

The Montague Reporter

Powerhouse Easements Pose Expensive Challenge For Paper Mill Demolition



When Montague took the former Strathmore mill for back taxes, the public inherited an obligation to ensure the “support and integrity” of the connected, but privately owned, building where the mill’s 937-kilowatt power turbine still runs.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – At its weekly meeting on Monday, the Montague selectboard returned to its ongoing effort to find a financially viable plan to tear down the decaying, and potentially dangerous, Strathmore mill complex.

Though state and local officials have been cheering about the town receiving two grants and a Congressional earmark totaling over \$10 million to do the job, it has long been understood that a total demolition would destabilize a small, privately owned power plant at the center of the complex.

The hydroelectric turbine owned by Turners Falls Hydro LLC, also

known as Eagle Creek after its parent company, originally provided electricity for the paper mill. The mill, then owned by the Keith Paper Company, signed an agreement with the owner of the power canal promising that when the canal flow is below a certain level, it would not run its turbine, and in exchange would earn half of the revenue produced downstream at Cabot Station by the water it does not use.

When Strathmore Paper ceased operation in 1994, it was a subsidiary of International Paper Company. In 2001 the Montague planning board and zoning board of appeals (ZBA) allowed International Paper to sell the section of the complex

see **DEMOLITION** page A5

Solar Rep Complains Of Wendell ‘Purgatory’

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – Exactly how much water would be necessary to contain a potential lithium-ion battery fire at a solar energy facility proposed on Lockes Village Road is still unclear, one of many details causing delays in the project’s local permitting.

Attendees at Wednesday night’s board of health meeting continued to discuss concerns about fire safety and chemical contamination related to the project proposed by the solar energy developer Nexamp under its subsidiary Wendell Solar LLC.

Responding to state incentives designed to increase storage capacity on the power grid, the company is proposing to add a 2-megawatt battery component to a 2.8-megawatt solar array originally approved by the planning board and conservation commission in 2018, but never built.

The updated plans are now being reviewed by the board of health, fire department, planning board, and conservation commission. The board of health passed new permit regulations for battery energy storage systems (BESS) last year, and Nexamp’s special permit application is the first project it has had to consider under the new rules.

The new regulations require all “existing and future” batteries to obtain a special permit focused on noise mitigation, emergency preparedness, and financial solvency. The planning board has indicated it

see **BATTERY** page A4

SCENE REPORT Service and Sacrifice

By JAMIE SIMPSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Veterans Day Ceremony at the Soldiers Memorial Park on Avenue A in Turners Falls Tuesday morning saw about 30 bundled-up folks braving the cold – and the season’s first few flakes of snow – to honor service members.

Members of the Montague Soldiers Memorial committee, the selectboard, and the Montague Elks were on hand to welcome the public and thank military veterans past and present.

Memorial committee member and former selectboard member Chris Boutwell led the event, introducing current selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz, who thanked those who “stepped up and answered our nation’s call, to fight for our freedoms and those who were in jeopardy.”

The committee’s newest member, Todd Brunelle, thanked at-



Chris Boutwell, one of the two current members of the Soldiers Memorial committee, led Tuesday’s program.

tendees for recognizing the occasion, thanked veterans for their service and sacrifice, and encouraged listeners to “think of that when they’re interacting with our fellow veterans out there in the community. You can thank their

see **MEMORIAL** page A5



SIMPSON PHOTOS

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS Breakout Soccer Season Comes to Its End



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’s Rojelio Galves Mendez advances the ball up the field as Rockport’s Liam Fauci moves in to defend during the MIAA Division 5 Round of 16 tournament game last Saturday at Ryan-Curley Field in Rockport.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The storybook season of the Turners Falls High School Boys’ Soccer Thunder came to an end last Saturday afternoon in Rockport with a 2-1 loss against the Rockport Maroon Vikings. The Round of 16 match in the MIAA Division 5 state tournament was the first loss of the Thunder’s historic season.

In other sports this week, several area runners competed in the MIAA’s cross-country tournament, the Franklin Tech girls’ soccer team was ousted from the playoffs, and the Tech football team blew out yet another foe.

The two-hour-plus road trip to Rockport was an interesting ride. We passed multiple school buses headed to various playoff games, but didn’t spot the Kuzmeskus bus. When we arrived at the venue we discovered that the team hadn’t taken a typical yellow school bus,

see **SPORTS** page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD Senator Touts Small-Town Relief Efforts On Beacon Hill

By KATIE NOLAN

“I see my job as making your job a little easier,” state senator Jo Comerford told the Erving selectboard on Monday evening.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith thanked Comerford for her help with recent state funding wins: a \$2.41 million Housing Works Infrastructure grant for senior housing on Care Drive, \$2.3 million for bridge repairs on Church Street, and acceptance into the School Building Authority grant program for work on the roof and HVAC system at Erving Elementary School.

Board members asked about the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT), a private entity that provides health insurance for 12,200 people, including Erving town employees. HCGIT announced a \$25 million shortfall this summer, and enacted an emergency midyear 20% increase in insurance premiums on October 1.

Comerford said HCGIT is not regulated by the state, making it hard for the legislature to act. However, she said, the state will provide technical assistance to towns to help them decide on alternatives for employee health insurance. In addition, a recently-enacted bill will allow towns that decide to leave the trust to pay off the costs

see **ERVING** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD School Combo; Pinball Liquor; Nudge to Quit Insurance Plan

By JEFF SINGLETON

In the midst of a controversy over whether to create a new six-town regional school district, Montague’s selectboard endorsed an application on Monday from the Gill-Montague Regional School District to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) which could lead to state funding for a consolidation of the Hillcrest and Sheffield elementary schools in Turners Falls.

At the same meeting the board agreed to offer town employees a “buy out” if they move from their town health insurance plans to plans not funded by the town, voted on a long list of sewer abatement requests, and approved a liquor license for a new “pinball-themed” business on Avenue A.

In asking the board to reaffirm its previous support for a proposal to close Hillcrest Elementary and build an addition on the nearby Sheffield Elementary to house students in the lower grades, interim superintendent Tari Thomas and business manager Joanne Blier stressed the dire condition of both buildings.

“These facilities are failing to meet modern education needs,” said Thomas. “It’s our feeling that waiting for a future opportunity will only increase the total cost of the

see **MONTAGUE** page A7



As the Cold Sets In

Decaying and Potentially Dangerous.....	A1	Never Personally Heard of the Curse.....	B1
A Threshold Crossed.....	A2	Precipitate Beading and Bobbling.....	B2
Selective Outrage and Obsession.....	A3	Over the Top Without Flinching.....	B3
Being All Unknown Heirs.....	A4	Dumpsters To Dumpsters.....	B4
Structural and Load-Bearing.....	A5	The Gleaning and Enchanted Bolt.....	B5
Mercy Mode, Clicking Continuously.....	A6	Beautiful Glass, Pockets of Possibility.....	B6
Rat Traps in Great Quantities.....	A7	Stress Balls, Sunken Cages, Swamp God.....	B7
Cleaning and Painting Bearings and Stringers.....	A8	Their Skulking Kind of War.....	B8

The Montague Reporter

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Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Arguing Allowed

Pretty interesting that Article 16 of last month’s well-attended special town meeting in Montague has precipitated debate on these pages after, and not before, the meeting. We wonder if its opponents assumed it would not pass. People’s minds can change with information – many are changing – and public debate is healthier than quiet festering resentment, but given that either a proper defense or a proper critique of the state of Israel would require more pages than this newspaper can offer in a year, we hope the current discussion doesn’t escalate aimlessly forever. For now, we welcome your letters. – Eds.

Letters to the Editors



Director Appreciated Review

David Detmold’s recent review of my play *Swamped* captured not only the essence of the play, but also its place in the “Lost Continent” of Wendell. It demonstrates what only a local paper can do – the *Reporter*, with its laser focus on events that are generated within our small towns and villages, produced a review that was a literary gem in its own right, while at the same time setting the event within a detailed historical context. Bravo David Detmold! Bravo *Reporter*! With gratitude,

Court Dorsey
Wendell

Resolution Intended to Highlight US ‘Complicity’

Recent Letters to the Editors show us exactly why passage of the Apartheid-Free Pledge resolution was an important step in Montague. The authors’ words sadden me as they demonstrate the ways unprocessed individual and collective trauma can be weaponized to create racism, colonization mentality, and disconnection from our shared humanity. We see this in the United States in the form of anti-immigrant racism touted as public safety, in attacks against transgender and non-binary people, in refusal to ensure food and housing security... When we don’t adopt a framework of collective humanity and instead choose certain groups to blame for the failures of nation-states, we seed practices of exclusion, hatred, oppression, isolation, scarcity, fear, and exceptionalism. This, sadly, is the exact logic that led to Jewish persecution in Europe, with devastating, unspeakable consequences. We could instead choose practices of collective accountability and belonging. What does the Apartheid-Free Pledge accomplish? So far, it seems passing this pledge is creating an opportunity to address weaponized and inaccurate definitions of anti-semitism, deep-seated anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Palestinian racism, and a need to look critically at the colonial nature of the state of Israel and its unconditional support by the United States, itself a colonial project predicated upon genocide. The Apartheid-Free Pledge invites into focus not only the state of Israel’s actions, but our own complicity as Americans. The pledge calls us to join a life-affirming network of all people who stand in opposition to collusive colonial, racist, and lethal partnerships. It doesn’t just focus on Israel, but also on the US and any other state that abdicates responsibility for upholding human rights, starting with the most glaring examples. As Kaia Jackson reminded us in their letter in the October 6 edition, our safety is interdependent. I believe that a recognition and commitment to this interdependence is the path forward.

Maddox Sprengel
Turners Falls



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Chandra Hancock and Patrick Pezatti co-founded their first Turn It Up! CD and record store in Northampton in 1995. Hancock, pictured here at their Montague location across from the Bookmill on Greenfield Road, is happy to report that they are celebrating their 30th year in business by turning the reins over to longtime employee Carson Arnold on the day after Thanksgiving. Arnold was one of their first customers, making a purchase at the Northampton store when he was only 10 years old.

‘Rightfully Decoupling’ Judaism, Zionism

I am a Jewish resident of Greenfield who frequents Great Falls and Montague. I am very pleased that the Town of Montague voted to declare themselves an Apartheid Free Community. I am also grateful that over 30 local businesses have taken the Apartheid Free Communities Pledge – vowing to divest from Israel while it commits human rights abuses – including 10 businesses in Franklin County. Jewish safety is entwined with Palestinian freedom. We will not have peace in the land between the Jordan river and Mediterranean sea while Israel maintains an apartheid regime across it. The charge of apartheid is not my opinion. It is the conclusion of every major human rights organization focused on the region – including Human Rights Watch (*A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution*, 2021); B’Tselem (*A Regime of Jewish Supremacy From the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This Is Apartheid*, 2021); Al-Haq (*Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism*, 2022); and Amnesty International (*Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity*, 2022).

Sadly, it can come at a cost to stand up for Palestinian rights. I have been called anti-semitic, a self-hating Jew, racist, and delusional – just because I want Palestinians to have equal rights in their homeland. I know that any conflict I encounter or discomfort that I feel is nothing compared to the oppression and suffering of Palestinians – those facing starvation in Gaza, dispossession of their homes and lands in the West Bank, refugees in the diaspora who cannot return home, Palestinian citizens of Israel facing discrimination and restricted opportunities. This knowledge compels me to keep speaking out and standing up for justice. I feel fortunate to be connected to a robust community of Jews and allies who understand that Palestinian freedom is necessary to further Jewish safety, dignity, healing, and joy. I know that we are on the right side of history, that public opinion is changing, and that more people are rightfully decoupling Judaism from Zionism. Let us keep organizing to end apartheid in Israel/Palestine, just as we organized to end apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s and ’90s.

Molly Merrett
Greenfield

Palestinians Did Harm Jewish Neighbors

Regarding the recent vote at Montague town meeting to adopt a resolution declaring Montague to be an “Apartheid-Free Community,” I would like to offer a correction to a serious misstatement made by a supporter of the resolution. During the town meeting, the following statement was made regarding the Palestinian people “...they have done nothing, nothing to cause any harm to anyone, including their Jewish neighbors, for centuries...” This statement is entirely false and is a blatant distortion of the actual history of the conflict in Palestine and Israel. Violence against the Jewish population of Palestine and Israel by the Palestinian population has been going on since the end of the 19th century and has continued up to the present time. A very partial list of some of the most notable instances include: 1920 Nebi-Musa Riots, 1921 Jaffa Riots, 1931-1932 Black Hand Attacks, 1933 Palestine Riots, 1936-1939 Arab Revolts, 1936 Jaffa Riots, 1947-1948 Civil War, 1948 Arab-Israeli War, 1967 Six Day War, 1973 Arab-Israeli War, First Intifada, Second Intifada, Current Gaza War. In my opinion, for a community such as Montague to declare itself an “Apartheid-Free Community” will do nothing to diminish the violence in Gaza, and given the misrepresentation of the issue at town meeting, is more likely to exacerbate, rather than diminish the highly charged beliefs that people hold about the conflict. Regardless of how one might feel about the current war in Gaza, the representation at a public forum of the Palestinian people as victims of the Jewish population rather than willing participants in a more than century-long conflict is shameful and demonstrates a willingness to engage in a serious distortion of history in order to achieve a desired political end. This ahistorical view appears to be capturing the imagination of quite a number of individuals, organizations, businesses, and communities. I recently learned that a local business has been promoting the “Anti-Apartheid Communities” movement, has declared itself an “Anti-Apartheid Business,” and is encouraging its patrons to join that movement. I suspect that many of those involved in this movement may be unaware of the actual history of this area of the world.

Robert Shulman
Montague

Published weekly on Thursdays.

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

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Summer must officially be over: the safety buoys above the dam are out of the water.

I wouldn't recommend spending a lot of time there, but this week on the 'Everything Greenfield MA' Facebook group a member named Steve Carey posted an absolutely fantastic 360-degree drone photograph of the zone below the Turners Falls dam. You should be able to find it at www.tinyurl.com/TFdrone – depending on your browser, the 360-degree functionality may take a moment to load, or not work at all.

It's wild to see the rock forms on the riverbed from a bird's-eye view. What a place we live in! Mr. Carey's post includes another shot taken near the mouth of the Millers River and the French King Bridge, which is also pretty cool.

The massive fire this weekend that burned down the Olympia Place apartment complex in north Amherst is shocking, and over 230 people lost their homes.

I'm so glad no one was injured – it's a miracle.

If you're able to clothes or other non-food donations, I'm told the most central hub is New2U, a thrift store on the UMass campus. The address is 131 Southwest Circle, and the lobby should be open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The 2026 Green River Festival lineup was announced Thursday morning, and I'm genuinely impressed: Big Freedia, Wednesday, Spoon, Etran De L'Aïr, Kurt Vile,

Charley Crockett, Hurray For The Riff Raff, Frente Cumbiero, Lucius, and even Zoomer it-band Geese. And a bunch more. Sorry if I left off your favorite.

Plan ahead for June 19 to 21, I guess! The festival has come a long, long way from its origins, but seems to be in good hands.



