of fraud – and the uptick of fraud - in the region I represent," Comerford said.

The senator said the seemingly unrelated issue of benefit fraud also creates a risk, explaining that a relatively high "error rate" resulting from Massachusetts's inclination to approve nutrition assistance first, then take it back if it had been granted mistakenly, makes the state vulnerable to "harsher... federal penalties" under the current administration.

"DTA needs a strengthened workforce," she argued. "We need our people to have the kind of technical assistance necessary to help them apply accurately, so they can hang on to their benefits and the state can hang on to our SNAP allotment."

A report issued last month by state auditor Diana DiZoglio stated that from April to June, investigators reviewing 1,153 recipients had identified 143 instances of overpayment "with identified fraud," down from 172 in the previous quarter. While 79% of the identified overpayment was in MassHealth (Medicaid) benefits, SNAP allotments accounted for 14.3%, or \$690,138.

"Strengthening the DTA workforce to withstand the threatened federal cut is a conversation that's just starting to crest now," Comerford told the *Reporter*. "I hope we see more money for DTA staff in Governor [Maura] Healey's fiscal year '27 budget in January.... It's really small, relative to the enormous benefit of our

constituents getting access to SNAP."





people in line. Seen here, left to right, are Ethan Schmid, Paige Reddering, and Myron and Kathy Becker.



Support the Statewide Campaign for Rent Stabilization

Did you know that in Massachusetts landlords can raise rents indefinitely without any government oversight? In a housing shortage like we have, this is leading to rent hikes as much as 30% a year.

Homes For All Massachusetts, a statewide housing justice group, is responding by launching a campaign to stabilize rent. In order to get the question on the November 2026 ballot, 75,000 handwritten signatures need to be collected across Massachusetts this fall. People are starting to organize across each county to collect these, including a local effort that is kicking off in Franklin County.

Here's the main idea with this legislation: It would protect tenants from big corporate investors who unreasonably increase rent. It would still allow local landlords to earn a sustainable profit, and it would also support new construction to address housing shortages.

If instituted, the annual rent increase would be capped at 5% per year. That means if your rent is \$2,000 per month, it could only go up \$100 a year. This would not apply to owner-occupied buildings with four or fewer units, or to new developments for the first 10 years.

There has been a lot of emphasis recently on building more housing to try to stabilize the market, and we should support those efforts. However, these projects

are years away, and hundreds of units would be needed to create stability. Meanwhile, people who have lived in this area for a long time are being displaced because they cannot afford to pay the rising rents.

Over the 14 years I have lived in Franklin County I've watched the cost of rent rise steeply. I've seen many families in this area squeezed tighter and tighter by the lack of affordable housing. Regularly, friends struggling with housing instability ask me to help them find an apartment, and I am rarely able to help. It is time to regulate the rental industry, as is standard practice in many places all over the world.

People stay, and invest themselves, in areas where rent is stable. Stable housing creates economic vitality and healthy communities.

Please join me in supporting this campaign. Sign up at bit.ly/franklinrentcap to collect signatures, and come out to Looky Here in Greenfield this Sunday, September 14 from 12 to 3 p.m., where people will be painting banners to bring to events and meeting others who care about this issue.

Hope to see you there!

Abby Graseck

Olden Days: Why So Melony?

I have noticed that melons were a frequent subject of "Turners Falls and Vicinity" in the 1870s. Larceny from the field (and consequent ass-kickings) were notable events, and, 150 years ago last week, the rotund crop inspired the pun "meloncolic," presumably a reference to melon season coming to an end, the "saddest [days] of the year."

The subject seems ripe for a his-

tory feature about melon-growing in the Turners Falls metro area. Surely there must be a Reporter reader with some knowledge of the economic, agricultural, or environmental history of this little nook in the river who can shed some light on the melon mania, no?

I, for one, try to grow them each year - they're so much better fresh than store-bought – with little success. Were conditions more favorable to melons 150 years ago? Were they a cash crop? Why was melon thievery so much more common than theft of other crops?

If anyone knows answers to any of these questions, consider this your invitation to enlighten the rest of us!

> **Brian Zayatz Turners Falls**

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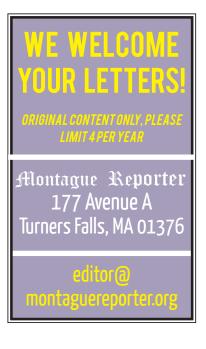
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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

It's that time of year again – the annual **pow**er canal drawdown! - and this time around the secretive chamber of elders entrusted to govern the workings of the ancient hydropower earthworks will also be taking the opportunity to re-

"Beginning Monday, September 15, Canal Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets in Montague, as well as a portion of the Canalside Rail Trail Bike Path between the Great Falls Discovery Center and the 5th Street Bridge, will be closed to allow FirstLight to complete the demolition and removal of the former pedestrian bridge to the Strathmore Mill," a spokesperson for FirstLight Power announced on Thursday. "The closure is expected to continue through September 27."

The drawdown itself is expected during the second of those two weeks.

We'll miss the overhead footbridge in question, long condemned, which directly connected the company tenements now known as the Keith Apartments to the onetime Keith Paper mill, now publicly owned and known as the Strathmatross.

"To support public awareness of the closure," the announcement continues, "as well as the recreation and transportation needs of the community, FirstLight has established a detour and has posted signs at multiple locations along the trail with maps showing the detour route."

The email included a map showing with little yellow dots that the detour is to take Avenue A and then Fifth Street, though that can't be true, as the westernmost block of Fifth only runs one way.

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office is alerting residents to an increase in asphalt paving scams.

"Paving scams often target elderly residents," they warn, "with fraudsters using high-pressure tactics to get quick cash, but leaving victims with shoddy or unfinished work. Many crews vanish once the work is done or abandoned, leaving victims with little recourse."

Every week, a new fundraising idea! If you see us out there paving, please don't report us to your local police department immediately. It's a great deal, since the materials were left over from another job.



Among the photos from the Franklin County Fair we received from Joe R. Parzych (see Page A1) was this – not quite A1 material, but awesome. I'm actually unsure who should receive credit for it, as Joe identified it simply as an animal sculpture display from the Roundhouse.

... Don't you ever feel this way?



Speaking of the fair... the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce reached out to ask if any businesses experienced storm damage over the weekend. "There are no definitive plans for assistance that I am aware of," downtown district coordinator Christian LaPlante wrote, "but they are looking to gauge the level of impact of the storm."

It's an end of an era at Community Action Pioneer Valley, where executive director Clare Higgins has now retired – she quit the mayoralty of Northampton for that job – and the conclave has named a successor, Lev BenEzra.

Congratulations are due in both directions. Lev, who has most recently helmed the Amherst Survival Center, but has a pretty stellar reputation in this vicinity, having previously directed Community Action's youth programming wing for years and years.

It's also pretty cool to see someone under the age of 40 stepping into a leadership role in a large and complex institution. I'm told it used to happen all the time....

This Sunday, September 14 they're throwing a benefit show up at the Heart Rose Club in Brattleboro for the recently established a "Windham County Heat Fund." If you can't make it, there's an online fundraiser too, and the Thomas Thompson Trust is matching the first \$20,000.

Impressive. "The Trump administration has destroyed the federal fuel assistance program," they write. "The Heat Fund is trying to make up some of the shortfall with a \$100,000 GoFundMe goal." I wonder if we'll be doing that down here too.

Next Friday, September 19 the Ashfield Film-

Fest, held at the Ashfield town hall, kicks off with a special screening of Fanny: The Right to Rock, the 2021 bio-doc about the first all-women band to put out an LP on a major label.

Fanny were great - I'm espcially partial to their cover of "Hey Bulldog" - thanks in no small part to shredder June Millington. By now Millington might be better-known in the region for the summer camp she founded in Goshen, but she'll be at the screening and discussing it afterward with filmmaker Mary Patierno. A pretty neat opportunity, if you're looking for something to do on a Friday night.

The email we received promoting Gill Montague Bridge action #34 - the latest every-Friday-afternoon standout on Route 2 to hold signs that say politics stuff - included this observation: "We have noticed that there is much more positive response as the weeks go by. People are tired of the shenanigans in Washington. Actions are getting bigger and more frequent."

> Send your little bits of news to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Dr. Marge Bruchac, Prof. Emerita, U. of Pennsylvania

Returns to Leverett on Thursday, September 25 at 7 p.m. to present

Talk With the **Indian Doctress:** Indigenous Medicine in the Valley

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In 19th ct. New England, Indian medicine was well respected and widely copied by non-Indians. Dr. Bruchac will talk about that medicine, some local Indigenous doctors of the time, and her reenactments of one of them for regional museums.



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CHIEF from page A1

also remain in his position as a captain in the Turners department.

Brunelle said he wanted to give the district "plenty of notice," with enough time for a "proper turnover" to his successor. As of April, he will have 29 and a

half years of service with the department. The Turners Falls High School graduate first joined as a call firefighter in 1997, after returning from serving as a US Navy corpsman in the Pacific, was hired full-time in 2000, and became captain in 2012.

Brunelle served simultaneously as an Air Force Reserve firefighter since 2013, and was appointed assistant chief of health and safety for the Reserve fire department at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee.

The Turners Falls fire department is one of only a few professional fire departments in Franklin County.

The posting for the chief position includes extensive lists of responsibilities and requirements, including "[m]ore than 10 years of experience as a member of a fire department providing fire and EMS services, with a minimum of five years at a supervisory or command level; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience."

The base salary is \$105,000 per year, plus educational incentives.

TROLLEY from page A1

also failed to answer key questions to their satisfaction - for example, about the number of storage units so the hearing was continued until

On its second day the audience was a bit smaller but Lilith Wolinsky, who lives in an adjacent building once owned by the trolley company, brought a lawyer, who argued that the self-storage facility would be a "separate and distinct use" compared to the forms of storage that had preceded it, and "substantially more detrimental" to the neighborhood, which under state law was grounds for rejecting the permit.

The lawyer, John McLaughlin of Green Miles Lipton LLP, also raised questions about the location of a proposed apartment, and suggested that its parking spaces would intrude on a right-of-way linked to Wolinsky's property. As that discussion extended beyond its time on the agenda, a consensus emerged among participants that another continuation was in order, which was set for Wednesday, September 10.

On Wednesday Michael Skalski and his son Troy came to the Montague town hall with an entirely new plan, which jettisoned self-storage in favor of "moderate hazard storage" – a term derived from the state

building code – on the barn's first floor. The two-story, two-bedroom apartment in the plans had been moved to the rear of the building, along with a carport, which would no longer intrude on Wolinsky's right of way.

The members of the ZBA, along with building inspector Bill Ketchen, seemed relieved that self-storage was no longer on the table.

