

The Montague Reporter

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Large Loss of Sewer Income Projected in Lightlife Closure



When one of Montague’s few remaining large employers closes next year, the town’s wastewater plant anticipates losing nearly a quarter million dollars of annual revenue in sewer fees — and a source of good, high-energy food for its microbes.

By JEFF SINGLETON

“The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),” the stark warning published in late July began, “are issuing this Public Service Announcement (PSA) to warn critical infrastructure asset owners and operators that malicious cyber actors (MCAs) are conducting cyber attacks targeting Operational Technology (OT) devices... Since 27 July 2026, Water and Wastewater Sector (WWS) utility companies in at least seven states have reported incidents to the FBI, and some of that activity degraded water operations...”

Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little assured the Montague selectboard on Monday, in light of this warning, that measures had been taken to ensure that the town’s wastewater treatment

plant is not vulnerable to hacking, which could compromise its ability to prevent municipal waste from entering the Connecticut River.

The board also discussed revenue loss from the planned closing of the Lightlife plant, new state regulations streamlining the process for towns considering solar arrays, and a proposal by Eversource to cut more trees around its power lines.

The discussion of cybersecurity at the treatment plant came during a presentation Little made to the board, acting as the town’s sewer commission. She explained that security problems can arise when computer systems that coordinate treatment plant operations are put online so they can be operated from a distance. But that has never been the case at the Montague CWF, she said.

“Our SCADA computer which see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Senators Condemn ‘Disastrous,’ ‘Flabbergasting’ Census Changes

By JENNIFER SMITH
COMMONWEALTH BEACON

BOSTON – Lawmakers are trying to get their arms around possible changes to the US Census that they fear could dramatically alter congressional representation and cause funding for federal assistance to be slashed.

The Massachusetts Senate Committee on the Census, which has been grappling with the looming 2030 decennial census, held a hearing last Wednesday to examine proposed federal rules that would exclude non-citizens from the count and change the way residency is determined. The new residency

requirements would count people based on where they are between January 3 and April 1, potentially decimating counts for university students and the “snowbird” population who spend the harsh winter months in warmer climes.

During the hearing, experts testified that these changes would hit Massachusetts with particular force.

The change, if implemented, would “dramatically and inaccurately favor southern states where many northern residents, sometimes called snowbirds, spend some or all of the months of December through March, despite spending a majority of their time voting in and paying

see **CENSUS** page A5

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Prepares to Promote Claim of Cultural Significance

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett’s selectboard held two public hearings on Tuesday, the first to gather public comment on the town’s plans to submit an application for a state-designated cultural district, the second for a contentious dog hearing.

Board member Jed Proujansky provided an update on his work with Leverett Crafts & Arts president David Henion to draft an application for a cultural district designation. Proujansky said he had spoken with Massachusetts Cultural Council program officer

Timothea Pham, who told him that the idea of a large U-shaped district encompassing Depot, Montague, Cave Hill, and North Leverett roads, ending at Rattlesnake Gutter, “makes sense.”

Pham advised the town to “start there” and said there would be a “back-and-forth” during review of the application in which the area can be reduced if necessary, Proujansky said. He noted that artists located outside the boundaries of the district can still benefit from the cultural designation.

Henion said he had still only see **LEVERETT** page A5

Health Board Pushes Regs For Protecting Groundwater

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – Protecting water quality has been high on the agenda of the board of health lately, with members drafting a new regulation to protect the town’s groundwater and asking the planning board to impose water quality monitoring requirements at the site of a proposed solar array.

The proposed “Groundwater Protection Regulation” seeks to protect the water available to Wendell residents by preventing contamination, reducing erosion, and preserving recharge areas for nearby aquifers.

Modeled after rules developed by the state Department of Environmental Protection in 2011, the regulations would define and map various public water supply areas, set rules for non-residential construction and new industrial water users, and require water quality monitoring before and after major projects.

“Groundwater held within the Town is a natural resource held in trust for the benefit of present and future residents,” the draft regulation states. “Because cleaning up polluted groundwater is extremely difficult, time-consuming, technically challenging, and often prohibitively expensive, proactive prevention represents the only viable mechanism to ensure the long-term safety and integrity of the town’s water resources.”

see **GROUNDWATER** page A8

HEYDAYS

Paintings from Die Plants Join Industrial Collection



Al Shane, holding a replica artifact from the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, stands next to one of 10 paintings from Greenfield Tap & Die being restored for the museum’s 30th anniversary.

By BEN GAGNON

GREENFIELD – There is a special brand of people in every small city or town who are compelled to gather artifacts from the past and donate their time, energy, and expertise to show the next generation the roots of their often-forgotten history. Now and again they come across mysteries that fuel their appetite for knowledge.

In Greenfield, the Museum of our Industrial Heritage at the Newell Snow Factory on the Green River is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, supported by longtime volunteers Jim Terapane, Al Shane, Jay Stryker, and Scott Conti.

Part of the celebration is the restoration of 10 colorful, Norman Rockwell-style paintings originally commissioned by the Greenfield Tap & Die Corporation to celebrate its founders and market its products. In the early 20th century, the company became a world leader in the production of precision cutting and threading tools for creating and repairing screw threads. By World War II it was making all the gauges used to manufacture military equipment around the United States.

“It’s remarkable how important precision manufacturing was to mass production in this country,” said Terapane, president of the see **INDUSTRIAL** page A6

High School Sports: Capsized By Pirates

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – With the fall season winding down this week, several conference championships have been determined and the postseason picture is becoming clearer.

At Franklin Tech, the boys’ soccer, golf, and volleyball teams have all won their respective conference titles, while the field hockey team is neck-and-neck with West Springfield for the County Conference championship.

The Tech Football Eagles, however, were booted last Friday by the Hull Pirates after leading in the second quarter.

Girls’ Volleyball
Greenfield 3 – TFHS 2
FCTS 3 – Pioneer 0
Pioneer 3 – TFHS 0

The Spiking Thunder won the first two sets against Greenfield last Thursday, but the Green Wave came back to win the next three to steal the match.

The first set featured long volleys and spikes, and neither team could pull ahead. At the end of the regulation it was a one-point battle, so the set was extended. Blue scored the winning point to take the set 28-26. In the second set, Turners was leading 24-19, only needing one more point to ice the win. One of the longest volleys of the night ensued, with an amazing string of digs, but Blue finally scored the last point to go up 2 – 0.

In the third set, though, Green shot out to a 10-1 lead and never looked back, winning it 25-19. And though see **SPORTS** page A4



Turners Falls High School’s Aiyana Simmons goes for a kill against the Pioneer Panthers in Northfield on Tuesday. To her left, TFHS senior Gianna Marigliano watches. Senior Night energy propelled the Panthers to a three-set win over the visiting Thunder.

Something Special For Those Who Finished Last Week’s Edition

Compelled to Gather Artifacts.....A1	Most Rough-and-Tumble.....B1
Moving That Needle.....A2	Still Learning the Ropes.....B2
Sure to Go On Soon.....A3	Hobbling in the Roadway.....B3
Bounced Into the Ocean.....A4	Feeding the Industrial Pig.....B4
Losing the Entire City.....A5	Perfect to Play In.....B5
Left on the Moon.....A6	Rich Earth, Burning Hell, Monster Mash.....B6
Worn Out by the Incessant Toll.....A7	Rays of Hope, Flesh on Bone, Costume Contest.....B7
Leading to Skids and Spin-Outs.....A8	Just a Little Bubbly.....B8

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Letters

to

the

Editors

Highland Cemetery Friends:

Fall cleanup will take place on Saturday, November 7, at noon, in preparation for the winter season. Note the addition of a kiosk at the corner of the flag pole and water source. Also please note the posting of the Rules and Regulations regarding “Grave decorations and plantings.”

The Cemetery Commission is committed to the upkeep and maintenance of our Town cemeteries, in cooperation with the families and friends of those laid to rest.

Mary Kay Mattiace
Montague Cemetary Commission
Turners Falls

Trust & Credibility

Trust is something that is best earned over time. Lori Streeter has spent 31 years building up trust and credibility in her work with residents at the Franklin County Jail and House of Correction. It’s not uncommon for workers these days to hold many jobs over three decades. Streeter performed many different jobs too, but all of them at the same Elm Street address in Greenfield. She has spent more time at that location than most of the hundreds of residents she has worked with.

Streeter’s work has helped hundreds of people successfully reenter the community with the skills and right attitudes they need to stay in the community.

November 3 is my chance to thank Lori Streeter for the work she has done helping to build positive community reintegration for so many people we now call neighbors.

Charlene LaChance
Deerfield

A ‘Yes’ on Question 9

On Thursday, October 15, a 16-year-old gunman walked into an Oregon school and killed three children and a teacher before being killed. This can happen anywhere in America – even here. A “No” vote on Question 9 will make that more likely in Massachusetts. Question 9 on this election’s ballot seeks to repeal a law passed more than two years ago to tighten Massachusetts’ firearms regulations. Among other provisions, the law imposes penalties for making, possessing, and transferring untraceable “ghost guns,” which have no serial numbers so that the owner and user can’t readily be identified. It also changes the definition of “machine guns” to include devices that turn single-shot guns into repeating weapons.

There are many other elements of this law designed to limit access to, and use of, firearms designed to kill people – not to hunt, not for target practice, not for self-defense. The bill passed both houses of our legislature in July 2024 by overwhelming majorities.

None of the “No On 9” lawn signs that have popped up in the last few weeks say anything about what a “No” vote means. Put as simply, it will make our schools, our malls, our places of worship – anywhere – less safe. I can’t imagine why anyone would choose that path.

The choice is clear. Voting No will “kill” this law – and maybe more victims of gun violence. Voting Yes will preserve it, and likely some lives.

Respectfully,

Michael Dover
Turners Falls

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or the final week of December.

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Tristan Evans of TEC Builders holds up one of the 15 sections of a dome building he is making inside his shop in the former highway garage in Turners Falls. Evans says a dome building has many advantages – besides being affordable to construct, it takes less surface area to contain cubic space than other shapes do. It’s very efficient to produce them in a shop because the longest piece of wood is only five and a half feet long.

‘To Continue to Keep our Communities As Safe as We Can’

Question 9 needs a “Yes” vote to keep in place the modernization and updates passed and signed into law in August 2024 in Massachusetts. One of the updates is to our RED Flag Laws, expanding to healthcare workers and school administrators the ability to activate the due process to remove firearms from a person who is in crisis and at risk of harming themselves or others. It is temporary and allows for the person to get help that is needed while it seeks to protect them and their community.

Another update bans devices that convert semiautomatic firearms into rapid-fire weapons firing hundreds of rounds per minute – such as bump stocks, Glock switches, and trigger activators. It upholds the assault weapons ban in Massachusetts and, for the first time, requires that a serial number is obtained and applied to any guns manufactured by parts made or put together at home or a shop, and that they be made traceable by registering them.