We were on our way to press with last week's article by Ben Gagnon on the community gardeners at Unity Park when one of their coordinators, Lisa Davol, sent in the above photo, along with a note:

"The Unity Park Community Garden would like to thank the Montague Reporter and Garden Angels Marina and Jake Goldman for the donation of 50 tulip bulbs from the Montague Reporter bulb fundraiser. Several gardeners planted them this past Saturday at the garden during our work day. Thanks to you, spring will arrive in full color. Stop by to soak it in."

That's awesome – and thanks, once again, to everyone who sup-

ported our weird little nonprofit community newspaper by buying bulbs for themselves or others. It's cool to think of all the things waiting for us underground.

The president is floating the idea of 50-year mortgages for home purchases! With the warnings that

our economy is currently floating atop an AI investment bubble becoming louder and clearer – my current go-to for panicked babbling about it all is Ed Zitron's podcast Better Offline – it's nice to imagine there could be another wave of frothy debt instruments puffing up to catch us if it pops.

The median age of first-time homebuying in this country has just cracked 40, and if we get the extendo-mortgages, a lot of people will be renting from the banks until well after they shuffle off.

Reader Rob Steinberg sent in a link to "Rebels Post Videos of Mass Killings in Darfur as the

World Watches," Nicolas Niarchos's November 7 New Yorker article on the atrocities perpetrated in late October in el-Fasher, Sudan by the Rapid Support Forces, a post-Janjaweed militia group that Niarchos argues convincingly is substantively backed by interests in the United Arab Emirates.

The RSF's crimes against civilians are truly horrifying and our pages are open to any suggestions as to how they can be prevented.

"Perhaps, now that the hostages have been released, and there's a ceasefire, there's room in your column for a call to action regarding a far greater, massive, intentional, true genocide," Rob writes.

Okay. So it's about Israel. I'm editing this paper to provide and maintain a community platform, not to broadcast my own obsessions or convince others of my views. Sometimes readers will hear what I am thinking and worrying about, particularly on this page – which I think is a more accountable approach than the traditional unsigned "lead editorial" format which I and my predecessors at the Reporter long followed – but if people want their neighbors to pay attention to what they care about, there is a very low barrier to participation here. (See below.)

The worst possible outcome is for people to worry about what I am thinking about. But, since everyone else is bringing up Israel, here's the latest lead editorial from Haaretz on the settlements in the West Bank: www.archive.li/TBD5F

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OP ED Conditions Faced by Palestinians Justified

By RHONDA WAINSHILBAUM

LEYDEN – I spent the summer of 2014 teaching art at an Arab school in Nazareth, Israel. I lived with Christian Israeli Arabs. They enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle and had Jewish, Muslim, Bahia, and Druze friends. The kids and employees of the school where I worked were well dressed and had a free daily lunch. We took bus trips to amusement parks, swimming pools, and nature reserves. We went to a packed church on Sundays, and the Muslim residents went to their mosques and their call to prayer was heard daily.

My hosts disliked the Netanyahu government. They were also upset because local Muslims were taking over institutions, and ISIS flags were appearing. They were horrified by the fate of Christians in Muslim countries. While I lived with them, 6,000 Yazidi women and children in Iraq were taken captive and trafficked by ISIS. 400,000 fled and faced starvation. The rest were killed or subjected to enslavement, forced labor, conscription, torture, and rape.

After Hamas's barbaric October 7 massacre, progressive activists who claimed to speak for "the oppressed" justified and celebrated the mutilation, rape, and murder of innocent Israelis as "resistance." They proposed one-sided ceasefire resolutions to stop Israel from defending itself from a fanatical death cult.

And recently, just when a ceasefire finally brought relief from this devastating conflict, Montague passed an "anti apartheid mandate," aimed at delegitimizing Israel and those who support its right to exist. This campaign, framed as a stand for "justice," was actually an effort to erase the Jewish state. It omits the security

realities that Israel faces and the trauma that led to them. This resolution will have no effect on the Middle East, but will fuel hate and division, and make Franklin County Jews feel even more vulnerable.

The truth is that the Security Barrier was built after the Second Intifada (2000-2005), when more than 1,000 Israelis – Jews and Arabs alike – were murdered in suicide bombings launched primarily from the West Bank. It reduced attacks by over 90%. Checkpoints are not tools of domination but defensive measures to stop weapons and attackers from reaching Israeli cities.

The blockade placed on Gaza by Israel and Egypt was imposed after Israel left Gaza to Palestinian rule, and was immediately besieged with barrages of rockets. Israel would love not to have to spend its resources on protecting itself from neighbors who seek its destruction.

After the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Israel miraculously defeated the Soviet-backed Arab powers once again, the Arab states and the Soviet Union turned to the United Nations to defeat Israel ideologically. They passed the 1975 UN lie "Zionism is a form of Racism," directly assaulting the legacy of the Black civil rights era.

According to a study by the National Association of Scholars, from 2001 to 2021 Qatar gave \$4.7 billion to American universities in a deliberate effort to influence the narrative and win young minds. Mainstream news outlets have become Hamas's mouthpiece.

Peace activists are silent as Hamas uses child fighters, tortures, executes, and steals food from Gazans, uses civilians as shields and prevents them from using their 500 miles of tunnels as bomb shelters, and hides among civilians to intentionally increase casualties for their

propaganda war.

The Palestinian Authority pays terrorists \$30 million USD a month to murder Jews, and promotes hate in their textbooks.

In China, Iran, Turkey, Russia, and North Korea, dissidents are imprisoned. In much of the Arab world, minorities are denied citizenship, blacks are enslaved, women are stoned for showing hair, and homosexuality is criminalized. 400,000 are starving in Sudan, and 150,000 people were massacred there recently. Christians in Nigeria are executed daily. And, where are the voices calling for human rights for Israelis, who have lived with constant terror and the threat of annihilation since 1948?

This selective outrage and obsession with the one tiny Jewish state has replaced moral clarity. A Palestinian baby killed by Hamas's misfired rocket elicits tears; a Jewish baby bound with wire and burned in a kibbutz does not exist. Human rights organizations condemn Israel for defending itself and ignore Hamas's use of hospitals, schools, and mosques as military bases.

Arab citizens of Israel vote, serve in Parliament, sit on the Supreme Court, and work in all professions. Indeed, my Arab friends in Nazareth stay in Israel because it is the only country in the Middle East where every citizen has equal rights and where their daughter will grow up free from oppression. I urge readers to listen less to slogans, and to learn about the history and the realities of life in Israel. Hamas enablers are not promoting peace or listening to the Gazans who want freedom from brutal terrorist rule.

Rhonda Wainshilbaum writes that she is "an art teacher and a proud Zionist." She lives in Leyden.

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ACTION FOR
DEBT FORECLOSURE OF LIEN
AND BREACH OF CONTRACT

CAPTAIN'S COMMAND AT BLUEBEARD'S BEACH CLUB OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
TERRI SEVENE CAPUCCI, MICHAEL SEVENE, JAMES C. SEVENE, JR., and "JOHN DOE" being all unknown heirs, Successors, and assigns of Barbara L. Sevene claiming a right, title, lien, estate or interest in Week Number 10 in Villa Unit Number 225 in Captain's Command at Bluebeard's Beach Club, an Interval Ownership Condominium, Defendants.

SUMMONS

To: "John Doe", being all unknown heirs, successors and assigns of Barbara L. Sevene and all persons claiming a right title, lien, estate or interest in Week Number 10 in Villa Unit Number 225 in Captain's Command at Bluebeard's Beach Club, an Interval Ownership Condominium, Parcel Nos. 100-A, 100-B, and 100-C together with easements "A" and "B" on Parcel 100- REM No. 4 Estate Frenchman's Bay Quarter, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint, for

DEBT AND FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND BREACH OF CONTRACT.

PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION ENTERED BY HON. JUDGE SIGRID M. TEJO ON NOVEMBER 4TH, 2025.

Witness my hand and the Seal of this Court this 5th day of November, 2025.

TAMARA CHARLES
Clerk of the Court

By: Donna D. Donovan, Court Clerk Supervisor

Richard H. Dollison, Esq.,
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Law Offices of Richard H. Dollison, P.C.
5143 Palm Passage, Ste. B28/29
P.O. Box 6135
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00804

NOTE: This defendant, if served personally, is required to file his/her answer or other defenses with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty one (21) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. The defendant, if served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, is required to file his/her answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff, and in the case of any form of mailing requiring a signed receipt, within 30 days from the date of receipt as indicated by the signed receipt.



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ALSO ACCEPTED IN PERSON OR IN MAILBOX

BATTERY from page A1

will wait until the board of health’s decision before issuing its own.

The hour-long discussion Wednesday night was held in the town conference room and over Zoom, with participants revisiting points brought up at prior public meetings.

Matthew O’Donnell, the fire chief for Wendell and New Salem, has been meeting with Nexamp representatives to shape the emergency response plan required on the company’s application.

O’Donnell told the board he estimates that as much as 200,000 gallons of water, pumped at 1,000 gallons per minute, would be necessary to protect the surrounding solar panels, forest, and homes if the proposed battery system were to suffer a “runaway” fire.

That much water would require a form of on-site storage, he said, or as many as 20 tanker trucks driving to and from various regional water sources for several hours.

“[Nexamp] think we can actually use less, but I haven’t been given that number,” O’Donnell told the *Reporter*. “If we’re going to go with less, I want to see the science – the modeling and the engineering – behind why we can go with a smaller number.”

Nexamp senior vice president Michael Cucchiara apologized to O’Donnell for not having shared updated estimates yet, but also expressed frustration with the slow pace of the health board’s deliberations, comparing the situation to being stuck in “purgatory.”

“My concern is that we’ve spent a lot of time with non-experts raising issues, and I want to get to the point where we’re working with technical experts – on your side and our side – and can come to a resolution,” Cucchiara said. “These are the people we really need in the room so the residents of Wendell can really feel safe and secure.”

Board of health chair Amy Simmons said the town cannot contract consultants to begin to review Nexamp’s proposal until it has received all the information requested under the application. According to the new regulations, the company is responsible for funding the review.

“I hear what you’re saying, Mr. Cucchiara, about the application being substantially complete, but I hesitate to go further without that clear fire plan,” Simmons said. “Throughout this process, townsfolk have expressed concerns about the impact of a potential catastrophe on the town,



The applicant hopes to install a single CATL EnerX unit – the 20-by-8-by-10-foot container pictured above – at its proposed solar array. The unit includes its own thermal management and fire suppression systems, but if these fail there is some risk of a “runaway” fire that cannot be extinguished with water.

so I don’t want to accept it with an incomplete fire plan. I feel that is one of the most important pieces of the application for public health and safety.”

In the rare event when a lithium-ion battery unit catches fire, it cannot be extinguished with water, because adding water would cause an explosive reaction producing hydrochloric acid. Current standards instead require firefighters to let the unit burn itself out while spraying water on the surroundings to keep the fire from spreading.

They must also do this from at least 100 feet away to avoid the potentially toxic smoke, O’Donnell explained, which is a major challenge with a limited water supply.

Members of the public expressed concerns about contamination of their private wells in case of a BESS fire.

“I’m not an expert hydrologist, but I do drink the water across the street,” said Joseph Coll, a neighbor of the proposed project.

Wendell Country Store owner Patti Scutari said the well at the store is considered a public water supply, and may warrant additional protections.

Simmons asked whether Nexamp could provide an analysis of the materials used in the sound barrier it planned to install around the BESS, an “AcoustiFence,” in order for the board to determine whether it would pose a chemical safety risk if it caught fire.

Cucchiara said the company had not yet acquired that information, as it is “proprietary technology.”

During the meeting, Cucchiara addressed a letter from Simmons encouraging the company to consider using sodium-ion batteries, believed

to be a safer alternative to lithium ion. Cucchiara said the technology would not be commercially viable in time to build the project.

“If we are switching technologies, that request is tantamount to killing your project,” Cucchiara said. He added that the solar array would most likely not be built without the approval of an onsite BESS.

Attorney Michael Pill attended Wednesday night’s meeting representing abutters of the proposed project. He told the *Reporter* that he plans to file a lawsuit challenging the project on the grounds that it must comply with the town’s current zoning bylaws, not those in place when it was first approved in 2018.

“The fire protection [plan] needs to be absolutely complete and totally worked out with the fire chief, and then and only then will we be able to properly respond,” Pill said at the meeting. “And then we may want to engage our own fire peer review.”

In a November 3 letter to the board of health, he argued that Wendell does not have the water, equipment, or staff necessary to contain a BESS fire, and emphasized that the project lies within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed. He urged the board not to approve Nexamp’s application unless the company can prove that “the risk of fire is zero.”

At Wednesday’s meeting, Cucchiara encouraged the board not to listen to Pill’s advice.

“That is an unreasonable bar for any technology, building, or infrastructure,” Cucchiara said. “I don’t think it’s responsible guidance for the board to follow, and I object.... My fear right now is that this only distorts and delays facts.”

Board of health clerk Tom Siefert said he had sent Nexamp a list of information missing from its application, including a hydrogeologic analysis of the site, a hazardous materials analysis, a noise study, and proof of financial security for insurance and decommissioning costs.

O’Donnell said he is working with the state Department of Fire Services to find a consultant to review the emergency plan, and suggested that the same consultant could be shared with the board of health.

No vote was taken at Wednesday’s meeting, and the health board plans to continue discussing the project on November 24. Cucchiara said Nexamp would work to provide the requested information.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Conquers Territory From New Salem

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Several Wendell residents came to the Wendell selectboard’s November 5 meeting, including Jake Doody, owner of the Lockes Village Road property where a several-acre solar and battery project is proposed; Linda Hickman, the project’s neighbor; planning board chair Stephen Gross; and, by Zoom, Laura Facey.

Gross asked for the selectboard’s authorization to consult with town counsel, at public expense, to see if the solar application and the bylaw are within state guidelines. Time is pressing, because the planning board had scheduled its second hearing about the project for December 2 (*see article, Page A1*).

In granting permission, selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato told Gross to have questions ready before calling and to remind David Donesky, town counsel, of the deadline.

Road Work

When they began, repairs to the Farley Road bridge, which connects Wendell and Erving, were expected to involve replacing the decking and underlying planks. When those planks were removed, workers found that the steel underneath was rusted, requiring additional work not considered in the

initial estimate.

Work stopped while it is being determined what is now needed, and what it may cost. Steel work will not be done in winter, so the bridge will be closed into spring.

Wendell highway commission chair Phil Delorey said that if the town spends Chapter 90 money on the additional work, little or none would be left for the rest of town.

DiDonato suggested that Erving town planner Glenn Johnson-Musad, formerly Wendell’s town coordinator, or state senator Jo Comerford might help locate money for the project. Wendell can re-apply for the grant that would have funded just the deck replacement.

Wendell officially accepted a 0.6-mile section of Wendell Road historically thought to be in New Salem as a Wendell road. DiDonato said the two towns’ selectboards should meet to work out the details of surveying the newly-discovered line, and assessing the values of properties found to be in Wendell.

The owners of both of the homes affected by the change of understanding already own other property in Wendell that they pay taxes on.

The plan for Old Farley Road, whose layout and grade have been changed by a private owner, is still uncertain. It may or may not

still belong to the town, but as it now lies, the road is too steep to maintain with town equipment. The original road is still passable by four-wheel-drive vehicles, and could be made passable for regular traffic with extensive work.