McLaughlin, who had earlier sent a memo to the board criticizing the self-storage concept, objected that a "mixed use" building of this type should not be allowed in a neighborhood business district, but Ketchen disagreed, as did planning board member David Jensen, who said that McLaughlin's argument "negates the building code."

Jensen, participating virtually from Cape Cod, said later that "if we follow your analysis, we can't do anything... It's an absurdity."

Both McLaughlin and Wolinsky objected to the fact that they had not seen Skalski's plan prior to the meeting, but ZBA chair Josh Lively said the board's standard practice was to allow applicants for special permits to amend their

As to whether the precise kind of mixed use Skalski was proposing is generally seen in a neighborhood business district, Lively said

that the ZBA "is allowed a certain amount of interpretation."

Wolinsky commented that she had seen large trucks unloading furniture and other objects at the trolley barn, which were subsequently carried away by visitors, and she wondered if the Skalskis were "operating a business of some sort."

Troy Skalski said these items were the subject of a contentious probate dispute among the descendants of the former owner, who had recently died. The Skalskis had agreed to store the personal property and allow her family members to come and take what they wanted. "We liquidated the rest," he said.

No one questioned this arrangement, perhaps feeling it was not under the purview of a zoning board. "We don't know what he's going to do there, and maybe he doesn't either," said ZBA member Bob Obear. "If he wants to do retail, he has to come to us."

The board unanimously voted to grant Skalski a special permit, though Jensen said he did not understand why one was even needed.

Wolinsky said she was glad Skalski had withdrawn the selfstorage proposal, but "would have appreciated seeing the new plan sooner."



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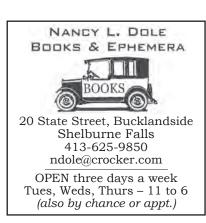
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MONTAGUE from page A1

break last month which has closed a portion of First Street.

Based on a timeline proposed by town administrator Walter Ramsey, the board voted to set the October special for Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School auditorium.

Any final articles are due by noon on September 23, to be reviewed by the selectboard on September 29 and the finance committee on October 1. The warrant will then be posted and mailed to town meeting members on October 7.

Ramsey proposed an online "pre-town meeting" on October 15, during which he and "subject matter experts" could review the warrant and respond to questions. Selectboard chair Matt Lord recommended that Montague Community Television be asked to record the October 15 session, and he agreed.

The town administrator also offered to host a "Town Meeting 101" crash course for new members an hour before the October 22 meeting begins.

Regarding the proposal to create a new school district out of the six towns currently in the Gill-Montague and Pioneer districts, Ramsey said the committee that drafted the new district's agreement had reached out to him, as the administrator of the largest town, to coordinate a date in November for towns to vote on the proposal. The agreement requires town meeting approval in all six towns.

Ramsey said he was looking at holding it on a Saturday, possibly November 15, "to accommodate other towns." Board members supported this idea, and Ramsey said he would continue to work on setting a date.

More October Articles

The selectboard voted in favor of a set of zoning bylaw changes endorsed by the planning board on August 26, intended to rezone the area of Montague City around the former Farren Hospital property, sending them back to that board for a hearing on September 23.

Ramsey said that these changes, if approved, would then be included

on the warrant for the October 22 special, and that he would propose a "companion article" declaring the Farren site "surplus property" so it can be marketed to developers.

Town planner Maureen Pollock said a presentation on the zoning proposal would be given at the October 15 forum.

The selectboard directed Ramsey to prepare articles establishing a "room occupancy tax" on short-term rentals such as Airbnb units – which he estimated could generate \$20,000 in income each year for the town – and allowing establishments with wine and beer licenses to convert to full liquor sales without changing the town's state-imposed cap on the latter.

On the other hand, the energy committee voted on Tuesday not to send to the meeting a proposal, which it brought to the selectboard in June, amending the town bylaws to incorporate a more aggressive energy code.

That committee decided that the issue was so complex, and there were so many "unanswered questions," that the proposal would be "set up to fail," in the words of member David Dempsey.

Asphalt and Vermiculite

At the request of assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, the selectboard authorized a \$49,995 contract with Weston & Samson for a "subsurface investigation" at 38 Avenue A, the proposed location of a new central library, where a gas station once sat.

Also approved were a \$600 change order with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn Care for the ongoing Avenue A streetscape project; a change order of \$7,358.56 with All Star Abatement to remove "hazardous vermiculite insulation" from a pipe on the Strathmore Mill footbridge, which is soon to be demolished; and a \$61,000 award to Bowman Consulting Group for engineering services on the upcoming road and sidewalk project in Montague Center.

The Montague Center project, funded by a \$500,000 Complete Streets grant from the state Department of Transportation (Mass-

DOT), is designed to implement traffic-calming measures in the village center without the use of speed bumps.

Nolan-Zeller updated the board on the closure of a portion of First Street next to town hall due to a water main break. He said the Turners Falls water department worked "around the clock" to fix the main and get the water running again, and is now working with the town to repair the damage done by the flooding to the surface of the street.

An open bidding process is required to find a contractor for the work, and Nolan-Zeller said the state granted an emergency waiver to speed the process.

He did not say when First Street is expected to reopen, but according to Ramsey, "we need to get the contractor out there before the asphalt plants close, which could be sometime in November."

Rolling in Plans

At Pollock's request, the select-board endorsed a contract with the planning firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin to update the town's open space and recreation plan. The \$34,000 contract is funded by a grant from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Ramsey noted that the previous version of this plan, which has expired, had made the town eligible for funding for projects such as the Unity Park skate park and the Montague Center playground.

Pollock also announced that the state Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will help Montague update its hazard mitigation plan, "to strengthen our community's resilience against natural disasters and other disasters."

The state has hired Jamie Caplan Consulting, based in Northampton, to update the plan, and a "kickoff meeting" will be held next week with the staff of various departments.

Nolan-Zeller presented a 32-page draft capital improvements plan, developed by the capital improvements committee (CIC), for the 2026 through 2031 fiscal years. The document provides a schedule for capital projects over the next five years and lists potential funding sources.

Nolan-Zeller said the CIC tries to "even out" when projects are phased in to avoid "shocks" to town finance. The CIC has not "formally adopted" the plan, he explained, but was sending it to the selectboard and finance committee for input.

The board did not vote on the plan.

Other Business

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard accepted Ariel Elan's resignation from the energy committee and approved her request to be appointed to the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Commission.

Town treasurer Eileen Seymour had the board approve \$2,560,800 in "bond anticipation notes" (BAN), which are used to fund approved capital projects until long-term borrowing is finalized.

These short-term notes, she explained, will pay for repairs at the town hall parking lot, a dump truck for the public works department, new screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility, and upgrades to the Montague Center sewer pump station. They will not cover borrowing for projects approved at May's town meeting.

The board approved a contract with FirstLight Power to use the company's parking lot on First Street for a car show on Sunday, September 21, as well as a permit for the use of public property on October 23 for a rally at Peskeompskut Park, followed by a march down Avenue A and across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, to promote "domestic violence awareness."

Ramsey told the organizers of the October event that food provided by the sheriff's office and Stone Soup Café would also need a permit from the health department.

Nolan-Zeller announced that the annual "drawdown" of the Turners Falls power canal would take place between September 21 and 27, and that during that time the so-called Fifth Street bridge over the canal will be closed for inspection by MassDOT.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15.



Board Finalizes Agreement for Six-Town School District; Towns Attempting to Coordinate Mid-November Vote

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Six Town Regional Planning Board (STRPB) convened on Tuesday night to put finishing touches on a proposed agreement to form a new regional school district, review final estimates of what it would cost each member town, strategize about the next two months of public outreach, and figure out how to hold "coordinated" town meeting votes in November to either form the region or scrap the idea.

As it turned out, the six towns in question – Montague, Gill, Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick – will likely not be able to coordinate town meetings on the same day. Montague, the largest town and the only one with a representative rather than an open town meeting model, was asked to set a date, and town administrator Walter Ramsey sent word the town favors Saturday, November 15.

However, Northfield prefers to hold special town meetings on Wednesdays, ideally the second Wednesday of the month.

"Maybe it's a good thing," STRPB chair Alan Genovese of Warwick mused, as board members discussed who should attend each town's meeting to "get into the deeper dives of questions that come up" about the proposal.

Members seemed to agree that the towns should be encouraged to meet either on or after November 15, but not before it.

A series of consultants were consulted. Jake Eberwein of the Berkshire Educational Consulting Group, tasked with creating a slideshow and "narrative voiceover," shared a draft that was approved by a vote of the board, pending final calculations of how the local cost would be split up as assessments to each towns.

That part was provided by Matt Abrahams, the son in the Abrahams Group, who dug up spreadsheets from 2023 the board had used to pick an assessment method and updated the data to the current year.

Board members agreed that the method they had chosen – splitting the cost based on a five-year rolling average of the towns' foundation enrollments, i.e. population of school-

aged children – still made sense, but David Young of Warwick objected strongly to the presentation, which compared the outcome with each town's current costs within the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley districts.

Warwick, after all, had since left the Pioneer district to strike out on its own. "Let's compare apples to apples," he argued.

"It sounds like Warwick might need a tailored presentation," Dorinda Bell-Upp of Montague suggested.

Escaping Pioneer had meant escaping its "held-harmless" status – a kind of doldrums of state aid, in which enrollment losses must be reversed before aid susbstantially increases – and Young said Warwick could now expect large state aid bumps for each new student.

Gill member Greg Snedeker said the STRPB had received assurances that the sixtown district would be "starting new" under the state formula. "It basically resets the base year," he explained.

"It's like changing workers comp carriers," Young chuckled.

"It's a strong reason to regionalize," Snedeker agreed.

The board approved the method unanimously, and next up was Steve Hemman of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools to help finalize the regional agreement. The only section sent back by the state involved the rules about closing schools, and the board approved a new, detailed proposal that would require 75% of the proposed 13-member school committee to close a school, unless it is down to 20 students or fewer in which case the task would be easier.

Talk returned to outreach – including direct mail and public forums in each town – and the need for childcare on the day of the big votes. Deb Loomer of Gill expressed incredulity that in Montague, the decision will be made by elected town meeting members.

"I don't know how the word gets out in Montague that this is not something you're going to vote on individually," she said.

All six town meetings must approve the agreement in order to form the new district.

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LEVERETT from page A1

include a full-time firefighter and part-time chief rather than a single, full-time chief.

Rice said there was strong sentiment in the department against changing its structure, and that finding two employees or starting from scratch might be too costly or take too long. Complicating matters, this week the Turners Falls fire department launched a search for a new chief (see article, Page A1). Without naming that town, Rice noted that such a position in a "career" department – as opposed to Leverett, where "on-call" volunteers are paid only when responding or training would likely be more attractive to qualified candidates.