It requires a standardized safety training curriculum and, once fully implemented, live firearm training for firearm license applicants. The update requires that a person be 21 years old to own a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun.

There are many responsible gun owners in Massachusetts who practice safety and uphold the laws. Massachusetts continues to be a national leader in gun violence prevention and has a low rate of 3.8 deaths per 100,000. (The national average is 12.8 per 100,000.) Our current gun law seeks to close loopholes and increase tools for law enforcement to hold criminals accountable.

Let’s work together to do all we can to continue to keep our communities as safe as we can. Vote “Yes” on Question 9 to keep our current laws.

Robin Neipp
Leysden

Experience, Skills, & Commitment

I have the privilege of serving as a working member on the campaign to elect Sheriff Lori Streeter. As someone who has been actively involved in local politics for several decades, I am judicious about whose campaigns I support with a donation and my vote, versus those for whom I choose to be actively engaged in the planning, rollout and ongoing work that leads up to election day. When the opportunity arose to work with the longtime Superintendent of the Franklin County Jail and House of Corrections, I quickly agreed.

Sheriff Streeter’s progressive and humanitarian approach to the incarceration of offenders in our criminal justice system is exactly the right approach at the right time. Her effort to make the most difference, not on people going into jail but rather when they are ready to come out, is a fresh and welcome change that will have a lasting and positive effect on the offender, their families and our communities.

Sheriff Streeter helped establish the landmark and frequently-lauded Franklin County Community Justice Support and Re-Entry Center in conjunction with state’s Office of Community Corrections. She directly managed the on-site Re-Entry Program, which provides direct guidance and connections to community resources to help make the reentry transition smoother.

These types of reentry services include housing support, medical services, counseling appointments, recovery support, navigating community services, parole and probation support, education services, transportation, community groups, support around domestic violence/sexual assault/sexual exploitation support, and medication.

The absence of each and every one of these critical supports can have a negative impact on the forward movement of a successful reentry in the community, and it is in all of our best interests to help make them available.

In addition to the clear leadership, competence, and experience she brings to the job, Sheriff Streeter also joins the very rarified ranks of the only 2% of sheriffs in the United States who are women, and having Franklin County play a part in moving that needle is meaningful to me.

Her experience, skills, and commitment to the office are exactly right for Franklin County. I am certain we are in good hands, and I encourage others to join me in offering our full support to Sheriff Streeter for another successful term in office.

Regina Curtis
Warwick

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

If you’ve sent us a **press release** in the last month or two... chances are I’m sorry. Here’s some of them.

Stone Soup is running its **“Soup CSA”** again this year from October to March, as it went well last year. Chef Kirsten likens it to a “Soup of the Month Club.” It comes to \$10 a quart. Learn more and sign up at thestonesoupcafe.org/soup-csa.

This weekend, Friday and Saturday, Richie Richardson FAB, the fashion art boutique on Second Street here in Turners, is hosting **“FAB Passion Fashion Week New England”** at the Community Music School of Springfield. “Join us for a fashion opera celebrating style, innovation, and the boundless creativity of emerging and established designers...” Designers, events, tickets, and more are at www.fpfwne.com.

Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee of Orange reached out to say they won a Bronze Medal at the **2026 Global Coffee Awards** for their Manos de Mujer blend, beans grown by a women-led farming program in a co-operative in Marcala, Honduras.

It’s easy to be cynical about ethical consumption and all that – it’s *good* to be cynical about ethical consumption, actually, flattering consumers that they can change the world with their unevenly distributed purchas-



Photo beat guy Joe R. Parzych is reporting live from the scene of a beautiful fall. He sent us shots from the Roundhouse Rally classic car show in Greenfield and Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield, but this one caught our eye: “I also went to my hometown of Gill and stopped by Piela’s Creamery and farm,” he writes, “and took the opportunity for an awesome photo of a chicken taking a stroll.” Thanks Joe! Nice ben.

ing power – but I think Dean’s is the real deal. (The highest-scoring coffee B Corp in the world!) I’m a big fan of their Oromia blend, though I drink all *sorts* of coffee.

Local documentary filmmaker and nice neighbor guy Steve Alves reached out with a promo pitch for a solo show next Sunday, November 1 at 4 p.m. at the Wendell Meetinghouse. “After a forty-year career producing movies, I turned my attention **full-time to songwriting** in 2020,” he writes. “The show is the culmination of the past six years...” Steve took part in the recent

songwriting residency program in Lake Pleasant – I missed their showcase at the Shea, and the *Reporter* missed it, there’s too much going on – and he will present 18 songs, “The Gift of Life,” at the Meetinghouse, backed on some by fellow resident Olivia Nied, one of nature’s most entertaining guitarists.

No idea what Steve’s songs are like – there was no music linked. I guess go to Wendell.

Save the dates, Montague/Turners people: the town is updating its official **Housing Production Plan**, which is a bureaucratic document

but one full of information about something that affects us all a lot.

Public meetings will be held, starting at 5 p.m., at the following locations on the following dates: the Brick House on November 4; 20 Masonic Avenue in Montague City on November 5; the Millers Falls branch library on November 10; the Montague Center branch on November 18; and the National Spiritual Alliance in Turners Falls on December 17. Food will be provided, but no mention of childcare on the press release we were sent.

Desi Lowit, who wrote an op/ed in our September 3 edition titled *When Parents Raise the Alarm*, has launched a new app and resource website to help her neighbors (you) get involved in **supporting disabled students and their families**.

This digital hub, the “Carry Once Piece Toolkit,” can be accessed at tinyurl.com/CarryOnePiece.

Lots of bite-sized ways to help: e.g., “send a meal or ride offer with two concrete choices,” “read the next School Committee agenda,” “call one elected official,” “organize records already supplied by a family,” “turn a public document into a plain-language summary.”

Desi encourages our readers to spread this resource around to other community members who might be interested in either giving, or receiving, support!

Hey, if the town of Montague hypothetically needs to shore up its revenue – in light of everything now going on or sure to go on soon – maybe someone could park a cruiser downtown between the hours of 5 and 7 a.m. on weekdays and nab some of those **drivers who bomb through the downtown neighborhood** doing 40 or 45 in a 20?

I get the decision to turn a blind eye to people most likely headed out on an early commute to work, really I do, but it’s honestly a little bit of a scary time to be a pedestrian trying to cross the street down here – or a night owl biking home from work.

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

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“A cool and overcast October 17 morning,” our photo correspondent Ed Gregory reports, “at the site of the former Farren House/Grand Trunk Hotel on the northwest corner of Avenue A and Second Street. A modest gathering of interested folks attended to listen to a spirited little band and watch the antics of the “Lady Liberty” participants in the country-wide Vote/No Kings event.”

DISPATCHES FROM THE CARNEGIE BASEMENT

An Homage to Montague’s Long History

By CAITLIN KELLEY

TURNERS FALLS – Since the town approved Montague’s Main Library Building Project at the ballot box last June, the Library Building Steering Committee (LBSC), the Library Trustees, and I have worked diligently to move the building design forward, address the preservation of the Carnegie’s local history and museum collections as well as those collections’ transition to the new facility, and lay the groundwork for a full-scale fundraising campaign.

While decisions about public bathroom layouts, hand dryers, family restroom sink heights, circulation desk orientation, workroom window height, outlet placement, and the design of the book drop room may not be the most thrilling to share with the public, all these things – and many more! – have been carefully considered and regularly reviewed by building consultants for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to maximize the building’s flexibility and longevity.

Interior renderings of the new building will be completed before the end of the year.

Next, to ensure that Montague’s Local History Collection is fully organized and preserved before transitioning to the new building, Montague is working with Lo Leonard, an intern from Simmons University’s library science program. Lo’s project this semester is to go through the remaining portions of the Collection that are not yet indexed – delicate 19th-century manuscripts, photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera – and to preserve them in acid-free boxes and create records for them.

Lo will also make recommendations for the collection’s usability so that future patrons, accessing the collection for research, will find it organized in an intuitive way.

Over the next couple years, the Library Trustees will work with the Montague Historical Society and the Montague historical commission to determine the scope of the museum collection that will move to the new building. I’m excited to create a space that pays homage to Montague’s long history, with artifacts ranging from dinosaur footprints to indigenous hand tools, and from knives from the John Russell Cutlery Company to leather postcards depicting Avenue A.

One thing that we know will feature in the Local History Room is an original crayon portrait of Alvah Crocker, generously donated earlier this month by the Montague Historical Society, dating to the year before Crocker’s death in 1874.

Finally, the libraries have hired a consultant to assist us with putting together a fundraising campaign. As with many campaigns, we’ll first complete a study to identify how much money we can reasonably expect to raise, and how best to go about it.

Every donation will decrease the amount that the town borrows for the project, directly reducing taxpayer costs.

While most of the fundraising work over the next several months will happen behind the scenes, we anticipate kicking off the public portion of the fundraising campaign at or close to the new library’s groundbreaking ceremony, late next summer.

Stay tuned for more details!

Caitlin Kelley is the director of the Montague Public Libraries.

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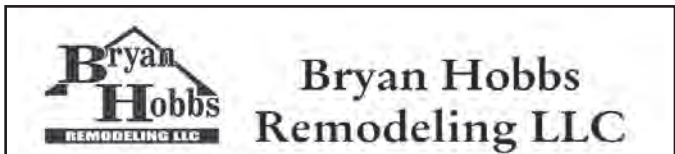
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hereby publicly apologizes to Terri Sevene
Cappucci, Michael Sevene, and James C.
Sevene, Jr. for incorrectly naming them
as the heirs of Barbara L. Sevene and as
having an interest in Week Number 10
in Villa Unit Number 225 in Captain’s
Command at Bluebeard’s Beach Club,
St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands.

Captain’s Command further publicly
apologizes for foreclosing upon the
above-referenced property in their names
and publicly identifying or announcing
Terri Sevene Cappucci, Michael Sevene,
and James C. Sevene, Jr. as having
defaulted on obligations associated
with that property. They were not
responsible for the property, did not
owe the debt or obligation that was the
subject of the foreclosure, and should not
have been publicly identified as having
defaulted upon such an obligation.

Terri Sevene Cappucci, Michael Sevene,
and James C. Sevene, Jr. are not heirs of
Barbara L. Sevene and do not have, and
did not have any debt or obligation
to Captain’s Command arising from
the above-referenced property.

Captain’s Command further
acknowledges that the responsible
parties have been identified and that the
information that resulted in Terri Sevene
Cappucci, Michael Sevene, and James
C. Sevene, Jr. being incorrectly named
was provided or directed to Captain’s
Command by those responsible parties.

Captain’s Command has been
informed that the heirs are Rodney
and Sheri Demers; Russel and Joanne
Demers; Paul and Deborah Demers;
Ed and Carol Demers; and Melissa
and Arthur Patenaude.