Delorey said that town counsel has advised that using town resources to plow a private road would need town meeting approval. Due to inadequate record-keeping, however, the attorneys have been unable to find whether the road was actually discontinued at a town meeting, or merely that the selectboard decided to discontinue its maintenance.

Letters to the landowners – notably the Cuppers Trust, which is responsible for the present layout – have reportedly not been answered. Delorey said the highway crew will not maintain the road this year, as it did last year.

Town Buildings

Facilities manager Frank McGinn reported that if the senior center chimney is not repointed, water will be able to weaken the mortar, and bricks can start to loosen and fall. Repointing is relatively simple, but working over the slate roof to do it is problematic, as slate can be slippery and it can break.

McGinn said he would contact

the firm that worked on the Spears library in Shutesbury. DiDonato told him that facilities engineer Jim Slavas would know what type of shingles are on the library roof, and whether they are due for replacement, at least on the south side.

McGinn said a contractor will replace the softened Hardie board on the library with a plastic laminate, which even unpainted will not admit water.

He said he had not yet had a chance to assess the priorities and needs of other town buildings.

Other Business

The selectboard approved declaring Wendell’s old fire department tank truck as surplus property, making it available for auction.

The board appointed Matt Demarco to the board of health until the May election, and approved renewing regional agreements for animal control services and the dog shelter.

They approved extending the term of the federal FY’22/FY’23 community development block grant through June 2026. Other board members gave DiDonato authority to write and submit the town’s annual Green Communities report.

The board will hold a dog hearing at its next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, November 19.

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DEMOLITION from page A1

housing the hydro turbine as a separate property.

This decision entailed a 27-page “Cross-Easements, Covenants, and Restrictions Agreement” which granted the buyer, Turners Falls Hydro, LLC, “in common” with the owner of the larger parcel, “the right and easement for support in and to such structural and load-bearing components... as are necessary to maintain the support and integrity of the existing structures...”

Dennis Booska, Sr., who cast the sole dissenting vote on the ZBA, entered his opinion for the historic record. “The stated lack of a plan or reuse strategy for the remainder of the complex for the Owner (IPC) was a focused concern of the board,” Booska wrote. “The removal of the potentially most productive part of the facility and leaving the remainder with no reuse plan except for ‘it’s for sale’ raises the specter of a purposeful abandonment of responsibilities. To allow this condition to be aggravated by separation of the building assets into ‘lots’ cannot be reconciled with the intent of the zoning by-laws nor deemed to be in the public good.”

As it turned out, the larger parcel was taken by the town for back taxes from a subsequent owner in 2010, leaving the public responsible for physically supporting what is now known as Building 9.

Under the water exchange agreement, Turners Falls Hydro may generate electricity in Building 9 whenever the canal’s current owner, FirstLight Power Resources, can divert at least 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Connecticut River water into it. When the turbine is running, it draws 288 cfs.

According to a 2019 *Montague Reporter* investigation, as of 2014 and 2015 the majority of the company’s revenue was earned as reimbursement from FirstLight for not operating its turbine.

Last February, the town of Montague, which is seeking to demolish the deteriorating mills before they collapse, received an estimate from the engineering firm Tighe & Bond that stabilizing Building 9 alone could cost the town as much as \$10 million – nearly all the state and federal funding it has been awarded for the entire demolition project.

On Monday assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller presented the selectboard with a time-



Unless another \$2 million or so in funding is found, the town’s obligation to provide the private powerhouse with continued structural support and upper-level egress may mean two of the three sections of the deteriorating mill that tower directly over the Connecticut River – Buildings 2 and 1, seen above – will continue to tower. Full demolition may require \$5 million more.

line and several options for stabilizing the hydro plant while tearing down some or all of the Strathmore. The proposal took the form of a \$1,088,550 contract amendment with Tighe & Bond.

The options include a “base plan,” which demolishes five of the town’s nine buildings and builds a new retaining wall on the eastern face of Building 9, and three increasingly ambitious “alternate” plans: demolishing two more buildings along the Connecticut River and building a retaining wall and stair tower on the northern face of Building 9; adding Building 11, which is no longer attached to the rest of the complex, to the tear-down list; and also tearing down the final building, which would require new retaining walls on three sides of the power plant.

All three of the alternate options include constructing a new stair tower for Building 9. Nolan-Zeller clarified to the *Reporter* that this would provide the plant with a second point of egress, as required by building code. Under the 2001 agreement, this is currently provided by an easement into an upper floor of a town-owned building.

The Tighe & Bond report did

not include cost estimates for the various options.

Nolan-Zeller said the base plan could be completed with the funding the town has on hand, and that it is “predicted” that Alternate 1, which demolishes all three of the town’s buildings that sit directly on the Connecticut River, would require \$2 million in additional funding unless bids come in lower than expected.

“We’d really like to be, at minimum, at Alternate 1, but we can’t commit to that given our current funding constraints,” he said.

He then predicted that Alternate 2 would require “about \$3 million” in additional funding, and the “full project,” leaving only the hydro plant standing, would cost “about \$5 million” more.

Nolan-Zeller added that he and town administrator Walter Ramsey have been in “active conversation” with state and federal officials about new funding sources, but that “it’s unclear whether any of that will pan out.”

Tasks for Tighe & Bond in the proposal include developing the plans necessary for demolition, bidding to obtain subcontractors, and obtaining the necessary permits

from the state and town. A preliminary chronology estimates that if the design phase begins this month, it could be completed next summer, with demolition and construction completed by October 2027.

Montague historical commission chair Janel Nockleby said her commission has not talked about the mill’s demolition “in the recent past,” disclosing that she works for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which is involved in one of the large grants the town has received.

Nockleby said she wondered why no mention was made in the engineering firm’s scope of work about retaining some foundations from the old mill, as is suggested in the town’s 2023 Canal District Master Plan. “It seems like we should at least say now whether we’re going to do that or not,” she said, “or defer a decision until later.”

She also wondered if the retaining walls envisioned for the hydro plant would be consistent with the site’s historic character.

Ramsey replied that, as under most of the scenarios some of the buildings would remain, he was “not worried about foundations right now,” but that keeping founda-

tions is “absolutely... something we want to prioritize having in there.”

“It might even have some cost savings associated with it,” Ramsey added.

Selectboard chair Matt Lord recommended that the board not take a vote on the proposal, as member Rich Kuklewicz was absent, and to allow for more public input. “If we were investing a million dollars in any other sort of thing around town,” he said, “there would be committees involved – there would be all sorts of folks who were bringing their opinion and their feelings, as the residents of town, in terms of how to handle this.”

Lord also argued that there were other “pathways” not in the Tighe & Bond proposal, including purchasing the hydro plant from Eagle Creek and taking the property by eminent domain, and that the overall cost of the options presented should be evaluated in the context of the alternatives.

However, he said, the “potential price point for purchase” of the plant is “currently viewed financially unfavorably” compared with building one or more retaining walls, and as for an eminent domain taking, “efforts to obtain specialized counsel... able to advise us on all of the intricacies of a complex site have not been as successful as we would like.”

Lord later told the *Reporter* that both approaches to acquiring the plant involve a “complex web of legal issues,” including over how the value of a hydropower plant is determined, a technical and potentially contentious issue, as recent legal conflicts over the town’s assessments of FirstLight property have shown.

According to Lord, both KP Law, the town’s general counsel, and the specialized firm which helped assess the value of FirstLight’s property have expressed reservations about the town going down that path – and in the end, he said, the town would still need to fund a large demolition of the complex.

As of press time, Montague appears to be headed toward either leaving half of the complex standing, or spending millions more to stabilize a privately-owned hydroelectric plant that earns the majority of its revenue by not producing electricity.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

November 28: ‘Gratitude After Gravy Walk’

TURNERS FALLS – Get moving on the holiday weekend, and connect with nature and local history! Join staff of the Great Falls Discovery Center on Friday, November 28 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. for a leisurely walk along the Canalside Rail Trail.

The walk is about three miles long, on a level, paved surface, and makes for an easy stroll for adults and children ages 8 and up. Be prepared for cold weather, dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water.

The walk begins at 1 p.m. at the front entrance to the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. This event is free. Inclement weather or icy trail conditions will cancel.

MEMORIAL from page A1

service, but more so, thank the sacrifice it took for them to serve our country.”

After the short ceremony, Boutwell shared that he has served on the memorial committee for 30 years, and that it has been difficult to recruit new members. Currently, Brunelle is the only other member.

Following a 30-year career in the US Army and Navy that took him around the world, Brunelle said, he came back home to Montague. He serves as chief of the Turners Falls fire department, and plans to retire next spring.

Kuklewicz, who regularly speaks at the town’s Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, emphasized to the *Reporter* the country’s need to remember its history in order to not repeat its mistakes – and that we are always only one generation away from tyranny.



Ed Gregory also reports: “Low 30-degree temperatures, a gusty wind and occasional snow flurries, had a bearing on the duration of the occasion, which began promptly at 11 a.m. and concluded at 11:25 a.m. Contingents from the Montague Elks, Boy Scouts, VFW, veteran advocates, and town officials made up the ceremony’s core.”

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Director of Public Health Hiring Notice

The Town of Montague (pop 8,500) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Director of Public Health**. Position requires the ability to manage and provide essential public health services to the community under the policy direction of the Board of Health. The position requires the ability to read, interpret, and enforce the MA Code of Regulations as well as MA General Laws as they pertain to public health. A familiarity with local public health and foundational public health services is highly advantageous. Director supervises one full-time administrative assistant, a part-time animal/barn inspector, and contracted public health nurse.

The candidate for this position should have a bachelor's degree in public health or a related field and 2-3 years of relevant experience. The candidate should possess or be capable of acquiring a MA Registered Sanitarian license or become a Certified Health Officer within one year of date of hire. Within two years of the date of hire, Director must obtain the following certifications/licenses: MA Soil Evaluator, MA Title 5 System Inspector, Certified Pool Operator, Certified Food Protection Manager, and Certified MA Lead Determinator. The position also requires a valid driver's license. For a full description of the position, job description is available at montague-ma.gov.

This position is full-time, with a 35 hour per week schedule Monday through Thursday. The position is exempt from collective bargaining and has a range of starting annual salary from \$71,507 to \$93,275.

Applications received by **November 25, 2025**, will be given first consideration, however, the position will remain open until a qualified candidate is hired. The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity employer.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest via email to healthclerk@montague-ma.gov or in person or by mail at: Montague Board of Health, C/O Geneva Bickford, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

TOWN OF LEVERETT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TREE HEARING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, §15C, and Section 4600 of the Leverett Zoning Bylaws of a joint public hearing of the Planning Board and Tree Warden at the request of the Town of Leverett Tree Warden to discuss the removal of trees along Dudleyville Road as part of the drainage construction project for the road.

The Public Tree Hearing will be held on **Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** as part of the Planning Board's regularly scheduled meeting at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road. A link to join the hearing remotely will be available on the Planning Board's posted agenda.

Trees to be discussed have been marked with an orange spray paint number which corresponds to the ID# listed in the chart at right for identification along the Road. Additional trees to be removed, that are not subject to a tree hearing, have been marked with an orange dot.

ID #	Over 10" DBH	Species
1	Y	Maple
2	Y	Maple
3	Y	Birch
4	Y	Birch
5	Y	Cluster (3)
6	Y	Birch
7	Y	Maple
8	Y	Black Birch
9	Y	Maple
10	Y	White Pine
11	Y	Red Oak
12	Y	Pine
13	Y	Hemlock
14	Y	Hemlock
15	Y	Hemlock
16	Y	Hemlock
17	Y	Hemlock
18	Y	Hemlock

Tip of the week ...

It's really important to pay your insurance bills on time. Cancellation for non-payment stays on your record and will make it more difficult, and expensive, to obtain insurance in the future. Have trouble making payments? Ask your agent for advice before it's too late.

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Rockport goalie Zakarya Bouafi makes a diving save on a goal attempt by Turners Falls's Noah Kolodziej as Turners Falls's Yolvin Ovalle-Mejia (at center) and Rockport's Timothy Patrick Doupe (at right) rush in during last Saturday's Round of 16 state tournament game. Ovalle-Mejia scored Turners's sole goal in the 2-1 loss to the Vikings.

SPORTS from page A1

but rode instead in a luxury van.

Plenty of Turners fans made the trip. Most chose to stand along the sidelines instead of sitting in the stands.

As his team was warming up, coach Matt Kolodziej offered some advice: "Their school is bigger than Turners, but they are still a Division 5 team," he counseled. "But we beat D4 and D3 teams."

In the huddle before introductions, he advised, "Play smart. Play together."

The field at Rockport was pretty unkempt. It was muddy, bumpy, and slanted, and would cause multiple slips from both teams.

The Vikings are a great team. They ran disciplined attacks throughout the match, spreading out in formation as they marched down the field. When the Thunder intercepted the ball, the Vikings were often in position to steal it back or kick it downfield.

Turners found some opportunities in the first half, as one or two players managed to cut through the Viking defense, but each shot on goal was scooped up by their goalie.

At the Turners end, goalkeeper Jackson Cogswell and the Blue D kept the Vikings off the scoreboard until 29:01, when a deflected shot was kicked into the net to give Rockport a 1-nil lead.

Powertown did not give up. Their remarkable defense held off the Vikes, and they mounted several attacks of their own. At the half, the game was still 1-0.

The Turners players dug the mud out of their cleats during the half-time break, and huddled with their coaches. A minute into the second half, Rockport scored again.

This might have dissuaded a lesser team, but Turners refused to surrender. They threaded through the Rockport defense several times, but the Viking goalkeeper stopped every shot until 33:57, when Yolvin Ovalle-Mejia hit a grounder into the net to make it 2-1.

The True Blue faithful cheered and rang cowbells in celebration.

The teams fought up and down the field for the next 29 minutes, but neither could hit paydirt. With five minutes left, the clock froze and the official time was kept on the field.

Then came the classic slowdown. The Vikings took their sweet time inbounding every pass, and whenever they stymied Thunder attacks, they would kick the ball deep into Thunder territory.

The precious seconds ticked away until the final whistle blew, handing Turners their first loss and bringing their 2025 season to an end.

The Turners boys have nothing to hang their heads about. They won the Tri-County North championship, were crowned the Western Massachusetts Class 4 champions, and finished their regular season undefeated. They also won the hearts of students, families, and alumni, and will be forever immortalized on a banner in the Turners Falls High School gym.

Girls' Soccer

Monson 4 – FCTS 0

Last Thursday, November 6, the Franklin Tech girls' soccer team was bounced out of the MIAA Division 5 playoffs by the fourth-seeded Monson Mustangs. Layla Hammond and Faythe Sobieski put pressure on Monson, but were unable to place the ball into the net. Meanwhile, the Eagle defense kept Tech in the game. Samantha Duncan, Ariel Peters, Kim Ramirez, Alyssa Peters, and Melyn Ramirez thwarted attacks, while goalkeeper Shayly Martin made a whopping 24 saves.

Cross Country

On Saturday, five runners from Franklin Tech competed in the Division 3 cross-country tournament at the Willard Park Complex in Devens. In the girls' heat, Molly Howe finished in 25:16 and Zoe Morrison in 28:40.31. William Thomas completed the boys' course in 19:33.16, Leo McDonald in 22:40.99, and James Edson in 24:22.66.

Football

FCTS 33 – Northampton 8

Last Thursday evening, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles swamped the Northampton Blue Devils 33-8.