She suggested interviewing one of the other two candidates recommended by the screening committee. He lacked two certifications listed as requirements, she said, but Leverett could stipulate he attain them, as it has done when hiring police. The certifications are not required by the state, she added, and some chiefs in nearby towns do not have them.

Board members expressed concern about the town footing the bill for training an applicant who might soon leave the position, but suggested that a contract could protect against this. They agreed to interview the second candidate, then reevaluate the original pool of applicants if he does not pan out.

Rice said there is some time pressure, as she hopes to retire in March.

Help With Aging

Council on Aging (COA) chair Judi Fonsh asked the selectboard to help appoint an *ad hoc* committee to determine how to better serve isolated seniors in Leverett.

The "mission," Fonsh said, would be to come up with ideas about how to reach those not connected to existing networks, or hesitant to use them; find out what resources are provided by existing systems, such as the fire and police departments and library; and determine how these can be better promoted.

Fonsh said this project had proven "too big" for the COA to handle informally, and that a town committee could provide "validation," help smooth the process of connecting with other town bodies, and present an opportunity for residents with related expertise to contribute.

COA member Tom Wolff emphasized the importance of involving the fire and police departments, as some seniors are "reluctant to come forward and say 'I have needs," but that these often emerge through calls to those departments. Board members agreed, though Duffy noted that both were "stretched pretty thin, staffing-wise."

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson said that the COA was already "empowered" to form the committee, and suggested that the group could also reach out to the emergency planning committee, which includes both chiefs. Fonsh asked who its chair was, and was told by town administrator Marjorie McGinnis that it was "the fire chief, once the town gets one."

Hankinson noted that McGinnis is its acting chair.

Selectboard member Jed Proujansky said the committee could look at itself as a group of managers or "planners," and seek volunteers or "doers" to carry out its ideas. He said he was already serving on several committees, but that they could put him down as a "doer."

Signing Contracts

The selectboard awarded a \$367,000 contract for landscaping at the library to low bidder Omasta Landscaping of Hadley. Library director Hannah Paessel said a \$350,000 grant will cover most of the cost, and the Friends of the Library have offered to make up the difference. Work is expected to begin this fall.

McGinnis reported that a consultant chosen by the *ad hoc* committee to assess the Field Building could not sign the contract, as he did not have the insurance it required, but had offered to sign a waiver.

Former chair Richard Nathhorst said he had rejected the contractor when he was on the committee due to his lack of typical licenses. Mc-Ginnis commented that he has good experience and references, but usually works with non-profits rather than municipalities.

The board agreed to postpone a decision while it reviews his credentials.

A low bid of \$718,100 was received from Ludlow Construction for the next phase of the Dudleyville Road drainage project. Tighe & Bond, the project engineers, recommended the company, as did Nathhorst, highway superintendent Matt Boucher, and others in attendance. The bid was awarded.

McGinnis reported that a resident had asked the board to ask the town of Shutesbury to make improvements to Shutesbury Road, which will be used as a detour during construction. Boucher said that his department could offer to help if Shutesbury agrees, in line with past practices of the two towns.

Other Business

Duffy reported that the town website had been "scraped" for email addresses by a scammer, and employees had received scam emails asking for money. She suggested the town hold a "safety event" on phishing scams.

Rice said she had received a scam email for ambulance repairs, and that her other employer conducts a training each year which includes sending test emails to staff.

Proujansky said he had spoken with a consultant and the former town administrator of Northfield, each of whom may conduct *pro bono* research on new health insurance options for local towns, including the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) and the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA).

Proujansky said he did not know what might come of it, but "we're certainly not sleeping on that issue." The town's insurer, the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, has implemented a 20% premium hike effective October 1.

The board agreed to sign a letter of support for a \$448,560 earmark in an upcoming state environmental bill to maintain the Mill Pond in North Leverett by repairing the dam responsible for its existence.

Pat Fiero, representing the Friends of the nearby North Leverett Sawmill, said that among its other benefits the pond was a popular fishing spot.

Proujansky noted that dams are sometimes an impediment to fishing. "It depends on which side of the dam you're on," Fiero replied.

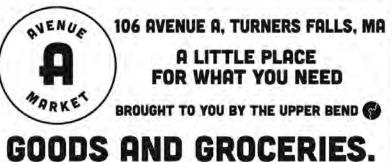


LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will meet on September 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability regarding the extent of the buffer zone and the perennial status of **Nurse Brook on Parcels 152 C and 152 D, Pratt Corner Road**, Leverett, preceding a potential construction project.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Wednesdays, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

This notice is also available at www.masspublicnotices.org.



GOODS AND GROCERIES. BEER AND WINE.

EVERY DAY 10-6

FILM from page A1

may enjoy the milder winters in western Massachusetts, the warmer weather is a boon to damaging insects that cause blight in the orchard. The film showed him examining a tree with damaged bark and leaves that turned black.

"It's like losing one of my kids," he said, adding that the warm winter in 2022 to 2023 was followed by a May frost that damaged trees just beginning to bloom and reduced capacity by 80%. He estimated the financial loss at \$250,000. "It takes a long time to come back from that," he said, "and we're still suffering from that freeze – there's not enough money to get us to harvest and the cost to grow has gone way up."

Dana's daughter Naomi helps operate the orchard, and shared an old saying that sums up what it means to be a farmer.

"You have to learn 50 things about farming but now just isn't cutting it," he said.

you can only learn one thing a year," she said.

Naomi described growing up with peers who saw all the land and equipment at the orchard and assumed the family was rich.

"I felt misunderstood," she said. "We're just scraping by, just holding on... Every year I wonder, 'Is this going to be the year we don't get to market?" Small- to modest-sized family farms

simply don't have the financial cushion to bounce back from extreme weather events. They also struggle to compete with low prices in supermarkets supplied by massive corporate farms.

Although many area residents support the idea of maintaining local farms, the documentary explored the difficult choice consumers face between buying cheaper fruits and vegetables or spending more at a local farm stand or a farmers market. Looming cuts in SNAP subsidies could further cut into consumers' budgets.

"Large farms dump last year's crop on the market at prices that buyers can't resist," said

Voiland added that farmers in the area face constant financial worry.

"Everyone has to be paid enough to at least eke out an existence, but the system we have now just isn't cutting it "he said

Joshua Faller, co-executive director of Just Roots, echoed Voiland.

"Farmers should be paid enough to live," Faller said, adding that consumers can help by educating themselves on where to purchase fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.

The documentary was funded by grants provided by the Greenfield and Massachusetts

Cultural Councils, Greening Greenfield, the LAVA Center in Greenfield, and Mass Humanities. It will have a second screening on Thursday, October 9 at the LAVA Center before its debut on YouTube.

The film's video consultant Rebecca Rideout lives and works in Greenfield, and project director Clara Witty lives in Orange and works as a co-coordinator of the LAVA Center. The other project director, Matthew Barlow, is an award-winning author and filmmaker.

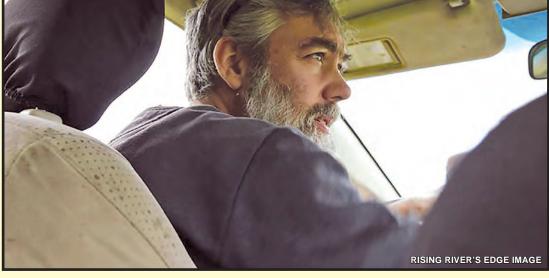
Videographer Hugh Finnerty said he initially developed the idea for a film in 2024 after covering an exhibit on local farmers at the LAVA Center for the *Montague Reporter*.

"With this film, we wanted to shift people's perspective on agriculture, and convince people that it's worth it to buy local, even if it is more expensive – because a lot of the benefits don't show up on paper, but they show up in the health of our bodies, our communities, and our environment," said Finnerty. "We wanted to shift people's cost-benefit analysis when it comes to supporting local farms."

Rising River's Edge is not the only recent documentary to explore issues of farming in western Massachusetts. In 2018, Greenfield-based documentary filmmaker Steve Alves released Food for Change: A Documentary Film About Food Coops. This 82-minute film explores the advent of farmers' cooperatives under the New Deal in the 1930s, the subsequent boom of agri-business and corporate farming after World War II, and the resurgence of co-ops across the country in the last decade.

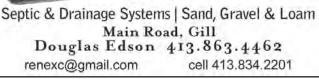
"Co-ops continue to offer an alternative to corporate control of the nation's food supply and have become leaders in the local food movement," wrote Alves. More information on the film is available at www.foodforchange.coop.

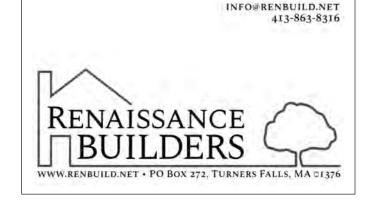
Alves also wrote and produced the 1999 documentary *A Sweet Tradition: The Love and Labor of Maple Sugaring*, exploring maple syrup producers in Greenfield, Ashfield, and Conway, which is available to stream for free at *www.stevesfilms.com*.



 $Red\ Fire\ Farm\ co-owner\ Ryan\ Voiland\ is\ one\ of\ several\ familiar\ faces\ featured\ in\ the\ new\ documentary.$









NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Busted Mini-Splits Prove Costly

By KATE SAVAGE

In another quick meeting, the Gill selectboard found the funds this Monday to replace a few mini-splits at town buildings and announced upcoming events.

Annual maintenance at the Riverside municipal building has revealed several problems with its heating and air conditioning systems. One outdoor unit has a bad compressor, which will cost \$3,200 to replace. Town administrator Ray Purington said he believed he could "squeak" those funds from the Riverside building's operational budget.

But a banned refrigerant is causing bigger complications. Another faulty outdoor unit relies on a fluid called R-410A, which has been phased out nationwide. When that substance leaks into the atmosphere, it traps in heat and contributes to global warming.

Unfortunately, the working indoor components can't connect with the updated outdoor units. Installing entirely new parts will cost \$9,800.

Purington reported that he had found \$4,800 remaining in an appropriation from 2014 to purchase and install heating systems for the town buildings. The final \$5,000 would come from the building maintenance fund – "and then [we]

PARTRIDGE

ZSCHAU

months," said Purington.

Purington announced that he plans to form a "core team" of department heads and committee members to help prepare for a Municipal Vulnerabilities Preparedness grant from the state. The team would look at problems the town could face as a result of climate change and seek state funding to mitigate them. Purington said the meetings will be listed on the town calendar, and the public will be welcome and encouraged to attend. The group will also hold public outreach sessions in October and November.

An information session on the proposed school district merger will take place at the Gill town hall at 6 p.m. next Monday, September 15 (see article, Page A4). This will be a time for residents to discuss remaining questions and concerns about the proposed school regionalization before the upcoming town meeting vote in November.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker, who also serves as the vicechair of the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board, said he will be the presenter, "so bring your popcorn and bring your questions."

