

The Montague Reporter

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Muni Airport Hits a Wall

By JEFF SINGLETON

“It’s no longer feasible to continue with the same business model,” Turners Falls airport manager Bryan Camden told the Montague selectboard at its meeting on Monday. The highlight of that meeting – if one could call it that – was a long and often dismal report on the deficits at the Turners Falls airport from the last and current fiscal years, the loss of income from a major tenant, and clerical mistakes that could affect town revenue.

Nevertheless, the board expressed strong support for Camden, applauded his “candor,” and agreed to consider a restructuring of airport management proposed by town administrator Walter Ramsey.

The board also discussed the October 28 special town meeting, considered a proposal to use bricks from the Strathmore paper mill in the construction of the new library, and approved a plan to market the property where the Farren Hospital once sat.

see MONTAGUE page A7

Lightlife To ‘Wind Down’ Turners Plant By 2028

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Maple Leaf Foods, the Canada-based multinational packaged-food company, announced on Tuesday that by the end of 2027 it plans to “consolidate its U.S. plant protein production” in Indiana, closing two other facilities in the process: Field Roast, a vegan charcuterie producer in Seattle, and Lightlife, which makes tempeh, Smart Dogs, and other meatless products in Turners Falls.

Maple Leaf CEO Curtis Frank said the decision was driven by “declining volumes” of sales, and that to “reduce operational complexity” the company will bring all production to a “Plant Protein Centre of Excellence” in Indianapolis, “over approximately 12 to 18 months, with targeted completion in Q4 2027.”

Lightlife has been a major employer at the



airport industrial park in Turners Falls since 1998, currently with “120 to 150” employees according to Maple Leaf’s website.

A spokesperson told the *Reporter* workers learned of the wind-down plan on Tuesday.

According to the announcement, the phased see LIGHTLIFE page A5

A ‘Give-Away Gardener’ Finds Her Happy Place



Steph George sits on the stoop of her popular solar-powered mini-camper on Masonic Avenue, custom-made by her neighbor Ben Maillonx.

By BEN GAGNON

MONTAGUE CITY – After Steph George retired, she planted a few tomato plants in pots at her home in Greenfield, but soon realized her ambitions were greater than the limited sun shining on her backyard.

“I started my career as a 411 operator and eventually became a training manager for Verizon,” she said in an interview last week. “When I retired, I loved watching my two grandchildren, but I needed something to do.”

One winter day about three years ago she was sitting outside her husband Joe’s workshop and storage building on Masonic Avenue in Montague City when her eyes fell on a strip of land on the property.

“I said to myself, I think I could have a garden here,” she said.

Others weren’t so sure. The canal that once existed at the site had left behind hundreds of stones just under the ground and the area was grown over with tangled brush and trees. But as spring approached, the couple rented a brush hog, and Joe built a 40-foot-by-40-foot fence to keep the deer out. George decided she would follow the “no-dig” philosophy that included laying down cardboard to suppress weeds and bringing in 20 yards of compost.

“At first I thought I was just going to have perennials like asparagus, strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries,” said George.

see GIVE-AWAY page A4

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Town Shores Up Its Legal Team, Weighs Need for Security Cameras

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato started the Wendell selectboard’s September 16 meeting with a quick report about town counsel, saying events had moved so fast she had to act.

David Donesky, the lawyer at Kopelman and Paige (K&P), the firm that has served Wendell for more than ten years, retired. The Wendell conservation commission needed legal help with their hearings involving the developer Nexamp’s proposal to build a solar project at 69 Locke Village Road, but found his replacement from K&P a disappointment.

DiDonato said she called K&P, the firm sent a second attorney to Wendell, and she authorized the conservation commission to use that attorney at their hearings. DiDonato said the firm may eventually assign a team to

see WENDELL page A3

GILL SELECTBOARD

Highway Dept’s Winter Funding Will Buy Hotbox, Mountain of Salt

By KATE SAVAGE

Highway superintendent John Miner came to the Gill selectboard on Monday with plans for the winter ahead.

Miner reported the state has “kindly given” Gill a little over \$91,000 through the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP), which must be used on winter-related road issues.

“What we’re finding is more and more potholes every year,” Miner said.

The board approved Miner’s request to use \$43,565 of the WRAP funds to buy a 4-ton trailer-mounted asphalt hotbox with accessories. Selectboard member Charles Garbiel likened the machine to a “hot glue gun” which heats up asphalt so it can fill pot-holes, even in cold weather.

“All the towns around us are now using see GILL page A3

The Week in High School Sports: Tech Celebrates Jubilee With Wins

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week, Franklin Tech’s golf and boys’ soccer teams remained perfect, the Turners Falls field hockey team won their first game of the season and Franklin Tech celebrated their Golden Jubilee, hosting events from 10 in the morning until 9 at night.

And one local man, about to turn 100, attended several games this week.

Boys’ Golf

FCTS 151 – Smith Voc 171

TFHS 174 – Mohawk 192

FCTS 151 – TFHS 187

Rain postponed several events last Thursday, September 17, but golf went on as scheduled, and Franklin Tech played their toughest match so far against the Smith Vocational Vikings.

“We’re the top two teams in the league,” Tech coach Mike Duclos said as he shook my hand. Then he handed out umbrellas and see SPORTS page A6



Franklin Tech’s Faythe Sobieski makes a tackle to steal the ball as the Eagles hosted the Pioneer Valley Panthers during Tech’s 50th anniversary last Saturday. The Panthers prevailed, 2-0.

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER – On Tuesday afternoon the Superior Court in Greenfield rejected a petition by two Montague Center homeowners, Deborah Snow and Barbara White, for an emergency injunction to pause a portion of the town’s “Complete Streets” project which would extend their driveway by approximately 30 feet to Main Street and, they argue, take away direct vehicle access to their home from North Street.

The petition, and the judge’s decision, are the latest twists in the project, which is intended to slow traffic speeding through the Center, that had already been marked by controversy.

Judge Charles Groce scheduled a hearing on the merits of the case for November, but did not act on the request to halt the impending closure of the intersection of North and Main streets to motor vehicles because, he said, he did not feel the litigants would



suffer any immediate “harm” that could not be remedied in other ways.

The context of the case is the revised set of plans for the project unveiled in January by Bowman Engineering and Consulting, which had taken over the project, in the works since see JUNCTION page A5

Wouldn’t Want To Be Infamous

Needed Something to Do.....A1	Presumably Also Scattered.....B1
Stumbling Around at All Hours.....A2	Facing Difficult Circumstances.....B2
Checking For Life.....A3	Billowing to the Heavens.....B3
Without Needed Care.....A4	Coming Apart at the Seams.....B4
Overly Tight and Revealing.....A5	Contabilizar Las Muertes.....B5
Systematically Marched.....A6	Singers, Scammers, Stompers.....B6
Seized Without Warning.....A7	Eyetraps, Tree Trunks, Narks.....B7
Best To Bite the Bullet.....A8	Died of Senility.....B8

The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Wrap Winners Picked

Our call for wrapping paper art went out at the end of June, and we received designs from 34 different artists. Most artists submitted three designs, so our judges had quite a job sifting through all the submissions to narrow it down to seven winners – but we have the list!

We will have a delightful assortment to wrap your presents in this year, with features such as mice, cats, garlic, fruit, abstract geometric and organic patterns, and more.

Our Youth winner this year is **Eva Pfeiffer**, from southern Vermont. Her colorful crayon drawing of two people with a Christmas tree is very playful and fun.

Our neighbors to the south did well this year: Northampton’s **Pam Acosta** won with a patterned design in yellow, red, and blue; **Betsy Cook** of South Hadley won with cats peeping out of fall leaves; **Arch Macinnes**, also from Northampton, will fill his page with festive geometry; and **Max Neiberg** from Sunderland answered the call with gar-



lic bulbs that charmed the judges.

On the home court, **Emily Siegenthaler** of Turners Falls painted some mice getting ready to party, and **Suzette Snow-Cobb**, also of Turners Falls and a contributor of a regular comic strip in our pages, won with a painting of sliced fruits.

Each winner will receive \$200 in November, along with five copies of the wrapping paper edition. We’ll be featuring each artist in our pages in the weeks running up to Thanksgiving, when the wrapping paper pages go to press.

We hope you’ll snap up some of these unique papers to wrap your presents in. They are perennial, and most of the designs are not holiday-themed.

And by the way, if you are looking for local gift ideas, we have *Montague Reporter* coffee mugs, t-shirts, collections of our 1890s historical editions, and *Over the Hill* comic anthologies for sale. Stop by our office, or see Maggie at the Great Falls Farmers Market, to purchase some swag.

Letter to the Editors



Allegations Denied

This is in response to the reporting of a silly incident in a recent Montague Police Log column (*Tree On House; Halloween Already Causing Arguments; Grumpy Accused of Smashing Christmas Ornaments*, September 17, 2026, Page B3). Some Christmas ornaments were broken one night on the steps of someone holding a yard sale.

I swear on a stack of AAA TripTiks (if such things still exist) that these are the missing facts of the tale:

I bought something at the yard sale, and asked if they had any more similar items. They said there were things still in the house, and to come back in an hour.

I came back later and was told, and this is an exact quote: “You’ve been by here 30 times, you haven’t

bought anything, so why don’t you leave.” I am usually a very quiet person, and also, there were others present, so I quietly walked away and did not return.

I’ve lived in Turners for six years, and half of downtown knows me, from stumbling around at all hours with insomnia – hence the nickname, Grumpy. I’m always at the library, am a member of the Senior Center, and know people from the Catholic church up the street because their deacon used to live in elder housing.

The police have to deal with dangerous situations, and don’t need distractions. Perhaps the complainant could get outside more, maybe down to Unnameable Books.

Grumpy Turners Falls

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

When Jim Asbel considered starting an apple orchard and cidery in Gill at 68 years old, he thought, “This is going to kill me.” At 73, Jim believes that “This orchard is keeping me alive!” Altamira Cider, at 10 Cross Road in Gill, is a partnership between Asbel, his wife Holly Grosvenor, and Gordon Meadows. They’ve been fermenting cider from foraged and gleaned apples while they wait for their own trees to bear fruit. The cidery will hold its second Altamira Music Festival this Saturday, September 26 from 1 to 8 p.m., with folk, country, and indie acts from around New England. Admission is free; bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on.

TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Good morning, dear readers.

First off, for those of you on Turners Falls water, clerk/collector Suzanne Leh sends a note:

“The Turners Falls Water Department will be **reading water meters** beginning October 1, and bills will follow November 2. A reminder to residents that any water usage after October 1 will be reflected in their FY’28 sewer bill.” You have been warned.

The **Montague Soapbox Races** were supposed to be held this Sunday, but there’s a Nor’easter in the for’cast, and so, “for safety and concerns for hay bales,” it was announced Wednesday morning that the whole thing is being knocked five weeks further into fall.

“We hope to reschedule to Sunday, November 1, once gaining approval from the selectboard,” the race committee writes. “The five week delay will provide more time for racers to finish off their carts and new racers to sign up...” If you were waiting for a sign, this is it.

One of our staff members is a volunteer firefighter in a nearby jurisdiction, so we got to hear the first alarm toning out on Wednesday for the **structure fire** at Architectural Components, out on North Leverett Road.

It sounded like *a lot* of trucks were going, which made sense as the clapboard building in question (a) was built circa 1860 and (b) is now a custom-wooden-door factory. We were glad to hear, a little later on in the production of this edition, that the fire was put out safely.

The Brick House and the Montague Public Libraries are soliciting “**clean, gently used Halloween costumes and accessories**,” now through Saturday, October 10, when a Halloween Costume Swap Party will be held at the Brick House annex building on Third Street.

Check your closets for children- and teen-sized costumes, as well as “accessories such as hats, masks, capes, wigs, animal ears, and other pieces that can help turn an everyday outfit into a Halloween costume,” and drop them in bins at the Carnegie Library and the Brick House. (The Swap Party itself may be attended without a costume; it’s from 3 to 5 p.m. that Saturday.)

More on this in the coming weeks. The holiday falls on a Saturday too, and in this particular vicinity, I’m excited at the prospect of a good **Rag Shag parade**.

Following up on last week’s Page A1 article by Sarah Robertson (*With Quabbin at Historic Low, East Grows Thirsty for More*): On Tuesday, four state politicians – senator Jo Comerford and representatives Aaron Saunders and Susannah Whipps, representing our coverage towns, plus nearby senator Jake Oliveira – sent a rager of a letter urging the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission not to authorize another 20 million gallons per day to be **drawn from the Quabbin**.

“Beyond failing to meet basic statutory thresholds and contemplating the use of an untested regulatory process for the largest transfer in the history of the [Interbasin Transfer] Act, the application also fails to establish why the requested amount is 20mgd,” they write. “.... The absence of identified destinations also prevents meaningful review of the proposal’s full consequences.” *Boom*. Hands off our unnatural resource!

At 10 a.m. this Sunday, go to the Old South Cemetery – that’s the one at Old State Road and East Taylor Hill in Montague – to learn from the Montague cemetery commission how to **clean the headstones**, and then to clean some headstones. Tools will be provided.

Check out the Elijah Bordwell stone while you’re there... It occurs to me that, like the soapbox races, this one might be postponed due to rain, so if you notice that it is raining, think about that.

Next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., *Montague Reporter* columnist Lee Wicks will read from her **newly-released memoir**, *A Five Dog Marriage*, at the Montague Center library. This one is rain or shine!

Our friends at The Shoestring (*theshoestring.org*) announced this week that they’ve joined up with a couple dozen other small publications in the latest **lawsuit against Microsoft and OpenAI**, seeking damages after the tech giants scraped their content to feed their data-processing platforms.

The *Reporter* has a big free online archive, but intentionally stayed incompatible with the social-media-centered reorganization of news, and as an added benefit of that, we’re **hard to scrape**. Proud to keep it human, but disappointed that we might miss out on a windfall!

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WENDELL from page A1

Wendell, with somebody whose specialty is land use and somebody whose specialty is contract law.

Ben Schwartz, an abutter of that potential project, said later in the meeting that he approved of that authorization and spending. He said that as the only lawyer in the room, Nexamp’s lawyer tends to bully the volunteer planning board and con com members, giving assertions that “seem to come from God” and saying that his client “wants to get their way.”

Schwartz said all the money made from that project would be slated to go to the landowner, and that he felt any potential payment *in lieu* of taxes (PILOT) agreement with Nexamp should benefit the town as much as possible, including abutters, whose property value would go down if this project is built.

DiDonato said payments like that to individual citizens are not legal.

An Intrusion

Discussion of Wendell’s town hall security and finances took a large part of the meeting.

Good Neighbors volunteer Kevin Skorupa said that when the group’s volunteer went to open the door for food distribution on September 6, the door was already unlocked and open.