It would have been easy for Tech to look past this game – it was a non-playoff consolation matchup, and they were already the #2 seed in the upcoming state vocational tournament, so they had nothing to gain or lose. But the Eagles weren't

about to take their foot off the gas pedal, and they made it their fourth straight blowout win.

It was cold at gametime. So cold that most of the Franklin Tech coaches wore long pants. The conditions led to eight total fumbles, and multiple Northampton injuries, though through it all the cheerleaders kept the crowd revved up.

The die was cast on the very first play, as Hunter Donahue received the kickoff and ran it back 78 yards for a touchdown. Mason Bassett capped off the drive with a 2-point conversion, though it would be the only time Franklin went for the 2.

A few minutes after that, Nolyn Stafford pounded into the end zone. The Eagles were off and running, and scored twice more in the first half to lead 26-zip at the break.

In the third quarter, Maxon Brunette ran back a punt for what would be Tech's last touchdown of the night. Joseph DiSciullo kicked in the extra point, and Tech's lead was at 33-0.

The clock went into mercy mode, clicking continuously as coach Joe Gamache emptied his bench. With seconds left in the game, Northampton completed two long passes to prevent a shutout.

Quarterback Mason Bassett went three-for-four for 27 yards and a touchdown. Donahue and Cole Bassett were his targets. Brady Gancarz (84 yards), Nathan Sabolevski (77), and Brunette (66) led the rushing attack, followed by Stafford, Mason Bassett, Oliver Schwenger-Sartz, Jackson Feury, Landon Smead, Wyatt Whitman, and Justin Lent.

Stafford, Donahue, Brunette, Sabolevski, and Cole Bassett all scored touchdowns for Tech, while Mason Bassett ran in the 2-PAT and DiSciullo kicked the extra point.

On defense, Whitman and Dillon Laffond led the team in tackles. Stafford made a sack, Schwenger-Sartz, Samuel Bodenstein, Cole Gamache, and Ben Baker caused fumbles, and Donahue, Whitman, Bodenstein, and Matthew McIntyre recovered fumbles.

The Eagles get back on the grid-iron this Saturday in a home game against the Cape Cod Regional Tech Crusaders, the first round of the statewide vocational tournament.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

project, and place the entire burden of ongoing repairs on the town of Montague.”

Both schools, which sit adjacent to each other across their athletic fields, are owned by the town of Montague.

Thomas said that if the MSBA approves the application the next step is a feasibility study, and that if the project moves forward the state would be expected to cover over 75% of total costs.

Blier further clarified to the *Reporter* in an email that the “critical first step in a multi-stage process” is actually being “invited into... a 270-day Eligibility Period” during which the district will be asked to “demonstrate its readiness to manage and fund a major capital project.”

Successful completion would then lead to the feasibility study, she wrote, during which the district or building committee would procure an owner’s project manager and an architectural design firm.

Selectboard chair Matt Lord asked if the district has a rough estimate of the total cost.

“It really would be pulling out of the air,” Blier replied. She said 75% would be the minimum expected reimbursement, and that meeting certain criteria such as “green” building could make the project eligible for more.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey asked about the timing of the MSBA’s decision, and at what point town meeting would be asked to appropriate the local share of the cost of the design phase. Blier said the state would “give a time frame on when you would need that money” if the application is accepted, and clarified that “it may need to be sooner” than the annual town meeting in May.

She noted that the town would need to appropriate the entire cost of the design phase, which she estimated at “as much as half a million dollars,” before being reimbursed by the state.

Town accountant Angelica Desroches estimated that the town has \$800,000 in free cash on hand.

The board approved sending the letter endorsing the building project to the “Esteemed Members of the Massachusetts School Building Authority.”

Hopeful Nudge

Ramsey took the lead in explaining the proposal to offer an “incentive payment” to encourage town employees who “can opt to take insurance through another provider” to do so. The proposal would pay an individual on the town plan, which is offered through the Hampshire County Group In-

surance Trust, \$1,500 to get their insurance elsewhere; a staff member dropping the town’s “employee plus one” plan would receive \$3,000; and a member dropping a family plan would get \$5,000.

Ramsey said the offer is somewhat more generous than in other communities, but that it is worth it, as Montague contributes 80% of employees’ premiums.

“It’s kind of a quick plan, something that Montague can hit the ground running with fast,” said Desroches. “It would be a quick Band-Aid for FY’27.”

Employees would need to have been covered by the town’s plan for a year to be eligible, but there is a provision to allow the selectboard to override that policy, she said.

Lord asked Desroches if she wanted the selectboard to vote on the proposal at the meeting. She said she would also like to “bounce it off the finance committee,” and that Monday’s discussion was meant as a “first reading.” The board did not take a vote.

Leaking Money

The board did take 18 votes on requests for sewer abatements, rejecting eight and accepting 10 on the recommendation of Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little. This procedure is complicated because, even if the board concurs with the superintendent’s recommendation to reject a request, it must make a motion to abate the bill and then vote in the negative.

Sewer bills come out twice a year, generally in late October and early April, and are calculated based on customers’ water usage, as measured by the town’s water districts in the previous winter. Summer water usage is not used because it tends to include water for lawns and gardens, which does not drain into the sewer.

The second bill for a fiscal year is usually the same as the first, but for all five of the requests that involved leaky toilets that had reportedly since been fixed, Little and the board opted to reject the fall abatement, but ask that the spring bill be calculated using a reduced volume of water.

A request by Little to put a list of “surplus equipment” on the market was also approved.

New Amusements

The board approved an all-alcohol license requested by owner Daniel Levine for Mystic Cat Pinball, a new business located at 113 and 115 Avenue A. If the name sounds familiar, it is nearly identical to Mystic Pinball, an operation across the street formerly co-owned by Levine which, according to his attorney Jesse Cook-Dubin, fell victim to a

loss of business at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

The new business occupies two storefronts, one of which will house the “pinball and amusement devices” and the other a bar with “loveseats, chairs, tables and bar seating,” according to the company’s application.

Monday’s agenda called for the board to consider both the liquor license and an amusement license for 25 pinball machines, but the amusement request was put on hold, according to Cook-Dubin and Levine, until the business requests its entertainment license.

Lord noted that one side would involve pinball open to “all ages,” and the other would be a bar. “Is there any concern with how the staff at the bar will manage what’s going on in the adjoining room?” he asked.

Levine responded that all patrons would enter the business through the bar and “be identified,” and that the door from the pinball room to the sidewalk would be an exit only.

The two members of the selectboard in attendance, Lord and Marina Goldman, both voted to approve the all-alcohol license.

Administrative assistant Fern Smith reported that one more all-alcohol license and two beer and wine licenses remain in the town’s pocket.

Other Business

The board voted to approve Smith as the town IT coordinator, a position with a small stipend that is generally filled by a town hall staff member.

An update on next year’s school budget was put on hold until January, because Blier and Thomas had left the meeting before the item came up on the agenda, and Lord said they would likely have little information until the beginning of the year in any case.

The board authorized a \$53,500 contract with Larochele Construction, Inc. to upgrade insulation and replace doors at the Unity Park Field House, which provides work space for the staff of the parks and recreation department and features the last wood stove to heat a town building. The work will be funded by a state Green Communities grant and a utility incentive from MassSave.

The board agreed to forward copies of the resolution passed at the October 22 special town meeting declaring Montague an “apart-
heid-free community” to the town’s representatives in the state legislature, representative Natalie Blais and senator Jo Comerford, as well as governor Maura Healey.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on November 12, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

FCTS’s New Math

On the first day of class, 18 students from a variety of vocational programs at Franklin Tech learned what the first trimester’s goal would be in their “Problem Solving: Robotics” class: to create and program a robot which can draw an 18-inch square.

With only five classes left, it’s down to the last crunch. One robot named Penelope mysteriously creates a squiggle at each corner of her otherwise perfect square. Another robot can draw a perfectly straight line, but hasn’t yet worked out turning the corner. A third robot’s wheels need improved traction so

it will not slip on the white board. Asked about the class, the students reply that it is fun and that they like to build things.

Televising Meetings

Erving cable and video committee member Moonlight Davis said that he had toured the Erving town hall with Montague Community Television station manager Dean Garvin to consider how to televise meetings of town boards and committees.

Davis said they planned how to set up the downstairs meeting room, and where to put cameras. The committee is working on questions such as whether the meetings will be televised live or edited, which cameras to buy, and which platform to broadcast on.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on November 10, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

**Local Women
Arrested At VY Protest**

On November 7, about 50 people from Franklin County and the Brattleboro area attended a protest organized by Nina Keller of Wendell and Sally Shaw of Gill. The event took place outside the Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee offices in Brattleboro, in reaction to a proposed 20% power

update at the plant. Protesters’ grievances include the possibility of a terrorist threat, the need for clean energy, concern for current employees and future generations, and people living close to the plant becoming ill at higher rates. Seven women were arrested for trespassing after they joined hands and walked over the yellow crime scene tape toward the Entergy staff. State troopers and police led the women to a waiting police van, where they were issued citations for trespassing and released.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on November 10, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Winter shows itself to-day. The “harvest concert” at the Baptist chapel Sunday evening was a first class one and drew out the largest audience that has ever been in the church. Wm. J. Malley cut his right leg with an ax very severely the other day.

S.R. Pierce says he has sold his new brick house on K Street. But it doesn’t follow that it is a fact, because *he* says so.

A move is being made to partially light the village with the New England gas company’s gas. The company propose to furnish light at \$15 a year per post.

F.I. Braddock has hired power in the cutlery buildings and is manufacturing his patent rat traps in great quantities, for which he finds a ready sale. Mr Braddock has worked long and hard with his invention, and is now reaping his reward. He will make a fortune very quickly, and he deserves it for his perseverance.

While Sean Sewall, Jr. and George O. Peabody were driving along the road through the woods in the rear of Pleasant Plain on Saturday evening, the horse shied at some object which threw the gentlemen violently to the ground. The animal then ran off smashing the buggy to pieces and arrived at its stable door with nothing left of the turnout but the collar. Neither of the occupants of the carriage was injured fortunately.

The *Springfield Republican* is remarkable for its errors. It stated a few weeks ago that the new aqueduct of the Montague Paper Co. was capable of carrying 200 gallons of water per minute, a quantity sufficient for the entire mill. The item was copied into the *Paper Trade Journal*, a paper which ought to have known that 200 gallons of water per minute, would go a small way in supplying the largest paper mill in the world. In getting the pipes in position, Mr. Marshall has ascertained that the constant flow of water through the pipes is very nearly 2,000 gallons per minute.

Two or three more of the young men are to be married before New Years.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Montague Launches Space Program

MONTAGUE – The Town of Montague is developing a new 10-year Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) to manage, protect, and enhance its conservation and recreation resources. This plan is shaped by a community engagement process to ensure it reflects the needs and interests of residents.

For more information about the OSRP process, visit the project website at www.montague-ma.gov/p/1589/.

For questions or comments, please contact parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz (recdir@montague-ma.gov) or town planner Maureen Pollock (mpollock@montague-ma.gov).

We encourage all community members to get involved! Here are some upcoming opportunities:

Virtual Public Forum #1
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The team will present an overview of existing conditions, outline the project process and schedule, and share best practices to support community goals. The goal is to gather initial feedback on needs and opportunities. Access via Zoom at www.tinyurl.com/MontagueOSRP

OSRP Survey
Help us understand the community’s needs and concerns regarding open space and recreational facilities. Your feedback is vital to the planning process. Take the survey in English or Spanish via this link: www.tinyurl.com/7vnnwcw95

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ERVING from page A1

of separation over five years, rather than all at once.

“Buildings are a challenge,” Smith observed, pointing to Erving’s aging town hall and its public works department that lacks adequate space for offices and equipment storage.

Comerford replied that she has filed a bill to establish a municipal building authority, similar to the state library building authority, which helped fund the current Erving public library building. “It’s one of my priority bills for the session,” she said. She suggested the selectboard could write a letter supporting the bill.

Selectboard member William Bembury asked about the state’s response to the effect of climate change on local infrastructure.

“There is an environmental bond bill moving, and it has some good funding,” Comerford answered, adding that she will “track” and “push” an effort to give towns substantial funding through the Municipal Vulnerability Program. She told the officials that the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has not been prioritizing issues affecting small towns, but is “changing priorities” after lobbying by her and others.

The state’s PILOT formula, Comerford said, considers the market value of land, but does not consider the ecosystem services it provides: “What are the forests you steward doing for the state?”

Comerford added that the Healey administration has established a new streamlined grant process, Environment & Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop), where local matching funds will not be required. “We’re getting there, in terms of resilience,” she said.

The senator characterized the formula for calculating payments *in lieu* of taxes (PILOT) on state-owned land as “wildly unfair” to small towns in western Massachusetts. The formula, she said, considers the market value of land, but does not consider the ecosystem services it provides: “What are the forests you steward doing for the state?”

Governor Healey, Comerford said, “got sick of nagging” from small-town legislators and established a commission, which she has been appointed to, to review the PILOT program.

Another state program up for review is the formula the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) uses to calculate mandated local contributions to school funding, a factor in determining Chapter 70 education aid. According to Comerford, the formula has not been updated since 2007.

She said a hearing last Thursday in Greenfield, in which local officials and citizens complained about the formula, opened the eyes of DESE officials to the problems faced in smaller towns, and that a virtual hearing is scheduled for next Tuesday, November 18.

Other initiatives Comerford mentioned included a dirt roads program, funding for microtransit, and moving the regulation of emergency medical services from the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health to the Department of Public Safety, so that “funding would be better allocated.” According to Wikipedia, microtransit is “flexible routing and/or flexible scheduling of minibuses shared with other passengers.”

As Comerford prepared to leave, Jacob Smith thanked her for all her efforts for Erving. She acknowledged the thanks, and complimented Erving town administrator Bryan Smith: “He really is good.”

‘Learning a Lot About Bridges’

The repair of the decking on the historic steel truss Farley Bridge, a joint project for Erving and Wendell, started this fall with the removal of the old decking, but stopped when the removal revealed a new problem – rust.

Erving and Wendell must now decide which repairs are essential, how to pay for them, and whether to replace the decking before making metal repairs. “We need to understand what the costs are before just proceeding with the decking, and then ripping it back up, potentially,” Jacob Smith commented.

Gill Engineering of Newton, the project engineer, prepared a preliminary design for the metal repairs, including cleaning and painting bearings and stringers and replacing stringers, anchor bolts, and anchor plates. Warner Brothers LLC of Sunderland will prepare a cost es-

Grateful Gifting

Hosted by The Nice District



Date: Tuesday, November 25 at 2:00 PM
Location: 2nd Street & Unity Park, Turners Falls, MA

Win a Thanksgiving Meal!

Filling out the coupon below gives local residents an opportunity to win one of 33 Thanksgiving suppers – a celebration of gratitude and community spirit. Your entry also helps us stay connected as we build our community mailing list for future neighborhood events.

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Phone: _____
One thing I’m grateful for is: _____

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time to submit to the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) bridge inspection team.

However, the only bridge inspection team in the state qualified to review plans for steel bridges is based in Boston, and it reportedly may be months before the plans are approved.

The selectboard will decide how to proceed with the bridge work once there is more information about the cost of the additional repairs, and after consultation with Wendell.