Richard H. Dollison, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Captain’s Command at
Bluebeard’s Beach Club

SPORTS from page A1

the Thunder took an early lead in the fourth, the Wave went on a run to pull it out 25-17. That’s when the Blue balloon burst – Green won the deciding set 15-2.

Abby Moffatt finished with 22 digs, Maddie Haight had 13 assists and served six aces, and Jakhia Williams made six kills.

Across Millers Falls Road, Franklin Tech was celebrating Senior Night by sweeping the Pioneer Panthers. The first set was a wash-out, as Tech ran away 25-8. The Pioneers did better in the next sets, scoring 17 and 13 points respectively, but the Eagles won each by comfortable margins. Emma Petersen led the Eagles with 10 digs, Lily Baldwin gave 25 assists, and Sarah Beckwith made 13 kill shots.

Tech sits at 14 – 2, and has won the Western Conference title. Their final regular-season game is this Thursday at Greenfield.

On Tuesday, the Thunder was swept by the Panthers up in Northfield. Pioneer won the first extended set 28-26, and held Blue to 18 and 13 points in the next two.

Turners also wraps up their regular season this Thursday, at home, against the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy Eagles.

Golf
FCTS 161 – Athol 200
TFHS 172 – Hopkins 179
Westfield 162 – TFHS 198

The Tech Swinging Eagles finished their regular season last Wednesday with a win against the Athol Red Bears, capping an undefeated season and clinching the Bi-County East title.

I met with the team on the putting green outside the clubhouse. As his boys were setting up, Coach Duclos began switching his four-somes around. I asked if he was planning on resting his starters. “No,” he replied, shaking his head. “We still have a job to do.”

Jack Day tied for first with 39, Braeden Talbot and Grady Deery tied for third with 40 each, and Brady Wood shot a 42 to ice the win.

As the Eagles concluded their perfect record at home, the Thunder were swinging away against Hopkins Academy at Granby’s Westover Golf Course. Cam Cogswell led the field with a 38, followed by Jameson Betters (39), Trevor Lyons (47), and Liam Kerivan (48).

Last Thursday, the Thunder lost their final match of the season at Shaker Farms Country Club down in Westfield. I spoke to a couple of the golfers after this match. “We get in the low 170s some days, but then we almost hit 200 other times,” one of them observed.

“Yes,” his teammate agreed. “On the same course!”

Cogswell shot a 41, followed by Kerivan (50), Lyons (53), and Jameson Betters (54).

On Tuesday, the Eagles competed in the Western Mass D3’s 18-hole postseason tournament at Westover. They placed second with a combined score of 341, just four strokes behind Montachusett. Wood was the low medalist with a 79, and Day took second place, shooting an 81. Also scoring points for Tech were Deery (89) and Talbot (92), with Everett Eichorn (101) and Colton Kingsbury (105) also completing the course.

The Eagles will golf in the state tournament next Monday at Stockbridge.

Football
Hull 34 – FCTS 12

Last Friday night, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles were grounded by the Hull Pirates.

It was a long drive to Hull, during which my car broke down twice. It was windy and overcast, and Tech was soundly defeated. But it was worth the ride.

The first thing I noticed was that everyone in Hull was wearing blue – the same shade as the Turners Thunder. So I went to my car and switched hats.

The trip from western Mass was supposed to take two and a half hours, but the Friday rush hour traffic had caused major backups on all major routes into the area. One dad said it took him over four hours to make his way from Ashfield. But because Tech has played Hull in basketball, many of the Franklin folks had already made the trek.

The hosts were certainly pleasant and welcoming. While most of the locals didn’t know exactly where Franklin County was situated, several said they had traveled past Worcester in the past, and one man even said he worked in Springfield. A woman whose sister briefly lived in Turners Falls let me charge my phone at the concession stand.

The fans intermingled politely enough, and one Franklin man pointed to the water and asked the cop if it was the ocean or just a lake. Hull is a peninsula jetting out into the bay, so the ocean surrounds it on all sides except for a thin land bridge. The cop didn’t smile, he just said, “Yes, the Atlantic.”

But then the game started. I studied sports psychology in college, and I know that when your team is losing, any little thing can anger you. This happened several times on the sidelines. The tipping point was when an Eagle player had his helmet torn off his head and no penalty was called. After five minutes with the medical crew, he was helped to his feet and escorted to the sidelines.

After play resumed, the standard bearers holding the marker flags may have either taunted the Tech players, cheered on the Pirates, or simply celebrated when the Pirates did well. All three accusations were made, and a shouting match ensued between the crew and some of the Tech faithful. Hull’s athletic director came over and settled everyone down, but that didn’t stop other fans from questioning several penalties and no-calls later in the game.

To be fair, although chain gangs are supposed to be neutral, they are generally plucked from the hometown crowd, and naturally want their team to win. And refs have a tough and thankless job. Perhaps if this game had been played in a neutral venue, there would be fewer questions from either side, but the only way they’ll meet again is if both teams make the playoffs – and according to Eagles coach Joe Gamache, Franklin will not meet the Hulls in the postseason unless they can “earn our way into the playoffs.”

There was miscommunication before the game even started. The officials signaled that Tech had won the coin toss and elected to receive. Immediately, the Techs objected, yelling out “Deferred! We defer possession.” The refs huddled and re-signaled to the crowd indicating that Hull had won the toss and deferred.

Then came the kickoff. Hull’s kicker was amazing – his first boot



Franklin County Technical School senior Taylor Underwood bumps the ball to a setter during the Eagles’ 3-0 win over the visiting Pioneer Regional School Panthers last Thursday, Senior Night at Tech. At left is her teammate Sarah Beckwith.

landed well inside the end zone. The Eagles’ returner charged at the ball, but the backline ref got in the way and the two collided. After the ref was checked out, Tech got the ball on the 20.

There were a few plays that defined this game. Field position was certainly a factor. Every Pirate kick-off soared into the end zone, forcing touchbacks and giving Franklin the ball on their own 20.

On their first drive, a crucial holding penalty and two incomplete passes – one of which was ruled a trap – gave Hull excellent field position. After a long gain, Tech stopped them in their tracks. This usually results in a punt or a fourth-down gamble, but not for Hull. The Pirate kicker booted a 39-yard field goal to put the home team on top 3-0.

Tech fumbled on their next possession, and acing a first-and-20, Hull threw a long pass to make it 9-0. The PAT kick went so long it almost bounced into the ocean.

The returners let the ensuing kickoff bounce out of the end zone, and Tech was again pinned back to their 20. The Eagles ground down the field, but stalled on their own 41. This was the next pivotal play: facing a fourth down, Mason Bassett completed a pass to Nolyn Stafford, who sprinted downfield to keep the drive alive.

Eight plays later, it was a game: Hunter Donahue caught a TD pass to put Tech on the board. The PAT pass attempt was bobbled, and at 7:05 of the second quarter, it was now 10-6.

The Eagles’ defense kicked into gear on Hull’s next drive, forcing a fourth-and-22. The hike to the punter was flubbed, and now Tech had the ball deep in Pirate land. Three plays later, Mason Bassett ran a keeper to put Franklin on top. The extra point was miffed, but Tech now led 12-10.

The next play turned the game around and dampened the Eagles’ spirits. The Pirates threw a long bomb on their first play from scrimmage, and the Eagle secondary was

on task. Both teams went for the ball as it came down, but a Pirate grabbed it and scored a TD to make it 16-12. Their miracle kicker split the uprights – and then some. The ball cleared the goalposts, went over the chain link fence, and bounced into the tidal flats.

Football is a game of emotions, especially for teenagers. The Eagles’ next drive stalled on the 50-yard line because of an unsportsmanship penalty, followed by an illegal procedure. Hull simply took a knee and ended the half leading 17-12.

The next crucial play came in the third quarter. With the margin still at five points, the Tech D forced a fourth down and the Pirates lined up to punt. The punt was faked, and Hull regained the first down, then quickly scored to make it a 24-12 contest.

It started to rain in the fourth quarter, dampening the passing game and forcing Tech to play four-down football, never punting on fourth down. This led to Hull scoring 10 more points, leaving the soaking wet Eagles to take the long bus ride back to Turners Falls.

Mason Bassett passed for 124 yards and a touchdown with Hunter Donahue, Nolyn Stafford, Cole Bassett, Levi Dunn, and Justin Lent as his targets. The Eagles made 118 yards on the ground with Brady Gancarz (66), Stafford (30), and Donahue (26) leading the pack; Lent and Mason Bassett also carried the ball. Cole Gamache led the team in tackles, and Landon Smead knocked away three passes. Jaxon Silva and Aaron Turner kicked off for Tech, Donahue and Silva returned kicks, and Mason Bassett punted once after faking a throw.

This loss does not define Franklin Tech football. They now sit at 5–1 and have three more regular-season games on the docket as they attempt to get back in the playoff hunt. Their next game is at home against the Athol Red Bears.

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LEVERETT from page A1

received positive responses to the proposal from the many artists, town boards and committees, and other interested parties he had contacted. He said he had not yet spoken with any musicians, but that as artists they were welcome to take part in the initiative, and also that they could perform at the library’s new bandshell, which he called “a great asset.”

He added that he believed the library itself was “probably” Leverett’s “best asset,” culturally speaking.

Proujansky noted that historic and cultural sites such as the Moore’s Corner School House and the Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation Area also qualify for inclusion, and that the designation would provide a “broader scope” of benefit to the community than just to artists.

Susan Lynton, a founding member of the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill, commented that the designation could help smaller groups in the town seek grant funding and donations, and could help make Leverett a “more energized community.”

Proujansky said the state requirement that work administering the district should be paid “would not have a significant impact on the budget.” He said he did not yet know what the total budget would be, but that his sense was it would be more than offset by the \$15,000 in seed money and the annual funding awarded to cultural districts by the state.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis pointed out that if the application is approved, the budget for administering the district would still need to be voted on at town meeting.

The selectboard voted unanimously to support the application.

Dog Hearing

The selectboard also held a dog hearing, stemming from a complaint alleging that two dogs belonging to Julie Patterson had barked and charged the complainant, Hakim Noah, in the vicinity of Rattlesnake Gutter in August.

Noah told the board that Patterson’s dogs, Walter and Django, charged at him and barked while he

was running on a trail, and that despite him yelling her name loudly, Patterson was nowhere to be seen. The incident follows an earlier complaint in 2025, when one of Patterson’s dogs bit Noah’s wife. At the hearing on that complaint, the board ordered Patterson to keep the dogs enclosed by a secure fence, and otherwise on a three-foot leash.

Noah said that he and his wife are “absolute dog lovers” and have never had any issue with other dogs, but that he felt compelled to make the complaint out of a concern for public safety. “There was no chance at all that I didn’t know what I saw,” he said, when the dogs charged him.

Patterson said she has abided by the board’s 2025 order and accused Noah of “not being truthful.” She said there had not been any incidents in the year following the last complaint.

She told the board she did not know why Noah had made the complaint, but informed them that he was a “sacred mushroom integration coach,” and speculated that he might have been having a “bad trip.”