It was the day after the first We Mail Coconuts Annual Retreat and Conference, which used the town hall, the meetinghouse, and the common between them. DiDonato said the organizer of the day-long event, Chris Joseph, as-

sured her that he had locked the door.

Skorupa said he had also found the all-gender bathroom window open wide, and an opening cut all the way across the screen. The opening was much more than the small tears that assistant facilities engineer Alistair MacMartin said were already in the screen. Skorupa said the window is usually left open a bit, but this time was open wide. He said the kitchen door and the doors on either side of the entryway were still locked.

DiDonato said a first pass at securing the building could be changing the code on the lock box that holds a front door key. It can be changed once, or at intervals. The board agreed to change the code once to start off.

Skorupa said he would ask who among Good Neighbors’s volunteers has a key. Selectboard member Paul Doud said that after the code is changed once the town will find out who uses it.

Ben Schwartz suggested using video surveillance, and said the systems are ubiquitous and cheap. DiDonato said Wendell citizens might not want the intrusion. Schwartz said there are laws that say you may be filmed in a public place.

Selectboard member Marina Apostol said she would look into different monitoring systems, and that there are closed-loop systems that don’t send video offsite. The board members agreed to wait for her research.

Removals

An insurance inspector was called in to evaluate mold in the town hall. Town coordinator

Kelly Tyler relayed the recommendation that the drywall be removed and replaced. The heating ducts have water in them.

Doud said the inspector recommended that the town take a lump-sum payment, then put projects out for bids. MacMartin and facilities manager Stephen Broll planned to have a full report ready for the selectboard’s next meeting on September 23.

The town hall piano has been declared derelict, and failed to get a bid at Wendell’s most recent auction of surplus property. MacMartin and WRATS supervisor Asa DeRoode offered to take care of bringing it to the WRATS. Doud said he had taken pianos apart before and could take this one apart, sending its harp and strings to metal recycling and the rest into the open-top.

Schwartz suggested offering it instead to surrounding schools, and said he would pay for transport.

Other Business

The board had met with the New Salem selectboard at its September 14 meeting to discuss the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two towns about the responsibilities of each town and the shared fire chief, and came to an agreement, changing the MOU to an inter-municipal agreement (IMA).

The actual document stayed in New Salem, and Tyler said she would ask the New Salem town coordinator to bring it to Wendell for DiDonato to sign.



GILL from page A1

them,” said Miner. “This is the model that everybody else is purchasing.” Having the equipment, he explained, would allow the town to use a little bit of asphalt at a time rather than buying a full dump truck load, which would need to be used all at once.

The board also approved Miner’s request to use between \$19,000 and \$23,000 of the WRAP funds to buy eight loads of road salt, weighing in at 240 to 280 tons. Miner reported that salt currently costs \$81.80 per ton, and that the price will rise by \$16 in October.

Miner said his department did not have the money last spring to refill the salt shed. “Eight loads would put me back to where I usually try to leave it at the end of winter,” he said.

Selectboard chair John Ward asked whether this was the best use of the funds. “We had such a rough budget season,” he said. “Have you

explored other possibilities of what to do with the WRAP fund to offset some of what would be in your general budget?”

Miner said the remaining \$24,000 to \$28,000 would cover crack sealing, allowing the amount normally allocated for that work to be used for other needs.

He also gave an update on the project to repair the town’s only bridge, which is on North Cross Road. The bridge was reduced to one lane last year after the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) found it to be unsafe.

MassDOT has awarded the contract for the project. “They told us this was supposed to be a very rapid repair job,” said Miner. “If that means ten years or 15, I’m not sure,” he joked.

Town Hall Water

Purington reported that during the state primary election on September 1 the water at town hall shut

off twice. The problem turned out to be a pressure switch “flaking out,” but the company that replaced it also noticed that the building’s steel pressure tank is badly rusted and disintegrating at the base. The entire weight is now resting on a pipe at the bottom of the tank, which is in danger of breaking.

“Normally I’d like to hold off on fixing things that aren’t broken,” said Purington. “But I’ve had enough floods, thank you.”

Purington said a repair person had given a quote of \$4,600 to install a new fiberglass tank, and that he was also pursuing other quotes. The board authorized him to spend no more than that, from the building maintenance fund, for the replacement.

Who Chiefs the Chiefs?

Purington announced that the personnel committee has been updating job descriptions for town employees and has run into a question of author-

ity: who do department heads like the police chief and highway superintendent report to – the selectboard, or the town administrator?

Purington said this was not a pressing issue, as there were good working relationships among town leaders, but that a clear line of command needs to be established.

“It’s a hefty kind of decision,” he said.

“This is a good conversation to have with Ray [Purington],” said selectboard member Jenn Waldron. “He’s a straight shooter, honest, and can look at this as a position and not personally. And that’s why I’d rather be doing this with him right now.”

Purington said he would explore what other towns are doing and put the issue on the next meeting agenda.

Other Business

The board decided not to add remote Wi-Fi control to the older mini-split units at the Riverside municipal building. It was hoped that this would help the town save on energy, but Purington reported the cost to make all the older units compatible would be \$5,400 and would only be useful for the remaining life of the older units, which are already ten years old. New units come with Wi-Fi control built-in.

The board discussed adding an inexpensive Wi-Fi building temperature sensor or making it harder for those using the building to adjust the temperature, but made no decisions.

The board appointed Kristian Yagovane and Zachary Pyfrom, both from Greenfield, as firefighters.

A fire department and public safety open house will be held next Saturday, October 3, from 3 until around 6 p.m. at the public safety complex at 196 Main Road. Fire chief Billy Kimball said there would be food on site.

“Come and see what the tax dollars have been supporting, over the years, in the station,” said Kimball. The event will include a demonstration of cutting up a car and a “smoke room” simulation.



Joe Graveline (left) and Karl Meyer walk the bed of the Turners Falls power canal Tuesday morning, checking for life stranded in the pools when the canal was drained. The Connecticut River Conservancy sent volunteers to save as much as they were able.

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GIVE-AWAY from page A1

“But I found out I can grow things, and I really liked the work. I never knew I had a green thumb.”

Before long the garden was doing so well there were more than enough vegetables, herbs, and flowers for the George family, so she started bringing the surplus to the Franklin Area Survival Center on Fourth Street. But everything changed one day when she was walking on the neighborhood bike path with her granddaughter and



A cluster of signs identifies places where George’s extended family and friends reside.

OP ED

Denied by Medicare Advantage? The Odds Say Appeal.

By ALICE BERS

SPRINGFIELD – If you had a nine-in-ten chance of winning something, wouldn’t you go for it? Those are odds worth taking.

What if it was not only something you wanted, but something you *needed*, like medically necessary services in a skilled nursing facility?

This is the situation many older adults and people with disabilities find themselves in if they are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. These plans offer a way to receive Medicare benefits through private insurance companies, rather than directly from the federal government. Medicare Advantage plans require “prior authorization” (pre-approval) before they will cover many services.

In theory, prior authorization prevents unnecessary, costly care. In practice, doctors and patients say that it has become overused and burdensome, causing delays and denials of care that patients need.

When a Medicare Advantage plan denies prior authorization, the patient has a right to appeal. It is important to understand and make use of this appeal right, because plan denials are frequently overturned. A new federal report examined nursing facility care specifically, and its findings show just how often these pre-approval denials are wrong.

The June 2026 report from the US Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Inspector General found that when patients and providers appeal Medicare Advantage denials of prior authorizations for nursing facility care, they win 95% of the time. Skilled nursing facility care, which includes physical and occupational therapy as well as nursing, helps bridge

the gap between a hospital discharge and the ability to return home with as much independence as possible.

Given how often denials are overturned – and how critical these services are – appealing is clearly worthwhile.

Every written denial notice from a Medicare Advantage plan must explain how to appeal, and patients can also ask their health care provider to support the appeal with medical documentation. Because appeals have deadlines, it is important to act promptly and ask for help if you need it. Many appeals succeed because additional information shows that the requested care meets Medicare’s coverage rules.

But most Medicare Advantage denials are *not* appealed. The federal analysis, for example, found that only 18% of initial denials for nursing facility care were appealed. As the report notes, the “extremely high overturn rate indicates that some enrollees were initially denied medically necessary care,” and it “raises concerns about denials that were not appealed.”

Why do Medicare Advantage plans deny coverage so frequently? The federal watchdog report points to profit incentives for the plans. These plans are paid a fixed monthly amount per patient, regardless of how many services that person receives. The report flags this as “a central concern” for denials of care. Every denial that is not appealed can save money for the plan.

The result is predictable: Medicare Advantage plans deny, and many people who could receive coverage never appeal. They may not understand that they have the right to appeal, or they assume an appeal will not be successful, or they are simply overwhelmed by the bureaucratic hurdles involved. Research shows that these barriers dis-

courage patients from pursuing health care benefits. As a result, patients may opt for cheaper, less effective care, pay out of pocket, or go without needed care altogether.

These concerns are heightened for the older adults and disabled individuals who rely on Medicare for health coverage.

The good news is that Massachusetts Medicare beneficiaries can get help with Medicare Advantage denials, and more, by reaching out to the Medicare Advocacy Project (MAP). MAP’s experienced advocates provide free legal assistance for Medicare-related issues. In central and western Massachusetts, MAP can be reached via Community Legal Aid, which provides free civil legal assistance to older adults and low-income individuals.

We encourage anyone facing a Medicare denial or appeal to apply for assistance through our website, www.communitylegal.org, or through our intake line at (855) 252-5342.

Reform is needed to fix a system that gets it wrong far too often. Older adults and people with disabilities should not have to fight so hard for nursing facility services and other medical care they need and qualify for by law. US taxpayers should expect Medicare Advantage plans to deliver the health care they pay those plans to provide.

But for now, the takeaway is simple. If a Medicare Advantage plan denies your prior authorization request, don’t assume the answer is final. Read the denial notice, pay attention to deadlines, and ask for help if you need it. Given the odds, an appeal may make all the difference.

Alice Bers, J.D., is director of the Massachusetts Medicare Advocacy Project at Community Legal Aid in Springfield.

came across a unique camper.

“We were looking at this cute little camper, and this guy asked about my garden,” she said. “We got to talking and it turned out his name was Ben Mailloux, he made these custom campers himself and was looking to sell it. I suddenly realized I wanted it to be my farm stand so we dragged it over to the garden, I brought in some tables, got one of those flags that says ‘Open,’ and put out a shoe box with a sign saying everything was free, but cash donations are accepted.”

That did the trick. No more surplus problems. Whenever she posted on the Everything Greenfield and Everything Turners Falls group on Facebook, she got a big response. The busy bike path didn’t hurt, either.

“When I put up a video I get bombed with people coming,” she said. “When people see the camper they say how cute it is and want to know where I got it. All day long I’m giving tours of the garden. It’s been joyous for me and I’ve given away a ton of veggies. I love making bouquets and inviting little kids to pick flowers.”

With input from her new customers, the garden expanded and changed.

“People wanted organic garlic, but it’s stupidly expensive – the price was up to \$16 a pound,” said George. “So I planted more garlic.” Before long she was growing 30 varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, cauliflower, sweet potatoes, cantaloupe, pumpkins, squash, gourds, artichokes, lettuce, okra, beets, carrots, onions, elephant ears, Mexican torch sunflowers, purple spider flowers, arugula, basil, fennel, zinnias, dahlias, marigolds, and two peach trees.

“If someone stopped by, I didn’t feel good if I had nothing to give them so it just kept going,” she said. “It sounds crazy when I list them all – I guess it’s more than one woman should be doing. I’ve offered people their own corner of the garden in exchange for work.”

Some of George’s motivation to start the new garden came from a sense of creeping despair.

“After Covid, everything felt different,” she said. “The world felt like a mess, there was a lot of bad stuff happening, and I was feeling a little sad. I always thought everyone’s basically good at heart, but



Steph George happily inspects her thriving garden.

over the last 10 years I was wondering if that’s true anymore.

“But this experience has healed me of that thinking. It’s showed me that people really are good at heart. People bring me plants, they pick up my umbrellas when they blow away, they leave love notes in the money box. It’s been a total rejuvenation of my soul, and now I’m living my best life. I already have big plans for next year.”

The size of the garden has grown well beyond the original 40-foot-by-40-foot plot. Piles of dead plants and compost continue to add nutrients to the land. Toward the back of the yard, a shrinking patch of grass remains.

“Less lawn, more garden,” George observed while touring the property. “I don’t understand why people have lawns.”

Meanwhile, George’s two grandchildren have been getting a crash course in horticulture.

“I’ve been teaching them all about it,” she said. “They know this is my happy place.”

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LIGHTLIFE from page A1

transition is intended to “enable an orderly transfer of production to Indianapolis,” where it plans to “add team members.”

“We recognize how difficult this announcement is for them and their communities,” Frank said of the workers facing layoffs. Support the company will offer includes “considering opportunities at other Maple Leaf foods facilities where feasible.”

The spokesperson clarified to the *Reporter* that the nearest facility will be Indianapolis. As of press time, she did not confirm the number of staff at the plant, or indicate when Maple Leaf plans to file a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act notice of the layoffs.

Montague town administrator Walter Ramsey called the planned closure a “significant loss for Montague and for Franklin County, particularly for the local employees and families who will be affected.”

He said the town will work with state government and “regional economic development partners” to support the staff and find a “next chapter” for the building, and pointed to an expected loss of sewer revenue, “although the factory property itself will remain a taxable asset.”

Reached for comment, Lightlife founders Michael Cohen and Chia

Collins said they were surprised and “devastated” by the news. Their company, originally named Tempeh Works, started in Greenfield in 1979, rebranded in 1984, and moved to the new plant in Turners Falls in 1998.

In 2000, the owners sold Lightlife to ConAgra Foods for an undisclosed price. The multinational sold it in 2013 to private equity firm Brynwood Partners, and in 2017, Maple Leaf bought it for \$140 million.

“Our number-one goal was to keep Lightlife in Franklin County where we grew the business,” said Collins, “so it makes us very sad. Our number-two goal was to keep the brand alive and growing, so we’re happy about that.”

Cohen said he could see the logic behind consolidating the meatless division in the Midwest rather than shipping Field Roast from the West Coast and Lightlife from the East.

“We built a company with a fabulous culture,” he added. “Our people worked really, really hard, but they had a good time, and we treated them well: profit-sharing, good benefits.... Most of our concern is for the people working there, and the community they support. It’s not easy to find jobs these days. We really feel for them.”

Management at the plant indicated that a local press release is forthcoming.



SINGLETON PHOTO



ED GREGORY PHOTO

Top: Deborah Snow’s Main Street home is currently on North Street, but the town is closing the section of the street to vehicles.

Above: Chicopee Concrete Service delivers the sidewalk matrix on Wednesday morning as a paving crew from Taylor-Davis of Amherst defines a section of soon-to-be sidewalk on the southwest side of Main Street. The work is expected through October.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Revisits Town Logo; Discusses Free Expression

By KEITH WATERS

Erving came back to the issue of town branding during its selectboard meeting on Monday. As town administrator Bryan Smith reminded the board, in 2019 and 2020 “a great deal of time was spent at selectboard meetings reviewing colors and fonts.”