MassDOT awarded the contract for replacing the Church Street

bridge to AJ Virgilio Construction, Inc. of Westfield in the amount of \$2,321,520. According to highway superintendent Glenn McCrory, MassDOT plans for construction to start next spring and be completed by next winter.

“We’re learning a lot about bridges,” McCrory commented.

Finance committee chair Debra Smith asked about the traffic pattern on Church Street once the bridge is replaced.

Bryan Smith said it would once again be a two-lane road, and would be completed in compliance with the state’s Complete Streets

grant program, which includes citizen input on roadway design.

Other Business

The finance committee, meeting jointly with the selectboard, approved funding a fourth staff member for the highway department into FY’27, to allow for in-house repair of roadway structures, greater safety during snowplowing, and catching up on road maintenance.

The selectboard approved advertising for a demand-response van driver for 19 hours per week, and for an assistant town accountant.



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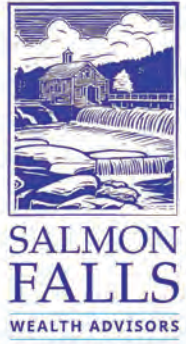
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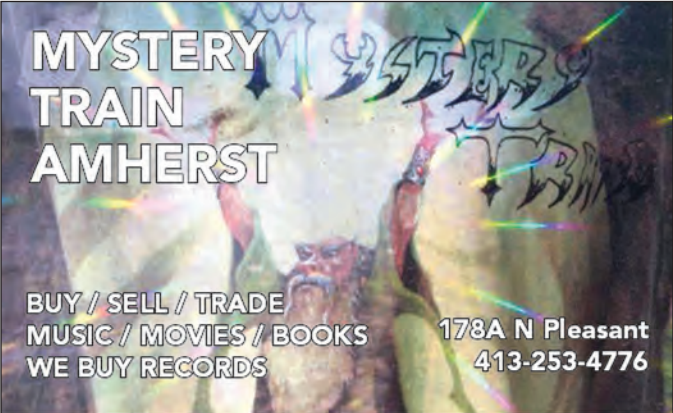
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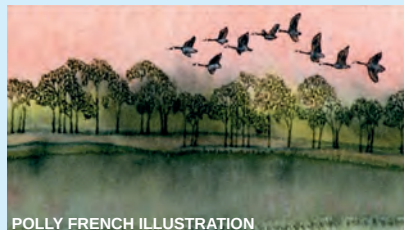
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SARAH ROBERTSON PHOTO



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Now It Can Be Told

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT 1676 – The thunder of the waterfall at the Split Rock Place was matched by the thunderclap in the skies and the flashing lightning in the early morning of May 19.

Corn Woman of the Nipmuck was startled awake in the darkness of her *wetu*. The thunderbolt was as loud as a musket shot. No one else was stirring, but the dogs were alarmed by the sudden thunder, and huddled closer to those sleeping inside.

Corn Woman peered outside the flap of the *wetu*:

Lightning kept hitting the water, dancing over everything, crashing trees down. Looking out I thought I saw the thunder spirit dancing, his feathered cape and staff moving cruelly up and down as he seemed to dance our coming deaths.

– Nipmuck oral history from *The Pond Dwellers*, by Kelly Savage.

In fact, the thunderstorm accompanied an English dawn attack on the sleeping village at the falls. That attack would leave more than 250 Natives dead that morning. Many people were killed by musket fire, and then, to save powder and shot, by sword and knife.

More died by being swept over the Thunder Falls to their deaths in the roaring cataract.

This event was a death knell, not only for the Indigenous victims that day in the dawn attack, but also for the King Philip’s Re-

bellion of 1675-76.

The death toll, and the annihilation of the non-combatant camp of the elderly, women, and children, dealt a blow to the Indian resistance to English encroachment on their homelands across the Northeast.

Many of the survivors of that rebellion fled this region.

Some went to the French missions on the Saint Lawrence River and into Abenaki communities, while others escaped to the Mahican communities, or the Nipmuck homelands in the contested center of Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Most of the Native men accused of participation in the 18-month revolt were tracked down, put on mock trial, and executed. Their families were often sold into slavery in Bermuda and the Caribbean.

The English leader of the attack force, William Turner, died in the Native counterattack, as did close to 50 other settlers who had participated in the massacre.

Centuries later, in the 1850s, the industrial complex that sprang up on the southern bank of the river opposite the site of the attack became known as Turners Falls, in honor of the man who led the massacre.

Some have said that there has been a curse over the village because of the atrocity perpetrated at the falls. Although I was born and raised in that village, I never personally heard of the curse that some attribute to this place. By the 1960s, however, the village was on the skids. The 100-year boomtime of industry had gone bust and factories were abandoning Turners Falls,

see **WEST ALONG** page B8



“Quinnipiac Village,” painting by Seaconke Wampanoag artist Deborah Spears Moorehead. Used with permission.

Above: The northern lights, as captured from Wendell late Tuesday night.

HISTORIES

The Colonel & The Carnegie

By WILL QAULE

TURNERS FALLS – Soldiers Memorial Park on Avenue A became a space to honor all those from Montague who have served in our nation’s armed forces when it was dedicated in 2007. The site selection was natural, as it was already the location of the town’s World War II memorial – a bronze plaque on a nine-ton stone, which might have proven difficult to move!

Far easier to move the World War I memorial, which had previously been near the end of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

But the site already held a little-known association with World War I: its next-door neighbor, the Carnegie Public Library, was built thanks to the efforts of one of America’s most famous and beloved veterans of the Great War.

Frederick William Galbraith, Jr. – who would become National Commander of the American Legion in 1920 – was not from Montague, but in 1900 he became engaged to Esther Gilmore, daughter of Montague Library Trustees chair William Gilmore. Out of fondness for his wife’s hometown and family, in 1903 Galbraith initiated correspondence with the Carnegie Corporation seeking funding for a library building, at a time when Carnegie’s philanthropic program was still in its very early years.

Galbraith’s skillful diplomacy and natural charm led quickly to an award of \$12,500 from Carnegie’s famously difficult personal secretary James Bertram, with whom Gilmore in later years had frustrating and unsuccessful correspondence. (See the *Montague Reporter*, October 30, 2025, Page A3.)



Esther (Gilmore) Galbraith of Turners Falls with her husband, the world-famous Frederick W. Galbraith, in 1920.

Galbraith didn’t become a war hero until age 44, by which time he had achieved an improbable resume comparable to the likes of Indiana Jones or Buckaroo Bonzai. Born in Watertown in 1874, he moved with his father to California at age 10 where for three years he was the youngest track worker on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Returning east, by age 16 he was foreman of a

see **COLONEL** page B3

OLD TAVERN SIGN COMES HOME TO WENDELL

By PAM RICHARDSON

WENDELL – An article in the November 23, 1939 *Orange Enterprise and Journal* announced the acquisition by the Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) of the old Ballard Tavern sign. That tavern, an elegant two-story Federalist that still stands today at the corner of Jennison and Old Stage Roads in Wendell, may have been built by Daniel Ballard (born in Andover 1728) or by his son Josiah Ballard (born in New Salem in 1762).

Another newspaper article, written in 1931, states that the building was, at that time, at least 150 years old, giving it a construction date of 1781.

The Ballard Tavern was on the stagecoach route to Worcester. Coaches stopped at the tavern to change horses in its large barn across the street, and to give passengers an opportunity for food and drink. Daniel Ballard, Josiah Ballard, and then Josiah’s brother, James, owned



Dot Frye (left), administrative assistant at the Swift River Valley Historical Society, hands the old Ballard Tavern sign over to Wendell Historical Society board member Pam Richardson, who writes about the tavern’s storied history.

and operated the tavern until about 1840, and the sign hanging outside the tavern undoubtedly provided a welcome sight to weary travelers.

Last month, at the suggestion of Josiah Ballard’s great-great-granddaughter, centenarian Fay Bennett,

see **TAVERN** page B8

Pet of the Week



‘TIGGER’

Meet Tigger, a three-year-old domestic longhair tabby. His people describe Tigger as a love, and one that will squish you, all 20 pounds of him. He is curious, affectionate, gentle, chill, communicative, playful, and independent. He has lived inside his entire life and is comfortable in a multi-pet household. Tigger is good with dogs and cats. He’s tolerant of children,

but prefers they are quiet; if they scream he will leave. He is house-trained and neutered. Tigger has a \$150 adoption fee. To apply to adopt this love bug, 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 NOVEMBER 17 THROUGH 21

GILL and MONTAGUE
The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call 863-9357.
Monday 11/17
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
4 p.m. Beginning Yoga
6 p.m. Cemetery Commission
Tuesday 11/18
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Money Matters
3 p.m. Tai Chi
4:15 p.m. Spanish Lessons
Wednesday 11/19
9 a.m. Veterans’ Agent
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:45 p.m. Friends’ Meeting
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
1 p.m. Mobile Food Bank
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Thursday 11/20
1 p.m. Pitch
4 p.m. Spanish with Your Grandkids
Friday 11/21
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pizza Party
2 p.m. Chair Dance

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 November 18. 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 listserv for info.

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 11/17
9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Game
1 p.m. Yoga
Tuesday 11/18
9 a.m. Stretch and Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
Wednesday 11/19
9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo
Thursday 11/20
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
Friday 11/21
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting and Open Sew

WENDELL
Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is December 3. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

Wordly Matters

By CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

FRANKLIN COUNTY – What’s in a word? In a word – in other words – in so many words – word for word. The Good Word, or to put in a good word, a dirty word, mum’s the word, word on the street, word of mouth, word to the wise, a brief word, word salad. He gave the word, she gives her word, to keep one’s word, to take their word for it, to have words, to put words in your mouth, to say the word, to send word, to have the last word. Word. My word!

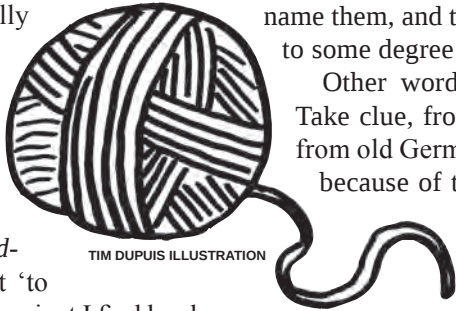
Words – friend or foe? *Freond* or *feond*, per their roots - just a coincidence, not related. The writer John McPhee, never short on words, advises using a dictionary over a thesaurus: the dictionary will get you closer to the word you want, while a thesaurus fans out into neighboring territory. And if a dictionary can do that, could etymological exploration dive deeper?

(In a linguistics lab, a bald man in a white coat sweats profusely, precipitate beading and bobbling on his forehead as he leans toward the screen: “Get me closer!”)

Not always. Many words have meandered distant from their origin point, but for a certain type of log-gorhea-afflicted wingnut, word origins are still fun trivia. Like friends, words change, sometimes overnight (Sad!), sometimes over the slow generations – take nice, once an old French insult born of Latin *nescius* (“ignorant,” literally “not-knowing”).

But in other cases, sometimes knowing a word’s name turns it on its head. Seasonally I remember this tidbit from Robert MacFarlane, a great writer on how words live in the world, in his 2015 book *Landmarks*: “In Northamptonshire dialect ‘to thaw’ is to *ungive*. The beauty of this variant I find hard to articulate, but it surely has to do with the paradox of thaw figured as restraint or retention, and the wintry notion that cold, frost and snow might themselves be a form of gift – an addition to the landscape that will in time be subtracted by warmth.”

Naming is an act of intimacy – not always pretty, but full of possibility. I’m thinking of poet Imani Elizabeth Jackson: “... and what of flags? I refuse the immediate meaning. I wrestle the word down to the ground and find life seeping up. Wild iris, marsh herb calamus, fabric signal, the tail of some dogs, the tail of some deer,



something rippling or wagging, object for attraction, stone suitable for pavement....”

Flag, 16th c., a variant of Middle English *flacken*, *flacken*, likely from Old Norse *flaka*... to flap, flutter. Sometimes a name is just what it does, like a tailor or cooper. Sometimes meaning itself flaps and flutters. And speaking of fluttering, think on the lurking sublimity of the everyday: Window, c. 1200, *windou*, literally “wind eye,” from Old Norse *vindauga*; according to Etymonline, “formerly an unglazed hole in a roof.”

In this way, the Spanish *ventana* (from the Latin *ventus*, wind) is closer than most other Indo-European words for the same (*fenêtre*, *fenster*, *fönster* in French, German, and Swedish, all from the Latin for window, *fenestra*, with possibly Etruscan roots).

Naming can also solidify a concept. Incidentally, the English didn’t have a word for the color orange until after they came to know the fruit, instead turning to terms like “gold” or “red-yellow.” Incidentally, John McPhee’s first book, *Oranges*, was a surprise production after editors at the *New Yorker* sent him down to Florida for his first feature assignment, a light one-off for the magazine. (Magazine, from French *magasin*, from Italian *magazzino*, from Arabic *makhazin*, the plural for storehouse, literally, a storehouse of ideas!)

Back to MacFarlane: “It is not, on the whole, that natural phenomena and entities themselves are disappearing, rather that there are fewer people able to name them, and that once they go unnamed they go to some degree unseen.”

Other words have stories baked into them. Take clue, from *claw* (archaic English/Scottish, from old Germanic), “a ball of string.” So-called because of the string the Greek hero Theseus carried into the Minotaur’s labyrinth and dropped behind him to guide him back out.

This periodic column will explore words, and their histories and usages.

Write in to wordly@montaguereporter.org with questions or corrections, if you want or dare.... Language is a shared endeavor, and bear in mind that the author here is just an amateur (1784, “one who has a taste for some art, study, or pursuit, but does not practice it,” from French *amateur*, “one who loves, lover”).

Upcoming on Wordly Matters: Why is it that so many words which are rooted in handiwork have grown to mean automated or machine-made?



SCENE REPORT

‘A Happening V: The Bestiary’ at the Shea

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – A two-day “immersive festival featuring local musicians, actors, dancers, and fabricators” was held at the Shea Theater on Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1, from 7 to 10 p.m. each night. It sounded like a unique festival, presented by Eggtooth Productions and Cloudgaze, so I went on one of the days to check it out.

This fifth annual “Happening” was a walk through all three floors of the theater. In one scene, a bunch of books were on a desk for people to see. Another was decorated with images of donkeys. Another featured an individual dressed as the Big Bad Wolf next to a house setting, which was probably trying to make it seem like it was going to be blown down.

In the actual stage area, I saw three performers acting like chickens. This wasn’t the only scene like it. A musician with an electric guitar played for the people surrounding the scene. He was good on the guitar, too.

Another scene showed some kind of poker game that was about to be played – people could actually play a hand of cards in the game room. I had to walk down a dimly lit, mysteriously decorated hallway to get to some of this. It added nicely to the atmosphere and experience.

Another cool scene I found was a DJ dressed as a horned creature. He was really being a DJ in this costume, and people danced to the music he played. In another area there were weird drawings on the wall. I didn’t really get them – I think this and another one were basically different artists’ work being displayed for people to see.

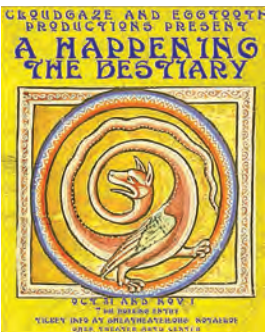
On stage, besides those performers being chickens, another person in a costume was singing. The stage and its surroundings were decorated and lit up like the hallway, and a fair number of audience members were seated and

watched the performances. In a later scene, a performer dressed as an insect did a dance number.