Noah responded that he had not taken any mushrooms at the time of the attack, and said Patterson’s comment was a “type of defamation.”

Animal control officer Kyle Dragon testified that when he contacted Patterson about the complaint, she had said “I hope they don’t have photos.”

Patterson denied having said this, and told the board she had asked him “Do they have photos?,” thinking that her husband or son could have taken the dogs out, but learned later that they had not.

Board members Proujansky and Tom Hankinson voted to dismiss the complaint, citing a lack of any physical evidence, third-party eyewitness testimony, or “agreed-on fact set.” Hankinson said it was a difficult decision.

Chair Patricia Duffy commented that the board’s “job is to protect the safety of the public” and abstained from the vote.

Patterson was reminded to adhere to the conditions imposed at the 2025 hearing.

In a related item, the selectboard rejected the design created by

resident Marty Klein of signs to be posted at trailheads informing trail users of Leverett’s dog control by-law because they incorrectly stated that dogs must be leashed on trails, whereas the bylaw reads “... on a leash or under the verbal control of the owner or keeper.”

Proujansky also said he felt signs are ineffective.

Hankinson said he agreed, and commented that “We’re always going to have dog issues as long as people have dogs,” but said signs could still have value in getting the message out to the public. Duffy said they would serve as a legal reminder.

The board agreed to invite Klein to a future meeting for further discussion.

Way Around

The board reviewed a request from Greg Woodard, the town hall’s southern abutter, to move the driveway providing access to the building’s rear parking lot to its north side.

Proujansky said the town holds a right-of-way for the present driveway, and that he wanted to postpone discussion until he has spoken about the matter with Woodard, who had thus far not responded to three contact attempts.

The town hall water is currently not considered potable because the well is too close to the building’s septic system. If the town constructs a driveway on the building’s north side, it would be necessary to move the septic system. A discussion of whether the septic system should be moved even if the driveway remains on the south side was postponed, as it was deemed a separate issue and not on the meeting agenda.

Other Business

The selectboard reviewed an ethics disclosure from transfer station coordinator Annette Herda and allowed her daughter to be hired to work at the facility, under the stipulation that Herda recuse herself from all salary, discipline, and review decisions.

Duffy, who also works at the transfer station, recused herself from the vote.

McGinnis announced that Leverett was awarded a \$1 million

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LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on November 2, 2026 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Leverett Town Hall to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Doreen Moriarty for 6 Bull Hill Road. The proposal is for the construction/repair of a septic system.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office at the Leverett Town hall or by appointment at concom@leverett.ma.us or (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.



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One Stop for Growth grant from the state for the second phase of the Dudleyville Road stabilization project, and an additional \$75,000 for planning for the Leverett Center intersection.

The board voted to oppose a request from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) for permission to draw an additional 20 million gallons of water per day from the Quabbin reservoir. The authority is currently authorized to draw 312 million gallons per day, and averages about 200 million.

Proujansky said the MWRA had not specified which towns needed more water or why. He said the water “has to come from someplace,” and that he believed the source would be the Swift River, affecting its status as a “premier” fishing location for trout and salmon and therefore the local economy.

He added that the Quabbin’s water level was low, the region having only come out of drought status the previous week after several years, and that it needs time to recharge.



CENSUS from page A1

taxes to northern states like Massachusetts,” Jessie Partridge Guerrero, director of data services at the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, testified.

The new rules, if enacted, would mean census counts could not include many international students, international workers, those with Temporary Protected Status because their home countries are considered unsafe to live in, refugees, asylum seekers, and more.

Some 1.3 million residents in the Bay State are foreign born – about a fifth of the state’s population – and over 641,000 are noncitizens, said Susan Strate, senior program manager at the UMass Donahue Institute’s Population Estimates Program. That would be the rough equivalent of losing the entire city of Boston in the Census.

“It’s flabbergasting to think of the impact that this could have,” said state senator Becca Rausch of Needham. “It is disastrous in so many ways. Maybe it’s not sloppy. Maybe it’s deliberate. Maybe it is a deliberate attempt by the Trump administration to force counts out of northern states and into southern states. It’s certainly not beyond the pale or beyond comprehension that that could be a goal here. It’s disgusting.”

The Census Bureau proposed these changes in September to the regulations governing the decennial census. Public comment on the regulations is open until November 2 – the

day before the midterm elections.

“These proposals are intended to ensure fidelity to the Constitution, improve and protect the core decennial census data, and promote efficiency,” the Census Bureau said in its explanation of the rule. Based on its reading of Founding-era documents, the bureau said “illegal aliens (among others) should not be included in the apportionment count, as they are not true inhabitants, members of the body politic, or persons with a ‘usual residence’ in the United States due to their lack of a sufficient tie and allegiance to the United States.”

Strate testified that inaccurate Census count impacts will ripple out into inaccurate employment rates, inaccurate health care statistics, and federal dollars per person.

These counts are used to guide funding formulas for programs like the Community Development Block Grant program. Excluding non-citizens could mean a loss of \$1.5 billion a year in federal funding, Strate said. The Census “is about data, money, and power,” she added.

The state could also lose congressional representation, Strate said. Massachusetts once had 10 seats in Congress, but lost one after the 2010 census. New York lost a seat by just 89 people after the 2020 Census.

These changes reflect a broader disruption in the US Census Bureau, said Beth Jarosz, a senior fellow at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy. She esti-

mated that about 13% to 19% of its staff had been lost since 2025, along with the elimination of scientific advisory committees, a year without staff attending conferences, and the termination of all data-user advisory groups.

In June the Department of Commerce issued an order banning modern privacy protection methods from any statistical product, cutting in half the tools the bureau uses to publish detailed data on specific communities. Jarosz said that order is now being used to justify removing race and ethnicity questions from the 2030 questionnaire – the argument being that, without modern privacy tools, granular demographic data can’t be safely published.

Race has appeared on every US Census since 1790, she said.

The privacy “proposal feels like it’s being used as pretext for removing demographic questions in the decennial census,” Jarosz told lawmakers.

Kristy Senatori, executive director of the Cape Cod Commission, described a stunning regional undercount risk: a combined undercount of more than 12% for Barnstable County if both the snowbird and non-citizen exclusions take effect.

Cape Cod could potentially see an undercount of approximately 10,500 individuals in total from the non-citizen change. The three-month “enumeration period” between January and April also has the potential to result in an undercount of approximately

18,000 individuals, Senatori said.

“Along with the demographic changes, we’re also concerned about the utility of the data moving forward,” she said. “When parameters that have been collected for a very long time change, the data sets are no longer comparable. And if the census results in an undercount of our regional population... those effects will ripple throughout distribution of funds and services, certainly throughout regional and local planning and those services that we need to continue to provide to our residents throughout Cape Cod.”

Committee members and experts said they expect litigation to challenge the rule if it is ultimately adopted.

The committee chair, state senator William Brownsberger of Belmont said the proposal was “disastrous,” and though he said speculation was probably unwise, he is “almost certain the US Supreme Court won’t uphold this,” and he expects the attorney general’s office will get involved.

“I personally fear that the ramifications and the impact of these kinds of changes, assuming they go through, are going to be felt long before we get a decision from SCOTUS,” Rausch said.

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INDUSTRIAL from page A1

board of directors. “In the 1870s they were just figuring out how to make threads, and 25 years later they were flying airplanes.”

The paintings date back to the early and mid-20th century when Greenfield Tap & Die was a global industrial complex, long before the company was sold to Kennametal in 1997. Terapane had seen the paintings hanging in the Kennametal offices and was able to retrieve them after the company closed its doors in Greenfield in 2025.

The restoration of the paintings was funded by a \$25,000 grant from Greenfield’s Community Preservation Committee, which relies on a property tax surcharge and matching state funds to support historical resources, housing, open space, and recreation.

“It was a minor miracle for us to get the grant and we’re happy to be able to save these things,” said Terapane, adding that there is a mystery surrounding one painting which has never been found.



Jim Terapane operates the Goodell-Pratt Company’s “light shop equipment with motor drive,” the only example of its kind remaining in the world.

“There’s a local myth that tools from Greenfield Tap & Die were left on the moon,” said Terapane. “Part of the story is that there’s a painting from the 1950s with Space Age imagery that might confirm the story, but it’s never been found. We haven’t been able to confirm the painting exists, or if tools from Tap & Die were left on the moon, but it wouldn’t be surprising if the myths are true considering how big the company was at that time. If anyone out there knows about the painting or the tools on the moon, we’d love to hear about it.”

The paintings are just part of an ongoing effort to acquire historical artifacts, compile oral histories, and produce videos that are available on the museum’s website at *industrial-history.org*. The collection of materials and equipment from the early industrial age has grown well past the space available.

“We’re restricted here now, with so many artifacts in storage, so we’re looking to expand somewhere else or establish a satellite museum,” said Terapane.

Operating by appointment only, the museum welcomes up to 600 visitors a year, many of whom are engineers and machinists on a tour of similar museums such as the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum in Springfield, the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont, and the New England Air Museum in East Granby, Connecticut.

“There’s a community of people who seek out industrial history,” said Conti, adding that recent visitors came from as far away as Oregon, Florida, and France. Last week, Terapane was busy arranging a tour for third graders from Providence Christian Academy in Greenfield. He’s also working with the Franklin County Technical School, introducing students to items like a pantograph tracing machine from the 1950s, once used for copying and enlarging line drawings and engravings.

“It’s great to see kids relating what they read in books to the reality of the tools that were created here – it’s definitely better than videos,” Terapane said.

Terapane grew up in Meriden, Connecticut when metalworking was the city’s primary industry. He graduated from a trade school and spent the required 10,000 hours as an apprentice to earn his status as a metalworking journeyman, traveling around the region for work and ultimately settling in South Deerfield.

“In the 1980s so many precision manufacturing companies were closing or moving away,” said Terapane. “I was watching the trade that I was in slowly disappearing, and I felt compelled to get involved somehow. The more I learned about the history of the industry, the more I was hooked. Precision metalworkers propelled our country into being what it is today. It’s an amazing story for a small town, and it had to be preserved.”

In 1996 the museum was established in a farmhouse on Petty Plain Road by local resident Leon Weeks, who was deeply active in local historic preservation but passed away soon after in 2000. In 2007, Terapane and Shane bought the Newell Snow Factory building and moved the museum to its current home.

The roots of the precision manufacturing industry in Greenfield date back to the pioneering amateur



Scott Conti shows off a proximity fuse once tucked inside the nose cone of anti-aircraft missiles manufactured in Greenfield and used in World War II.

engineers who built hundreds of small water-powered mills on rivers around Franklin County in the 18th and 19th centuries, producing everything from axe, scythe, and hammer handles to knives and cleavers. Small metalworking shops began producing threading tools for blacksmiths and millwrights, ultimately leading to the merger of two companies that formed Greenfield Tap & Die in 1912, which then bought out numerous smaller firms over the years.