Jacquie Boyden, who is new to the board, was blunt: “I know a lot of time and effort was spent on this, but I have to tell you, it is not my favorite logo.”

“I’m so sorry to hear that,” member William Bembury replied. “We did spend a lot of time on it.”

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith less than loudly defended the work: “Having not looked at it in a while, it is better than I remember, but it is not what I envision.”

Bembury and Smith asked Boyden about work she was involved in with the rec commission, which just designed a new logo. Boyden described the process, then said, “I know it costs money to start from scratch, but I don’t think the logo that we looked at really conveys what we’re trying to do.” The board discussed starting from scratch with another designer, and agreed that initial mockups provided by UMass were their favorite ideas so far.

Boyden noted that much has changed since the work was last done, including the design software Canva and other software incorporating AI.

The board agreed to start over, and after some discussion asked Bryan Smith to bring them a short list of design firms to choose from.

Matters of Judgment

The board held a “second reading” of a new policy manual for the senior center. Bryan Smith noted that there had been a question from

the public about language mandating “appropriate attire.”

Boyden agreed that this presents problems, notably with “language [specifying] overly tight and revealing [clothing]... Whose definition?” She said she felt more comfortable with the restriction against “discriminatory or offensive language, images or logos.”

Bryan Smith replied that the issue of what is offensive language is subject to similar questioning. Boyden suggested a section to define these terms, but Jacob Smith pointed out that the Constitutional right to free speech complicates this. “There’s some out there that even say hate speech is protected speech,” he added, “so we have to be careful.”

Bryan Smith said that town counsel has been reviewing the draft and will report back, and that there had already been issues related to these matters. The Council on Aging has not weighed in, he said, as it has only one member and has not really been functional for six or seven years.

Other Business

The town is proceeding with hiring Michelle Turner as the appointed town treasurer. Related to that, the town asked counsel for advice as to the job’s status, and was advised to designate both the treasurer and tax collector as “special municipal employees.”

The board voted to do so, and the matter will continue at their next meeting.

In August the town created a position of “assistant town administrator and personnel coordinator,” and on Monday the board voted to appoint Emily Pollard, who has been working in a similar capacity for the town already, to the position..

The board will be meeting on October 5, but agreed that they may also meet September 28.

JUNCTION from page A1

September 2024 and funded by a state Complete Streets grant of nearly \$500,000, from another firm. Design proposals have been subject to persistent criticism from neighborhood residents, many of whom said they wanted speed bumps installed in the southern part of Main Street.

Bowman did not opt for speed bumps, but made major changes in the project design. These included closing the straightaway from Main onto North Street in front of Snow and White’s house, extending their driveway approximately 30 feet to intersect directly with Main, and requiring cars to instead make a 90-degree right turn onto North Street after the driveway.

In their written motion for the court, the pair argued that the town had not communicated its plans directly to abutters; that the proposal, not formally adopted until July, improperly discontinued a portion of a “public way” in front of their house without a vote by town meeting; and that the action constituted a “partial taking” of their property.

They also argued for a temporary restraining order, based on the belief that they would likely prevail at a trial and would suffer “irreparable harm” if the work moves forward while the case is pending.

The town’s response, signed by town counsel Hayley Reifeiss of KP Law, was that there had been months of public discussion of the new traffic calming plan; that Snow and White had been informed of the new design, and even engaged in discussions about it with the town; and that the public way was not being “closed,” but only “reconfigured,” as direct access through it would still be preserved for pedestrians and cyclists.

Snow and White contend that abutters were never properly informed of the finalized design before its adoption this summer.

Tuesday’s hearing got off to a rough start for the plaintiffs as their attorney, John McNally, presented a hard-to-read map of the project design under dispute. “I have no idea what’s in front of me,” Groce commented.

When McNally repeated the argument that the town

was discontinuing a public way without a vote of town meeting, the judge asked whether it was a “discontinuation,” or simply an “alteration,” as the town had argued. Groce also added that he “did not see where there is a taking” of Snow and White’s property.

In the town’s presentation, Reifeiss distinguished between a “roadway” and a “public way.” She said that while closure of the latter required a town meeting vote, the area in front of the plaintiffs’ house would remain a public way, in that members of the public would still be allowed to traverse it using a variety of methods. Halting the project, even temporarily, would cause harm to the town by requiring an estimated \$10,000 in change orders, Reifeiss said, and would “disenfranchise” other local residents who had advocated for traffic-calming measures “at the whims of two people.”

Reifeiss cited an incident in which a northbound vehicle struck a home on Center Street as evidence of the project’s importance.

At the end of the hearing, Groce said he would “take [the arguments] under advisement,” and scheduled another hearing for Monday, November 16 over Zoom. He did not issue a temporary restraining order.

Asked for comment after the hearing, Montague town administrator Walter Ramsey wrote that “[t]he Town remains committed to completing the Complete Streets roadway safety improvement project in Montague Center,” but that “[b]ecause this matter is currently the subject of ongoing litigation, the Town will not comment further on the legal proceedings at this time.”

Deborah Snow was hesitant to comment on the judge’s decision to reject the stay, but said she could not understand why the town had closed the southern intersection of North and Main streets to vehicular traffic.

“It is not a dangerous corner, and no one has complained about it in this whole long process,” she said. “Instead, the town’s lawyer cited a completely different accident on the north side of the common, where Center Street meets Main, as evidence. It makes no sense.”



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SPORTS from page A1

told his players to wipe them dry before placing them back in the golf bags, reminding them that he had to take the umbrellas out of the bags and dry them himself after the last wet match.

When I spoke to Smith coach Nate Bergeron about the matchup, he acknowledged that both teams were undefeated, but added, “It’s all relative.”

It certainly was. The Eagles took the top three spots – Jack Day with 35, Grady Deery 39, and Braeden Talbot 39 – and won the match by 20 strokes.

While the Eagles were putting away at Thomas Memorial, the Turners Falls Thunder was at Greenfield Country Club winning their fourth match of the season.

On Friday, Turners and Tech went club to club at Thomas’s. Turners coach Bill Fitzpatrick told his kids not to give up against the Eagles but to play as hard as they can.

Tech took the top four spots – Day 34, Brady Wood 36, Deery 38, and Talbot 43 – while Liam Kerivan (45), Cam Cogswell and Julian Kaiser (47 each), and Jameson Betters (48) scored points for the Thunder.

Though Turners may struggle against great teams, they have already won more matches this season than in the past two years combined.

A day later, Duclos was at the Treehouse brewery celebrating his retirement from teaching, but not coaching.

Next Tuesday, September 29, both teams will compete in the PVIAC Two-Ball Shotgun tournament at Westover.

Field Hockey

Frontier 8 – TFHS 0

FCTS 2 – Mohawk 1

TFHS 1 – Mahar 0

On the field hockey pitch on Friday, the visiting Frontier Red Hawks shut out the Blue Thunder. The match began on an ominous note as the Hawks scored almost immediately. They then kept the ball in the Thunder’s backyard, forcing multiple corner shots and keeping Blue on their heels.

Frontier’s crowd was large and vocal, but their biggest fan was an actual red-tailed hawk, perched on the roof of the concession stand.

At the half, when I left for the Tech girls’ soccer, Frontier was leading 6-0.



ROBINSON PHOTO

On Saturday, the Eagles celebrated Tech’s jubilee by edging out the Mohawk Warriors. The only distraction was the line for the BBQ tent, which stretched all the way to the field and hooked around back.

Franklin took a one-goal lead at 9:30 of the first period courtesy of Leah Meaty’s stick, but the Warriors countered and tied it up in the third. The last stanza was a period of corner shots. Both teams shot multiple corners, but each time the defense deflected the ball. Finally, on yet another corner, Teagen Donahue hit the ball to Cammy Jacques and Jacques shot it into the net.

With Franklin leading 2-1, Mohawk was



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech’s Cody Yetter heads the ball into the goal during the Eagles’ 9-0 shutout of the visiting Mohawk Trail Regional Warriors last Saturday as Franklin Tech celebrated 50 years.

granted another corner just as the horn sounded, prolonging the contest. The Warriors were unable to score but Tech couldn’t clear the ball, and another infraction was called against the Eagles. The players went back to their spots, but this time, Tech was able to clear the ball and preserve the win.

The Thunder registered their first win of the season on Monday, beating Mahar by a goal. Ella Larouche scored the goal, assisted by Anna McCarthy.

Girls’ Soccer

FCTS 3 – Athol 2

Pioneer 2 – FCTS 0

On Friday, the Eagles co-op girls’ soccer team defeated Athol at Franklin Tech.

This game was an exciting affair. At 23:07 of the first half, Sofia Melnik fed the ball to Faythe Sobieski who kicked it into the net. In the second half Sobieski passed the ball to Summer Williams, who scored, giving Tech a two-goal lead with 31:19 left in the game.

Although Franklin outplayed the Red Bears for most of the day, Athol did not go down without a fight. They scored just one minute after Williams’s goal, making it a one-goal game, and then tied it up on a penalty shot at 8:03.

With 4:53 left in the contest, the scoreboard clock froze. Melnik then scored with Sobieski assisting to take the lead.

Athol mounted one more try, kicking the ball toward the net just as the horn sounded. To most of the fans, it looked good, but it was an optical illusion and the ball harmlessly passed by, giving Tech the hard-fought win.

Less than 20 hours later, the Eagles faced off against the Pioneer Black Panthers, who had previously beaten them 3-0. The first half was even, and at the horn it was 0-0.

At 33:41, the Panthers mounted an attack and scored to break the double goose egg.

Tech’s spirits never dimmed, but at 34:27 Black was granted a penalty. The kick was good, putting the Eagles in a 2-nil hole. The teams went back and forth, but neither could hit the net again. and the Panthers escaped with a two-goal win.

Volleyball

FCTS 3 – Mahar 1

TFHS 3 – Mohawk 1

In the tip-off event of Saturday’s jubilee, the Franklin Tech volleyballers outlasted the visiting Mahar Senators. The contest featured tips versus spikes, battles at the net, great volleys, scorching spikes, missed digs, and good communication.

The gym was packed, and the Eagles’ mascot riled up the crowd, who hooted and hollered at every hit. Not to be outshouted, the Mahar JVs chanted consistently and cheered even after Tech took a commanding lead.

In the first set the Senators shot out to a 6-0 lead, but Tech battled back, at one point leading 19-18. Mahar finished strong, taking the set 25-21.

The second set was interrupted for eight minutes as officials, scorekeepers, and coaches debated the Eagles’ rotation. After this break Tech stayed focused, ignoring the Mahar chants, and won it 25-17. The third set ended on an Eagle ace, handing Tech a 2–1 lead, and a game-winning spike sealed the victory.

Monday evening, the Blue Thunder defeated Mohawk Trail Warriors 3-1.

The gym was packed for the JV game, but thinned out for varsity. Kids who had left the district were in attendance, and parents and grandparents chanted “Let’s go Turners, let’s go!,” competing with the Mohawk JVs who cheered right back.

In the first set of the varsity mashup, Turners struggled with serves; five of Mohawk’s first eight points came from faults. But Powertown powered back and played as a team, spreading the lead to 20-5 until Mohawk came back to make it a game.

In the second set, Mohawk took the lead for the first time all night 3-2 and coasted to a 25-10 victory. In the third Blue fought for every point, showing phenomenal teamwork and coasting to a 25-9 slogging.

In the deciding set Turners took a 17-11 lead, but Mohawk wouldn’t go away, narrowing the gap to 18-15. Blue finished strong, though, taking the set 25-20.

Jakhia Williams and Autumn Thornton had the most kills for the Thunder, Maddie Haight gave 15 assists and served 11 aces, and Abby Moffatt had 12 digs.

Boys’ Soccer

FCTS 9 – Mohawk 0

Saturday’s soccer game was a laugher, as the Eagles scored so many goals that coach Dan Prasol finally refused to let his veterans kick at the goal. Even a power play didn’t slow them down.

Scoring goals were Cody Yetter, Santiago Buri Rosales, and John Gheorghita with two apiece, and Nathan Gheorghita, Josiah Muniz, and Kaiden Price. The win preserves the Eagles’ unbeaten season.

Football

FCTS 42 – Frontier 0

The final event of the jubilee was the football game against the Frontier Red Hawks. Coming into Friday’s game both teams had crushed their opponents, but Tech hit on all cylinders and ran up the score until the mercy rule kicked in.

Red won the toss, but deferred possession. Tech took the ball at the 50 and systematically marched downfield to score. The kick went wide, limiting the damage to six points.

On Frontier’s second play from scrimmage, Wyatt Whitman picked up a loose ball and shot into the end zone. Justin Lent added a 2-PAT to put Franklin up 14-zip.

And on it went. Tech was on top 20-0 after a quarter, and at halftime they led 28-0. When the Eagles hit 35-0 the mercy rule kicked in and the clock ran uninterrupted. With just 44 seconds left, Tech scored again. The kick hit the uprights and bounced in, putting a cherry on the sundae.

Under center, Mason Bassett completed six passes for 53 yards and two touchdowns. His targets included Lent, Hunter Donahue, Jaxon Silva, and Cole Bassett.

The rushing attack was led by Lent (65 yards) and Whitman (63 yards), with Donahue and Mason Bassett also gaining on the ground.

Donahue led the team with 16 points, followed by Lent with 12, Whitman and Benjamin Baker with 6 each, and kicker Joseph DiSciullo with 2.

On defense, Donahue also led the team in tackles, Whitman recovered a fumble, and Landon Smead pulled down an interception.

The 42-0 win gives the Eagles an 80-0 point spread. However, their next opponent, Pathfinder, has outscored their foes 99 to 0.

Next Saturday, October 3, super-fan George Bush will celebrate his 100th birthday at the French King Restaurant.



Susan Perry and George Bush, spotted at Monday’s volleyball game at Turners Falls High School.

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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

MONTAGUE from page A1

The discussion of the airport, billed as a “quarterly check-in” with the airport manager and airport commission, was slated for 30 minutes but took over 45. It began with a bleak and highly personal presentation by Camden. He noted that one tenant of the facility had moved out “abruptly,” causing an annual revenue loss of approximately \$30,000, plus \$19,000 to make the vacant space suitable for a new tenant.

Camden also said that fewer airport customers were using the facility for storage, another source of revenue.

After noting the need for extensive and expensive repairs on the roofs of the hangar and maintenance building he discussed new revenue options the department was considering, including battery electric storage, construction of “cellular communication equipment,” and “mini-self-storage.”

However, he said, implementing such options was “way beyond my capacity and my knowledge,” and would need help from the town.