Throughout the festival, I noticed that various people – both performers, and others watching them – were in costumes. The performers posing as chickens did what I supposed was some kind of dance number, which people enjoyed,

though it wasn’t one of my favorite parts of the festival. At one point another guitarist joined the electric guitarist, and I thought she was alright. The grand finale consisted of a person in a dress speaking about things connected to the chicken performers, and they sang for the finale. It all went down like some big dance number, and much of the audience joined them in dancing during the finale.

All in all, it was an enjoyable experience to have immersed myself in.



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COLONEL from page B1

manufacturing plant in Springfield. He quickly grew bored, completed a three-year naval academy program in a single year, and spent his next six years at sea on merchant ships sailing around Cape Horn to California and Japan, until his mother’s pleas convinced him to retire.

In 1899 Galbraith “settled down, addressing postal cards for three dollars a week in a factory office in Springfield, Massachusetts – which may or may not be considered an odd change of occupation for a roving sea captain,” in the words of his biographer Marquis James.

After a year in Springfield, Galbraith became treasurer of a nearly-bankrupt pork packaging company in Cambridge, where he saved the company \$100,000, completely turning their fortunes around and making his own in the process. The feat propelled him into lofty business circles, and he became an executive in the lucrative tobacco paper industry, his career for the next two decades.

While in Springfield and Cambridge, he fell in love with Esther Gilmore, a renowned singer studying at the Boston Conservatory. Married in 1901, they lived for a few years in New York City before moving to Cincinnati. The couple regularly visited Esther’s parents on High Street in Turners Falls, and Galbraith often praised the village and his wife in the same sentence: an obituary would later note that he was fond of saying “They make lots of fine things in Turners Falls, but Mrs. Galbraith was the masterpiece.”

The public library in Turners Falls – which his father-in-law, William Gilmore, chaired – was at that time bursting the seams of its fifth home in just 30 years, two rented rooms in the building which today houses the St. Kazimierz Society. Carnegie libraries had yet to be built in western Massachusetts – aside from Athol’s, in 1903 there were none in New England outside greater Boston or Cape Cod.

Galbraith offered to Gilmore that he would handle correspondence with the Carnegie Corporation on Turners Falls’s behalf in order to secure the village funding for a library building.

A volley of letters from January to March 1903 between Galbraith, Carnegie’s secretary James Bertram, and Carnegie’s financial agent Robert Franks secured the \$12,500 for Turners Falls – success so rapid that few in Montague even knew funds for a library had been requested before the award was announced by Gilmore at town meeting in April 1903.

It was reported as “the surprise of the day to most people” by the *Greenfield Gazette & Courier*, who noted the gift was thanks to the efforts of “Frederick Galbraith of New York, who has taken a deep interest in securing this gift to the town.”

After thanking the Corporation, Galbraith handed the correspondence off to Gilmore and returned to his own business – he would shortly move to Ohio and become president of the Queen City Tobacco Company.

When America went to war a decade later, Galbraith answered the call by enlisting in the Ohio National Guard in his 40s – “an age at which most men hesitate to embrace a new experience,” noted his

biographer. Galbraith commanded a regiment, was wounded in combat, and received the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Légion d’honneur.

In October 1918, the *Greenfield Recorder* reprinted an article and photograph from *The Loyal American* magazine praising Colonel Galbraith, commander of the 147th US infantry. “We never back up,” Galbraith had quipped to a photographer documenting his unit’s deployment to France. The Ohio magazine recalled this as Galbraith’s unit led the final advance against Germany, writing: “We felt then as we feel now, that ‘our boys’ will never ‘back up’ when facing the enemy, but will go forward and ‘over the top’ without flinching, thus adding new glory to the glorious past of the Queen City.”

But a month later – on the war’s last day – Galbraith would achieve his greatest heroism by refusing a direct order to send his men ‘over the top.’ His biographer would write that Galbraith “declared the war had been won and that further expenditure of life would be murder indefensible before God.”

The *Cincinnati Times-Star* gave this account, as Galbraith was being investigated for his insubordination following the war:

At 2 a.m. on November 11, Colonel Galbraith was ordered to report at the brigade headquarters. He hurried there and met General William P. Jackson, the commander of his brigade. Other officers were present.

“The armistice will be signed at 11 a.m.,” General Jackson said.

“Yes, sir,” Col. Galbraith answered.

“Your regiment will attack at 5:30 a.m. and move into your new positions,” General Jackson added.

Col. Galbraith protested that there must be a mistake: that two orders of this kind could not go hand in hand, and that if the armistice was to be signed, no attack should be made.

“Here is the order,” General Jackson said. “Obey it.”

For refusing this order, Galbraith became a hero not only to his regiment, but to all American soldiers and veterans. In 1920 he was elected National Commander of the American Legion, in which role he engaged with President Warren G. Harding and worked with Congress to enact legislation to aid disabled veterans and better compensate them for their service.

He returned to Turners Falls that Christmas. At the invitation of the local post of the American Legion, he spoke to “one of the largest audiences ever in attendance at a public gathering here,” per the *Springfield Daily Republican*, about the lack of sufficient hospital facilities for veterans throughout the country, and a lack of central authority



MIKE SLIWA ILLUSTRATION

that he argued was leaving them to fall through the cracks between three federal agencies.

Galbraith’s vision extended beyond American veterans. He believed that if all veterans of the Great War worked together, acting as the world’s largest labor union, they could achieve world peace.

He worked as a diplomat to unite four separate British veterans’ organizations under the American Legion model, and to integrate them with veterans from seven other countries into a Fédération Interalliée Des Anciens Combattants. In an editorial for the *London Times* to be published upon his arrival in England for this work, he wrote:

“The American Legion hopes to be a small part of an Inter-Allied Veterans Foundation which may become powerful only if its motives are pure, and whose ultimate aspiration shall be to make impossible a recurrence of the horror for which the heart of the world still bleeds – war. With the organized veterans of the Allied nations rests the voice of command. Will they speak?”

In the weeks between writing that editorial and his trip to England, Galbraith was killed in an automobile accident. He was just 47 years old. His editorial never ran, and a century later his vision remains unfulfilled.

The American Legion erected a war memorial honoring Galbraith in Cincinnati. Here in Montague, we have our own monument commemorating his diplomacy and his care for others, fittingly next to the park honoring all those who have served: our Carnegie Public Library.

Will Quale is the chair of the Montague Public Library Trustees.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sick Fox Comes Down the Hill; Owl Stunned; Dogs Found; Woman Reported Missing; Many People Here, But Unwanted

Monday, 11/3

12:12 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a car has been parked by a dumpster for about two weeks; he needs it moved because they can’t empty the dumpster. Spoke to caller’s ex-wife, who will move the car.

12:19 p.m. Family Dollar store manager called stating a dog has been barking for a half hour or more; unable to locate an owner. Referred to an officer.

2:18 p.m. Caller reporting sketchy fox in the Second Street area. Passed call along to animal control officer (ACO).

2:42 p.m. Caller from K Street wants on record that a male has broken into her house; she is going to get a no-trespassing order tomorrow. Report taken.

5:03 p.m. Caller states there is a fox walking on the sidewalk on L Street, where a lot of people are present for a food distribution. ACO advised.

7:35 p.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road states there is a truck in the driveway and she doesn’t know who it is. States it looks like they are going to take one of the vehicles. Party was dropping off firewood; husband was aware.

Tuesday, 11/4

8:46 a.m. Caller states she came upon a car that was dragging its axle and the vehicle was sparking and smoking. While on the phone, caller stated the car pulled into a driveway. Officer advised. Unable to locate.

12:02 p.m. State trooper looking to see if MPD can

make contact with a male on L Street and see if he has a new phone number so they can speak with him about a hit-and-run a few days ago. Services rendered.

2:04 p.m. 911 caller requesting officers to assist in removing his daughter from his property; states she is out of control; not sure if she is drunk or on drugs. Officer advises units clear; situation mediated; parties will stay away from each other.

3:28 p.m. Party into station to file a report as his identity was stolen. Officer told party to bring some documents so he can complete a report.

4:40 p.m. DCF looking to have police go with them to take a child into custody. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 11/5

10:50 a.m. Walk-in from Seventh Street states she had a harassment prevention order against her landlord, but the landlord has been doing more to harass her. Party states that the judge did not reissue the order today and she is concerned about what is going to happen. Was advised to speak with an officer and make a plan in case anything happens again. Officer speaking with party.

10:10 p.m. Caller states she found a black Lab and has it in her car; pulled over on Turnpike Road. Caller states dog does not have tags but does have a light on its collar. Officer found owner and returned dog.

Thursday, 11/6

9:24 a.m. Caller states that she is the owner of a Turners Falls Road property and she is afraid a male party that used to work for her is going to steal stuff from the property. Advised of options.

12:21 p.m. Walk-in states

she had money taken from her bank card and was told by the bank to file a police report. Report taken.

2:25 p.m. Caller looking to speak with an officer about his ex-girlfriend who is not giving his phone back. Officer advised caller of options.

3:55 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer regarding his sister’s ex-boyfriend harassing them on social media and making false statements. Caller also states he brought his sister to get some of her belongings today; involved party refused to let her get her family property, and tried to force her to give up her phone. Officer advised caller of his options through the court system.

4:50 p.m. Caller reports that she found a medium-sized black and white dog that was loose; she now has the dog on a leash; advises no tags, just a collar. ACO notified via radio. Officer has the dog and is waiting for the ACO to arrive. ACO on scene; officer clear.

10:10 p.m. Caller states she found a black Lab and has it in her car; pulled over on Turnpike Road. Caller states dog does not have tags but does have a light on its collar. Officer found owner and returned dog.

Friday, 11/7

8:17 a.m. Walk-in looking to file missing person report. Last saw female leaving around 6:30 or 7 p.m. on Monday to DoorDash in his black Subaru Impreza. He last heard from her around 8 p.m. that night. Contacted Comcast; the last time her phone was used was on Wednesday at 4:42 p.m. Text message sent. Negative on recent interactions with area hospitals. Officer requesting to issue be-on-lookout; BOLO given to Shelburne Control and Greenfield PD. Requesting a ping from Verizon. Officer contacted DoorDash; no involvement in over 30 days. No ping available at this time; all coordinates 0/0/0. Female entered into NCIC as missing.

9:21 a.m. Caller from George Avenue reports someone hit the fire hydrant in front of her house and ripped it out of the ground. Not producing water at this time. Turners Falls water department notified.

9:34 a.m. Caller reports his ex-girlfriend and her brother are trying to go back to the property to get belongings, and he doesn’t want them there because they threatened his grandmother. Officer advised. Caller called 911 stating they are there, and he wants officers. Officers advised. Situation mediated; items retrieved.

2:42 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports he was cleaning the front room in the house and noticed that someone had lifted the screen on the window and there are fingerprints on the window. States the window is dirty, so it’s a good set of prints for identification purposes. Officer advised. Party advised of options.

5:09 p.m. Officer states car accident in front of him while conducting a traffic stop on Canal Road. Road closed; lots of traffic.

Saturday, 11/8

6:21 a.m. Caller states a white Mustang with no plates was left in the First Street alley between his and his neighbors’ driveways. Officer states it is a private way, and the caller can have it towed privately. Homeowner’s decision.

7:19 a.m. Walk-in looking to speak to an officer to report bank fraud. Officer advised. Female walked out prior to speaking to an officer. Female speaking to officer. Female advised of options.

9:58 a.m. 911 call; Greenfield PD requesting officer to try to make contact and identify three people in a Fairway Avenue apartment. Parties were involved in a disturbance at Ryan and Casey’s today; need to verbally trespass female party. Officer advised. No contact; vehicle not present.

10:25 a.m. Caller reports a woman is outside trying to get into Building 1 on Park Villa Drive. She has reportedly been running around the parking lot wearing her nightgown. Building manager called in with door code. Female located; no issues.

8:37 p.m. 911 caller from Montague City Road states he is being threatened and followed; is afraid he is going to be attacked. Caller also states he had a knife in his pocket for protection. Officer states caller doesn’t want to file charges or fill out a statement form, but would like a ride home to Greenfield. Services rendered.

9:57 p.m. Owl into car on Turnpike Road. Officer out with owl; states bird is stunned and sitting on his foot. Contacted ACO, who is about 30 minutes away; she would like the officer to watch the bird while she gets a picture and contacts a bird guy. Officer reports owl is in a tree; he will check area throughout the night to see if it’s still around or if it leaves the area.

11:54 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle parked in the middle of the alleyway blocking the road; possible drug activity. Officer advises no vehicle blocking alleyway; no drug activity.

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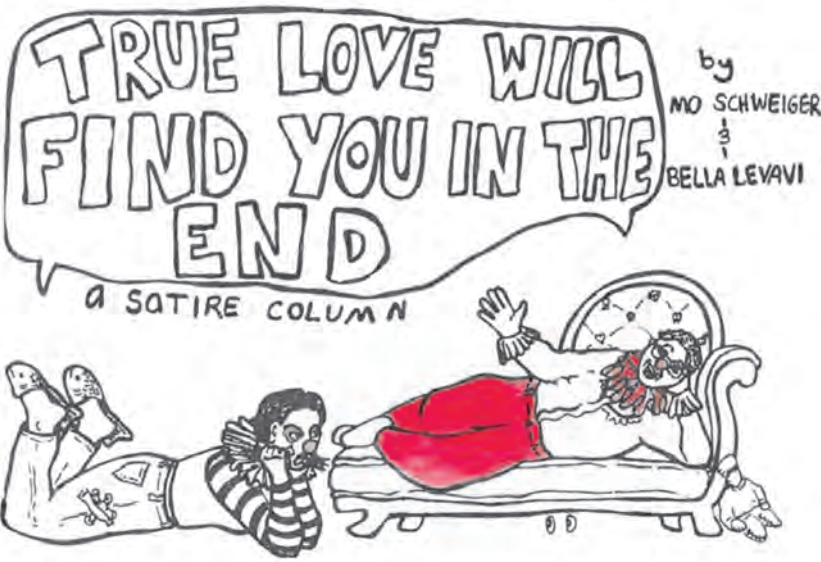
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Local Woman ISO Parking Lot

was fine, despite mine being totaled – in our shared driveway. This then happened three more times.

Having secured my newest whip, I was driving innocently when some old fucking man got distracted by the cats in the window of Camelot Cat Café on Wells Street and T-boned the shit out of me. Luckily the crash did not destroy any of the cardboard puppets in my car’s backseat. But it would have been fine if it had. I don’t have a sentimental bone in my body. Dumpsters to dumpsters, etc.

My driveway is unfortunately now filled with broken cars belonging to myself and my three transgender roommates. My roommates

cannot figure out how to sell theirs, because they can’t decide whose deadname should go on which pieces of paperwork. I understand; I am an ally. The RMV has turned them away 17 different times, and is hoping to make it a full chai.

Also, it’s really hard to push the cars out of the driveway, because the steering wheel is locked up on each and every one of them, and also it’s really cold out and the cold is doing a number on people’s endurance.

Hence, my need for a parking lot. The last time I had such bad car problems, my car was stuck in a hole, once again in my driveway. Ultimately I was the problem, as

I had revved my engine for two straight hours into the snow, burrowing so deep beneath the crust of Massachusetts that I opened that sucker – a portal to the land of the dead – right up.