By World War II GTD was easily the largest employer in Greenfield, with 3,558 workers recorded in January 1943.

Conti is treasurer of the museum and took a circuitous route to feed his passion for machine tools.

“I started out as an IT guy, but I retired and started a second career making metal parts and my own inventions,” said Conti, who built the museum’s website. “I was fascinated by machines that make tools, that can cut metal finer than 1/1000th of an inch.”

Shane is a retired electrical engi-

neer who serves as vice president of the museum board of directors. He grew up watching his mechanic father Sam Shane fix every problem that came up.

“My father taught us how to do things around the house, from plumbing to electrical and anything else,” said Shane. “I made sure I was there to watch and learn.”

Ten years ago, Terapane was gathering historical data from the US Census when he discovered that his great-great grandfather was not only listed as a cutlery worker in Greenfield in the 1850s but lived on Carpenters Lane, just a stone’s throw from the museum.

“Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to make things,” said Terapane. “I guess it’s a cliché, but finding out one of my earliest ancestors was a metalworker was like rediscovering my roots. I didn’t realize I was following a family tradition.”

As part of its 30th anniversary, the museum will hold an open house before the end of the year, with a date soon to be announced.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Department Heads Make Their Cases for Staff Increases

By KEITH WATERS

The first item of business when the Erving selectboard met on Monday was paperwork related to the November 3 election.

After six years in business, Flis Market is changing hands. The new owners are Kashinath Incorporated, and they will be changing the store’s name to Erving Market and Spirits. A brief hearing was held during the meeting to approve their application for the liquor license transfer. Everything was in order, and the board approved the transfer and welcomed the new owners to town.

Staffing Requests

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory was on hand to deliver bad news about the upcoming winter plowing. Of nine contractors he offered the work to in September, none could take it.

The town has been using independent plowing contractors to ensure a high level of snow

removal. McCrory explained that when he started, the highway department handled all the plowing, but it has not been keeping enough employees to do this. He asked the board for permission to hire four temporary employees for this purpose, and the board agreed to do so.

Police chief Robert Holst was present to request that the selectboard also hire another police officer. Holst recommended that the town be open to hiring someone who had already gone through police academy training. The town has only budgeted to hire a cadet, so if someone with existing certifications applies, it will be for a little more salary than the town has budgeted for.

Senior services director Dulcie McAndrews, who runs the town’s senior and community center, came to the meeting to discuss the need for additional staffing there. As she and selectboard chair Jacob Smith explained, the current level of staffing is not enough to keep the center open for all of its regular hours.

McAndrews works 40 hours a week, and

there is also an activities coordinator who works 20 hours a week; the center is open 32.5 hours a week. In practice, with the additional administrative work, this has been a stretch.

Selectboard member Jackie Boyden suggested reducing the hours the center is open. The board also discussed using the senior tax work-off program, and the possibility of volunteers. Town coordinator Bryan Smith reminded the board that both options, while good, would also involve more administrative work.

McAndrews did not make a specific request for how many more staff hours she thinks the center needs, and said she would return with that figure. In response to a question from the selectboard, Bryan Smith confirmed that the town has available tax work-off credits.

Upcoming STM

The board discussed the warrant for the special town meeting scheduled to take place on Monday, November 16.

One item that got some attention was

wording related to a new animal control bylaw, which would replace the existing “dogs and other animals” bylaw. As Bryan Smith pointed out to the board, the wording of the new draft would stipulate that any pet owner would be obliged to pay for an evaluation by a professional animal trainer if anyone lodged a complaint about their animal.

Given the animus of current times, the board recognized the possibility of abuse of this stipulation. The members were not prepared to solve the matter at Monday’s meeting and decided instead to remove the animal control bylaw article from the upcoming STM warrant and get back to the issue later.

After some other minor wording changes, the warrant for the STM was approved.

The remaining articles would pay bills from prior years; add another \$200,000 from capital stabilization for a feasibility study on a new roof and heat pumps at Erving Elementary, already funded for \$200,000; and approve a number of revisions to the zoning bylaws.

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**THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE**

MONTAGUE from page A1

controls most of the controls in our system is ‘air-gapped’,” she told the commissioners, “which means it is not actually connected to the Internet.”

Little also presented data on the projected impact of the closure of the natural foods manufacturing facility Lightlife, located in the airport industrial park, on the CWF’s revenues. She estimated the loss would be approximately \$224,000 annually, hitting her department’s budget in FY’28.

“If we can get another facility in there, that would be awesome,” she said, noting that Lightlife’s discharge also provided “high food loadings” to sustain the micro-organisms the treatment plant relies on to process waste solids.

Little said that the plant could also double the amount of waste it imports from other communities, providing up to \$300,000 in additional revenue, though she noted this would require “some capital investment” upfront.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey said the town had been in communication with Lightlife’s parent company, Maple Leaf Foods, and that a meeting was planned with state officials and legislators to help facilitate a smooth closure and find a replacement. “Conversations are happening at the state level,” he said.

Little announced that CWF foreman Sam Stevens had been chosen by the Massachusetts Water Environmental Association to participate in an “operator exchange program,” in which a member of a local facility’s staff works at a different treatment plant. Stevens has been invited to work in Burlington, Vermont, for three days in November and attend a training seminar there. Montague’s CWF will not receive an operator from Vermont in exchange, Little told the *Reporter*, but another facility in the state probably will.

After telling the commissioners that adding a new mechanic, with the support of town meeting, has been “amazing” because it has allowed the CWF to service various pump stations around the town, Little showed a picture of the recently-constructed “receiving station” for handling waste pumped from local septic systems. She said the computerized station, which will go online in a few weeks, will more accurately measure the amount of septage being delivered and will allow users to pay on site.

Little briefly discussed the plant’s latest permit summary, which measures the targets for waste processing required under its state and federal permits. The facility was well within those targets.

“As we’re heading into the colder seasons,” board member Nate Card asked, “what gets more complicated at the treatment facility, and then are there ways that the public can help?”

“Wintertime actually is more – I guess we kind of call it our quiet season,” Little replied. She said the facility stops chlorinating in October, and that as there are less bacteria, the system does not create as many “solids” to be processed.

A Single Application

The board discussed two potentially contentious issues with town planner Maureen Pollock – a new law that streamlines local permitting for “small-scale” energy projects, and an application by the electric company Eversource to increase

tree cutting adjacent to a set of its high-tension power lines.

Pollock said the new “consolidated permitting” rules, approved by the state legislature in 2024 but going into effect in municipalities this October, will apply to wind, storage batteries, and “small-scale” solar arrays, defined as those capable of generating up to 25 megawatts (MW) of power. Reviews by the appropriate local boards will still take place, but a single final decision will now need to be compiled by a designated “local representative” and submitted to the state for its approval within a year of an initial application.

Card asked about the “footprint” of a 25-MW solar array. Pollock estimated that this would generally take up to 50 or 60 acres of land.

She noted that there were multiple “thresholds” for larger projects, and that “the state has decided that a new board created at the state level... would be reviewing all applications.” Local boards, staff, and residents would be able to make “comments or suggestions” on those proposals.

In response to a question from selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, Ramsey said that none of the solar arrays already built in Montague exceed the 25-MW threshold. Pollock pointed out that under Montague’s zoning bylaws, non-residential solar is only allowed in “industrial” and “historic-industrial” districts.

After expressing concern about the loss of local control over large-scale solar permitting, the board appointed Pollock and assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller as joint representatives to oversee the review of small-scale projects.

A Broader Swath

Pollock also discussed Eversource’s proposal to expand its corridor of tree cutting along a major transmission line that passes through Montague. Pollock said she had met with company officials about the proposal “about a month ago,” and that the project, which would impact a right-of-way that runs through the Montague State Forest in the eastern part of town, would be reviewed by the town conservation commission in the spring.

A memo she included in the selectboard’s meeting materials describes the project in detail and contains links to a range of sources, including Eversource’s own web page on the project and a letter from a group of opponents called Western Mass Towns for a Responsible Grid.

The controversy over the proposal was covered in the *Reporter*’s October 1 edition (*Foes of Widened Corridor Gain Steam With Petition*, Page A1). Eversource argues that widening the cleared corridor will increase the reliability of the grid, preventing blackouts like the ones that occurred in many Northeastern states in 2003 and 2011.

The company is applying for permission to widen the corridor, which ranges from 125 to 334 feet wide, by another 127 to 241 feet, removing all trees and shrubs that can grow over 15 feet high. Only a small segment of the transmission line, which runs from Northfield to Ludlow, is in Montague.

Critics argue that so much tree removal undermines the state’s efforts to address climate change, and that there is no evidence that “a single tree has caused an outage, ever, on the line,” except twice. These complaints have received some traction

with state and local officials.

“It seems like a lot,” said Kuklewicz. “I don’t want to say any more than that, but it seems like a lot.”

Ramsey said the company submitted a “preliminary filing” with the state this summer and is expected to produce an environmental impact study this winter. He suggested that the selectboard might “consider engaging in that process to provide comments” at that point.

Downtown Developments

Ramsey reviewed the process and timeline for the transfer of land on First Street from the town to Habitat For Humanity Pioneer Valley for the construction of six new affordable homes. He reported that lawyers for both parties are working on a deed and land development agreement, which are expected to be brought to the board on November 2.

Notices have been sent to abutters to move any property from the lot, including dumpsters and vehicles, by the beginning of November. Ramsey estimated that the construction will take about three years.

Card asked if any trees on or near the property were town trees, which would require a public hearing prior to removal. Ramsey said he would look into the issue and report back.

Nolan-Zeller requested that the board approve a \$110,000 agreement with the state Office of Administration and Finance for a grant to fund engineering for the replacement of both of the town’s traffic lights, on Avenue A in Turners Falls, and a \$39,500 contract with Berkshire Design to design an access ramp to the storefronts at 102-112 Avenue A.

The board gave both approvals, and also granted Nolan-Zeller the authority to appoint a committee to “pre-qualify” contractors to design the partial demolition of the Strathmore mill complex.

Other Business

The board approved three licenses for Mystic Cat Pinball, which hopes to soon be open at 113-115 Avenue A, for entertainment, food preparation, and “auto amusement devices.” Mystic Cat co-owner Daniel Levine told the board that the entertainment would typically be “a person with a guitar singing into a microphone,” and that there would be no age limit for playing pinball, in order to promote “inclusivity.”

Donning their personnel board hats, the board members approved an agreement with the town airport commission to have public works office manager Brandy Patch provide “temporary administrative support” at the Turners Falls airport.

They also approved Atticus Belmonte for a three-year term on the town’s cultural council.

Ramsey reviewed preparations for the upcoming special town meeting on October 28. A virtual “pre-town meeting information session” and an orientation for new members were scheduled to be held this Wednesday. Selectboard members, he said, were “welcome to attend, but not required.”