Camden then disclosed that he had made a serious “error” in filling out paperwork for several federal grants, so “the reimbursements did not go through as expected,” which Ramsey said could reduce the free cash revenue available to the town. He said he would own up to the mistake, but really needed at least five hours a week of clerical support, the airport being the only department in town without this capacity.

“I do 12-hour days six days a week, and it’s not fair to my home life,” he said.

In response to the gloomy presentation, all three selectboard members expressed support for Camden’s work at the airport and appeared to support his budget requests. Nate Card applauded him for his “candor,” and warned that he was on a “fast track for burnout.”

“Ask for what you need,” said Marina Goldman. Chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested that Camden should get more support from town hall staff, mentioning town treasurer Eileen Seymour specifically.

Ramsey then summarized proposals about the airport he had sent in a lengthy memo to the board. The memo focused on resolving the problem of “over \$600,000 in outstanding... grant reimbursements and associated deficit balances,” which he wrote warrant greater town financial

oversight, “particularly where delayed or unrealized reimbursements have consequences for the town’s general fund and free cash.”

The memo also went beyond monitoring grants and called for clearer guidelines for support for the airport from town taxes, greater collaboration between its management and the town accountant, and quarterly meetings between the selectboard and airport commission. “The Selectboard and Airport Commission should also consider options for increasing administrative staff capacity,” Ramsey wrote.

These ideas received support from the board, but no vote was taken.

A Very Special Season

The board discussed the agenda for the special town meeting scheduled for October 28. The nine articles currently proposed include \$38,550 to fill a hole in last year’s airport budget, and \$15,000 in this year’s. There is also a \$61,502 appropriation to close out “deficits” in grants – some related to airport borrowing – which the state takes into account when it certifies the town’s available free cash.

Article 7 would authorize the town to borrow \$1,750,000 for the “feasibility” phase of Montague’s elementary school consolidation project. Ramsey said the state would reimburse the town for up to 75% of the cost, and the town would initially cover the full cost with short-term borrowing, avoiding a debt exclusion vote.

Two non-financial articles ask the meeting to approve a program to allow qualifying seniors to work off some of their property taxes and offer a 30-year lease at the town-owned building at 34 Central Street, presumably to the current tenant, Community Action Pioneer Valley.

After dramatic readings by Goldman and Card the board approved the warrants for two special elections on Tuesday, October 6 from noon to 8 p.m. – a debt exclusion to fund the construction of a new Franklin County Technical School, and the creation of a new five- or six- town regional school district.

Ramsey noted that the board had previously voted not to approve mail-in voting for these two elections but that, due to the timing of the board’s vote, the decision was “null” in the case of the regional consolidation question, so mail-in ballots will be

issued and counted in that election.

The board postponed a vote on the November 3 state election until a future meeting.

Ancient Bricks

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller presented on a variety of local building and demolition projects, announcing a large “loan-grant combination” from the US Department of Agriculture for work on the town’s sewer system and providing updates on the Strathmore demolition, streetscape work on Avenue A, the Montague Center traffic-calming project (*see article, Page A1*), and the library building project.

Kuklewicz said “someone” had asked him if bricks removed during the Strathmore demolition could be used in the construction of the new downtown library.

Nolan-Zeller said that he “loved the idea,” but the architect of the library project had told him the ancient bricks from the Strathmore could not hold up a modern structure.

Will Quale, who serves on the library trustees, said he had been to a historical commission meeting where the company in charge of the demolition said most of the bricks would be used for “fill,” and to stabilize Building 9 which will remain standing.

Nolan-Zeller and Quale both expressed support for reusing some of the bricks for “ornamental purposes.”

Hospital Discharge

Ramsey requested that the board begin the process of marketing the former Farren Hospital property on Montague City Road by declaring the land “surplus property” and considering how it should be subdivided. The surplus declaration was relatively straightforward, but the question of how to market it was more complex.

His proposal involved dividing the property into three parcels, with one along the rear of the lot limited to smaller and perhaps affordable housing; a larger area in the middle devoted to taller, mixed-use buildings; and a third strip along Montague City Road left as open space, with the canal-side bike path passing through it. Potential developers, he said, could then bid on Parcel 1, or Parcel 2, or both together.

Ramsey then proposed that the town offer these properties at well below their “fair market value” in order to encourage a “public purpose” such as affordable housing. He recommended that the town offer the first two parcels for \$10,000 each, noting that town assessor Adam Tocci had estimated their combined value at \$490,000.

Card expressed concern that developers might react to the low price by using the process for speculative purposes, but Ramsey said the RFP would require a “land development agreement” under which the town could require that its goals be met within a clear time frame.

The board, without taking a formal vote, agreed with Ramsey’s proposal but opted to put the larger parcel on the market for \$30,000.

At the end of the meeting the selectboard retired into an executive session to discuss the town’s strategy for looming litigation. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on September 22, 2016: *News from the Montague Reporter archive.*

Legal Plants; Illegal Seizure

Last Tuesday, Patti Scutari, owner of Deja Brew Pub in Wendell, and her partner, Francesco “Apollo” Compagnone, had ten medical marijuana plants seized without warning by several unidentified men who arrived by helicopter.

Patti explained that the plants were not “illegal” because she and her partner have medical marijuana ID cards, which allows them to grow marijuana for personal use. One officer told them the plants

were “illegal” because they were “in full view, for anybody to see.”

“But we have an 8-foot fence – in full view of whom?” she asked. The couple shared that they do not need the opiates prescribed for them for pain.

On Wednesday, the town selectboard issued a letter to state attorney general Maura Healey and senator Stan Rosenberg describing the confiscation as “over-zealous, discriminatory, illegal, and inhumane,” questioning how the state is funding it “while the opioid epidemic runs rampant in Franklin County with funding for treatment and prevention falling woefully short.”

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on September 21, 2006: *News from the Montague Reporter archive.*

Returning in Peace

Ceremony and celebration set the stage for the Peoples’ Harvest, held September 16 and 17 near the banks of the glimmering Connecticut River. The air smelled pungent with sage, burned as an offering of thanks by Native Americans and others who gathered near the site of an historic fishing village, now submerged beneath the water of Barton Cove. Participants gathered under a rustic pavilion to hear Native singers and the beat of drums and the caliope call of wooden flutes.

The second annual gathering was held at the Schuetzen

If At First You Don’t Succeed...

The Montague selectboard ventured into the village of Millers Falls on Monday to discuss perennial issues, like the lack of progress in renovating the Powers Block in the center of town, or finding a way to get the public to the town cemetery on Dry Hill Road, where the right of way has long been blocked by a private landowner, James Senn.

Given the level of contentiousness at the meeting, held at the Millers Falls library, it may well be another year before the board returns.

140 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on September 22, 1886: *News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.*

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The farmers are beginning to make cider, and the sweet article has become a favorite beverage.

It is hoped that the village will be lighted with electricity in a day or two.

There is surplus water in the river again, for which the village is truly thankful.

The Turners Falls Lumber Co. are building a road from the Gill end of the suspension bridge along the river bank to the rear of Fort Hill, to get access to their land there for the purpose of storing lumber.

William R. Farnsworth has sold four of his celebrated elevators to go into a paper mill in New York.

The tobacco crop in the valley, all housed last week, is regarded by the farmer as one of the best

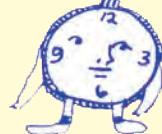
ever grown, and as there has been much damage to the crop in Pennsylvania and the West, they expect, and in a few cases have already received, higher prices.

The prudential committee of the Turners Falls fire district advertise for bids for the care of the engine house.

It is odd that the Florida land agent kept shy of the shrewd business men of the village. Those who “caught on” are not bragging much about their wealth yet.

The indications are that the demand for pure water from the Turners Falls fire district aqueduct will surpass the most sanguine calculations. Applications will come from Lake Pleasant village, and all the owners of houses on Montague Plains near the pipes.

The thanks of the editor are due Frederick L. Green, Esq., for a “comp” to the “county fair.” There have been times when such little thoughtful acts have been noticeable by their neglect.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Members Sought for
GMRSD Superintendent
Screening Committee

GILL and MONTAGUE – The Gill-Montague Regional superintendent search is underway!

The School Committee is seeking the following members for the search committee:

- Two current students;
- Three parents or guardians of current students (seeking representation across towns and schools);
- Three community members, with one each from Gill, Montague, and Erving;
- One principal;
- One central administrator;
- Three teachers (seeking representation across towns and schools);

- One administrative assistant;
- One member of the support staff: instructional assistant, cafeteria worker, custodian, or maintenance worker.

Those serving *must* commit to meetings on the evenings of Wednesday, October 7, Monday, October 26, and the week starting November 9.

This application will remain open through next Friday, October 2, and all those who apply will be notified of the decisions on October 5. Apply at tinyurl.com/SuperSearch2026. All questions should be directed to Tracy Novick at tnovick@masc.org.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Field Building Reuse Survey Sent Around

By GEORGE BRACE

Tuesday’s meeting of the Leverett selectboard was highlighted by a swearing-in ceremony for the town’s new police sergeant, Benjamin Peters. The board also discussed next steps for the rehabilitation of the historic Field library building and heard an update on efforts toward creating a “cultural district.”

Peters was sworn in by town clerk Lisa Stratford, taking an oath to “uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” and to “oppose the overthrow of the United States of America or this Commonwealth by force, violence, or any illegal or unconstitutional method.”

Peters, an Amherst native active in numerous civic and policing organizations, formerly served as a part-time officer in Shutesbury and New Salem and as a full-time officer in Sunderland.

Just Encase?

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy reported on the two-pronged strategy to rehabilitate, and find uses for, the town-owned historic Field library building.

Duffy questioned whether sufficient money would be available, and said the town may need to simply “encase” the lead paint and leave its full abatement for the future.

Duffy said that in the next two weeks contractors will provide estimates for work on the “envelope” of the building, including repairs to the roof and chimney, and for repainting. These will be used for a Community Preservation Commission grant application.

The question of how to deal with the building’s lead paint was discussed. Resident Richard Nathhorst

said that, from his experience working at UMass Amherst managing research facilities, he felt it was best to “bite the bullet” and go for a more expensive full abatement, which would “pay off” in the long run.

Duffy and selectboard member Jed Proujansky agreed, but Duffy questioned whether sufficient money would be available, and said the town may need to simply “encase” the lead paint and leave its full abatement for the future. Duffy said the decision can’t be made until estimates are received.

As for the second prong – gathering ideas on how to “transform the historic space into a vibrant/dynamic multi-use community asset” – the board said a document is now available providing more information, resources, and requirements for submitting proposals for the building’s use. It will be available in the town’s October newsletter, among other outlets; proposals are due November 2.

Dense Designation

Proujansky said he planned to meet with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to learn more about the requirements for creating a designated town cultural district. The application references a “dense district,” he said, and “we don’t have such a thing,” so he wanted to learn more about what it means for rural towns.

Proujansky said Leverett Crafts & Arts president David Henion, who is leading the initiative, says his outreach continues to receive a “100% positive” response from residents.

In addition to benefiting local artists and community groups, Proujansky added, the designation could help expand the arts in Leverett, referencing the library’s invitation earlier this year for residents to paint three-inch squares for display, which resulted in 180 submissions from “everyone from kids to seniors.”

Public meetings to gauge interest in the idea are scheduled for October 6 and 20, at 6 p.m. at the town hall.

Other Business

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that the town

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ORGANIZED BY THE ERVING RECREATION COMMISSION

still has approximately \$20,000 in digital equity grant funds available, which need to be spent by the end of December. She encouraged anyone with a use for the funding to contact her.

Stratford informed the selectboard that the town has received a \$5,000 grant for election worker training and pay raises.

The board approved the sale of a Ford Explorer previously declared as surplus for \$3,800, by a 2 to 0 vote. Member Tom Hankinson was not present at the meeting.

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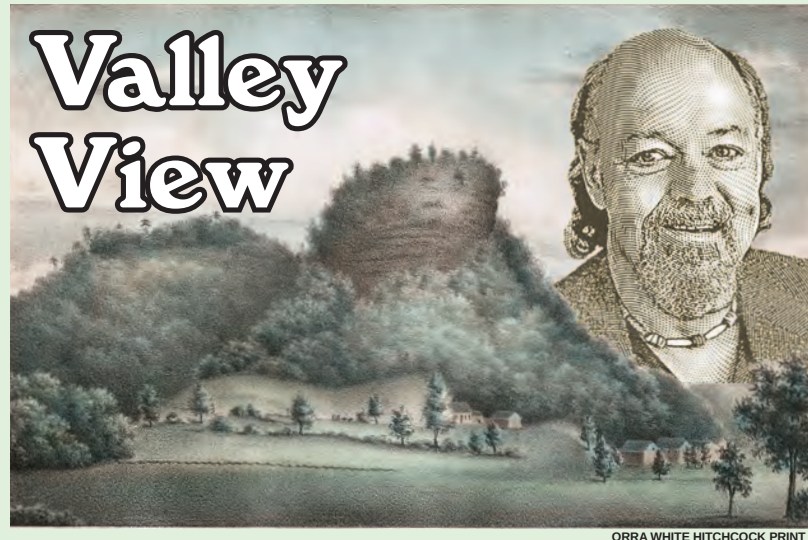
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Anyone Else Concerned?

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – My plan upon taking this morning seat was to discuss the interesting new book I had read about Vermont forests. Then, boob-tube in the background, my attention shifted to yet another image of poisonous black smoke billowing to the heavens.

Does it matter where? It seems to be a daily news occurrence. Local, national, and faraway. Today, a fighter jet burning in an Ohio neighborhood. Yesterday, a helicopter in Los Angeles. Before that, another Strait of Hormuz oil tanker torched by US warplanes, thick, black smoke rising, oil fouling another precious ocean ecosystem.

It seems never-ending. Smoke and more smoke. Drought. Unbearable summer heat. Wildfire tornadoes. Ten- and 20-inch rainstorms. Flooding in rare places.

Is anyone else concerned? Or are we just used to it? Then again, maybe I’m overreacting. But it sure does seem that smoke on the horizon signals serious trouble down the road on our abused planet. Problem is that it may be too late to reverse it. Opinions vary.

Often, as I sit watching these scenes unfold on the repetitive, 24/7, daily-news feeds, I utter the same kneejerk comment to my wife sitting nearby. It goes something like this:

“Does anyone else view these events through my lens? Do they see the smoke as a health threat? Do they think there’s a limit to what our planet can endure, the smoke mixed in with exhaust from more than a billion motor vehicles worldwide, plus that of ships and aircraft and you name it? And don’t forget the industrialists celebrating relaxed regulations now governing American smokestacks and effluents.”

Do others share my concerns about the air we breathe, the water we drink? Do they understand they can’t be taken for granted, and must be protected?

The harbingers of doom are many. Look at that Nepal flood disaster and, quick on its heels, the

eerily similar Grand Canyon tsunami. Does anyone else hear the coal-mine canary singing? Do you share the belief that it’s high time to stop ignoring the pretty yellow bird’s sad song before she’s prostrate and raven-black on the cold stone floor?