That time, I created a AAA account to get towed out. But AAA now screens my calls. So, I need a parking lot, within pushing distance and in a straight line from my house on Davis Street due to the aforementioned locked steering wheels, preferably at the intersection of Hope and Olive. And I’m not talking about the restaurant. The snow is coming.

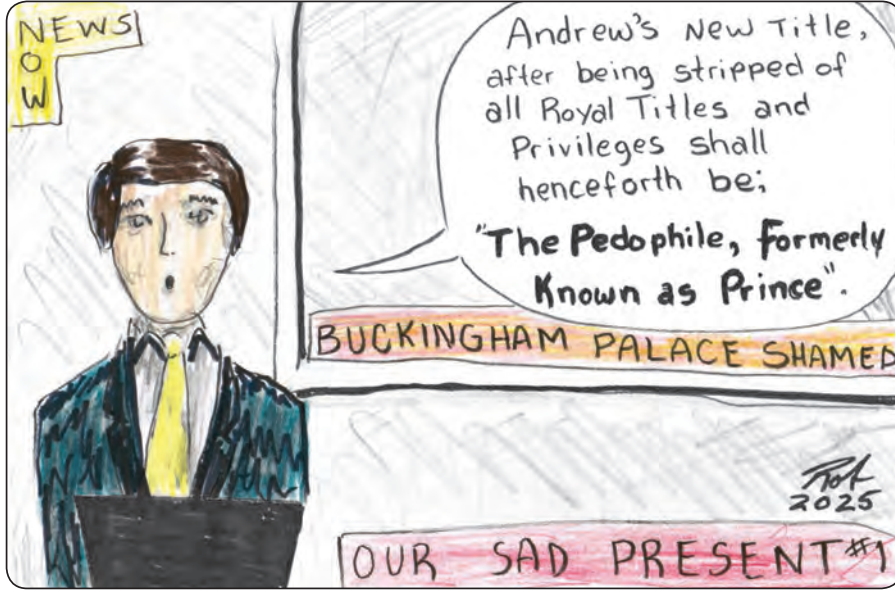
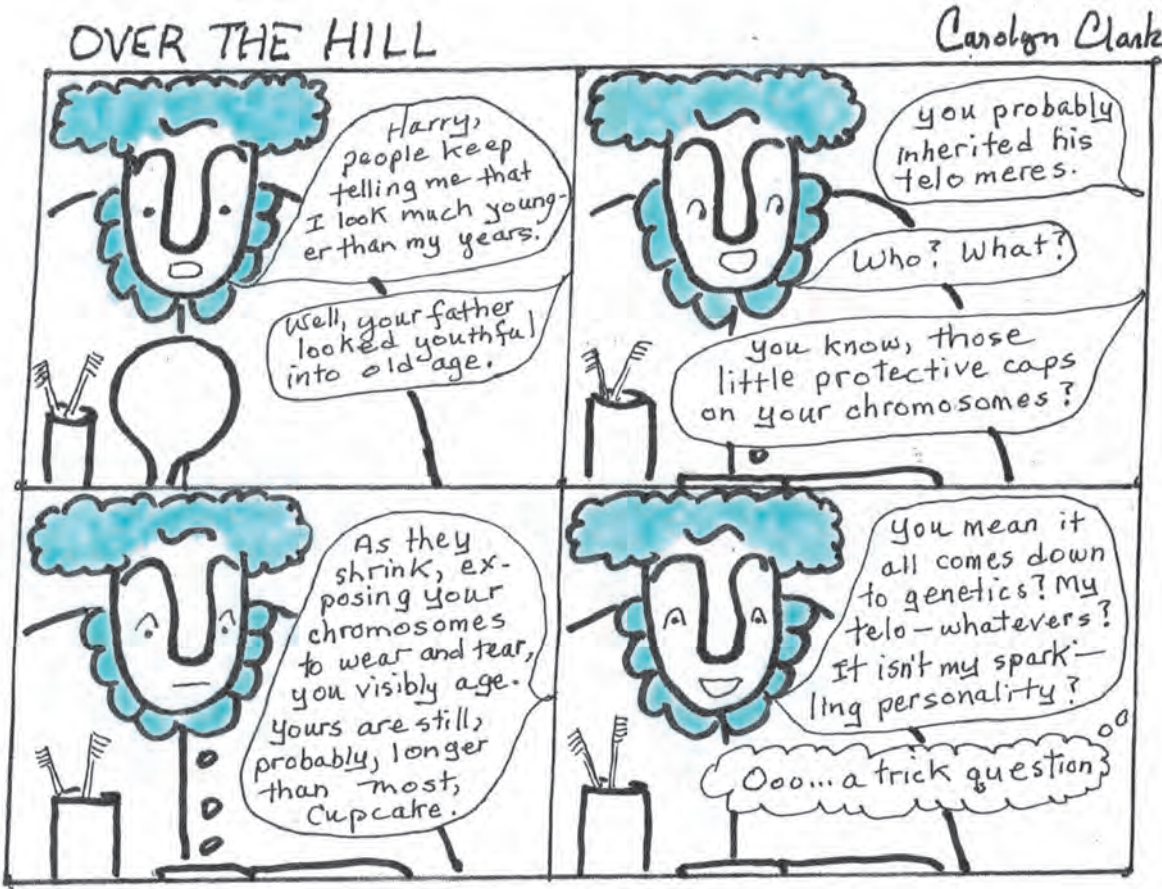
SOS,
Mandy Mudballs

By MANDY MUDBALLS

GREENFIELD – Help! I can’t stop crashing cars! I need someplace to put all of the wreckage!

I cannot find a parking lot due to lack of parking lots in Greenfield! I repeat: I need a parking lot!

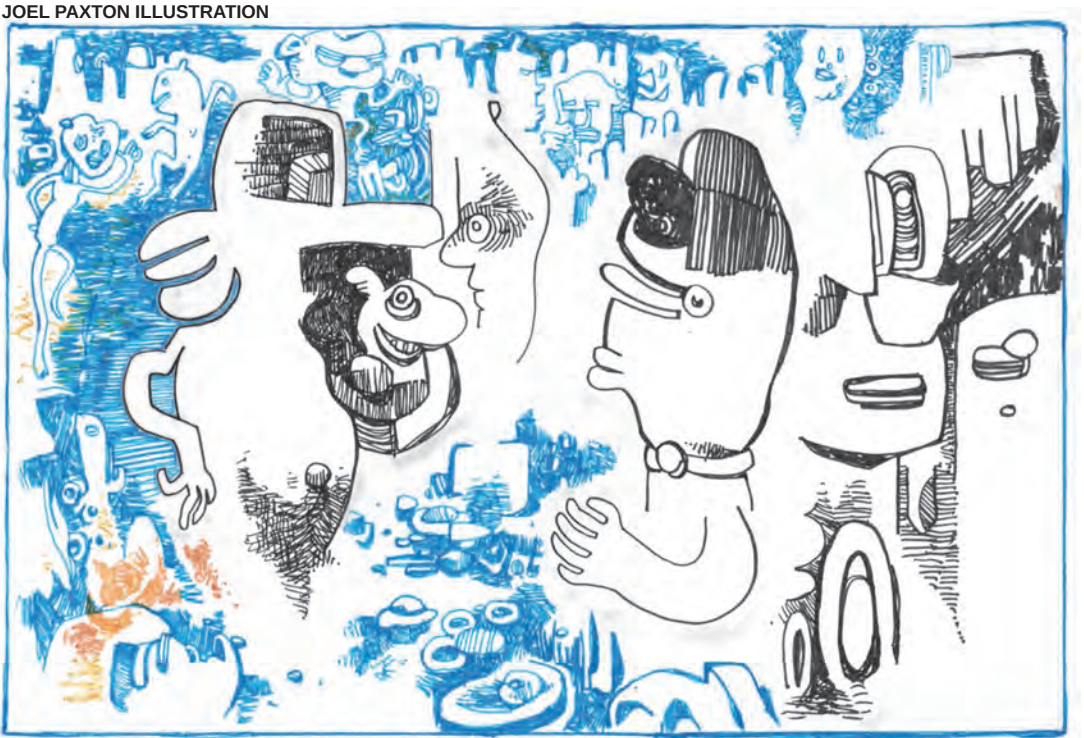
Here’s the situation: I crashed my car into my neighbor’s car – which



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The Children's Page

THE LOVELIGHTS AND THE LIBRARY, PART 2

WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH AND PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN



FAUNA HAD BEEN HIT WITH THE FORCE OF LIGHTNING BY AN IDEA. THE OLD LIBRARY WOULD BE A PERFECT SCHOOL, AND WHY SHOULD IT BE A FUSTY OLD NUTS AND BOLTS MUSEUM?

WHEN THE PLAN WAS EXPLAINED TO CORDELIA AND FLORA, THEY ALL SET OUT TO SEE THE STRANGEST AND SHYEST FAIRY OF THEM ALL, DUSTINA. ALL FAIRIES HAVE SOME MAGIC POWER, BUT DUSTINA WAS ABLE TO CREATE SPELLS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER FAIRY THEY KNEW. SO THEY MADE HASTE TO HER LITTLE FAIRY HOUSE.



CORDELIA WAS MUCH TOO LARGE TO GO IN, AND SO SHE PEEKED THROUGH THE WINDOW, HOPING HER GIANT EYE WOULDN'T GIVE SHY DUSTINA A SHOCK. CORDELIA COULD SEE FAUNA AND FLORA EXPLAINING THE SITUATION, AND PRESENTING A NUT AND BOLT TO THE SMALL FAIRY.



SHE HEARD A BANG AND SAW A CLOUD OF GLITTERY DUST EMERGE FROM THE WINDOW. WHEN THE DUST CLEARED CORDELIA SAW THE BOLT AND NUT SHINING LIKE GOLD.

MOMENTS LATER FLORA AND FAUNA EMERGED. FLORA WAS HOLDING THE GLEAMING AND ENCHANTED BOLT AND FAUNA, HOLDING THE NOW IRIDESCENT NUT. IN THE HANDS OF THE SMALL FAIRIES THE ITEMS SEEMED VERY LARGE AND HEAVY, BUT THEY PASSED THEM TO CORDELIA AND SHE CAREFULLY CLOSED HER HAND OVER THEM, WORRIED AT THE LARGE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARING FOR SUCH A SMALL BUT POWERFUL PAIR OF OBJECTS.



THE TRIO SET OUT FOR THE LOOMING MANSION ON THE HILL BELONGING TO THE OWNER OF THE TOWN'S LARGE FACTORY.



WITH THE TWO FAIRIES SAFELY CONCEALED IN HER APRON POCKET, CORDELIA LIFTED THE LARGE KNOCKER ON THE GRAND FRONT DOOR AND RAPPED FIRMLY, SENDING AN ECHOING SOUND THROUGHOUT THE HALL.

A BUTLER OPENED THE DOOR AND BEMUSED AT THE SIGHT OF A LITTLE GIRL, LED HER DIRECTLY TO THE LIBRARY. CORDELIA PEEPED IN AT THE BROODING FIGURE OF THE INDUSTRIALIST.



THE FAIRIES FLUTTERED IN HER POCKET AS SHE ROUSED HER COURAGE TO SPEAK. SHE OPENED HER HAND TO REVEAL THE GLOWING AND ENCHANTED ITEMS. TO BE CONTINUED...

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Montague Center Library,
Montague: *Bilingual Music
and Movement*. 10 a.m. Free.

Gill Montague Senior
Center, Turners Falls:
Fiery Hope Chorus. Open
to the public. 11 a.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy
Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers
Falls: *Book Club*. Robin Wall
Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*.
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

Four Star Brewery,
Northfield: *Library
Trivia Night*. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library,
Wendell: *Yankier & Yankier*,
an evening of Robert Frost's
poetry read by *Hal Stowell*,
with guitar by *Francis
Doughty*. Refreshments
served. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Marigold, Brattleboro:
*Deerist, Libyan Hit
Squad, Aura Shards*,
Willie Gussin. 7 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton:
Jens Lekman. yeemz. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester:
*Death To All, Gorguts,
Phobophilic*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Bowker Auditorium,
UMass Amherst: *Brandee
Younger Trio*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Haunted Like Human. 9 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls:
Lofi Creativity Zone. Drop-in
writing, drawing hangout for
grades 6 to 12. 4 to 5 p.m. Free.

Brick House, Turners
Falls: *Family Game Night*.
Board games provided,
or bring your own.
Register at [slangknecht@
brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org) or
call (413) 800-2496. Dinner
included. 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners
Falls: *Annie*. 6 p.m. \$.

Leverett Elementary School,
Leverett: *Community Potluck
and Food Drive*. Bring finger
food for the potluck, and non-
perishable food for Amherst
Survival Center. 6 p.m. Free.

Four Star Brewery,
Northfield: *Hoppy History:
Beer and Revolution in Early
American History*. 6 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall,
Montague Center: *Square
Dance with the Clover
Valley Boys; Erica Weiss
calling. "Jammers welcome."*
6:30 p.m. By donation.

Wendell Meetinghouse,
Wendell: *Goodness Shakes
Wendell Community
Dance*, with *DJ Seal*.
6:30 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *The Juggler
Meadow Band*. Coffeehouse
with refreshments.
7 p.m. By donation.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:
Author *Annie Cheatham*
reads from *The Baby's
Gotta Have Somethin':
Glimpses of a Southern
Childhood*. 7 p.m. Free.

Shelburne Falls Theater,
Shelburne Falls: Documentary,
*Far Out: Life On & After the
Commune* (2024). Live music
before the film by *Verandah
Porche* and *Patty Carpenter*;
discussion to follow. 7 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Melanie
Blackbird*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst:
*Nick Shoulders, Jackson
& the Janks*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
*Comedy Open Mic with
Lana Epstein*. 9 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

71 Main, Montague: *Art Show
and Sale* with 14 local
artists. 12 to 5 p.m. Free.

Circuits in the Woods,
Brattleboro (four venues):
*Wet Tuna, Charles Dodge,
Vermont Synth Society
Showcase, Jeffrey
Alexander + The Heavy
Lidders, Badweatherfriend,
Caldon Glover-Wessel,
Dave Seidel*, and many more.
Full schedule available at
citw.online. 12 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Make a Fairy
House*. Ages 3 to 16 and
their caregivers. Natural
and recycled materials
provided. 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Kids
Open Mic*. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls:** *Migrations*, paintings
curated by GuateMaya Art and
Culture Connection featuring scenes
of village life, Mayan culture, and the
history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala,
through November 22.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:
Local Local, small works by 21 local
artists using material from Franklin
County, through January 4.

**Montague Center Library,
Montague:** *Elizabeth Long:
Quilts*, through November.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center:
Guest artist *Ruby Henry* presents
hand-tufted rugs during November.

**Rhodes Art Center,
Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill:**
Primal Reflections, paintings by
Walker Antonio, through December 12.