The board retired at the end of the meeting into two executive sessions, one to discuss a request for injured-on-duty leave from a police officer and another to discuss the town’s negotiating strategy with the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 183.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, October 26.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on October 20, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

Perky Postman,
Contented Customers

To the 600 or so customers that Barry Troie delivers mail to in Turners Falls, he’d like to say “Thanks! Thank you all for making me feel good every day!”

Barry’s postal career began when he was laid off from his job as a machinist when the company decided to manufacture overseas. He was 45 years old with two little boys, getting retrained to do HVAC, when someone told him the post office was hiring. An opening came up in Turners Falls, and the rest is history.

“This is what I really like doing: walking, running around,” he says. “I’ve had several opportuni-

ties to transfer closer to home [in Bondsville, MA], but everybody is really cool out here, and it lets me decompress on the way up and back every day.”

Twenty Years;
Miniscule Interest

Progress! The Montague selectboard voted on Monday to begin the process of capping the so-called “burn dump” off of Sandy Lane in Turners Falls.

“After 20 years,” joked member Chris Boutwell – although it turns out the burn dump has been closed since 1979.

The town’s current plan is to place a solar array, and perhaps a new town highway garage, on the site. The project carries a price tag of \$96,000, which was appropriated by a Montague town meeting in 2001.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 19, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

A People’s Call to Action

Area activists marched through downtown Brattleboro on Monday and on to the corporate headquarters of Entergy, operators of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, as part of a “People’s Call to Action to Revoke Entergy’s Operating License.”

Horsepower confronted nuclear power as the Glover, Vermont-based Bread & Circus took part in the parade with horse costumes and giant puppets, including a 12-foot-tall Horseman of the Apocalypse that narrowly passed beneath utility wires on Main Street.

Among the locals arrested were John Ward of Gill, Margo Culley of Wendell, and Steve and Suzette Snow-Cobb, David Detmold, Eric Wasileski, and Richard Andersen of Montague.

140 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 20, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The days are now eleven hours long and growing rapidly shorter.

The electric lights show up best on dark evenings, and they prove themselves better than gas beyond comparison.

John Keith, one of the most noted paper manufacturers in the world and a remarkable man, died at his home in Greenfield, Monday morning, after an illness of several months, worn out by the incessant toll of establishing business of great profit, whose wares are unsurpassed in the market, and his death will be mourned by a wide circle.

Road Commissioner Hiram Martin won’t be out done by the Riverside people in the matter of sidewalks, and has begun to build one from L street to the bridge.

A large drove of Mexican ponies has been quite an attraction for several days, and sales of the animals averaged a half-dozen a day. The price has been \$40 each if the owner was allowed to pick, and \$75 would entitle the buyer

to first choice.

The meeting to hear the report of the committee on the site for a trotting park at the Farren house, Friday evening, was large and enthusiastic. The Lonzo Burnham lot was selected, and a committee was chosen to collect funds and make the purchase at once.

Ten years ago, there was a notion that all new business blocks would go up at the lower end of the avenue, but the tendency now is in the opposite direction, and the blocks will thicken between Second and Fourth streets.

Jeremiah Sullivan, 13 years old, of Third street, fell and broke his arm above the wrist, last evening. Dr. Best attended.

Mrs. Zimmerman, 86 years old, who is supported by the town, fell in her yard the other day and broke her hip, from which she is not likely to recover.

The writer has recorded many deaths of persons intimately connected with the business interests of Turners Falls, men whose hearts and souls grew as their work progressed, and the saddest lines have been appended to nearly all – sacrificed by overwork – sowing for others to reap.



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Ed Terault, Owner

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Riverside Building Given WiFi

By KATE SAVAGE

In an eight-minute meeting on Monday, the Gill selectboard announced a grant award and gave updates on the Riverside municipal building.

The town received \$8,400 from the state Department of Environmental Protection’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. Town administrator Ray Purington said the money will be divided between hazardous waste collection, the town’s drop-off compost program, disposing of recyclables, and buying recycling and compost bins for residents who are new in town or need replacements.

Purington announced that the

Riverside municipal building now has WiFi.

“After some hard, hard work,” added selectboard member Jenn Waldron.

The two committees dealing with the future of the building – one focused on its use, the other on its roof – continue to meet regularly, though both had their most recent meetings cancelled because they had failed to post the times publicly in accordance with the state open meeting law.

The board approved two one-day beer, wine, and cider licenses for Hélène Grosvenor of Altamira Cider at 10 Cross Road. The cidery is participating in the countywide Cider Days celebration on Novem-

ber 7 and 8, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

“This is maybe like bar-hopping with cider,” explained selectboard chair John Ward.

The board thanked Tim Batchelder for his work, after he announced he was stepping back from his role as town videographer. Since March 2024, Batchelder has been filming public meetings so they can be posted online and broadcast on MCTV.

The board encouraged anyone interested in taking on that work to step forward.

The next Gill selectboard meeting will be held Monday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Riverside municipal building. Show up on time or you might miss it.

GROUNDWATER from page A1

Hazardous waste, petroleum processing, landfills, scrap yards, large parking lots, and chemical storage would be prohibited in sections of the “Groundwater Protection Area,” as would any commercial water usage in excess of 10,000 gallons per day.

“No groundwater shall be withdrawn for the purpose of commercial sale, bottling, bulk export, or transfer outside the Town where such withdrawal may diminish groundwater levels, aquifer storage, streamflow, wetland functions, drinking water supplies, or ecological resources,” the draft states.

At its October 14 meeting, the health board approved the draft regulation and agreed to send the document on to town counsel for review.

The new regulation is partially in response to two proposals in recent years to build lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Wendell. The first, for a 105-megawatt (MW) facility that would have covered 11 acres within the recharge area of a local aquifer, was withdrawn by the applicant New Leaf Energy in 2024. The second was a 2-MW shipping-container-sized BESS added to the plans for an already-proposed solar array on Lockes Village Road. Wendell Solar LLC, a subsidiary of the solar developer Nexamp, removed the battery from its plans in June but is still pursuing the original project.

Both BESS proposals faced local opposition, and both were withdrawn before undergoing the rigorous BESS permitting process implemented by the board of health in 2024.

With no other legal authority over Nexamp’s proposed array, board members say they are responding to constituents’ concerns regarding the extent of tree-clearing and construction within a wetland buffer zone already approved by the conservation commission.

Nexamp’s array would be on the eastern side of Lockes Village Road, and on the westernmost edge of the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, but it would not be subject to the proposed groundwater regulations because it was first granted a permit in 2018. Since then, Nexamp added permanent stormwater management features to the plan in the form of riprap and swales along the edge of the wetlands.

On September 28 the board of health submitted a comment to the planning board encouraging it to require Nexamp to monitor local groundwater conditions, and to remediate any negative impact of its activity, as a condition of a permit. This request would be equivalent to the planning board applying the health board’s yet-to-be-approved groundwater regulation.

“The Wendell Board of Health finds that the current application has not fully disclosed the potential impacts to the local water table and that nearby wells could be negatively impacted,” the health board wrote. “Since

all residents rely 100% on local groundwater, this proposed industrial development should be held to a higher standard in order to protect public health, safety, welfare, and the environment.”

The board of health also recommended that Nexamp be required to conduct a full hydrogeological study of the site, to test all residential wells within 1,500 feet, and to drill at least three permanent monitoring wells prior to construction. Water tests would be conducted regularly after the array is built, also at the owner’s expense.

“This is not prohibiting development – this is proposing conditions that would establish baseline data, so that if any harm were to come to any wells in the area, we have the ‘before’ data,” board of health chair Amy Simmons said at the October 14 meeting. “We don’t have the power to say ‘you can’t do this’ – we want you to prove that it’s going to be safe.”

Jake Doody, the owner of the property on which Nexamp hopes to install the array, attended the meeting in person and expressed dismay at the conditions proposed by the health board, and at the fact that prior discussions of the project were not all posted on meeting agendas.

“Why is this important now?” Doody asked. “This project has been in front of the town for 18 months. Everybody has had plenty of time. We’re not hiding from anybody. This wasn’t an issue last April, this wasn’t an issue last October, and now it gets brought up.”

“There’s been public outcry,” Simmons said, “and I think a lot of citizens in town were unaware that the project has been moving forward.”

“We’re seeing a flood of letters from townspeople saying they’re very much afraid of this project,” said board of health member Jim Frank.

“So that’s the answer,” said Doody. “You’ve been pressured by public citizens.”

“We’re not trying to blindside the developer in any way,” Simmons said. “We’re making a request for data.”

According to Simmons, the board drafted both the proposed groundwater protection regulations and the comment to the planning board with the help of Glen Ayers, a groundwater expert provided by the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards and paid by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

“The reason for this regulation is because you have no access to municipal water – you’re entirely reliant on groundwater. That’s a special situation,” Ayers, in attendance at the October 14 meeting, explained. “This would be primarily focused on addressing the very high-risk, high-impact activities such as industrial development.”

The conservation commission issued an amended order of conditions for the solar array on October 13, responding to Nexamp’s recent update to the plans.

The planning board’s public hearing on the company’s new revision will continue next Monday, October 26 at 6 p.m.

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Tip of the week ...

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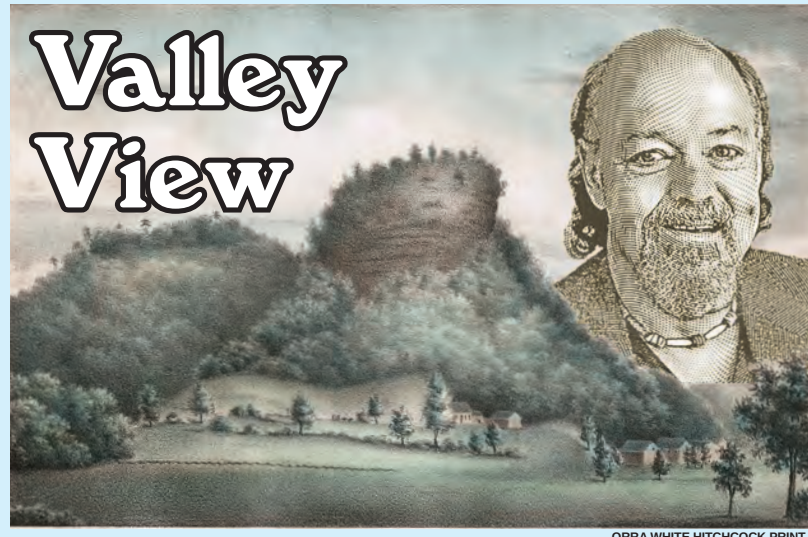
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When the Hills Were Bare

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – The Vermont of my existence has always fit its license-plate description as our neighboring Green Mountain State – a wild place characterized by tall, mix-forested landscapes, deep, craggy ravines, rollicking streams, clear lakes, upland cedar swamps, bottomland bogs, black flies, spruce gum, and dairy farms rimmed with flame-orange fall sugarbush stands.