To me, the recent floods and wildfires signal that Mother Earth is angry. She’s been abused and neglected too long. Now in attack mode, she’s back on her haunches ready to spring forward with a new brand of fury we have not seen.

It’s not like we haven’t seen this coming. Is it not clear by now that climate-change and global warming are real; and not only that, but accelerating faster than even the most daring forecasters predicted 40 and 50 years ago? Back then, in progressive, free-thinking magazines like *Rolling Stone* and *Orion*, and on occasional PBS documentaries and *60 Minutes* episodes, global-warming gadflies like Middlebury College environmentalist Bill McKibben were sounding the alarm. Problem was their shouts fell mostly on deaf ears, and sadly continue to be ignored in high places.

Those forecasters did not, and still do not, hesitate to predict devastating consequences in the days ahead if we don’t change our ways. In fact, a group known as “doom-mongers,” by now shortened to just plain doomers, has been asserting for decades that it’s already too late to escape worldwide horrors, particularly for those in the impoverished Third World.

One such man is alternative English thinker Paul Kingsnorth, born in 1972, a year after I graduated high school. I discovered his radical, Gen-X, environmental voice some 20 years ago. Then I watched as he ventured into doomer land with famous essays like “Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist” and “Dark Ecology,” before publishing his 2025 book, *Against the Machine: On the Unmaking of Humanity*. The last is his take on where we’re headed in the frightening

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

Above: Sunrise over Barton Cove, as a flock of geese takes flight to find breakfast. Thanks to reader Don Plante for the photo.

HISTORY ‘Wren’ Gould: The Hermit of Wendell

By PAM RICHARDSON

WENDELL – Jennison Road weaves up and down along Wendell’s southern border, and near its midpoint, Wren Gould Road takes a hard turn off it towards the Shutesbury line. I’ve always been curious who Wren Gould might have been, but it’s taken me until now to hunt through history’s hiding places and write this biographical sketch.

He was born either Lorenzo W. Gould or William L. Gould in North Brookfield, Massachusetts in 1853, the fourth of what would be the seven children of Henry Gould and his wife, Mercy. At the time of Lorenzo’s birth his father was working as a shoemaker and “boot fitter” in North Brookfield, but by 1860 the family had moved to Washington, Vermont, where Henry was eking out a meager living as a farmer.

Tragically, in June of 1865, Henry suffered a fatal accident. He was clearing land when a log rolled on top of him, causing internal injuries which resulted three hours later in his death. This was surely a catastro-



Mercy Wheelock Gould (1824-1905), the mother of Lorenzo Gould.

phe for Mercy; not only did she lose her husband, but she was left as the sole provider for seven children. She quickly had to figure out how to feed, clothe, and house them all.

Sadly, this meant making the heart-wrenching decision to split up the family. Using her connections, she sent Alonzo, 17, to a family in New Braintree, and Lorenzo,

12, seems to have been taken in by Ephraim Locke on Wickett Pond Road in Wendell – the 1865 census shows a 12-year-old boy from West Brookfield named “Wm L. Gould” living at the Locke home. Harlan, 9, went to a couple on Jennison Road in Wendell.

Elvira, 7, went with Mercy to live at the home of a prosperous and single farmer, Joshua Rainger, whom Mercy knew from her years in North Brookfield; she is listed on the 1865 Dana census as Rainger’s housekeeper. Henrietta, 18, Almira, 15, and Emmarette, 5, were presumably also scattered about in the homes of friends or family.

In 1868, Joshua Rainger bought land on Rockwell Hill Road in the southern-most part of Wendell, not far from the present intersection of Wren Gould, Rush, and Jennison roads. In 1870 he was living there with Mercy and her children, Lorenzo (17) and Emmarette (10). The whereabouts of Elvira, who had been with her in 1865, are unknown.

The Rainger household was only see **HERMIT** page B8

BOOK REVIEW Madeline ffitch, *Avalon, Rise* (2026)

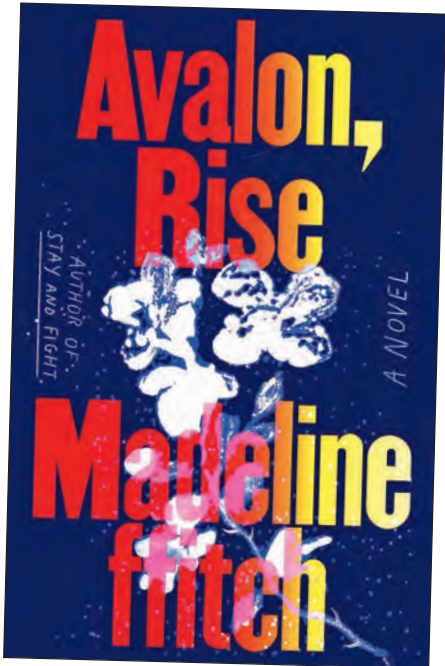
By EASTON SMITH

TURNERS FALLS – *Avalon, Rise*, a spectacular new novel from author Madeline ffitch, begins with two unruly teenagers, Woody and Leroi. They’ve been ditched on the side of the road outside their town of Avalon, Ohio, after crashing a college party. They seek shelter in a barn, where they carve symbols into the wood and talk about their dreams for the future. When they wake up, they discover an antique letterpress in the barn, a machine that will come to play a central role in Woody’s life and in all of Avalon’s future – as it did in the town’s past.

In these opening scenes, the novel carries an aura of youthful wonder, adventure, and – I say this admiringly – foolishness; a sense that life is a rowdy thing, full of secret histories and unknown perils. It’s a thing to be wrestled with, as are friends, authority figures, big ideas.

And while *Avalon, Rise* soon moves on from Woody and Leroi’s teenage antics, giving us a whole slew of new characters and confrontations, it retains this potent but unstable mixture of vulnerability and violence throughout.

The novel’s central narrative comes into focus when a white nationalist group, Nation Awake, decides to make Avalon the site of its inaugural “White Family Picnic.” Local organizers stage a counter-protest which



draws a small crowd, including some of Woody’s family members. When a more militant group of anti-fascist counter-protesters – of which Leroi is one – show up at the event, tensions escalate into shoving, hitting, and minor sabotage. Several antifa demonstrators are arrested.

Like ffitch’s previous novel, *Stay and Fight* (2019), *Avalon, Rise* is deeply rooted in place. Specifically, a rural Appalachian community. As the fallout from the “White Family Picnic” plays out, the book’s kaleidoscopic narrative gives voice to so many in this community.

There’s Woody and Leroi, who are driven further apart by Woody’s budding relationship with Stasia, one of the white nationalist leaders who happens to own the barn where he

found his beloved letterpress machine years before. There’s Emma, a struggling young mother. Sylvester, a homeless train-hopper who knows a thing or two about cooking and fighting fascists. Sharon, a social worker who knows her boundaries.

There are punks, bikers, drug addicts, and even dragons (most likely imaginary). And then, of course, there are everyone’s children. Each of these characters – plus a host of community groups, including Food Not Bombs and Women Activists for Solidarity, Progress, and Peace – bring their own strengths and weaknesses to a more or less shared goal: to send Nation Awake packing.

see **BOOK REVIEW** page B4

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘SIRIUS’

Meet Sirius, a bright and loving boy with a heart as big as his personality. This three-year-old Labrador mix is equal parts playful adventurer and full-time cuddle bug, always eager to please and happy to snuggle up after a fun-filled day. He adores playing in the water, whether a hose, a pool, or a lake, and loves to play with other dogs.

Sirius is house- and crate-trained, and does well with children, but does not do well with cats. He

would thrive in an active household, and would benefit from basic manners training help with leash skills and enthusiastic greetings.

To adopt Sirius, start the process by calling the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield at (413) 781-4000 to be sure he is available. There is a \$99 adoption fee. Open adoption hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Visit www.dakinhumane.org for more information.



Benjamin Simanski on Justice, Trust, and Community

By MPRESS BENNU

GREENFIELD – For this edition of *Front of the Line* I sat down with Benjamin D. Simanski, the elected Clerk of Courts for Franklin County Superior Court, to discuss the human side of the justice system.

I have known Simanski since joining the Franklin County Rotary Club in 2023, where he has been a member for many years. Our conversation moved from the practical work of the Clerk’s Office to the larger questions that shape public confidence: whether people feel respected when they enter the courthouse, whether they can understand the court process, and whether justice can be administered with both efficiency and compassion.

When I asked what first drew him to court service, Simanski did not begin with procedure or politics. He began with a principle: “I was drawn to this work by the belief that every person deserves equitable access to justice,” he said.

Simanski described the courts as a stabilizing force where people should be able to navigate difficult situations with dignity. Those who come before the Superior Court, he noted, are often living through some of the hardest moments of their lives, and may be worried, confused, or uncertain about what comes next. “Making sure they feel guided, respected, and supported has remained central to my commitment,” he said. “The courts are a vital community institution, and we have a responsibility to serve with clarity, fairness, and compassion.”

This, he explained, is reflected in changes intended to make the court easier for the public to navigate. Simanski said he is proud of the court’s progress in improving transparency, expanding community partnerships, and connecting people with critical resources.

He recalled one “self-represented litigant” – a person without an attorney – who arrived at the counter visibly overwhelmed by a complicated filing. The person had tried several times to complete it, and feared the case would never move forward. A staff member sat with that person at the counter, reviewed the form line by line, and explained each requirement in plain language. With that guidance, the filing was completed correctly during the same visit. The person later said the assistance had saved multiple trips to the courthouse and restored a measure of confidence during an extremely stressful time.

For Simanski, the encounter illustrated why patience and clear guidance matter. The office has also revised its public materials so more people can complete filings without repeated visits, reducing stress and transportation burdens.

Simanski said his office responds by listening to community feedback, improving communication, and working with partners.

In one case, staff redesigned public-facing materials after seeing a resident struggle repeatedly with confusing language. The revised version helped that same person complete a later filing without further clarification. “Accessibility is not an abstract goal,” he said. “Sometimes it begins with rewriting a sentence so someone can understand it the first time.”

As our conversation turned to moments that had shaped his understanding of the job, Simanski recalled a particularly difficult murder case in Superior Court. The case was a tragedy that deeply affected everyone involved. The atmosphere throughout the courthouse was heavy, he said, and people carried pain, fear, and uncertainty. During the proceedings, court personnel worked to create space for everyone to be heard re-

Meaningful progress, he said, depends on this collaboration: perspectives from those who work directly with the public can help close service gaps, align resources, and create processes that are more accessible and responsive. That ongoing dialogue also allows the court to anticipate emerging needs and develop solutions designed to last.

For Simanski, that community-centered approach is not an added program; it is fundamental to how the court should operate.

“The Superior Court does not operate in isolation,” he said. Its work is grounded in partnership and people-centered service, including listening to residents and building trust through transparency and support. Though the law defines the court’s responsibilities, he added, they can still be carried out in a way that is humane, understandable, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Franklin County Clerk of Courts Benjamin Simanski

spectfully and safely.

Despite the heartbreaking circumstances, Simanski saw what he described as a rare sense of shared humanity. Families were able to express their grief. Court officers and probation staff showed compassion, while the judge and attorneys helped create an atmosphere in which people felt acknowledged rather than dismissed.

His team, meanwhile, guided people at the counter, answered questions, and offered reassurance. In that moment, Simanski said, the courtroom became more than a place of legal judgment, but one where people could find some measure of solace in knowing they were not alone, that even amid sorrow there was support and understanding. The experience reaffirmed for him how essential empathy, patience, and careful listening are – and how the Superior Court can uphold dignity even in the most painful circumstances.

That same emphasis on listening extends beyond the courthouse. Simanski said community organizations, service providers, and local leaders are regularly invited into the court’s planning process.

rooted in the community.

When our conversation turned to how others can make a difference in Franklin County, his advice was simple: Start by listening.

Build authentic relationships, remain patient, and stay committed to understanding what people truly need, Simanski said. Meaningful impact comes through collaboration, and by placing people at the center of decisions.

He said he measures success by the quality of the service people receive. If someone leaves the courthouse feeling respected, informed, and supported – even while facing difficult circumstances – the office has succeeded.

Simanski credits family, colleagues, and community with shaping his approach to leadership and public service. Their support and guidance, he said, embody integrity, collaboration, and a strong commitment to public service.

“Franklin County is my home, and it is a place of which I am deeply proud,” he said. He added that he draws inspiration from the resilience of attorneys, judges, court users, and neighbors who face challenges with

see **FRONT** next page

Senior Center Activities

SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 2

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 9/28

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:30 Cookout with Triad

Tuesday 9/29

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/30

10 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
at the Discovery Center
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
5:30 p.m. Quilling Workshop

Thursday 10/1

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Montague Neighbors Board Meeting

Friday 10/2

9 a.m. Tablet Class (pre-register)
No Aerobics or Chair Exercise
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 October 20.

Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month at

town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us, or check the town newsletter or the Leverett-Connects listserv.

ERVING

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

Monday 9/28

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

Tuesday 9/29

9 a.m. Stretch and Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 9/30

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/1

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
12 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch
12 to 2 p.m. Flu & COVID Clinic

Friday 10/2

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 October 7. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1
era of artificial intelligence.

Though I admit I can't get through the novels Kingsnorth writes in the ancient English tongue, I would recommend any of his non-fiction for a change of pace. A little nibble is sufficient. When I read *Against the Machine* fresh off the press, I didn't even know what AI was. Now, after learning to use it as a research tool, I'm being told that, if unregulated, it could destroy the world by the end of the decade.

Huh?
Going back more than a generation, pre-Kingsnorth McKibbenites were predicting global-warming catastrophes by as early as 2050 in important cities up and down our Eastern seaboard. That means Boston; Providence, Rhode Island; New York; Philadelphia; Washington DC; Charleston, South Carolina; and especially Miami. These cities, experts cautioned, were likely victims of, at the very least, serious, destructive storm-flooding caused by otherworldly torrential rains. A mix of such storms with oceans swollen from Arctic glacial melt promised big trouble, they said.

And guess what? They were right. We've already tasted it.

Many of the most-vulnerable cities named back then have already been visited by unprecedented rains and flooding. Can you say 10- and 20-inch rainfalls in Gulf Coast cities like Houston and New Orleans? Yep. Been there, done that. More on the way. But don't tell anyone. Better to dismiss it as another lefty hoax worthy of sending the Red-voting uneducated masses in lockstep to the polls.

A half century ago, before the editor reading this was a twinkle in his daddy's eye, I remember reading of emergency planning secretly underway to prepare for the possibility of emergency seawalls to protect important cities. We're talking urban areas with populations in the millions, here and around the globe.