Snedeker also announced some "good news" from the state, which

cross our fingers for the next nine Elementary and Secondary Education would assess the potential new school district. Under the given equation, he said, regionalization would be expected to reduce Gill's school assessment more than 3%.

> "You can understand how economies of scale kick in, both financially and educationally," he said.

> Town hall will also be the site of a community dance on Saturday, September 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be live music, and the dance caller will be Andy Davis. The Gill Harvest Festival will be held at noon the following day, Sunday the 28th, on the town common.

The newly formed Berkshire Metis Council is seeking members and friends of the Native and mixed Indigenous community to come and share their background and stories as we discuss our larger goal of preserving and celebrating our Indigenous heritage.

This is an opportunity to join current members at The Wagon Wheel, 39 French King Highway (Route 2), Gill, on Thursday, September 18, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to learn more about the Council and our events and activities. Anyone wishing to dine may order off the menu at their own expense.

Questions? Please contact Star at indianprincess6907@gmail.com.

ERVING from page A1

be eligible to get their subscriber data.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and state legislators have been working with towns to get information from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, town administrator Bryan Smith told the board and fin com. He reported that some other insurance groups offer health insurance, including the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA), which currently covers town properties. However, these groups might offer different plans than the ones offered by Hampshire Trust.

"We're not making any changes in the next three to six months," Jacob Smith stated. "Any change is for fiscal year 2027."

"We hope the Trust stabilizes and rebuilds their reclarified how the Department of | serves," Bryan Smith commented.

> Watroba said that the Trust was looking at making changes to its insurance plans, possibly by adding de-

Because the \$270,000 estimated cost increase was based on current enrollment, fin com chair Debra Smith asked if any town departments planned to hire new employees. Watroba answered that she had surveyed departments, and that there were no plans for new positions beyond those already budgeted.

"If the current insurance defaults," selectboard member William Bembury asked, "is the town responsible for employee health insurance?"

Bryan Smith answered that the town would be responsible for any employee claims in a default.

Jacob Smith listed possible ways to fund the increase in the current year's premium expenses, including using free cash, making a transfer from stabilization, or moving money from other accounts in the general budget.

The board and fin com made no decision about funding the increase. Watroba said the town pays premiums monthly, and that the shortfall would not become a problem until later in the fiscal year. The board asked Bryan Smith to continue researching options for the town.

Grants and Agreements

The board voted to accept a \$15,000 grant from starting September 29, and to appoint Brandon the state Department of Environmental Protection to Pollard to the capital planning committee.

replace the SCADA system at the POTW#1 wastewater plant with a more recent, more secure system. A SCADA system is a networked computer system that controls processes and sensory devices.

The board noted that they were waiting for a response from Erving Industries about a draft agreement over upgrades to the sludge-drying system at POTW#2, which the paper mill operates for the town.

The board voted to extend the jail diversion grant from the state Department of Mental Health (DMH), originally funded for three months, for nine more months. According to the DMH website, "Jail diversion programs... generate alternatives to arrest and successful diversions into treatment can alleviate jail overcrowding, reduce unnecessary prosecution and court costs, and reduce incarceration costs."

The board decided to buy road salt and sand this year through the state procurement contract, at a cost

Tighe & Bond was awarded a contract to conduct post-closure monitoring of the former Maple Avenue landfill for \$27,950.

The board voted to approve an agreement with the town of Wendell for repair of the Farley Bridge. Highway supervisor Glenn McCrory told the board he planned to meet this Friday morning with representatives from Wendell and the contractor, Warner Brothers Paving of Sunderland, to discuss the project.

Personnel

The selectboard decided to develop questions at their September 15 meeting for interviews with finalists for the senior center activities director and police department community services cadet positions.

They plan to interview Kathryn Gaudet and Emily Leibinger, candidates for the activities director position, at 6 and 7 p.m. on Monday, September 22, and cadet candidates Watroba and Casey Hoffman at 6 and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23.

The board voted to hire Aiden Bailey as an equipment operator/laborer for the highway department,



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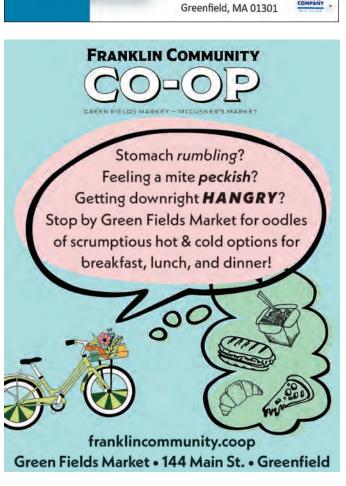
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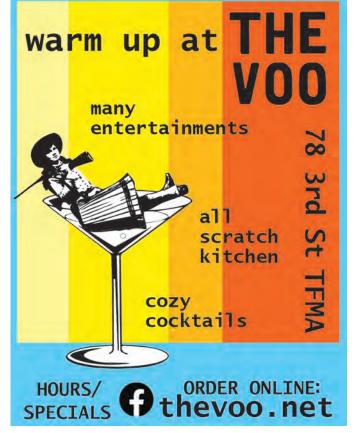






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"We don't mind old buildings."



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Above: Sunset over the French King Bridge.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

The Week in High School Sports: Fall Season Off to a Lively Start

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The local sports scene came alive this week, with Franklin Tech and Turners Falls hitting the ground running. Several long, exhausting games of volleyball were played, and field hockey saw some 1-0 defensive battles.

The golf teams, meanwhile, took advantage of the nice weather to squeeze in six matches while the Turners Falls cross-country teams tested out the new 2.8mile Bob Avery course.

Field Hockey

TFHS 1 - FCTS 0FCTS 1 – Palmer 0

When they met last year, the Eagles field hockey team edged out Turners Falls 1-0. Last Thursday, Sep-

tember 4, the Thunder returned the favor. Ella Larouche scored an unassisted goal early on to give Turners a 1-0 lead. For the remainder of the match most of the action was in the Turners end, but while Tech mounted attack after attack, the Thunder defense held tight and kept the ball out of the net.

Tech evened up their record on Tuesday with a 1-0 win over the Palmer Panthers. They finished with 14 shots on goal, with Talia Pederzini sneaking one past the goalie for the 1-0 win.

This Friday the Eagles travel to Dorunda Field to play Hampshire, and on Monday the Thunder head to Turf Field to play Mahar.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Athol 1 FCTS 3 – TFHS 0 Greenfield 3 – TFHS 2

The Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder opened their season last Wednesday with a home victory against the Athol Red Bears.

The first match was all Thunder as they doubled up Da Bears 25-11, but in the second match Athol took a huge lead. Turners made a late run but the Bears held on

to win it 25-18, tying the series. In the third and fourth matches, Turners mounted huge leads and won by eight and seven points respectively.

Janelle Massey finished with five aces, nine kills, and a dig. Maddie Haight gave 14 assists, placed 10 aces, made two kill shots and one dig, and libero Maddie Dietz dove for 10 digs, served an ace, and made a kill.

On Monday the Thunder crossed Millers Falls Road, where they were bested 3-0 by Franklin Tech.

Turners took an early lead in the first match, but the Eagles clawed their way back and took the lead 17-16. It was a back-and-forth contest until the Birds scored twice unanswered to take it 25-22. In the second match,

see **SPORTS** page B8



Nora Cutting of Franklin Tech (left) and Ella Larouche of Turners Falls High School (right) compete for the ball as the Eagles hosted the Thunder at Franklin Tech last Thursday. Larouche scored the winning goal in the Thunder's 1-0 victory over the Eagles in the season opener.

Breaking Mastodon News!

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD - My archaeologist / anthropologist friend Mike Gramly placed the call a week into his latest dig at Lower Blue Licks in northeastern Kentucky - a 13,000-year-old mastodon boneyard located along an ancient saline spring bed on a Licking River floodplain.

I could feel the man's enthusiasm. It was infectious, and I told

"I'm always happy when learning," he said. "Hopefully, I'll continue learning till my dying day."

A noble wish, indeed. Don't bet against it. Though rapidly approaching octogenarian status, the man is driven.

Overseeing his second organized excavation of this Ohio Valley treasure-trove site, purchased for \$100,000 by a friend and benefactor, Gramly sees no reason to hide his excitement. What he's bringing to light is groundbreaking in the realm of North American and world archaeology and anthropology, yet largely unknown and uncelebrated.

Gramly believes the key to mastodon research is finding the saline springs they sought for sustenance. It was at these important sites that Clovis hunters killed them and left behind artifacts for posterity. Thus far, he has apparently discovered the world's earliest shaman sled burials – first at the Hiscock Site in upstate New York, now at Lower Blue Licks.

His theory is that such ritualistic burials - fancy ivory sled runners and all – staked the claims of competing hunting bands at important saline-spring haunts.

Gramly calculates that his latest 11-day mission, which ended on September 5, consumed 120 man-days of volunteer work, all of it performed by a trusted crew from his own brainchild American Society for Amateur Archaeology. Their mission? To establish the site's southern perimeter and, in so doing, define the extent of a Paleoindian mastodon-hunting

midden littered with bone and ivory fragments. In the process, of course, many fascinating artifacts came to light and spun the crew's creative anthropological wheels to a shrill scream.

Exciting stuff.

Now, with the expansive midden defined, Gramly and his crew can return next year with a game plan for their final dig. In the meantime, he'll organize, clean, and reassemble the broken artifacts he has collected before publishing his discoveries and hypotheses between the covers of a book.

Thus far, he's most excited about a couple of remarkable artifacts. One is a drilled bead crafted from a thick seashell that looks to him like that of a periwinkle. The other a five-inch-long mastodon chin tusk, worked into ancient decorative art.

Despite it being buried for 13,000 years, Gramly says this cleverly carved tusk is so polished that he can see his reflection on its mirror-like surface. He believes it was created as an atlatl hook, secured to the spear-throwing weapon's shaft. There it would have engaged the butt end of the javelin, akin to nocking an arrow on a bowstring. Gramly identifies it as a sculpted phallus, symbolizing the "power" and "penetration" of the hunt.

At the time of our telephone conversation, Gramly was still 1,000 miles away from his North Andover home workshop. His latest assemblage of artifacts, a work in progress, will receive intense scrutiny when he returns home.

As for the bead, Gramly suspects it was worn to the Kentucky site by a member of a Paleoindian hunting party following megafauna game trails from the West Coast. Just on a hunch, he thinks the shell came from the Pacific Ocean, though it certainly could have come from the East Coast as well. He expects expert analysis, probably at a Harvard University lab, will easily identify its genus and place of origin.

see VALLEY VIEW page B2

FACES & PLACES.