Leverett Library, Leverett:
*Flora, Fauna, and Fantasy: a Leverett
Homecoming*, Elena Watson and Julie
Kumble share works inspired by
scenes of Leverett, through December.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:
Oh Beautiful Glass, group show
by glass artists, with paintings
by *Susan Mulholland*. Through
November, with a reception Sunday,
November 23, from 12 to 6 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield:
Tuna Croquette, works by
Charlotte Treiber, through November.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:
Silent Auction Art Exhibit, works donated
by local artists and assemblages by Andy
Rothschild for sale to benefit LAVA; *Sixth
Annual Community Art Show*, work by 36
local artists. Both through December 20.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Gray Matters*,
monoprints by Karen J. Axtell, through



The group show *Oh Beautiful Glass* runs all month at Leverett Crafts & Arts. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m., with an artist reception next Sunday, November 23 from 12 to 6 p.m.

November 21. *Open House* to celebrate
the new ceramics studio this Saturday,
November 15, from 12 to 5 p.m.

Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield:
Doorways, self-guided audio-visual
tour with sculptural doorways and
sound pools by multiple artists,
through November.

**Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield
Academy:** *Chameleon*, sculptures by
Alicia Renedette and paintings by Scott
Reilly, through December 19.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls:
Mark Majeski, detailed drawings
of local birds and plants, through
this Sunday, November 16.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:
Whimsical Dreams, group show by
member artists, through November 24.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:
Glass: Color, Light and Motion, mosaics,
stained glass, and glass painting by Sam
Meyers; *Robert Osborne: Optical
Confusion*, aluminum and glass sculptures
exploring light, perception, and structure.
Both through December.

Mead Art Museum, Amherst College:
New exhibits include *A Contentious
Legacy: Paintings from Soviet Ukraine*;

*Spaces That Hold: Swapnaa Tamhane;
Re/Presenting: An Activity Gallery*; and
the installation of Fred Wilson's chandelier
Dramatis Personae.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Artwork Looks
Inward and Outward*, paintings by
John Krifka and photographs by Larry
Rankin, through November 29.

**Lyman Plant House, Smith College,
Northampton:** *Koanbanchinemma
(do you see the light (in me))*, works
by Nipmuc artists, cultural and land
stewards Rachel Healing Willow Bayliss,
Willow Daly, Keely Curliss, Scott Strong
Hawk Foster, Andre StrongBearHeart
Gaines, Jr., and Kimberly Toney. Opens
next Thursday, November 20 with a
reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

CALL FOR ART

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls:
Submissions for *Pockets of Possibility*,
a community exhibit about the
possibilities of resilience, beauty, hope,
wisdom, community, and courage in
dark times, are due by December 2. One
piece per person will be accepted in any
media including performance. There is no
fee. Find out more at theartgarden.org.

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CALENDAR

New Salem Public Library,
New Salem: *Crafternoons: Making Beeswax Hand Cream* with local beekeeper *Chuck Neveu*. 1 to 2 p.m. Free.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. 6 p.m. \$.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Banish Misfortune*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shelburne Falls Theater, Shelburne Falls: Documentary, *Far Out: Life On & After the Commune* (2024). Live music before the film by *Verandah Porche* and *Patty Carpenter*; discussion to follow. 7 p.m. \$.

Water Street Barn and Studio, Shelburne Falls: *Psychedelic Farm Girls*. 7 p.m. No cover.

No Fun, Troy NY: *J. Mascis, Gold Dust*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm* double feature: *Conan The Barbarian* (1982) and *The Beastmaster* (1982). Trivia, refreshments available. 7:30 p.m. Free.

The Drake, Amherst: *The New England Jazz Collaborative*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ananya Ganesh & Amber Wolfe, Ben Richter, Sweetness the Point of Song*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Easthampton: *Samuel Boat, beetsblog, Mia Friedman Band, Pond 1000*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *DJ Lucas, Caplito & Swvnk, Woody, Finesse Fresco*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Solmere Band*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Autumn Drive*. 10 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Craft Day with the Friends*. Older teens and adults welcome; instruction and materials provided. Register at (413) 423-3348. 1 p.m. Free.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Annual Open House*. Light refreshments, scavenger hunt. 1 to 5 p.m. Free.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. 2 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *JD Pinkus, Yes Ma'am*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Glenn Jones, Liam Grant, Michael Slyne*. 7 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Weakened Friends, Nova One, Perennial*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Sensory Friendly Hour*, low lighting and sensory activities for preschoolers. 9 a.m. Free.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Board Game Night*. Registration required. 5:30 p.m. Free.

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

The Drake, Amherst: *Beach Fossils, Being Dead*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Jim McRae*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Seashell Detectives*. Designed for elementary-aged children. 3:30 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: *Local Author Talk*, with *Richie Davis*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

First Congregational Church, Montague Center: *Montague Center Oral History Project One-Year Celebration*. 6 p.m. Free.

New Salem Library, New Salem: Screening, *Views from a Woodlot*, short documentary on local forester *Bruce Spencer*. Discussion to follow. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Community College Department of Music Concert*. 7 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Matinee Movie: Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. 4 p.m. Free.

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

Marigold, Easthampton: *Madska, Sleep Destroyer, Local Honeymoon, Radical Joy*. 6 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *GWAR, Helmet, The Dwarves, Blood Vulture*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown, Royal Hartigan, David Bindman, Andrew Wilcox*. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Montague Center Library, Montague: *Bilingual Music and Movement*. 10 a.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Art Show Reception*, Swift River School students. 6 p.m. Free.

This Saturday's Cinemastorm double feature at the Shea Theater pairs the classic 1982 sword-and-sorcery epic Conan the Barbarian with a superficially similar film released that year in its shadow, The Beastmaster. Dar, its protagonist, is superior to Conan due to his ability to communicate telepathically with animals. Cinemastorm is free, and candy can be won by answering trivia questions.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Lofi Creativity Zone*, drop-in writing and drawing hangout for grades 6 to 12, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Dino Makerspace*, "travel back in time to craft your own prehistoric projects," 5:30 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Teen Night*. 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Erin McKeown, The Snap Dragons*. 7 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Two-Step Night* with *Les Taiouts, The Honky-Tonk Angels*, country karaoke. Masks required. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SHEA THEATER, TURNERS FALLS:
North County Band, with special guest *Brian Dolzani* as "The Loner," Neil Young tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Psychedelic Farm Girls*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Modern Ego, The Stress Balls, Neponset Monastery, SPU*. Benefit for the Franklin County People's Fund. 9 p.m. By donation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Winter Farmers Market*. 10 a.m to 1 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *French/Breton Jam Session*. 2:30 p.m. Free.

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: *Pookah's Soup CSA*, with stew, cornbread, pickles, cocktails, and music by *Chris Gray* and *Beth Lewand*. 6 to 11 p.m. No cover.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Movie, *The Dark Crystal* (1982), with opening music by *Adipocere*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Omoo Omoo, Masma Dream World, Sunken Cages*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Little Lies*, Fleetwood Mac tribute. 8 p.m. \$

Marigold, Brattleboro: *ZBS.FM, Dialog Talk, Azizam, Feldspar00000*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Hedge; Babe, Wait; Nanny; Scorpion Porch*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tori Jock & Damage Control*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Leverett Crafts & Art, Leverett: Reception for *Oh Beautiful Glass* group show. 12 p.m. Free.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Green Street Fiends, Teen Driver, Cop/Out, Ovarieasy + friends*. 2 p.m. \$.

Haze, Northampton: *Sable Island Pony, Erin Morse, Alyssa Kai*. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Sophie Becker*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Allysen Callery, Karen Zanes, Tiiish*. 9 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Presentation Night*. "Want to nerd out in a fun, supportive environment?... We will provide a laptop and a projector, for slides or reference materials, a mic, a timer, and an eclectic, community oriented audience." Hosted by *Olivia Nied*. 8 p.m. No cover.

looking forward...

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: Movie night, *Death on the Nile*. Refreshments. 5 p.m. Free.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Dilemastronauta y La Tripulación Cósmica*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

The Mill at Shelburne Falls, Shelburne Falls: *MillWorks! Makers & Art Market*. Over 40 resident and guest makers and artists including *Charlie Adams, Jeremy Sinkus, and Marian Ives*. 4 to 9 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *LuxDeluxe*. Benefit for the Food Bank of Western Mass. 7 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Sweepers, Half, Swamp God, Freakbag, Together*. 7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Palladium, Worcester: *Cattle Decapitation, Aborted, Frozen Soul, Tribal Gaze*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Mr. Sun* play *Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Four Phantoms Brewery, Greenfield: *Tabletop Roleplaying Night*. "Come meet new friends and play a session of Mork Borg, Shadowdark, Dungeon World, or something you've never heard of using dice you didn't know were possible." 5:30 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

The Drake, Amherst: *The Ladybug Transistor, Giant Day, Jeanines*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Minibeast, Hammer Party, SWRM*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Northfield Mount Hermon Memorial Chapel, Gill: *Vespers*. Choral and orchestral music, traditional carols, and readings. 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Free.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Besnard Lakes, Gold Dust*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

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WEST ALONG from page B1
leaving empty buildings soon to be torn down, and many unemployed.

Natives knew, however, and tacitly avoided this place, sensing a dark spirit lingering there.

One Native historian has shared that he felt the victims’ spirits were stuck there at the falls in their greatest moment of torment, unable to move on their spiritual journey to the home of the Creator, Cautautowet.

In 2014, some of us decided to do something about that.

Following the momentum created by the 2004 Reconciliation Ceremony in which the Town of Montague, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and the Nolumbeka Project participated, and then by the Indigenous victory in saving the ceremonial hill at the Turners Falls airport in 2006, Montague secured a grant to finally study the massacre and counterattack of 1676.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Park Service under its American Battlefield Protection Program. An inclusive advisory board was quickly formed, intended to assure a place at the table for the Native nations whose ancestral members had been drawn into the war, and who had been present at the massacre.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck, the Elnu Abenaki, the Aquinnah Wampanoag, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe were joined by the historic commissioners of the municipalities where the historic events had taken place: Montague, Greenfield, Deerfield, Gill, and Northfield.

With the funding provided by the NPS, the board hired an archaeological team composed of principal investigator Dr. Kevin McBride, battlefield terrain analyst Dr. David Naumec, and others. The project administrator has been town administrator Walter Ramsey, and I have served as the project’s coordinator and chief wrangler.

We began holding monthly meetings in 2014, and have just completed our mission in November 2025. Our final report on the 11-year study is available on the town website and at many of our local libraries. Our principal findings are as follows:

Massacre and counterattack mapping and site identification: We have mapped the approach route of the English forces through the north

meadows of Deerfield, up the Green River to Cherry Rum Brook, and through White Ash Swamp to the site where they tied up their horses to wait for a dawn attack.

Although the attack was on the non-combatant village situated in modern-day Riverside, the Native coalition forces’ counterattack extended over seven miles.

The English fled the massacre site upon hearing the rumor that Philip was about to arrive on site with a thousand fighters. The English were in unknown territory and, in a panicked retreat, went back along the same route they had taken when they had approached.

The Natives knew every ambush site and choke point along the retreat route, and inflicted heavy casualties. Notably, they were able to bottle up the English retreat in White Ash Swamp, at the modern-day Greenfield Swimming Pool area, and at the Deerfield River ford in the vicinity of Meridian Street, below what is now the Green River Cemetery.

It is to be noted that at the time, early Puritan writers described the massacre event as a great English victory. They neglect or downplay the disaster that befell the attackers who suffered heavy casualties in their disorderly, panicked retreat.

Artifacts found from the battle on May 19: More than 1,000 musketballs from that day were found by metal detectorists along the seven-mile counterattack route. Close to 500 of those were recovered from the standing battle site near Meridian Street.

Also found were items such as horse tack, buttons, a jaw harp, pieces of flintlock, and pistols.

Native organization, leadership, and strategies: The Native coalition was comprised of members of various tribes who oftentimes fought as individual groups, yet following pre-determined plans. Many knew the terrain perfectly, and had been trained as warriors from a very young age. They ranged all over the territories, often participating in attacks from one end of the Massachusetts Bay Colony terrain, from Boston to the Berkshires.

Our research has shown that Metacomet/Philip himself was not often present on the battlefield, in spite of the War being named for him. His principal responsibilities were those of logistics, munitions, supplies, and diplomacy.

On the other hand, multiple leaders whose names are less well-known played an important role in the Native coalition forces’ attacks on settlements such as Deerfield, Northfield, Hatfield, Northampton, Hadley, Brookfield, and Lancaster. Men such as Monoco, Mettawmp, Matoonas, Shoshanim, Canonchet, Anawon, and Sanchumanchu and women such as Weetamo, Awashonks, and Quaipenn played key roles on the terrain of battles and attacks.

The English complained that the Natives fought in an unfair way: their “skulking kind of war” involved using concealment offered by the terrain, exceptional marksmanship honed by hunting in the woods, hit-and-run tactics, multiple individual attack points, and leading the English into ambushes.

The English were more used to organized lines of battle where adversaries lined up to shoot at one another in volleys. They learned very late to adapt to the Native tactics which we now call guerrilla warfare.

Stephen Williams’s notebooks. Some of us will recognize Stephen Williams as the *Boy Captive of Old Deerfield*. He was captured in the Raid of 1704 on Deerfield, and held captive for a number of years in Canada.

When he was ransomed several years later, he was engaged as pastor of the Puritan community of Longmeadow. In his later years, he determined to find and interview the surviving veterans of the Falls Fight of 1676. He also interviewed some of the Native fighters who had survived English prosecution.

Williams’s notebooks are in possession of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and provided valuable primary source accounts for our research of the fateful day on May 9, 1676.

The Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee has dissolved, but our work will continue. We will be working with the town of Gill and the city of Greenfield to develop educational signage to be placed along the seven-mile battle route.

We intend to assist area educators, libraries, and historical societies in developing curricula and programming to begin sharing the discoveries and information we’ve garnered during our 11-year study to find out what *really* happened at the Falls.



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TAVERN from page B1

ownership of the sign was transferred from the SRVHS to the newly-formed Wendell Historical Society (WHS), of which I am a member. Bennett has made a 45-year, extensive study of the Ballard family, and it seemed only right to her that the Ballard sign be returned to Wendell.

Dot Frye, administrative assistant at the SRVHS, responded to this idea immediately by calling for a vote by their Board, and the sign was transferred to the WHS on October 25.

Incidentally, Bennett’s research revealed that Josiah Ballard’s wife was – through her maternal line – a second cousin of Paul Revere.

Fire has destroyed most of the old houses in Wendell, so it is remarkable that Josiah Ballard’s tavern still stands. It is equally remarkable that his original 160-acre property has remained intact for over two hundred years. Deed research shows that there were several mortgage-holders during the mid-19th century, but the property has changed hands only four times since farmer Lowell Jennison

purchased it in 1857.

Upon Lowell’s death in 1893 his son, Charles, acquired the house and land, where he ran a large dairy business, cut great quantities of lumber, and annually produced about 200 gallons of maple syrup. He was also a Wendell selectman.

In 1947, Charles’s widow sold the 160 acres to a Kenneth Whitmore who, one year later, sold to Carl and Stanny Lindquist. Carl had worked as a cook on freighters going to South America, where he loved to hunt, and when he sold the old Ballard tavern in 1966, the new owners discovered many animal bones and skins in a back room.

They also found that the house had no running water, and no heat, due to metal plates over all the fireplaces. The house itself, however, retained most of its original features, and it has been beautifully restored and maintained by those same 1966 buyers for nearly sixty years now.

The Ballard Tavern is one of Wendell’s most cherished pieces of history, and the WHS is thrilled to welcome the Ballard sign to its collection.



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