I wasn't the only person who read it. Problem is that some listened and most didn't. Easier to ignore the warnings as tired examples of bleeding-heart hysteria and propaganda. Now the "official word" out of DC identifies global warming/climate change as a hoax, and measures have been taken to remove the terms from government documents and speech. Although anyone with a third-

grade education ought to know better by now, loyal partisans take the bait, hook, line and sinker. Sheeple. A whole flock. Oh my!

Leading the "Drill, Baby, drill" chants are politicians bankrolled by Big Oil and its investors, along with "conservative" journalists and voters marching to the beat of their drums. They believe the Big-Oil pitch, repeat it often, and demand "fair press," which means "balanced reporting" that's careful to include the threadbare caveat that some experts do not believe humans have a hand in global warming.

Do these folks not see, or breathe, the wildfire smoke choking our cities? Are they sleeping through the nightly reminders of black smoke billowing to the heavens from different sources around the globe? If the source of this air pollution is not wildfires or Midwestern trains or factory explosions, it's bombs and missiles hitting foreign oil tankers, refineries, and reserves, not to mention never-ending structure and highway blazes.

We're not alone in our misery. Western Europe is roasting. Look at France, where heat exhaustion stopped some of the world's best tennis players from finishing French Open matches this year, and where, during the same weeks, a nuclear power plant was shut down because the river water used to cool its turbines was too hot. How long before that happens here?

Sorry, fellas. Time to face the facts. We're killing our planet to the defiant "Drill, baby, drill" chant coming from one side of the aisle. It's ridiculous. They know better. Theirs is not head-in-the sand denial. It's willful blindness to *hara-kiri* in the public square.

It feels to me that we're teetering atop a glacial-till dam, like the one that burst in Nepal, eroding like the sands of an hourglass. We're headed for a catastrophic breach we deserve.

Greed and lies. All about greed and lies. Have we lost our grip on truth? On what's real and what's fake?

Whew! Glad to get that off my chest. Maybe I should leave the TV off when writing.

Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield. Questions and comments at gary@oldtavernfarm.com.



FRONT from previous page
determination. Their strength, he said, motivates him to keep improving the Superior Court as a place where people feel supported and respected.

One expression of that commitment will come on October 19, when the courthouse hosts Cultural Appreciation Day. Simanski said the celebration will honor the traditions, stories, and cultural identities of Franklin County. Court users, staff, and community partners will have an opportunity to learn from one another, reinforcing the idea that every person belongs in the courthouse.

As our conversation drew to a close, Simanski returned to the relationship between courts and the communities they serve.

"The courts are more than legal institutions. They are vital community resources," he said. He encouraged residents, local leaders, and

partner organizations to share ideas and voice their needs. When the court and community work together, he said, we can build a justice system – and a community – in which everyone has a chance to succeed.

My conversation with Simanski made clear that the daily work of the Clerk's Office is inseparable from the larger task of building public confidence. Forms, procedures, and counter service may seem routine, but each interaction can determine whether a person feels shut out of the system or able to navigate it with understanding. His message was direct: Justice is stronger when institutions recognize the humanity of the people they serve.

Next month in *Front of the Line* I will interview Amanda Sanderson, executive director of the Resilience Center of Franklin County, formerly NELCWIT, about Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Aunt Not Crazy; Dirt Biker Hits Deer; 'Set Them Free'; Super Beepy Car Guy; Family Affairs; Too Much Reggae

Monday, 9/14

12:13 p.m. 911 caller reporting a possible structure fire on Montague Avenue due to a battery in the basement that is on fire. Caller transferred to Shelburne Control; PD responding.

12:48 p.m. Caller is concerned about a tractor-trailer unit that has been parked at the end of Industrial Boulevard for about eight days. Made contact with safety department; they are going to contact the driver and have him call the police department. Truck owner advised about no overnight parking. He will move it tonight.

1:18 p.m. Employee from the Great Falls Discovery Center reporting that graffiti was spraypainted around various parts of the property. Officer attempted to call both numbers for FirstLight; unable to reach anyone. Contacted the gatehouse and provided a timeframe for when the vandalism occurred. They advised they will check cameras and reach out with findings.

4:43 p.m. Caller reports he is at his tent and can hear people somewhere on Third Street screaming homicidal comments at each other. Unable to locate.

6:43 p.m. 911 caller from Twelfth Street reports his roommate locked him out of the house and won't let him in. Officer advises roommate opened the door and states it was never locked. Male back in apartment.

6:53 p.m. 911 caller from Twelfth Street requesting officers back at residence; states roommate went into his room and threatened him for calling the police. He is now scared for his life. Caller picked up by a friend; gone for the evening.

7:54 p.m. A 45-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant.

8:07 p.m. Caller states that he just left town hall and saw a vehicle in the employee parking lot and someone with a hoodie working underneath the car. Would like area checked. Officers tied to other call; will advise once available.

Tuesday, 9/15

10:30 a.m. Officers assisting at Turners Falls High School in follow-up for property taken from a garage. K9 track from a drinking can led from the garage into the tennis court area.

12:55 p.m. Caller from Keith Street reporting that neighbors have cameras set up on their property that face her house, and it's an invasion of her privacy as she doesn't want them watching her. Officer advised caller of civil and court options.

7:08 p.m. Walk-in reports that an old iPhone she uses from time to time has been missing recently. States that her nephew has been staying with them recently and advises the phone is still logged in to her music account. She advises that the phone's location is mapping to a Bernardo Drive residence. She went to the residence and spoke to an individual who stated it was not there. Officer called and spoke with the nephew, who states that his aunt is crazy and that he did not steal anything. Contact made with a male at the Bernardo Drive residence. Male states he was unaware of any phone being at the residence. Male spoke to the nephew on speaker phone in front of the officer. Nephew stated that the phone was there and that the male needed to hand over the phone so that he does not get charged. Male searched thoroughly for phone but could not locate it. Male will have nephew come down to hand over the phone.

11:31 p.m. Officer flagged down by resident concerned about vehicle in cemetery. Party moved along.

Wednesday, 9/16

12:48 a.m. 911 caller states she saw a deer that might have been hit on Montague City Road; states she was going to move it to the side when she noticed a male [human] lying on the ground, possibly involved in a dirt bike accident. Caller states male is breathing but is not answering questions. Deer deceased; removed from roadway. Male transported to hospital. E-bike secured in sally port.

9:40 a.m. Caller from Burnham Street reports that for the last one or two weeks, when staff arrive to work, a vehicle is parked in the parking lot by the dumpster. States it's a private lot and believes the person is parking there and sleeping overnight. Officer out with involved vehicle at location that evening; contact made with involved male, who

will secure the vehicle and get a licensed operator to move it.

10:48 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports the sidewalk and a road sign are spraypainted green; written on the sidewalk is "Set them free." Officer observed spray paint on sidewalk in front of a Fourth Street address. Report taken.

5:19 p.m. Caller from K Street states a male is harassing her by parking in front of her residence and making comments and rude noises toward her. Caller states this occurs often. Advised caller call would be logged and an officer would contact her. Involved male called to speak to an officer; states female party was yelling at him in regards to his truck being parked outside. Male states he did not say anything back and left. Advised male an officer would reach out when available. Initial caller called back advising that the male moved the truck, but is still being rude to her. Spoke with both involved parties. Situation mediated. Advised situation would be logged.

8:34 p.m. Caller advises there is a car parked near the bar on Second Street with its horn sounding constantly. Caller states an individual got out of the vehicle, yelled loudly, got back in, and laid on the horn. Second caller reporting car horn sounding for roughly 20 minutes. Officer advises vehicle gone on arrival. Anonymous caller reports the vehicle that was beeping the horn earlier is parked near the Shady Glen; no active horn at this time, but caller states it will go off again. Units advised.

Friday, 9/18

4:36 a.m. Caller from Nouria states that a vehicle is parked in the handicapped parking spot with no placard. The operator parked, went into the store, bought things, and then got in another vehicle. She would like the vehicle removed. Officer advised. Owner contacted; is on the way to try and remove the vehicle.

4:15 p.m. Caller from G Street states that someone in a vehicle is playing music loudly; states that this is more than a nuisance, and that the involved male has been doing this for the past day or two. Caller states she feels that they are doing this intentionally. Advised call would be logged and to call back if noise disturbance happens again.

5:53 p.m. Caller reports finding a hypodermic needle at the skatepark; states they placed the needle on top of the trash wrapped in a paper towel. Officer placed needle in sharps container.

8:59 p.m. Greenfield PD advising they received an E-911 call and could hear what sounded like a male and female arguing in the background. Call is mapping to Fourth Street. MPD officer advises mother and son having a verbal argument; mother is hard of hearing. No issues or concerns at this time.

Saturday, 9/19

4:24 p.m. 911 call reporting a physical altercation between male parties on Millers Falls Road. Officer advises fight was between father and son. Father has left the residence at this time. Requesting EMS for male party with facial injury from the fight. Requesting to cancel EMS; male party no longer wants to be treated. Investigated.

9:38 p.m. Caller reports that the music is still playing at Peskeompskut Park and believes they were supposed to be done by 9 p.m. Caller inquiring because she has to work early in the morning. Officers advised; will check area.

Sunday, 9/20

1:02 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting assistance locating a possibly-suicidal female who may be on a bridge. Subject located by GPD on railing of bridge over the canal. MPD on scene managing traffic. GPD officer transporting female to hospital.

3:40 p.m. Shelburne Control toning out TFFD; a telephone pole and the ground below it are on fire on Power Street. PD also responding.

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BOOK REVIEW from page B1

It's perhaps cliché to say that political satire is difficult to pull off in this era of hyper-accelerated politics. We are all too aware of the buffoonery of our political class, the awkward language of activism, the follies of overoptimism. It can feel too easy, and therefore cheap, to caricature the moment. But fitch takes the challenge head on. *Avalon, Rise* is full of interminable meetings and internecine debates about activist strategy.

(There's a scene in which a white woman tries to explain to her friend, who is black, that she cannot join their anti-racist group because "it's not the responsibility of women of color to take on the emotional labor of white women.")

All of the book's politicking is occasionally frustrating, often hilarious, and always interesting. fitch's ear for a range of different voices – all lyrical in their own way – helps ground the squabbling in real bodies, real places. And she brings a tenderness for her characters that cuts the sarcasm. Everyone—except perhaps the white nationalists – gets a fair shake; the characters have quirks, traumas, joys, crushes. Everyone messes up, everyone is fronting, but everyone is also *trying*.

Some attempts deserve more grace than others, but no one is irredeemable.

It's hard for me not to attribute fitch's success as a satirist to the fact that she's been in these kinds of movements and understands well their rewards and pitfalls. Recently, she publicized the fact that she had an offer of employment rescinded after a "talent acquisition specialist" at the university discovered her criminal history, all of which was related to her social and environmental activism. In short, she's the real deal. And it's this realness, perhaps, that helps her cut through what often feels like a literary prohibition on sincerity.

As I was reading *Avalon, Rise*, I often thought of another book I read this year by an author named Madeline. In this case, the author was Madeline Cash and the book was *Lost Lambs*, which focuses on an American family coming apart at the seams. Like fitch's novel, *Lost Lambs* is a send-up of our modern world, with its performative politics, nihilistic personalities, paranoid

conspiracies, and out-of-control billionaires.

But there are some crucial differences: where the young characters in *Avalon, Rise* are feral and imaginative, those in *Lost Lambs* are precocious and cynical. Where fitch conveys a belief in the power of communal action, Cash seems to see salvation in escape. Where *Avalon, Rise* finds humor in our genuine misunderstandings, *Lost Lambs* laughs at cruelty, throwing in a few casual uses of the *r*-words for good measure.

One book left me feeling full and the other empty.

Sometimes, as a novelist, I wonder if our biggest fear is appearing stupid. We'd rather write heartless, and quippy protagonists who appear *cool* than sentimental ones who might say something foolish. We'd rather our characters be sure that the world is irredeemably toast than to have them confused about how to fix it. Indeed, engaging in earnest political action is an exercise in appearing stupid, again and again, until perhaps you get things right. Even then, a lot of people will think you're stupid.

And perhaps this is Madeline fitch's biggest triumph in *Avalon, Rise*. She's not afraid to let all of this stupidity play out. As one of her characters says, "Embarrassment is part of the work."

But the result of this work is not cringey. It's life. It's a world – one just slightly better than our own, but within reach – where bickering leads to friendship and minor mistakes lead to minor redemptions; where addicts, liberals, bikers, anarchists, veterans, artists, football players, and librarians can, despite many misgivings, string together a fragile solidarity; where children are wily and brave, and sometimes adults are too; and where the Nazis lose.

Avalon, Rise was released on Tuesday, September 22 and is available everywhere books are sold. Swanson's Fabrics will host an "evening of craft and literature" with Madeline fitch this Friday, September 25, at their new Greenfield location. Tickets, free of charge, are available online, and the event will be broadcast live on a Zoom call available to Swanson's email subscribers.



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Humans celebrate birthdays every year.	They should celebrate ours!	Got any good ideas Luna?	Well, they could give to a favorite animal care org.
You're pretty smart for a cat.	Or they could just give us treats.	Or snuggle their own pet and think of us!	Plan ahead for October 15.
That's our birthday!			

SUZETTE SNOW-COBB ILLUSTRATION

OVER THE HILL Carolyn Clark

Decisions, decisions. Save or slay. What's your pleasure, Cupcake?	He looks very determined. If I save him, he may return and bring his cousins.
I don't know. I don't know.	Oh, Harry, I have goosebumps.
And if I kill him they may come looking for him anyway.	I better flush him down the drain.
No, no! I can't bear thinking about it.	But can a spider climb back up? I shall never, ever again set foot in this tub!

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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Aquí se habla español

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



Ceuta: una frontera europea en África y el debate migratorio

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Para muchos estadounidenses, la palabra “frontera” evoca inmediatamente la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México: miles de kilómetros de territorio, desierto, ríos, ciudades fronterizas y un debate político que lleva décadas dividiendo al país. En España existe también un intenso debate sobre inmigración y fronteras, pero hay un lugar que resulta especialmente difícil de comprender desde la distancia: Ceuta.

Esta pequeña ciudad española se encuentra en el norte de África, rodeada prácticamente por Marruecos y separada de la península ibérica por el estrecho de Gibraltar. Tiene unos 84.000 habitantes y desde finales de julio se ha convertido en el escenario de una crisis migratoria, humanitaria y política de dimensión europea.

La razón es sencilla: Ceuta es territorio español y, por tanto, forma parte de la Unión Europea, pero está físicamente situada en África y comparte una frontera terrestre con Marruecos. Esa particularidad convierte a Ceuta en una de las fronteras exteriores de la Unión Europea más sensibles.

Ceuta es una de las dos ciudades autónomas españolas situadas en el norte de África. La otra es Melilla. Ambas tienen instituciones propias, representación en el Parlamento español y forman parte de España.