Montague cemetery sexton Amber Korby reports:

"The Montague Cemetery Commission hosted a headstone cleaning event last Saturday, September 6, at Old South Cemetery on Old Stage Road. We had commission members Judith Lorei, Jamie Fuller, Mary Kay Mattiace and [me]. In addition, seven volunteers showed up over the course of the event.

"We cleaned an estimated 48 stones total, a mix of slate and marble. We used soft brushes and mild Dawn solution to knock off moss and dirt. The marble stones were additionally treated with a product called D2, a 'biological solution' that helps dissolve the algae and lighten the white marble where it's been blackened. Though not scheduled yet, we plan to have more cleaning events."





Pets the Week



LOVEY' BROWNIE'

If you're looking for sweet, curious, affectionate, and snuggly cats, you're in the right place.

Meet Lovey and her kitten, Brownie, both found as strays. This mother-daughter duo get along well with other cats, and with children. Both are house-trained. Mother and kitten currently live in Springfield, and their humans would like to rehome them together.

To apply to adopt Lovey and Brownie, find "Available Community Animals" under the "Adopt" menu at www.dakinhumane.org. A potential adopter must submit an application, interview and meet the pets, and sign an adoption contract.

Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH 19

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call 863-9357.

Monday 9/15

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Kitchen Club
4 p.m. Tech Class
6 p.m. Cemetery Commission

Tuesday 9/16

9 a.m. Chair Yoga 11 a.m. Money Matters 12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday

3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 9/17

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga

(weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga **Thursday 9/18**

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

1 p.m. Mobile Food Bank

(by subscription) 1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 9/19

10:15 a.m. Aerobics11 a.m. Chair Exercise11:30 Seniority Dance Recital and Members' Lunch

1:15 p.m. Chair Dance

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 9/15

9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Seated Fitness 12 p.m. Pitch Cards 1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 9/16

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance10 a.m. Line Dancing11 a.m. Social Stringer11:30 a.m. Pizza with director

Dulcie McAndres

Wednesday 9/17
9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo
Thursday 9/18
9 a.m. Barre Fusion

10 a.m. Pilates Flow **Friday 9/19**

9 a.m. Quilting Open Sew

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is October 21. Luncheons are the fourth Friday at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us. Check the town newsletter or the LeverettConnects listsery for info.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is October 1. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

"There's no question it's a deliberately-made bead," he said. "In fact, we also found the piece of another broken example. Both were clearly drilled in the Paleo style."

The chin tusk is one of three thus far uncovered at Lower Blue Licks – two this year, one a year ago. Only one has been worked into an art object, which Gramly is eager to study further when he returns to the comforts of home. At first glance, he noticed interesting lines carved into the surface. He hopes to understand them better under closer inspection.

Gramly believes the tusk carving has the characteristics of European Upper Paleolithic Gravettian art, which goes back at least 30,000 years and, he believes, came to this continent across the Bering Strait with the earliest human migrations from northeastern Asia. The bead also screams Gravettian to him, he said; shell beads were common in that ancient culture.

So, Gramly now has two more esoteric artifacts to sink his anthropological teeth into. And that doesn't even address what he may yet find among the other bits and pieces his team collected. Those items he'll clean, organize, catalog, and ponder – taking time out to bounce his latest observations and hypotheses off

his network of friends.

The most enticing specimens – like the bead and carved chin tusk – will go to his trusted artist friend Steve Wallmann, who'll sketch them for posterity and future publication in print and digital media. Such visuals motivate thought and discussion into the esoteric Paleoindian spiritual realm. Nothing provides more valuable insight into ancient cultural beliefs and lifeways than artistic expression – be it petroglyphs, pictographs, or stone, bone and ivory carvings and adornments with hidden spiritual meaning.

Gramly has been mired deep in that rabbit hole ever since his first mastodon dig 11 years ago at Bowser Road in Middletown, New York. It seems like yesterday he was calling in to report his findings there.

Now, more than a decade later, his sights are set on Vienna, Austria, where he'll share some of his recent findings during a 30-minute presentation for European scholars.

They'll be eager listeners.

Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield.

Questions and comments are welcome at gary@oldtavernfarm.com.





By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Dear readers,

Last Thursday the world passed a shameful benchmark: 700 days of livestreamed Israeli extermination and dispossession of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. Not to mention ever-escalating aggression towards neighboring countries like Yemen and Lebanon for daring to aid the Palestinian cause or defend their own national sovereignty.

According to the Associated Press the death toll of these 700 days has risen past 64,000 people, and it is likely far higher. If they are not bombed, burned to death by white phosphorus, sniped through the skull by an IDF soldier, or mauled to death by attack dogs – all things which I have seen real footage of, and which are now seared into my brain forever - Palestinians are dying of starvation, or from drinking tainted water, or from rampant viruses or parasites, or of cancers that there are no longer hospitals left to treat.

Just the other day I heard from my friend Dana, a 20-year-old student living in the Al-Mawasi displacement camp in Khan Younis. She told me that she is exhausted, starving, and constantly sick with the viruses that spread like wildfire amongst the camp.

Something happens to the human immune system when starvation kicks in. It's called "starvation-induced immunodeficiency." Not only is the body wasting away – eating itself, essentially, from the inside – it is also unable to mount an effective defense against any pathogen or extra stress that enters the system.

I worry for Dana daily. You can send her much-needed funds at www.tinyurl.com/danagofundme.

It is easy to feel totally overwhelmed and frozen in the face of such brutality, on the one hand, and such dire need on the other. But we are not helpless. There are very real things each of us can do to support Palestinian liberation and to fight for an end to this genocide.

A group called Apartheid Free Communities Western MA (AFC) is working with local town meetings to pass a formal resolution called an "Apartheid-Free Community Pledge." Per their official statement about a petitioned article to declare Montague an apartheid-free community, "The resolution affirms a commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people, opposes all forms of bigotry, and pledges toward ending support to Israel's regime of apartheid, settler colonialism, and military occupation [...] Over 200 registered Montague voters have signed onto a petition to support this resolution, and it will be added to the warrant for discussion and voting at a Special Town Meeting this October."

According to the AFC, residents of Montague alone are giving approximately \$648,863 of our federal income tax dollars annually to pay for the very weapons Israel is using to murder the people whose land they are occupying. Wouldn't you rather that money be spent on live-giving initiatives like free healthcare, childcare, or schools? We can demand better, both for the Palestinians and for ourselves.

If you are a Montague town meeting member, I urge you to vote in favor of this resolution, and if you are a resident, please ask our town meeting members to vote in favor. Making Montague an official apartheid-free community is a step towards real material change, and towards building the growing global consensus that Israel is, in fact, a genocidal colonial entity and that the Palestinians deserve sovereignty, freedom, and their land back.

If you have questions or hesitations about this initiative, I encourage you to go to *apartheid-free.org* where there is a wealth of information on the history of the group and a very thorough "FAQ" section that

addresses many concerns, such as the fear that supporting the Palestinian cause is anti-semitic, or that using the terms "apartheid" or "genocide" somehow distorts the reality of the situation in Gaza, or cheapens their use in other historical contexts like South Africa or Nazi-occupied Europe.

Please keep an open mind and heart and remember that Palestinians are human beings, just like us. Each life cut short or debilitated is a stain on our collective humanity, and each day that passes without an end to this genocide is an indictment of all of us who live in relative peace.

And – because I'm me, and because this column is this column – I want to urge you to wear a mask in public and do whatever else you can to stop the spread of respiratory viruses, including trying to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 is surging nationally, and from what I hear from my Palestinian friends, the virus is rampant in the Gaza Strip as well.

Viruses don't respect national borders. If I can't convince you to care about the disabled and immunocompromised people in your own community - or for your own health – maybe I can get through to you by connecting the struggle for disability justice to the Palestinian cause. This virus can be deadly or disabling even for physically fit, previously healthy people; in the body of one who is starving, traumatized, unhoused, and likely already dealing with infections and illness, it can do very real harm. Do not aid the genocide by spreading the virus at home - the consequences ripple out and touch people across the world.

You can get free masks and tests at the Finders Collective in Great Falls – or donate your extras! From the river to the sea, may Palestine, in our lifetimes, be free.

With love and rage,

Your Sick Friend







LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on September 10, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Free Speech, or Separation Of Church and State?

At the Gill selectboard meeting on September 8, Pastor Gary Bourbeau of the Gill Congregational Church explained that he had submitted an article to the town newsletter describing the history and mission of the church. Newsletter editor Pam Shoemaker had declined to print it because the funds for printing it derive from the town, which is legally bound to refrain

should not be excluded from the newsletter, a free speech issue.

Selectboard chair Gregory Snedeker agreed that the church's history was acceptable for publication, but the church's beliefs were not, as they encroach too far on laws dictating the separation of church and state. The board cannot uphold or overturn the editor's decision but must abide by town counsel's studied decision on the matter.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 8, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Carrying On Carroll's Tradition

Ray Patel, who was born in the north of India, moved to Houston, Texas when he was 14, and from there to Montague earlier this year to become the new owner of Carroll's Supermarket in Millers Falls.

On Patel's desk in the storage room is a copy of Peter Miller's photo history of old Montague. "Someone stopped by the other day and told me the President [Teddy Roosevelt] once stopped here," he said with enthusiasm.

the village business district for decades. Local employees of the Millers Falls Tool Company and Paper Company shopped there in the post-World War II boom years. So did members of the Millers Falls Drum and Bugle Corps, which competed in statewide band contests.

tel has purchased more than a store; he has purchased a local institution.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 8, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

There will be a visible eclipse of the sun September 29. Perhaps.

The Keith Mill will start up again, Monday, in full force. The washers will be started Friday.

The Live Oaks base ball club will hold a social dance at Schuler Hall, on Saturday evening next.

Tom Harris has launched a new boat of the Whitehall build. It is one of the handsomest in the river.

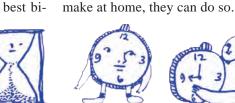
Nightwatchmen Morrison and Dunbar captured about a dozen fellows for fast driving on the suspension bridge, during the week.

A petition is being circulated for an extension of K street from Seventh to the German church and the school house some 30 rods distant.

Wise & Ripley, the oldest oyster dealers in town, will commence their oyster season next Saturday with a large supply of the best bi-









from printing "religious news."

Bourbeau argued that the church

The store has been a mainstay of

With the market's rich history, Pa-

It is more and more apparent that

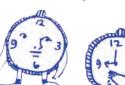
valves they can find.

getting to look real.

when a bridge is built it will be at the ferry or at least not on the site including Great Island. A bridge over the falls at a cost of not over \$42,000, including damages, would

be very desirable, but when they come to make damages at the rate of \$50,000 and \$60,000, it takes a fellow's breath away – and his money too, when he comes to pay the taxes. It is hoped that all this talk about damages is only a bugbear, but it's

W.M. Schuler has a project under consideration for the extensive manufacture of overalls, blouses, working jackets, and goods of like description. He asks the sewing women of Turners Falls to hand in their prices at which they would be willing to make those garments, per piece. Rooms in his block will be furnished with sewing machines for about thirty women, and if others would desire to take a certain number of pieces each week to



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Female Has a Hard Time; Fox Doesn't Look Right; Trees Fall; Male Dresses Fully in Black; Pitbulls Attack

Tuesday, 9/2

7:56 a.m. Officer conduct- cer advised. roadside. Citation issued. time. Officers advised.