In my boyhood, it was the state where my friends’ fathers kept tidy, woodstove-heated hunting and fishing camps. There they harvested trophy whitetail bucks and black bears, hounded coons and cats, wing-shot woodcock, partridge, ducks, and geese, landed lunker trout and largemouth bass, and, in later years, called in wild turkeys reborn by aggressive restoration programs predating our own.

Vermont has, to me, been a forested wonderland and sportsmen’s paradise, not to mention the land of the raunchiest, most rough-and-tumble country fairs known to man. As a wide-eyed teen working summer surveying jobs and walking the rowdy midways, I bore witness to the last of the so-called North Country “Fay-uhs,” spoken in that old Vermont Yankee twang. But we won’t go there. Too racy. Not for public consumption – even though it’s history that was very real and near.

Vermont as a wilderness sanctuary, heaven-sent for thriving fish and wildlife populations, was what I had always seen. But little did I know what little I knew. Truth be told, the Vermont forests I adored were young, concealing decades of gross overharvest by the lumber and paper industries.

I would not have dreamed that Vermont forests at the time of my parents’ births, just before 1930, were clear-cut, placing the entire state ecosystem in peril and at a crossroads. That I learned by reading retired Vermont Superior Court judge and historian Robert A. Mello’s new book, *When the Trees*

Came Back: The Great Battle to Save Vermont’s Forests, which chronicles statewide clear-cutting and wildfires that had by the Great Depression pushed Vermont to the brink of ecological disaster.

Yes, it’s a fact that the hillsides were bare, the brooks were dry, important fish and wildlife populations were endangered, and a once-verdant state was on the fast track to barren wasteland resulting from industrial overharvesting and strong political support for the status quo. Forest destruction was profitable, and thus justifiable, environment be damned.

By the Civil War, 60% of Vermont’s forests had been leveled, and it would only get worse. By 1930, the Vermont landscape was even more denuded, with only 25% of the state still forested. Touring the highways today, it’s difficult to imagine what a traveler would have seen back then. The captains of the lumber and paper industries had left their mark, a pathetic scene with severe environmental consequences.

With forests cleared, lumber litter piled high, and forest fires a constant fair-weather threat, the trout streams and mountain springs went dry, the thin upland soil was swept clean by heavy rains, and the once-plentiful wildlife was only a memory.

And that doesn’t even address the damage done to large Connecticut River tributaries by workmen who removed natural riverbed obstacles, such as boulders, rapids, and low waterfalls, to clear the way for damaging, floating log drives to New England’s largest river.

An interesting recent visit by my sister-in-law from Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom provided insight into the current lumber practices near her Essex County mountain home in East Haven. In discussing *When the Trees Came Back*, which identifies Essex County pine and hemlock forests as an important source of pulp wood, she told me that most of the vast forest surrounding her

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

Interview by J. BURKETT and MIKE JACKSON

BRATTLEBORO – This week we have a very special interview with Wendy Levy! Wendy is a radio DJ and longtime music fan who lives in Vermont but can be seen at shows throughout our region. She’s from New Jersey originally, but seems to have adapted well to the area – this year she was elected president of the village of Bellows Falls!

Last year Wendy launched Circuits in the Woods, an electronic music festival in Brattleboro, and she’s put together a second year of the festival for this weekend. It’s at multiple venues and combines local and visiting musicians, a little bit like the Mystra Ooze festival in our own area.

Everyone should go check it out!

MMM: Hi Wendy! Can you tell us about your cool fest that’s coming up? Who is playing?

WL: Hi, Joshua! I’d love to tell you all about it! The fest is one day only: Saturday, October 24. It all starts just after noon and the last set will end just before midnight. Location: downtown Brattleboro.

It’s the second year in a row we’re holding this festival. It’s honoring Vermont’s place in the history of electronic music.

Just after WWII, Brattleboro’s Estey Organ Company hired Harald Bode, who moved here from Germany, to help Estey’s goal of bringing electric organs to private homes. Bode completed his invention of the analog synth in Brattleboro, in his basement workshop. The Synclavier was developed about 60 miles north, in White River Junction, by New England Digital, which had its offices where the Upper Valley Food Co-op is now located. And at least two crucial electronic music pioneers – Charles Dodge,



Wendy Levy

and the late Jon Appleton – settled in Vermont.

Our festival offers 20-plus musicians, coming from Vermont, New England, and beyond, playing a wide variety of genres. The common denominator: they all use electronics to make or manipulate sounds.

Joining Circuits for the first time are dalek, Sunburned Hand of the Man, Emergency Group, You Don’t Nomi, Thorny, eMBee, Denny Kemps, Violet Nox, Snowglobe Almanac, Architrave, Tomestoner, Connor Lin Frost, and Nightmother.

Returning to the festival are Wet Tuna, Jeffrey Alexander and the Heavy Lidders, Dave Seidel, Caldon Glover, Countermoon, and Burial Woods.

We also have an educational component. This year, see **MUSIK** page B2

RECIPES

TOAST: THE BREAD OF THE FUTURE, TODAY

By CLAIRE HOPLEY



HOPLEY PHOTO

Costrada Manchego, a rarebit-style Spanish toast dish that features a paste made of Manchego cheese and white wine, put on a roll with an egg placed on top.

LEVERETT – Does everything taste better on toast? Certainly, many sandwiches benefit from toasting, breakfast wouldn’t be breakfast without toast, and the easiest snack or supper is toast piled with something tasty – especially in this season of cooler temperatures and darker evenings.

Now that electric toasters do the toasting, every bread-eating country probably makes toast, but that wasn’t always so. For centuries before the toaster was invented, North Americans and Brits were the major toast-eaters, because their homes were heated with open fires. Nothing could be easier than sticking bread on a long-handled toasting fork and toasting it before its glow.

Campfires are just as good as fireplace fires. But in hot countries fireplaces were not standard, and in cold countries, where enclosed stoves heated houses, toast didn’t take off as it did for us.

Nowadays many countries have their favorite toasted specialties, such as Welsh Rarebit. It was already well-known in the 16th century: Shakespeare regularly

see **RECIPES** page B8

Above: A drizzly stroll on the bike path by Unity Park.

Pet of the Week



‘ANNIE’

Meet Annie, a nine-month-old Australian Sheperd/mixed breed, who seeks a forever home with people who love long walks and outdoor time to run and play. Treats or toys on hand? Annie will be your best friend.

Annie needs lots of mental stimulation. She loves busy boxes and toys. Since she is still learning the ropes, Annie would benefit from positive reinforcement training moving forward.

She has little experience with other dogs, but does well with those

at the shelter. Any meetups between Annie and a new dog will need to happen at Dakin.

Annie looks forward to meeting you, enjoying getting all the snuggles, and hopefully, becoming your new best friend.

If you’d like to adopt her, call the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield at (413) 781-4000 to be sure she is still available. Adoption hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Visit www.dakinhumane.org for information. The adoption fee is \$399.

MUSIK from page B1

Michael Bierylo, who performs under the name “eMBee,” is giving a workshop on electronic music. And, for the second year in a row, we’re hosting a “Synth Petting Zoo,” where anyone can come and try out a variety of analog synths with guidance from musician and festival co-producer, Trevor Robinson. Please touch the synths!

It all takes place on five stages in four venues in downtown Brattleboro, all within a few blocks of each other. Marigold is our main venue, and we’ll have two stages there so the music will basically be uninterrupted. We’ll also have programming at Turn It Up!, The Wonky Press, and the listening room at Tavernier Chocolates. Yes, you can go see music in a chocolate shop. What a dream!

Oh! And we just got word from Buoyant Heart, located in the old Estey complex, that they are doing an after-party with DJs spinning electronic music.

MMM: Are people ever surprised when you link Vermont to the history of electronic music?

WL: People are always surprised when I link Vermont to the history of electronic music. Their eyes bug out when I talk about Harald Bode finishing his invention of the analog synth in a Brattleboro basement. Their jaws drop when I talk about White River Junction being the birthplace of the Synclavier.

It’s a fun parlor trick, but it does bum me out a bit. Contrary to what Kevin Barnes says, we’re not all hicks up here. And so what if we are, anyway. We’re still inventing cool things, making awesome music, and being friendly.

MMM: How many fests have you done now? What have been some of the highlights and challenges?

WL: This is our second Circuits in the Woods fest. Last year’s highlight was, simply put, how well it went. The performances were fantastic. Everything started on time, thanks to the professionalism of the performers, and the excellent stage-management of our audio engineers, Evan Parks and Wyatt Andrews.

All day, and beyond, people kept coming up to me, telling me how much fun they were having. This included attendees, musicians, festival staff, people who run the venues, and people who work at the



New Haven experimental duo Glasspack perform at last year’s Circuits in the Woods.

venues. We sold out on our advance tickets. We didn’t lose money. It was so much fun, we decided the logical conclusion was to do it again.

I have the best co-producers anyone could ask for. Eric Gagne at Nova Arts helped me turn this idea into an actual event. Trevor Robinson and Jeremy Osborn are this year’s super-stars. Christian Puffer got our website up. Joseph Conrad is our grand negotiator and venue-wrangler, and he is the calm presence everyone needs. Calvin Moen hopped on recently and has done 12 months of work in about three weeks; he is a powerhouse.

Challenges? Doing a music festival in capitalism with a government that doesn’t support the arts. We pay the artists as much as we’re able, thanks to ticket sales and sponsorships, but I would like to pay them more. (This year we’re also selling very limited-edition festival t-shirts as an additional way to raise funds.)

I’d also love to pay myself and my staff. We get very small stipends, but we’re essentially volunteers. It’s a labor of love, but it’s still a lot of work. Having more help, and a lot more sponsorships, would be great. Or someone to write us some big fat grants.

Honestly, my favorite challenge is this: There are far too many bands we’d like to book. You musicians are doing such cool stuff! If I included – and could afford – every act I want to see play at Circuits, it would be a week-long festival. We’re keeping this a one-day festival so we don’t collapse from exhaustion.

We all really want people to be

in the same room, enjoying music and the company of other people. My dear friend Rich in Washington has a radio show on WFMU, and his final sign-off every week is a clip of someone yelling, “Get the fuck off the internet!” This is a big part of why we’re doing this festival.

MMM: What other events have you been to lately?

WL: So many. Last Sunday I saw Roger Clark Miller – of Mission of Burma, Trinary System, Anvil Orchestra, *et al.* – play up here in my town of Bellows Falls at our awesome venue, Stage 33 Live. Roger played a killer set.

This isn’t music-related, but last month I took that Connecticut River boat ride and tour FirstLight does from Northfield to Turners and back. A bunch of friends booked the boat, and boy, was that fun!

The weekend before the boat ride I finally made my way to Tubby’s in Kingston, New York, for the Thor Harris & Friends show. Hour, the Philly band, played, too. Hot damn, was that a good show.

The weekend before that I was at the Showroom in Keene for this show that John Zorn conducted and wrote the music for, but he didn’t play. Flatlands was the band. It was mind-blowing.