Ceuta fue conquistada por Portugal en 1415 y pasó posteriormente a formar parte de España. Cuando Marruecos obtuvo su independencia en 1956, Ceuta permaneció bajo soberanía española. Marruecos, sin embargo, ha mantenido históricamente que Ceuta y Melilla deberían formar parte de su territorio y España rechaza esa reivindicación. Por eso, la frontera de Ceuta no es solamente una frontera migratoria. También implica soberanía, relaciones entre España y Marruecos y seguridad de la Unión Europea.

Ceuta tiene además un régimen especial dentro del espacio Schengen. Una persona que entra irregularmente en la ciudad no obtiene automáticamente libertad para desplazarse por el resto del espacio Schengen. Existen controles adicionales en el puerto y el aeropuerto.

La crisis comenzó los días 30 y 31 de julio, cuando decenas de miles de personas intentaron entrar simultáneamente en Ceuta desde Marruecos. Las estimaciones europeas sitúan la cifra en torno a 80.000 personas. La mayoría regresó posteriormente a Marruecos, pero miles permanecieron en Ceuta.

El Parlamento Europeo describió el episodio como una entrada masiva sin precedentes y señaló que al menos 72 personas habían muerto; organizaciones no gubernamentales han ofrecido cifras superiores. La diferencia entre las cifras refleja la dificultad de contabilizar las muertes ocurridas durante los intentos de cruzar por tierra y mar.

La Magnitud

Para comprender la magnitud del acontecimiento hay que recordar el tamaño de Ceuta: unos 84.000 habitantes. De repente, decenas de miles de personas intentaron atravesar su frontera. La situación puso una enorme presión sobre la policía, los hospitales, los servicios sociales y, especialmente, el sistema destinado a proteger a los menores que llegan sin familiares.

El papel de Marruecos sigue siendo una de las cuestiones políticas más delicadas. Marruecos normalmente mantiene una importante



presencia policial para impedir entradas masivas en Ceuta. Un informe de la Policía española sostiene que hubo una permisividad inusual de las fuerzas marroquíes y que algunos agentes pudieron haber orientado a personas hacia determinados puntos de entrada.

Sin embargo, es importante distinguir entre indicios y hechos demostrados. El Gobierno español publicó el 9 de septiembre un conjunto de 40 informes, alertas y comunicaciones de la Policía Nacional, Guardia Civil, CNI y otros organismos para que la ciudadanía pueda reconstruir qué información estaba disponible antes y durante la crisis.

Marruecos rechazó el 10 de septiembre las acusaciones. Su Ministerio de Exteriores afirmó que no existían pruebas que establecieran la participación de Rabat y rechazó convertirse en un “chivo expiatorio” de la política interna española.

El presidente Pedro Sánchez también ha dicho que no se le han presentado pruebas que demuestren que Marruecos planificó la entrada. Por ello, el papel exacto de las autoridades marroquíes continúa siendo objeto de debate e investigación.

La cuestión es especialmente sensible porque España necesita cooperar con Marruecos para controlar la frontera, aunque ambos países mantienen desacuerdos históricos sobre Ceuta y Melilla.

La Diferencia...

La comparación con la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México resulta inevitable para un lector estadounidense, pero puede resultar engañosa si no tenemos en cuenta las diferencias.

La frontera entre Estados Unidos y México se extiende aproximadamente 1.950 millas y atraviesa distintos estados, regiones y ecosistemas. Ceuta es completamente diferente: su frontera terrestre con Marruecos es muy corta y la ciudad tiene un territorio extremadamente reducido.

Otra diferencia fundamental es la política. Estados Unidos y México son dos países soberanos separados por una frontera internacional. En Ceuta, la frontera con Marruecos es también una frontera exterior de la Unión Europea.

Hay, sin embargo, una semejanza importante. En ambos casos, una cuestión humanitaria se convierte rápidamente en una cuestión política. Cuando llegan grandes cantidades de personas en poco tiempo, las comunidades fronterizas sienten presión sobre sus servicios públicos y los gobiernos centrales son cuestionados por la seguridad de las fronteras.

La diferencia más importante es quizá la escala y la geografía: Ceuta es una pequeña ciudad europea en territorio africano, mientras que la frontera estadounidense-mexicana atraviesa una enorme extensión continental.

Las Protestas

Las consecuencias de la crisis llegaron también a otros países europeos, especialmente Italia. El Gobierno de Giorgia Meloni anunció el 31 de julio controles extraordinarios para los viajeros procedentes de España. Roma explicó la medida como una respuesta de seguridad ante el temor de que personas llegadas irregularmente a Ceuta pudieran desplazarse posteriormente a otros países europeos.

España respondió introduciendo controles sobre viajeros procedentes de Italia. Así, una crisis iniciada en una frontera entre España y Marruecos produjo temporalmente controles en las conexiones entre los dos países miembros de la Unión Europea.

Italia ha mantenido su posición. El 15 de septiembre, el ministro del Interior italiano, Matteo Piantedosi, comunicó a la Comisión Europea una nueva prórroga de 15 días de los controles aéreos y marítimos con España. El Ministerio del Interior italiano afirmó que seguían existiendo riesgos elevados para la seguridad interna y una posible amenaza de infiltración terrorista.

España adoptó ese mismo día una medida equivalente respecto a las conexiones con Italia. Los controles españoles quedan prorrogados hasta el 8 de octubre, mientras que Italia extendió los suyos por otros 15 días. Estas medidas no significan que España e Italia hayan abandonado permanentemente Schengen: son controles temporales dentro de las reglas europeas para circunstancias excepcionales.

Otro tema importante son las protestas ciudadanas que han sido múltiples y en distintas ciudades y han continuado durante todo el mes. El 2 de septiembre, coincidiendo con el Día de Ceuta, se organizaron concentraciones en más de 300 ciudades españolas. En Ceuta, las manifestaciones expresaron preocupación por la seguridad de la frontera y críticas a la gestión del Gobierno central.

El domingo 20 de septiembre, cientos de personas volvieron a salir a las calles de Ceuta. La Federación Provincial de Asociaciones de Vecinos convocó una marcha desde la explanada Juan Carlos I hasta la playa del Tarajal, cerca de la frontera con Marruecos. Los participantes llevaron banderas de Ceuta, España y la Unión Europea y reclamaron una respuesta más firme ante la crisis. Algunos pidieron también la dimisión del delegado del Gobierno.

Ese mismo fin de semana se produjeron incidentes en el puerto de Ceuta. Un grupo de ciudadanos protestó contra la llegada de integrantes de una organización navarra que pretendía prestar ayuda humanitaria a personas migrantes. Hubo lanzamiento de huevos y piedras contra algunos vehículos y la Policía Nacional intervino. Estos episodios

muestran que el debate ha dejado de ser exclusivamente institucional.

La crisis ha creado una fuerte división dentro de la propia sociedad ceutí sobre seguridad, inmigración, ayuda humanitaria y la responsabilidad de las diferentes administraciones.

Los Menores

A mediados de septiembre, el problema más urgente pasó a ser el de los menores no acompañados.

El Gobierno español ha creado nuevos espacios para alojar, identificar y tramitar los expedientes de las personas llegadas durante la crisis. A principios de septiembre anunció que había habilitado más de 3.400 plazas adicionales en Ceuta, además de las aproximadamente 500-600 plazas que ya existían en el Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes.

Pero la situación de los menores continúa siendo especialmente complicada. El presidente de Ceuta, Juan Jesús Vivas, y otros responsables locales han defendido que la ciudad no puede afrontar sola la situación. El debate enfrenta así a administraciones locales y nacionales sobre quién debe asumir la responsabilidad de los menores. La protección de estos jóvenes añade una dimensión jurídica y humanitaria a una crisis que ya es, al mismo tiempo, fronteriza y política.

La crisis también se ha convertido en un asunto central de la política nacional española y europea. El 21 de septiembre, el líder del Partido Popular, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, viajó a Ceuta junto al presidente del Partido Popular Europeo, Manfred Weber, y se reunió con el presidente ceutí Juan Jesús Vivas. El ministro del Interior, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, visitó también la ciudad para inspeccionar el Centro de Atención Temporal de Extranjeros y conocer los procedimientos de identificación y derivación de los migrantes.

La Comisión Europea ha reclamado una solución urgente y ha señalado la necesidad de gestionar rápidamente la situación de las personas que permanecen en Ceuta.

La crisis de Ceuta todavía no ha terminado y por ello el Gobierno español mantiene medidas extraordinarias de seguridad y acogida y pretende acelerar los procedimientos de retorno de quienes no tengan derecho a permanecer en España. También busca una mayor participación de la Unión Europea.

La crisis recuerda que una frontera no es solamente una línea dibujada en un mapa. Es un lugar donde se encuentran geografía, historia, política, economía y vidas humanas.

Para los habitantes de Ceuta, la frontera forma parte de su vida cotidiana. Para Marruecos, las ciudades de Ceuta y Melilla siguen relacionadas con una reivindicación territorial histórica. Para España, Ceuta es territorio nacional y una frontera de la Unión Europea. Para quienes intentan cruzarla, puede representar la esperanza de una vida diferente.

La comparación con la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México puede ayudar a un lector estadounidense a comprender la dimensión humana y política de lo que ocurre, pero Ceuta tiene una característica que la hace única: una pequeña ciudad europea está físicamente situada en África y constituye una frontera exterior de una unión política de 27 países.

Eso explica por qué una crisis que comenzó en dos días de julio continúa teniendo consecuencias en septiembre: afecta a Ceuta, a España, a Marruecos y, de manera creciente, al debate europeo sobre migración, seguridad, fronteras y derechos humanos.

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls:
Pokemon Club Scavenger Hunt. Teens and kids.
5 p.m. Free.

Magic Wings, Deerfield:
Magic Wings After Dark.
Adults only. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Gill-Montague Senior
Center, Turners Falls:
*Internet Safety: Scammers
Targeting Seniors*, with
cloud security professional
Anne Wiley. Registration
encouraged. 6 p.m. Free.

New Salem Public Library,
New Salem: Author Marty
Gitlin discusses his book,
*The Greatest Sitcoms of
All Time*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Fisher Hill School, Orange:
*Community Conversation
with Jo Comerford*.
Hosted by Indivisible North
Quabbin. 6:30 p.m. Free.

THCC, Easthampton:
*Lexi Oliver, Man Jumping
To Heaven, Violet Nox,
A Campbell Payne*; visuals
by *Debstep*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

The Egg, Albany: *Liz Phair,
Frankie Cosmos*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke:
*Dreamtdreamer,
Paul Flaherty, Bicycle
Noise Creation Machine,
KaneLoggiaHYPOTHESIS*.
7:30 p.m. \$.

Community Music School
of Springfield, Springfield:
Dr. Julian's Yes Yes. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield:
The Beach Boys. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Danielle Nicole Band. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Discovery Center, Turners
Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story
Hour: River Otters*. For
ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Various venues, Northampton:
*William Hill III, Johnny
O'Neal Trio, Hot Club of
New England, Expandable
Brass Band*, more. Details at
northamptonjazzfest.org.
11 a.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Periscope Jazz*.
6:30 p.m. No cover.

Pink Edwards, Greenfield:
*The Star Family Singers,
Hoonah, Daring Coyotes,
Jetties*. Benefit for Norma
Jean Hayes. 7 p.m. \$.

Beacon Field, Greenfield:
Screening, *The Super Mario
Galaxy Movie* (2026).
7 p.m. Free.

THCC, Easthampton: *Signs
And Symptoms, Little Pond,
Shazbot*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Hub City
Stompers, Ghost Tones,
Go Static, The Tough Get
Going, Cat Crash*. 7 p.m. \$.

No Fun, Troy: *Escuela Grind,
Urine, Altar*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Cinemastorm double feature:
Jane Eyre (1996), *Edward
Scissorhands* (1990).
7:30 p.m. Free.

Deep Thoughts, Northampton:
*Jerry's Gotta Eat, Grateful
Dead* tribute. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield:
Brad Paisley. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon
White & Rhythm Inc.* 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams:
Madison Cunningham.
8 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: *Great Falls
Farmers Market*. SNAP
accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Congregational
Church, Leverett: *Tag Sale*.
Baked goods, raffle. Benefits
the Community Network for
Children. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Garlic & Arts Festival,
Orange: *Brookside Project,
frost heaves and hales,
Moon Hollow, Josh Levangie*,
more. Food, vendors, kids'
activities, demonstrations.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$

Northfield Mountain,
Northfield: *Mushroom Walk*.
Learn safe and responsible
foraging methods with Mass
Audubon field naturalist
Jonathan Kranz. 10 a.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
*Spirit & Song: Psychic Medium
Fair*. History presentation,
medium demonstration,
photo exhibit, private
appointments. Fundraiser
for The National Spiritual
Alliance. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$.

Trolley Museum, Shelburne
Falls: *Trolleyfest*. "Ride the
historic Trolley No. 10, the
pump car, the restored
Central Vermont caboose,
and enjoy speeder and
velocipede rides." See sftm.org
for details. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$.



An eight-piece version of the
Minyo Crusaders, an energetic big
band that fuses Japanese folk song
with African and Latin musics, is
touring the US right now, and stops
this Saturday night at the Iron Horse.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Art
and Life Lessons Inspired by
Morrie*. Photographer Heather
Pillar, who documented
Morrie Schwartz's final
months, discusses facing
fears of death and leads an
art exercise. Registration
required. 1 p.m. Free.

Altamira Cider, Gill: *The
Horses, Banning Eyre, Zoe
Pete Ford, Holystone*, more.
Cider, merchandise, food.
Benefits the Cure Alzheimer's
Fund. 1 p.m. By donation.

Dickinson Library, Northfield:
Dog Show Registration,
\$10 for adults, \$5 for
children. 1:30 p.m. \$.

Unity Park, Turners Falls:
*Good Neighbor Day
Community Fair*. Live music
by the *Jazz Queens*, face
painting, info on community
groups. 2 to 5 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield:
Dog Show. 2 p.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:
Sleeping Giant, new work by Jae
Southerland, through September.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls:
Stitched Through the Seven Sisters. Kerry
St. Laurent layers matte hot press photo
prints with gouache, ink, and colored
pencil stitching. Through September.

Montague Center Library, Montague:
Jon-Marc Seimon and John Rae
present photographs of local protest
events over the last two years.

Rhodes Art Center at NMH, Gill:
Out of the Frame, reduction linocuts
by printmaker and faculty member
Stephen Allison. Through October 23, by
appointment at mseno@nmhschool.org.

Leverett Library, Leverett:
Falling in Love with Rainbow Valley,
art by Ezra Wilde, through October.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Susan
Valentine*, paintings; *David Pozar*,
woodworking; *The Perennials*, oil painting
group exhibit. Through September.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Carnival Studies*,
Polaroid instant photos of carnival
scenes, through October 18.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Christine
Mirabal: Escape!*, abstract, nature-
inspired paintings, through September.

Looky Here, Greenfield:
Minor Cosmologies by Eva Lin Fahey,
through September.