11:24 a.m. Caller report- Report taken. Control. Building cleared. vised. Local farm vehicle. ties of options.

Prospect Street believes port taken. someone is in his home. 3:32 p.m. Caller from Rip- ferred to an officer. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 9/3

from Water Pollution to an officer. aware of issue.

ty back. Officer called him an officer. property back.

a motor vehicle with a sus- that address. pended license.

Thursday, 9/4

the driver.

officer to go to his house message to next shift. but will not talk to him ferred to an officer. anymore.

from East Main Street; no Road. No injuries.

call from Montague Water states the vehicle almost Friday, 9/5

fire; smoke from kitchen. record that a Penske truck and onto the lawn; driver 2:48 p.m. Environmental in a FedEx uniform was Police requesting assis- looking for an address with no plates on Turners yesterday; today he did Falls Road. Officer ad- the same thing. The caller said something about him 7:07 p.m. 911 caller from being there yesterday, and Avenue A states she was he said back to her that assaulted and would like this isn't private property.

ley Road would like to Saturday, 9/6 speak to an officer about 10:15 a.m. 911 caller re- 10:40 a.m. Caller from

phone issues. Officer will male with a blue Sprinter tow. Report taken. check area. Employees are van is foraging or melting 2:05 p.m. Officer out with 6:26 a.m. A 34-year-old large burner and propane Returned to family.

to be with an officer and that a blue car has been options.

5:58 p.m. 911 report of

answer on call back. Offi- 8:22 p.m. Caller states pick up Monday. ing motor vehicle stop on 3:05 p.m. Caller states a look right near Turners a big tree down on Old Turnpike Road. Regis- silver hatchback just went Falls and Turnpike Roads. Stage Road near Route 47. tration expired. Renewed flying by on Montague Caller states the fox is very Shelburne Control toning

Known phone issue at this ment, and continued down officer to check on a party er for cleanup. towards the police station. and try to collect a town- 7:44 p.m. Hadley PD reowned laptop that she questing MPD officer ing fire alarm sounding 3:13 p.m. Caller from hasn't returned; she is not attempt to make contact at the Upper Bend. No Swamp Road wanted on answering calls or emails. with a Lake Pleasant resi-Referred to an officer.

Transferred to Shelburne drove up her driveway 5:59 p.m. 911 caller report- belonging to them. Reing motor vehicle accident ferred to an officer. on Millers Falls Road; one Sunday, 9/7 bike lost control.

ments believes that two Investigated. men in two different cars 9:38 a.m. Caller states that to speak to an officer. Of- Caller called FedEx to see were trying to take a fe- a male dressed all in black ficer advised involved par- if the male was working male against her will from is walking around the Coufor them in this area and is the parking lot of the ture Brothers warehouse 8:44 p.m. Caller from waiting for a call back. Re- complex. No description property in a suspicious of vehicles or parties. Re- manner. Officer spoke with

6:18 a.m. 911 open line credit card fraud. Referred porting minor two-car ac- West Street states he Control Facility. Recent 4:14 p.m. Caller from East No injuries or fluids re- a tag on its leg. It appears history of same; known Mineral Road states that a ported. Officer requesting to be slightly injured. He

something down with a loose dog on Swamp Road.

have a detail to get his parked across Main Street 2:52 p.m. Perimeter and 5:38 p.m. Caller from Park from the store for a cou- general motion alarm at Street reporting loud 7:04 p.m. Officer conduct- ple of days. The car hasn't Johnson Controls (Heat- screaming coming from ing a motor vehicle stop moved; would like an of- fab). Alarm company re- the neighbor's house; on Millers Falls Road. Ci- ficer to check on it. Ve- ports negative contact with states it happens at least tation issued for no inspec- hicle parked legally and keyholders. Units advised. three times a week, and tion sticker and operating registered to a person at Officer attempted to check today it has been going on 4:56 p.m. Caller from fences and gates.

12:48 a.m. Officer conduct- like to speak to an officer Grove Street reporting keep the volume down. ing motor vehicle stop on about a motorcycle that that a big branch fell from 6:01 p.m. Caller reporting L Street. Owner has ex- drives recklessly every a tree on her property and that her mother was walkpired license but was not morning. Officer talked is blocking the roadway. ing their dog near the old to the caller, who wanted Also states a tree fell on Railroad Salvage building 11:21 a.m. Caller from it noted that every morn- her neighbor's house and and they were attacked by Fourth Street reports he ing between 7 and 8 a.m. he is refusing to leave three other dogs. Caller is being harassed by a the operator drives by her the house. States no inju- advises her mother was not female party and wants an house. Officer will pass ries. Officer advises tree hurt, but the dog is. Officer to discuss. Officer spoke to 5:37 p.m. Caller from East to have punctured roof officer to scene. Message all parties. Female states Main Street reporting theft at this time. TFFD can left on ACO's voicemail she's having a hard time, of bank card and \$100. Re- check and evaluate. Shel- and office line. Officer at-12:17 p.m. 911 hangup two-car accident on Canal involved; one lane pass- pitbulls but was unable to able. DPW advised; will reach them. Investigated.

there's a fox that doesn't 3:22 p.m. Caller reporting Street just as kids are get- small and has no hair on its out Montague Center. Of-8:11 a.m. 911 open/static ting out of school. Caller tail. Referred to an officer. ficer advises MCFD on scene cutting up tree. Re-Pollution Control Facility. went over the embank- 3:28 p.m. Request for an questing DPW with load-

dent as they have a wallet

person reported down and 8:34 a.m. Caller from Sectance for a vehicle stopped and was rude. That was not moving much. Officer ond Street states that advises only one vehicle; someone stole a package from the back porch and 9:02 p.m. 911 caller from went through some other Highland School Apart- boxes that were out there.

> party; he is OK and does not need anything.

cident on Greenfield Road. found a white pigeon with will hold on to it in case anyone calls about it. Report taken.

2:01 p.m. Caller reporting Lake Pleasant man was ar- near a pile of leaves. He 2:23 p.m. Party into sta- approximately 20 cows rested on a default warrant. was there yesterday; caller tion to speak with an of- in the roadway on Wen-3:44 p.m. Caller looking unsure if he lives out of ficer about threatening/ dell Road. Officer advises into getting some proper- the van or not. Referred to harassing messages he is owner was notified and receiving. Officer called is out pushing the cows back and stated he needs 4:30 p.m. Caller states party back and advised of back to his pasture. Officer clear.

> perimeter, but is blocked by since 2 p.m. Officer advised residents of complaint and Wendell Road would 3:03 p.m. Caller from told them to make sure to

> > on house doesn't seem requesting animal control burne Control contacted. tempted to make contact Officer advises no wires with owner of involved

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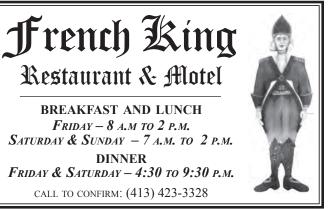
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greenfield records



Artist Profile: Garry Longe

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Sometimes I spot people and things to write about just by looking around. This spring I spotted this artist named Garry Longe's art by being around the GCTV station a couple of times. It was not uninteresting art to look at.

I got a hold of him through email. "Most people know me from my years of Media work at GCC," he wrote. He was there from 1978 to 2018. He said people are "often surprised" when he shares "this more creative side of myself with them."

Longe called the exhibit of his collage, acrylic painting, and multimedia work at the TV station *Creative Journeys*, and said it was the first time he had shown this type of art in Franklin County, though in the past he had shown photos and computer work there and other places in New England.

He says this work, which is "predominantly graphic" and "explore[s] texture, shape, and color,"

is done without the use of a computer, "as I find this hands-on work more rewarding these days." He does this kind of work mostly for his own enjoyment.

"One can very quickly guess what influences my creative side," he said. I guess that is somewhat of an answer as to why he makes what he does. Interestingly he calls his work "a spiritual endeavor or journey." It's not a "product-oriented experience" to him – he doesn't make selling these pieces a goal. He shows them in public "to get feedback from others, and possibly inspire others to try some of the techniques to express themselves."

Longe's art around the TV station was there until the end of June, and he was there on Thursdays and on Greenfield Arts Walk nights to talk with people about it. You can still see a promo video for the show with a number of the works, "GCTV Lobby Artists: Creative Journeys Promo," on GCTV's YouTube channel.





Above: Some of the art from Creative Journeys, Garry Longe's spring show at the Greenfield Community TV station.

Montague Community Television News

Missed It?

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

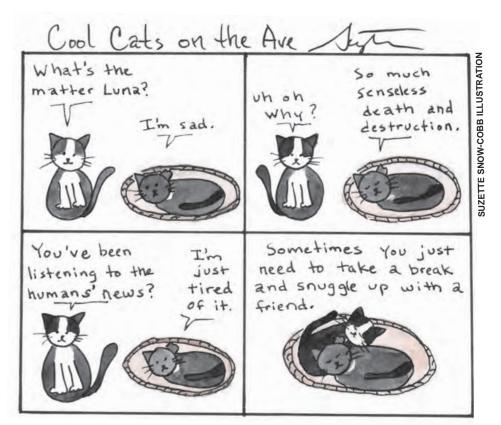
TURNERS FALLS – Sometimes there are too many things going on in the summer, and you find yourself unable to attend the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival in Great Falls, even though it is a multi-day festival, along the beautiful Connecticut River. If that was your unfortunate experience, you can rest assured that MCTV has coverage of the event.

You can find a link to our Vimeo page through our website, *Montaguetv.org*, by clicking the "Videos" tab. There you will also find folders that direct you to all of our Montague and Gill selectboard meetings, in which you will find the most recent meetings as well as all of our previous recordings.

If you would like to make a video, or if you know of an event that should be filmed, let us know. You can come by the station at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls to talk with Dean or Deirdre, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can email us at *infomontaguetv@gmail.* com or even call us up at (413) 863-9200.

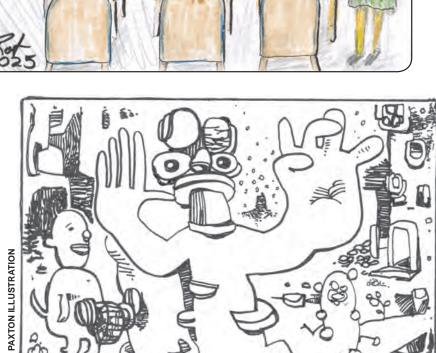
And if you see us out there filming, say hi!











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

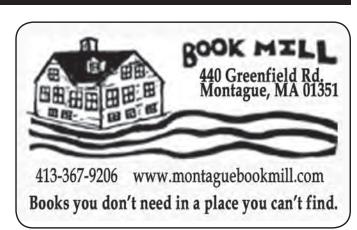
MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

FMWSMH EMFIOPHOZPF
ZG KNOWN HMM
HSIRMUMS OF DPKISM.
- BISHOP ADAMS

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG









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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Janel Nockleby
Readers are invited to send poems to
the Montague Reporter by email at:
poetry@montaguereporter.org
(Please note we are no longer
accepting mailed submissions.)

September's Featured Poet: Jess Mynes

The Middle East

ghosts everywhere today or maybe this week this year new ghosts replace old ones like furniture!

sunset on a Sunday in October today I wrote
Sunday night is like an ice cream headache for my soul
to a friend he said write it just like that

we're at the beach eating cherries before we hang paintings

after hours in a club return the ladder

to an ice cream shop before breakfast

eat ice cream for breakfast 4:30 am so delicious please forgive me

I can't sleep

Feed the Polar Bears

Jet so high I mistake slow for cloud. Storm churning, churning.

I would love to feel otherwise. A place I thought lost. This sum

to pry open. Nearly anyone has the right eyes when you're in

this space. Winter mornings where my heart aches in a way that isn't specific

to me, but you can't tell me otherwise right now. Your glasses on

the nightstand. It leaves as quickly as it enters, the trick is to act.

Titmouse on sunflower a hair, possibly yours, in the page's crease.

Play for that Money

We carry our goodbyes like a precious stem. in the body Once having been there someone will be there again. They look so alike image of each disadvantaged by blood. This grass stained dream. I sleep so deeply. It's just about the same uphill climb to the wisdom of snails. Hearing what you want to hear is the best form of dreaming I know.

244 East Halifax St.

If we could hold the moment

to be, we could live like we do

in our poems. Instead, we ride

to town, you name roses.

As much as we allow, holds our attention.

Years removed, the sound

of your voice in the kitchen in the morning is as clear as this finch's gold, bobbed flight, threaded

through oak's serrate leaves, fallen crab apples, a busy circumference

of ravening birds,

cloud curdled horizon, jet stitched.

I will miss this place half as much

as you.

Sight Unseen

All I want is a little hidden measure a little distance outside the frame to travel to in pilgrim shoes a separate universe down a laden path rife with twilight trees as my only witness the words on this page assuredly this green world and these words what an intimacy with birds are a form of transcendence labors for, so gracefully to dispel any lonesome sovereignty

Contributor Notes:

Jess Mynes of Wendell, Massachusetts, is a librarian, gardener and the author of several out of print books, including *One Anthem* (Pressed Wafer) and *Sky Brightly Picked* (Skysill Press). His poems have appeared in *The Nation*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Blazing Stadium*, *VLAK*, *Shampoo*, *Big Bell*, and other publications. Press Brake will publish his *Necessary Luxury* in Fall 2026. He believes spitzenburgs are the best tasting apples.









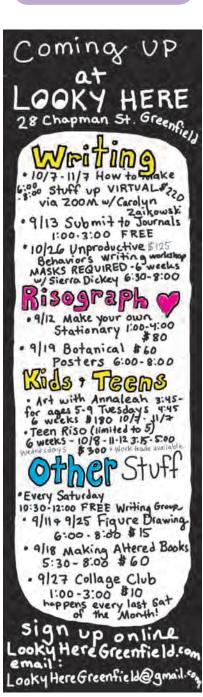
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66 AVENUE A . TURNERS FALLS





EVENTS

submissions:

events@montaguereporter.org

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Nice & Easy Walk. 10 a.m. Free.

Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, Northfield: Morning Hike. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 10 a.m. Free.

Summit View Banquet House, Holyoke: General Gist. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Four Star Farms Brewery, Northfield: Dickinson Library Trivia Night. Teams of one to six players; bring your own food. This month's categories: the West; 9/11; cars; heroes; villains. 6 p.m. No cover.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Film night with local filmmakers Dien Vo and Flonia Telegrafi screening and discussing short films and excerpts. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls: Documentaries. Lovejoy's Nuclear War (1975) and Save the Planet (1979). Discussion afterward with filmmakers Charles Light and Daniel Keller and antinuclear activist Sam Lovejoy. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: Slugdust, Spikenard, Carton, An Unnamed Goblin. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: Cut Worms. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eilen Jewell. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Skunks. Ages 3 to 6. Story, activities, and crafts. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: Moon Tricks, Lespecial, Prince/ Bowie, Consider The Source, many more. 11 a.m. \$\$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Harry Remer. 7 p.m. By donation.

CitySpace, Easthampton: Queercore Fest feat. Letters of Marque, Told Not To Worry, AFK, Film & Gender, Pageant. 7 p.m. \$.

Jupiter Club, Easthampton: Rival Galaxies, Teen Driver, The Vermen, Snowglobe Almanac. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Found Footage Festival. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: Gov't Mule. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: HWY 91. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: Wheatus, acoustic set; Gabrielle Sterbenz. 8 p.m. \$.

Big E Court of Honor Stage, West Springfield: Tonic. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Beverly Ketch, Hieronymus Harry, Anthony Loffredia, Dan Gay, Hurry Scurry. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Montague Elks Lodge, Turners Falls: Charity Chase, 5K run and 1.4-mile "fun run/walk." Register at www.tinyurl.com/ ElksRun. 10 a.m. \$.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: Western Massachusetts Comic Book Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: Max Creek, Leon Trout, Mihali, Bombtrack, Bella's Bartok, Jelly, Outer Stylie, many more. 10 a.m. \$\$.

Artspace, Greenfield: Introspective Journaling with Cindy Ferrer. No experience necessary; ages 16 and older welcome. 11 a.m. \$.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: Geology Cruise with Richard Little. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 11 a.m. \$.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Spectre Folk, Animal Piss It's Everywhere, Wednesday Knudsen, Federico Balducci, Karen Zanes, Kryssi & Jeff, more. 12 p.m. By donation.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Reception for exhibit, Art & Crafts Inspired by the 1774 North Leverett Sawmill. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free.

Seeds of Solidarity, Orange: Shrines to the Natural World, altar-making workshop with Phyllis Labanowski. Email deb@seedsofsolidarity.org to register. 1 p.m. Free.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: Geology Cruise with Richard Little. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 1:15 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Ecology of Sound: Music from Nature. Ricardo Frota inspires all ages to absorb the rhythms, sound, and music from different global cultures and the natural world. 2 p.m. Free.

CitySpace, Easthampton: Queercore Fest feat. No Man, Evan Greer, Sapien Joyride, Bubble Scary, Soji, Sgraffito Kill, I Have No Mouth, Loss of Life. 4 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books. Turners Falls: Diana Daniels. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: Tom & Pat, Tarp Bia Band, more. 6:30 p.m. \$.



Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares brings the Darius Jones Trio to the Shea Theater this Saturday night.

Brick House, Turners Falls: Ada Lea, Norma Dream, Jenifer Gelineau. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Open mic with featured performer Ralph Carson. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares presents Darius Jones Trio. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: Wallace Field, Noble Dust. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: Busta Rhymes, Rick Ross. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

The Drake, Amherst: Autumn Drive, Skruple, Over the Median. 8 p.m. \$.

Devendra Banhart, Kath Bloom. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro:

Academy of Music, Northampton: Dar Williams, Antigone Rising. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Feldspar 00000, 40 Lashes, Happy Birthday James, Crater Saints. 9:30 p.m. \$.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: The Springfield Photographic Society presents The Towns of Franklin County, through September 30.

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: Paintings by Millers

Falls artist Ashley Liu, through September.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:

Portals, Doorways, & Leaks, works by Mathew Hollander and Trevor Powers, through September.

Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill:

Bicycles, Beaches, and Bovines, multimedia work by Gill artist Doug Dale, at the Rhodes Art Center through October 10 with a reception this Friday, September 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett:

Art & Crafts Inspired by the 1774 North Leverett Sawmill, with work by dozens of artists. Through October, with a reception this Saturday, September 13 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: Susan Valentine, Paintings, and Sue Kassirer, Works in Clay. Through September.

Artspace, Greenfield: Japanese Pop Art and Moment in Light, landscape paintings and pop art by Kimiko Donohoe, through October 3.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:

Silent Auction Art Exhibit. works donated by local artists and assemblages by Andy Rothschild for sale to benefit LAVA, on view through December 20. Anna Bayles Arthur, Selected Paintings, through October with a reception Friday, September 26 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Belt Course, paintings and prints by Amy Borezo and John Armstrong, through September 28.

Sunderland Library, Sunderland: Woodland Soundscape, an interactive art exhibit by Ms. Green Jeanne with canvas prints of wildlife and accompanying sound clips via QR

codes. Through September.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: Fall Into Fiber, group show. September 12 through November 2, with a reception Sunday, September 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield:

Doorways, a self-guided audio-visual tour with sculptural doorways and sound pools by multiple artists. Through November.

Gallery A3, Amherst: Counterspells & Concatenations, works by Marianne Connolly and Rebecca Muller, through September 27.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: Harvest Colors, group show by members, through September.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Old and New, paintings by fatherand-son duo Robert and Matthew Steinem, through November 2.

Carberry Fine Arts Gallery at STCC, **Springfield:** We're Riding the Same Wave, interactive environments and playful sculptural forms by Sunny Allis. Through October 3, with a reception this

Saturday, September 13 from 1 to 3 p.m.

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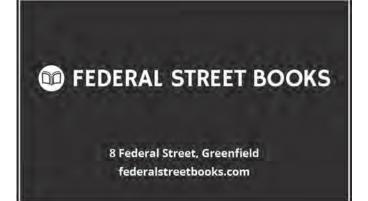


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CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: Ryan Montbleu, The Motet, Reckoners, The Alchemystics, Whiskey Treaty Roadshow, more. 10 a.m. \$\$.

Erving Public Library, Erving: Puzzle Swap, and Drop-in Genealogy Help with Phillip Johnson. 1 to 3 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: Tom Carter & Pat Murano, Hieronymous Harry. 4 p.m. By donation.

Heart Rose Club, Brattleboro: Daniel Kaznitz, Jennie Reichman, Duane Young, and more. Benefit concert to launch the Windham County Heat Fund, formed in light of the Trump administration's cuts to federal fuel assistance. 7 p.m. By donation.