GCTV, Greenfield: *slow, down river*,
photographs of the Connecticut River
by Alix Kaplan, through September.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Bernardston:
A Touch of Whimsy, fanciful and
humorous art, through September.

Sunderland Library, Sunderland:
Embrace the Wrinkles, collages by
Sarah Gately, through October.

Gallery A3, Amherst:
Common Threads, abstract art in
multiple mediums by Martha Braun and
Matthew Simons, through September
26, followed by *Variations/Sensations*,
paintings by Janet Winston, in October.

Stage on Main, Orange: *Michelle
Andrews*, oil paintings. Proceeds benefit
the Orange Revitalization Partnership.
Through December.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:
Small Works, member art show,
through September.

**New England Visionary Art Museum,
Northampton:** *Unleashed: Following
Imaginings*, textile hangings and soft
sculpture by Jacqueline Strauss,
through September.

Oxbow Gallery, Easthampton:
Flower Show, paintings of wildflowers
and gardens in Montague by Kate
Spencer; *Captured in Felt*, scenes
created with wool rovings by Eileen
Travis. Through September.

50 Arrow Gallery, Easthampton:
Life 'n' Death 'n' Stuff, the humorous
work of Ken Brown. Sales benefit
Home Sweet Home, providing
home accessibility modifications
for people who need them.
Through September.

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sunderlandpubliclibrary.org/gallery.
Questions can be sent to [director@](mailto:director@sunderlandpubliclibrary.org)
sunderlandpubliclibrary.org.

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CALENDAR



Marcus Hall, UMass Amherst: *New England Synth Meetup*. 2 to 5 p.m. Free.

Park Hill Orchard, Easthampton: *Winterpills, Pamela Means Band*. 4 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *The Eyetraps, Oziem, Couchboy, Start Again, Trepine*. "Brattle of the Bands" event. 5 p.m. \$.

Trumbull Studio, Northampton: *Drunken Noodles, Sexwave, EAGZ580, Teen Driver*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tobey Sol LaRoche, Olivia Nied, Luke DeRoy, Carly Lara, Matt Emmer, Rachel Davis, Lilah Asbornsen, E. Horace Winston III*, mentors and artists in residence at the Pond Lily Project. Fundraiser for The National Spiritual Alliance. 7 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *What I Learned from Years of Therapy, If Anything*. Musical cabaret; discussion and reception follow. 7 p.m. \$

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Misty Blues*. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Screening, Fellini's *Satyricon* (1969). 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Minyo Crusaders, The Pangeans, DJ Bongohead*. 7 p.m. \$.

Haze, Northampton: *Snowglobe Almanac, Dearest, Eldest Daughter*. 7 p.m. \$.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Talib Kweli*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Lakecia Benjamin*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *deadmau5*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Bucket, The Planes, The True Jackie, Jeff Patlingrao*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BASSTHOV3N*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

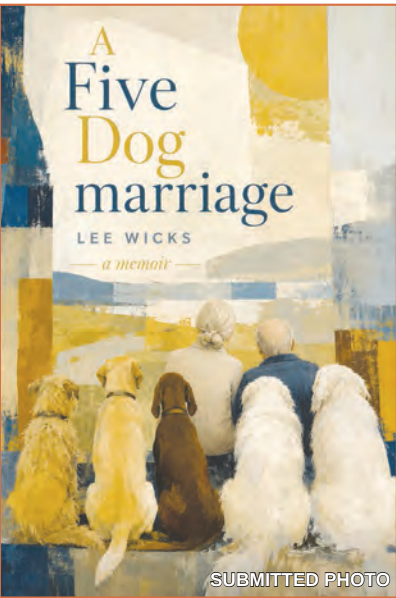
Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Paper Marbling and Mini Books*. Art workshop; materials provided. Ages 4 and up. 10:30 a.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Taxation Aid Fund Benefit*. City councilor Patricia Williams speaks about the fund, which provides assistance to elderly and disabled Greenfield residents. Learn how to donate or apply. Music by *Farley String Band*, refreshments. 4 p.m. Free.

Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Inside/Out Dance Company, Star Lane Sox, Stoner Will and the Narks, Christa Joy and the Honeybees, Wallace Field*, more. Food, vendors, kids' activities, demonstrations. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$

Unity Park, Turners Falls: ~~Montague Soapbox Races~~. 12 p.m. Free. **POSTPONED!**

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House, Hadley: *Tim Eriksen*. 3 p.m. \$.



Next Wednesday: MR columnist Lee Wicks reads and discusses her new memoir, *A Five Dog Marriage*, at the Montague Center library!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Zine Making Workshop*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Drum Class*. Bring a drum or borrow one. 6 p.m. \$.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *The Joy of Red Nose Clown*. First of 10-week workshop series. Register at rednoseclownwesternmass@gmail.com. Tuition aid available. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tech Help for Seniors*. Sign up at coa@leverett.ma.us 3 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: Movie, *Daddy Day Care* (2003). 5 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Ali, DJ Quills*. 7 p.m. \$.

Blackbird, Northampton: *Erin Morse, Eldest Daughter, Reuben Toadstool*. 7 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Xasthur, Temple of the Fuzz Witch*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Movie, *Housekeeping* (1987). 4 p.m. Free.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Quilling Workshop*, with Cyndi Bussey. Register at 863-9357 or the senior center. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Book Reading and Author Talk* by local author Lee Wicks. 5:30 p.m. Free.

THCC, Easthampton: *Xasthur, Temple of the Fuzz Witch, Compress*. 7 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Photography Workshop* with Ed Comeau. Learn about lighting, composition, more. To register, call (978) 544-6334. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Mirah, Evan Greer, All Feels*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Fox*. For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Immigrant Institutions Walk*. Tour downtown Turners Falls and learn about the institutions that immigrants built in the 19th and 20th centuries. Ages 8 and up. 4 p.m. Free.

Nova Lot, Turners Falls: *Great Ghouls Night Market*. 5 to 9 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Drew Paton. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Solidarity Presence in Palestine*, talk and Q&A with three local activists about their time in the West Bank and the legacy of Awdah Hathaleen. 6:30 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Just Roots, Greenfield: *Celebration Brass Band*, barn dance, food, silent auction. Fundraiser supporting affordable farm shares, nutrition support. 7 p.m. \$.

Institute For The Musical Arts, Goshen: *Dimensionality*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Ice Cube*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Organ Factory, Brattleboro: *Vesolo, barbie.ai, Haitlin*. 9 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Daniel Ouellette, Chris Goudreau*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Conway Center, Conway: *Festival of the Hills*. Parade, skillet toss, log splitting, history talks, book sale, fried dough, 10K road race, more. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Painting with Inks from the Garden*, workshop with materials provided. Ages 6 and up. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Caroline Belle Stewart, Stella Corso, Ryan Skrabalak, Corbett Bresner*. Readings. 3 p.m. Free.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Ballake Sissoko & Piers Faccin*. 7 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Firehouse, Worcester: *Bad History Month, Nyxy Nyx, Jake McKelvie, Abdul Sherzai*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

No Fun, Troy: *Jeru the Damaja*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Sweet Petunia, Hoonah*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Main Street, Ashfield: *Ashfield Fall Festival*. Food, games, tag sales, live music by *The Hilltown Ham Hocks, Ashfield Town Band, The Brookside Project*. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

The Drake, Amherst: *Gold Dust, Stella Kola, Miles Hewitt*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Mount Eerie, Mirah*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Downtown Brattleboro: *Circuits In The Woods 2*, featuring *Dälek, Jeffrey Alexander & the Heavy Lidders, Wet Tuna, Emergency Group, Dave Seidel, Burial Woods*, many more. 12 p.m. \$.

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: *Monster Mash Party*. DJ, costume prizes. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Harvest and Rust*, Neil Young tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wildlife Costume and Bat Appreciation*. Wear costumes and learn about bats. Refreshments. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto, Fruko, Carmelo Torres*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *The Mammals*. 8 p.m. By donation.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Colonial Theater, Keene: *John Zorn: New Masada Quartet*. 7 p.m. \$.

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Behind the Music: Música Franklin

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I interviewed Joshua Crane to learn more about Música Franklin, a local kids’ music program and chorus group from the area. He describes it by saying: “This group is an El Sistema, which is from a Venezuelan model of helping all children to access classical music instruction.” Crane is the program manager of the organization. It has been around for “at least 10” years, in his words. He has been with them for three. He started at the place as an AmeriCorps assistant. “I have been the program manager for one year, Americorps assistant for two years.” I have been to two concerts by Música Franklin. The community concerts both consisted of their chorus group and a guest performer. “We usually perform string music and singing,” Crane tells me. The last place the group performed was in Northampton, and before that it was busking, which means playing on the street for donations. Busking is done twice a year

in front of Green Fields Market, the food coop in Greenfield. “We do have special concerts,” he adds. “They are sometimes benefits and in partnership with other organizations.” One example of this was when they played with the Keene State Orchestra. Another recent concert was Feed the Hungry in Northampton. They also appear to be well-attended concerts. “We usually get 300 people to come to Fun Fest every year,” he said. This is an annual performance and fair they do every year in Turners Falls. It’s their biggest one. Another annual event, which they do in January, is String Spectacular, which is a workshop and performance at Greenfield High School. They collaborated with Strings for Kids to host the event. Música Franklin receives vocal instruction from the vocal instructor Gloria Matlock. She is a founding member of the organization. The executive director is Orice Jenkins. The program is free for all children. Families can register on their website, www.musicafranklin.org.

HERMIT from page B1
a short distance from the springs at Mount Mineral where, in 1865, a new proprietor had begun providing room and board for visitors who wished to partake of the springs’ mineral baths and healing waters. Advertisements in local newspapers in 1869 advised travelers to Mt. Mineral Springs to use the services of “Gould’s Express” from the train stations at Montague and Wendell Depot.



Joshua Rainger (1814-1897), the Wendell farmer who became a surrogate father to Lorenzo Gould.

It seems probable that the Gould’s Express coach driver was Lorenzo, who would have been 16 or 17 at the time; his brother Harlan on nearby Jennison Road was just 13. There was only one other man with the name Gould in Wendell, a 33-year-old farm laborer, but he lived with his family at quite some distance from Mount Mineral.

Lorenzo attended New Salem Academy for a year in his early twenties, then went to live and work for almost a decade with an elderly farmer in New Braintree. In his early thirties, Lorenzo returned to Wendell and bought – with Joshua Rainger co-signing his mortgage – a house with 86 acres just up the road from Rainger’s place. There, he would live a solitary existence – without wife, family, pets, or even newspapers or radio – for more than 50 years.

Bits of information found in old records and newspapers include the facts that Joshua Rainger died at his home in Wendell in 1897, and that Lorenzo’s mother, Mercy, died of “senility” at the home of her daughter, Emma-rette, in Monson in 1905. In 1907, Lorenzo’s home burned to the ground, forcing him to rebuild. And, for a handful of years, the Town of Wendell awarded Lorenzo \$5 and \$10 payments in “deer damages.”

As time passed, Lorenzo became increasingly reclusive – so much so that he made the news in an August 1931 issue of the *Greenfield Recorder* simply by going on an outing to Orange with some relatives from West Brookfield. That article stated that Mr. Gould “leaves his small farm only for very occasional trips to Wendell for groceries.”

Then, in 1937, the *Recorder-Gazette* began printing announcements that the County Court had received “petitions alleging that Lorenzo Gould is an insane person,” so the Court was looking for a guardian for Gould and a conservator for his property. The person behind those allegations is a mystery. However, Lorenzo’s obituary in the January 25, 1942 *Springfield Daily Republican* sheds some light on the issue. Calling him “the Hermit of Wendell,” the paper wrote:

At one time in his life, the authorities moved him to an institution because they felt he was not in his right mind – who could be to live this way? But Lorenzo Gould made such a “holler” over his

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- Search for coins in the sawdust
- Compete in the hay toss
- Live Music
- Visit with friends and neighbors
- Crafts to see and purchase
- Plus more, much more!



Sunday, September 27 from 12 to 3 p.m. (Rain date October 4) The Common, Town Center, Gill

All those interested in displaying crafts, farm or farm-related products please call an Ag Commission member: Tom Chalmers, Gary Stevens, Ed Golumbeski, Roger Augustine, Zoe Fox, and Dan Flagg. You can also email gillag@gillmass.org.

confinement that he persuaded a Greenfield lawyer to take his case to court. This was done and Mr. Gould was freed...

The *Athol Daily News* reported that Lorenzo had died “after a lengthy illness,” but Wendell town records are more specific, revealing the cause of his death to have been arteriosclerosis and, as suspected, the senile dementia that killed his mother.

His obituary in the *Republican*, which referred to him as an eccentric recluse, ascribed his “oddities” to miserliness. And yet, it stated:

While always posing as one greatly in need, he had a very satisfactory bank account. He paid his way at the Weymouth and at the Grill Rest Home, had money to meet his funeral expenses, and in addition left several thousand dollars.

The Weymouth was an inn in Athol where he had resided in 1940 and 1941, before spending his final six months at the rest home in Orange. In fact, as a few newspapers revealed, his assets amounted to almost \$10,000 at his death in 1942, equivalent to about \$206,000 today.

A current Wendell resident, Joe LeVangie, told me an interesting story about Lorenzo he had heard from now-departed Wendell old-timers, Jack and Donny Ellis. They said that Lorenzo’s farm had included a blacksmithing shop, and that because he hated banks, he had buried his blacksmith’s earnings on his land. (Two other possible reasons could be his rare departures from his home and/or his dementia.)

Fast-forwarding to about the year 2000, a small section of Lorenzo’s property had been purchased by a man we’ll call Sam, a friend of Joe’s. Sam went to a party one night where a fortune-teller was making predictions for the guests. When she got to Sam, she said she could “see” he owned two pieces of land, but only lived on one; he told her she was

right. She went on to ask him if he knew that he was sitting on a pile of money, but Sam, a hard-working man, only laughed and asked “How do you figure?” The fortune-teller then told him that a previous owner of his uninhabited property had buried sums of cash in the woods on the land.

Sam, still laughing, pooh-poohed the whole thing, and never gave it a second thought. Fact or fiction? Since all of Lorenzo’s property is now broken up into smaller, privately owned, parts, we will most likely never know – but it makes for a good story!

In addition to Lorenzo’s eccentricity, a quality proudly upheld by many modern-day Wendell folks, his obituary includes this: “Neither his birth nor his death were heralded with any great acclaim, for Mr. Gould was a type which sought nothing of the glamorous life nor the plaudits of his fellow man.”



The road name in our time: based on a misreading?

Paradoxically, though, he leaves his name on a lovely rural road in Wendell as his legacy.

As to the unusual spelling of that name on the road sign, I surmise that Lorenzo’s nickname was “Ren,” and that the sign was intended to read “W. Ren Gould.” Due to the omission of a period after the “W,” Ren Gould will forever be associated with our native American songbird.



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