Quarters, Hadley: Western Mass Electronics, with featured artist Burial Grid. Bring your own synth, drum sampler, etc. 7 p.m. No cover.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Simon Joyner, Lean Senior. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Pete Droge.* 7:30 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Fiber Group and Mending Circle. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Tree House, Deerfield: Godspeed You! Black Emperor. 7 p.m. \$.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Jaycie Carver, Vapor Attack, Cobra Casket, NeoNach*, more. 7 p.m. \$.

Tourists, North Adams: *Julie Doiron*. 8 p.m. Free.

Big E Court of Honor Stage, West Springfield: Al Jardine & The Pet Sounds Band. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Mary Halvorson*. 6 p.m. \$.

Tree House, Deerfield: Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Abraham Alexander. 7 p.m. \$.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *billy woods*. 7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Mobile Food Bank*. 1 to 2 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Afterschool Activities*. Games, makerspace, snacks. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: Reptile Nook. 2 to 4 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Dungeons & Dragons*. Singlenight campaign, ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at *northfieldrec.com*. 5 p.m. Free.

Brick House, Turners Falls: The Bug Museum, buginspired puppet workshop. Materials provided; no experience necessary; all ages welcome. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Big E Court of Honor Stage, West Springfield: Marshall Tucker Band. 8 p.m. \$.

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Nice & Easy Walk. 10 a.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *LEGO Drop-In and Play*. 3 to 4 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: How Maps Lie, with cartographer and map store owner Andrew Middleton. 6 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Botfly, Ursa, Spinal Teeth.* 7 p.m. \$.

Town Hall, Ashfield:
Ashfield FilmFest, feat.
Fanny: The Right to Rock
(2021), followed by a
discussion with director
Mary Patierno and Fanny
guitarist and vocalist
June Millington. More at
ashfieldfilmfest.org. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: Rose City Band, Wet Tuna. 7 p.m. \$.



June Millington of Fanny, seen here in the 1970s and recently, will speak at the Ashfield FilmFest next Friday after a screening of a documentary on her band.

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls: Documentaries, The Last Resort (1978) and Early Warnings. Discussion afterward with filmmakers Charles Light and Daniel Keller and anti-nuclear activist Sam Lovejoy. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Curmudgeon Bingo. 7 p.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Kilynn Lunsford, Sky Furrows, Barbie.Al.* 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: Phillip Greenlief / Trevor Dunn / Scott Amendola trio. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Actors, Soft Vein, Leathers. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Snakes*. Ages 3 to 6. Story, activities, and crafts. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Greenfield Community
College, Greenfield:
Community Chorus Rehearsal.
New members welcome.
Chorus meets Fridays at
12:30 p.m. Register at
www.gccfor.me/chorus. \$\$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: Greensky Bluegrass, Kitchen Dwellers, Jaime Wyatt, more. 5 p.m. \$\$. Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College: Women of Chicago's Black Renaissance. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *TLC, Big Boi.* 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Dogpark, Kids That Fly*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Tropical Fuck Storm, Perennial. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Interlink Publishing, Northampton: *Read & Resist Fest*. 10 a.m. No cover.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: Old Crow Medicine Show, Swamp Dogg, Cimafunk, Lee Fields, more. 10 a.m. \$\$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Info session, *Successful Grant Writing*. 11 a.m. Free.

Palladium, Worcester: Lorna Shore, All Out War, Cannibal Corpse, Full Of Hell, Madball, Kublai Khan, Municipal Waste, The Black Dahlia Murder, many more. 12:30 p.m. \$\$.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: Swedish Dance. Intro workshop, snacks, open dancing. Live music on five-string fiddle and nyckelharpa. All welcome. 1:30 p.m. \$. Brick House, Turners Falls:
Space Camp, Jayson Keery,
beetsblog, Casper Lucia,
Rivka Nisinzweig, Kristine
Leschper. Music, puppets,
poetry, potluck, vegan
sorbetto. Joint benefit for
Finders Collective, Books
Through Bars, and the Carrier
Bag Kitchen Collective.
5 p.m. By donation.

Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls: *Groove Prophet*, barbeque. 7 p.m. \$.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: Pete & Woody: an Unlikely Friendship, with Steve Suffett and Pat Lamanna. 7 p.m. \$.

Just Roots, Greenfield: Hootenanny Fundraiser. Barn dance, silent auction, local beer, and food. Proceeds support affordable farmshares. 7 p.m. \$.

Town Hall, Ashfield: Ashfield FilmFest, feat. short films with connection to the hilltowns of western Massachusetts. Community band, 5:30 p.m.; film screenings at 7 p.m. More at ashfieldfilmfest.org. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: Dougie Poole, Margaux. 7 p.m. \$.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *DJ413mafia, Fear Dot Com, GCB, Dialog Talk.* 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: Phillip Greenlief / Trevor Dunn / Scott Amendola trio. 7 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Myrtle Street Klezmer*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Jason Moran*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *The Avett Brothers*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Stella Kola, Henbane, Paper Jays, Vanessa Brewster.* 8 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Patty Larkin, Lucy Kaplansky*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: Laura Stevenson, Oceanator. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bob Mould*, *J. Robbins*. 8 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: shakusky, Saliba, Smut Club. 8 p.m. \$.

Liberal Arts Popup, Northampton: *Sleep Destroyer, Rhubarb Duo, Cliffrose.* 9 p.m. \$.

Unicorn, Holyoke: DJ Lucas, Pasto Chris, Caplito, O Demeanor, Swank, more. 9 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kris Day.* 9:30 p.m. No cover.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Unity Park, Turners Falls: Northeast Unity Car Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Leverett Elementary School, Leverett: Presentation, Talk with the Indian Doctress: Indigenous Medicine in the Valley, by University of Pennsylvania professor emeritus of anthropology Marge Bruchac, whose research focuses on colonial history and the recovery of Indigenous history. 7 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Two Step Night with Les Taiauts, Honky Tonk Angels, country karaoke. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Space Ballroom, Hamden CT: *Melvins, Redd Kross.* 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington: Pat Metheny. 8 p.m. \$\$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Beth Orton, Sam Amidon*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: Play, Swamped, written and directed by Court Dorsey. 7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Deja Brew, Wendell: Vic Rawlings, Wednesday Knudsen, Hollow Deck, Animal Piss It's Everywhere, Krissy & Jeff, Omeed & Kurt, Shane Bray Kerr, Raub Roy, more. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Williamsburg Grange Hall, Williamsburg: *Miramar, Mica Far, DJ Bongohead*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke: *Ned Rothenberg.* 5 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Hutghi's, Westfield: Ak'chamel, An Adharc, Winds of Alluria. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

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SPORTS from page B1

Tech shot out to a 17-10 lead, and held on to win 25-18.

In the third match neither team wanted to lose, and after regulation, it was knotted at 25-all. The teams traded points, but the Eagles scored an ace on a 30-29 score to seal the win and the game.

Jenna Petrowicz led Tech with five aces, seven kills, six digs, and two blocks; Lily Baldwin served an ace, made four kills and three digs, and gave 13 assists; and Sarah Beckwith served two aces, making eight kill shots and five digs.

On Tuesday, the visiting Green Wave of Greenfield outlasted Turners in a marathon five-match battle. The first contest was all Turners, and they trounced the Wave 25-16. In the second match, with the score tied at 19, Green went on a tear, scoring six straight points to take it 25-19 and tie it up.

Turners shot out to a 6-0 lead in the third, and held on to win 25-17. The fourth match was closely fought, but with the score 23-23, Green scored two points to win it 25-23 and send the game into a fifth match.

Unlike the first four matches, the fifth is only to 15 points. With the score tied at eight, the Wave outscored Blue to take a 14-9 lead.

Turners fought hard but the Fielders finally scored their 15th point to take the match 15-11 and the game 3-2.

Dietz, who was injured in the fifth match, finished with seven digs and an ace. Shelby Beck had five digs and five aces, while Massey made five kills, four digs, and four aces.

Franklin Tech heads to Greenfield this Thursday, while Turners hosts Mohawk Trail.

Golf

FCTS 162 – McCann 163 FCTS 160 – Hopkins 165 Athol 154 – TFHS 201 McCann 168 – TFHS 202 FCTS 164 – Pioneer 180 FCTS 164 – Smith Voc 179

Last year, the Franklin Tech golf squad finished 13–1, splitting the Bi-County East title with Pioneer. This year they picked up where they left off and are currently at 4–0.

The Thunder, on the other hand, were winless last season, but continue to have fun on the links under the tutelage of legendary coach and player Artie Burke.

On September 2, the Eagle golfers beat McCann Tech by a single stroke at Thomas Memorial. Jack Day placed second with a 36, while Braden Talbot, Grady Deery, and Mason Vassar finished out the

team's scoring.

On Monday the Tech linksmen traveled to Westover Golf Course in Granby, where they edged out Hopkins Academy 160-165. In this match three Franklin golfers finished under 40 strokes – Day (35), Deery (39), and Talbot (39) – while Vassar shot well enough to preserve the five-point win.

The same day, the Blue Thunder hosted the Athol Red Bears. Ethan Eichorn led Turners with a 40, followed by Cam Cogswell (49), Liam Kerivan (56), and Andrew Eichorn (56).

On Tuesday Turners and Franklin Tech played back-to-back matches at Thomas Memorial. In the first battle, the McCann Green Hornets bested the Thunder 168-202. The only Turners golfer to make the leader board was Kerivan, who shot a 45.

In the second match, the Eagles bested last year's main rival, the Pioneer Black Panthers. Day (37) and Talbot (38) led the field while Vassar tied for third with a 43 and Deery shot a 46 for the 16-stroke win.

The Eagles kept their perfect season alive with a victory over the Smith Voc Vikings. Day (35), Talbot (41), and Deery (42) took the top three spots, while Colton Kingsbury finished eighth with a 46.

This Thursday Turners hosts Mohawk, and on Friday Westfield Tech comes to Thomas's to challenge the Eagles.

Cross Country

McCann 15 – TFHS 50 – Hopkins 50
This Wednesday the Turners Falls cross country teams hosted McCann and Hopkins in the inaugural meet at the Bob Avery Course. Unfortunately for Turners and Hopkins, neither was able to field five players for each gender, so each was given 50 points.

Turners seventh-grader Lucien Carlo finished third in the boys' meet, while Olivia Wolbach and Amber Marcy placed sixth and seventh in the girls' meet.



IN THE NET



Turners Falls Thunder players celebrate Noah Kolodziej's (#18) goal against the visiting Hopkins Academy Golden Hawks last Thursday. The Thunder kicked off their season with a 2-0 win over Hopkins with goals from Kolodziej and Yolvin Ovalle.

Look for our soccer coverage in coming weeks!



Franklin Tech's Talia Pederzini-Curtis (left) pursues Turners Falls's Daisha Ovalle Perez (right) as Ovalle Perez passes the ball during last Thursday's season opener.