The weekend before that I was at Marigold in Brattleboro seeing the Vermen and Couchboy. Powerpop bliss!

The week before that, I was at Next Stage in Putney for the 1990s Neil Young doc directed by Jim Jarmusch. Highly recommended.

see **MUSIK** next page

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 26 THROUGH 30

GILL and MONTAGUE	
The Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call 863-9357.	
Monday 10/26	10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Lunch with Triad 3 p.m. Quilling
Tuesday 10/27	9 a.m. Chair Yoga 10:15 a.m. Therapy Balls 12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday 3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 10/28	10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo 4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Thursday 10/29	1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 10/30	10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. 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 November 17. 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 10/26	9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Seated Fitness 12 p.m. Pitch Game 1 p.m. Yoga
Tuesday 10/27	9 a.m. Stretch and Balance 10 a.m. Line Dancing 11 a.m. Social Stringer
Wednesday 10/28	9 a.m. Interval Training 10 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo
Thursday 10/29	9 a.m. Barre Fusion 12 p.m. Halloween Lunch
Friday 10/30	8:30 a.m. Quilting/Open Sew
WENDELL	
Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is November 4. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.	
For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.	

MR Wrapping Paper Edition • Artist Profile #3

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for our fifth special Wrapping Paper Edition, to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. We received 34 submissions to our call, and we have selected seven artists, including one Youth artist, for our edition this year.

We can’t wait to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special edition, which will go to press on Thanksgiving week!

We are introducing the artists to

you by asking each the same three questions.

Arch MacInnes of Northamp-



ton won with a colorful geometric design. He answers our three questions this week:

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

AM: “Oh boy, a present! And so nicely wrapped!”

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

AM: A sweater, a new shirt or two, maybe a new guitar...

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

AM: Newspapers are essential to society! They are the gift that keeps on giving!

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MUSIK from prev. page

MMM: *Did you grow up out here?*

WL: I’m sorry. I don’t understand the question. What is this thing you call, “grow up”? Haha.

Really, though, I’m originally from Morris County, New Jersey. I moved here to go to school. I moved back and forth between Vermont and NYC/NJ a few times.

MMM: *What music did you grow up with?*

WL: I’m of the age where I grew up with the radio. My Mema loved disco; one of my earliest memories is of driving around in her convertible, listening to her singing along with KC and the Sunshine Band. All three-year-olds should hear their grandma sing, “shake shake shake, shake your booty.”

Mom had the AM radio on in the house and the car all the time; she loves Diana Ross & The Supremes. Dad listened to the classic rock stations and turned the volume up for anything Motown or Stax, ELO, the Rolling Stones, Fleetwood Mac, and Linda Ronstadt. Saturday nights were for Frank Sinatra on the radio. My stepdad loves doo-wop.

It’s no wonder I started listening to WFMU when I was 12 or 13 years old – and, much later, got a show there. I was already a freeform kid! I got into punk, prog, jazz, new wave, what we used to call “indy,” psychedelic music, Weird Al, and all other kinds of stuff when I was a teenager.

Oh yeah, when I was about 9 I got a Smurfs cassette tape that I annoyed the entire neighborhood with.

MMM: *How about favorite shows?*

WL: If you mean television shows, those would be *The Young Ones*, *Columbo*, *Pee-wee’s Playhouse*, Looney Tunes, and *The Rockford Files*.

If you mean music shows, well, I was lucky enough to see the Butthole Surfers when I was 17, and again when I was 19. It ruined

my life in the best way possible. Beyond that, there are far too many to mention. Except maybe those two times I saw the Cramps... I’ll mention that. And that 24-hour Bang on a Can marathon I went to in NYC a bunch of years ago.

MMM: *Have you heard the Klaus Nomi cover band that’s playing your fest?*

WL: Not yet! I booked them because Anna Claire is a delightful person, the project seems too good not to book, and I effin’ love Klaus Nomi.

MMM: *Have you thought of doing a label or running a venue?*

WL: Oh, hell no. If I can help it, I never want to have a job or run an entity that needs to make a profit. It’s too stressful and would require me to make decisions that are contrary to my values. Circuits in the Woods needs to break even; that’s as much money as I want to worry about.

Then again, I’ve been known to change my mind... to quote Walt Whitman, “I contain multitudes.”

MMM: *Any other thoughts about music and the scene out here?*

WL: I have a bumper sticker on the Wendymobile with the title of the Albert Ayler LP, “Music is the Healing Force of the Universe.” I truly believe that.

Regarding the music scene out here, I wish I was younger and there were three of me, because with all the cool stuff happening all the way from the Loading Dock in Littleton, New Hampshire, to venues and house shows in the wilds of western Massachusetts, and points in between, there is no way I can keep up with it all. You people are doing crucial work!

MMM: *Thanks for doing what you do!*

WL: You’re welcome. Thank you for doing what you do! I’d much rather read the paper than some social media bullshit.



PROFILE

Great Falls Creative Movement

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I write about a lot of things out of Turners Falls. Great Falls Creative Movement sounded like a unique thing to write about. A person named Anna Hendricks created this dance program. She has been teaching dance to kids for 25 years.

The Great Falls Creative Movement website states that Hendricks’s teaching is based on a belief that “all humans have the capacity to dance, to move, and to create.”

“The children make up the dances themselves,” Hendricks told me. “They always make up the dances they do. It’s a non-traditional dance program – the style they choose is contemporary dance that mixes together a lot of different styles.”

Hendricks mostly teaches at the dance studio in the Brick House Community Resource Center. “I have been doing this for 17 years,” she told me about how long she has been behind that studio. She went to

Mount Holyoke College as an older adult to study dance and education. She charges a sliding scale of \$8 to \$20 per hour for classes, or \$100 to \$150 for group sessions.

The students put on an annual performance at the Shea Theater. The latest one took place in June, and was called Stream of Movement. “We had a full house, and the kids put on a great show,” she said. There were 30 students, from 6 to 12 years old, featured in the show.

Another thing that is very unique about Great Falls Creative Movement besides the dancing is that they offer online classes for specific communities, including home-school groups, elders, and people with developmental disabilities. Hendricks also teaches programs at Gill Elementary School and at Hillcrest Elementary in Turners Falls.

Hendricks told me she plans on doing the annual show at the Shea every year as long as she is running the program. For anything else you might like to know, go to greatfallscreativemovement.com.

Laundromat Lacks Bathroom; Surveillance Camera Harassed; Vulture Hobbles; Bushes Parked In; Coal Roller Apologizes

Tuesday, 10/13

7:56 a.m. 911 caller from Sunset Drive states the house next door is on fire. Second caller states the house is on fire; truck is in the driveway; unsure if party has come out or not. Chief advises ammunition on scene; he can hear gunshots. Officer requesting medical services for resident. Officer requesting DPW close streets at Turnpike, Oakman, and Autumn. Chief requesting DPW bring buckets of sand to them. Fire marshal contacted.

8:14 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road states her car was broken into overnight and money was taken. Officer spoke with caller; vehicle is no longer on property as she had to go to work. Loose change and a bank card were taken. Caller contacted her bank.

11:16 a.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states that his wife’s vehicle was broken into overnight. An empty wallet and a multitool were taken.

1:17 p.m. 911 caller from Plains Road states that five dogs are running loose across from her home with owners watching; some came in her yard and chased her cat. Caller threatened to shoot the dog, and the dog owners threatened to shoot her cat. Parties advised of options. The beagles had GPS collars on, training for the rabbit season. Owners said the dogs did not go into her yard and were on state land; they verified this with the digital tracking on the GPS device. It is believed the cat was startled by the dogs and jumped on the screen door. The dogs were under control of their handlers through the training collars.

2:52 p.m. 911 caller states that a female wearing a brown sweatshirt, navy pants, and a ponytail and headband is urinating on the sidewalk outside the laundromat on East Main Street. All officers tied up. Caller states female took stuff into the laundromat to do laundry. Officers spoke with caller, who stated that involved party defecated under a porch on East Main Street. Caller took pictures of the involved female in the act and will write a statement and send footage for investigation.

Wednesday, 10/14

2:25 p.m. Caller from Dell Street is concerned about a gray Jeep with no plates on it that has been sitting on the street for about a week, blocking people’s view as they pull out of their driveways. Attempts to contact vehicle owner unsuccessful. Vehicle towed.

4:44 p.m. Caller reports she was walking in the Plains and came across a five-gallon bucket with a battery

attached; took a picture and would like to show it to an officer. Officer advised. Invasive species research. Units clear.

7:51 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting a two-car accident with possible injuries at School and Main streets. Smoke coming from vehicles. Transferred to Shelburne Control; units responding. First caller called back stating a male took off running north. Units on scene did not come across party while *en route*. Male ran into woodline, possibly intoxicated.

K9 *en route*. Third party called in stating she witnessed the accident and erratic operation; units updated. Officer requesting tow. Chief *en route* with drone. Area departments advised to be on lookout. Officers out with male party at Book Mill; party complaining of head pain. EMS requested. Miranda given. Medical on scene. Vehicle towed. AMR transporting party to Baystate Franklin. Message left for DPW to assess guardrail damage.

9:36 p.m. Caller reports neighbor’s apartment is filled with smoke; fire alarms sounding. Caller states the tenant burnt her toast. No active fire.

Thursday, 10/15

7:57 a.m. Car vs. light post on Fosters Road. No fluids, smoke, flames, or injuries. Citation issued.

10:43 a.m. Caller from Third Street states a neighbor is flipping off his Ring camera and talking about genitalia while looking at it. Would like to speak to an officer. Detective advised caller of harassment prevention order process.

11:38 a.m. Caller reports a red car with a dog inside has been parked by the wildlife entrance off East Mineral Road since last night; no one appears to be around. Officer and animal control officer (ACO) advised. Officers spoke to female in vehicle; no need for assistance. Living out of car. ACO canceled.

1 p.m. Officer checking on vehicle with no plates and all tires flat in the Farren lot. Tow requested. Officer checking old address to see if male is there. No answer; mail backed up.

3:58 p.m. Caller from Randall Road advises her black Lab took off around noon; states he is wearing a collar, is friendly, is roughly 11 years old, and has some white to his fur. Advised caller that call would be logged. Caller called back stating that the dog is at the dog shelter and inquiring if she can get him tonight. Advised caller ACO deals with the shelter and nobody was on at this time; advised to call tomorrow.

4:45 p.m. Caller states that there are multiple people

at the top of a Mormon Hollow Road location that should not be there. Caller advises they are causing loud noise like banging pipes. Officer advises nobody in the area. Residence is boarded up. Negative contact with caller.

8:57 p.m. 911 caller from Federal Street states that he heard what sounded like four gunshots coming from a southern direction. All units tied up. Shelburne Control contacted; Erving will check area. Officer and Erving PD canvassed the area at length; unable to find anyone.

9:37 p.m. Caller states a tractor-trailer unit is idling near Keith Apartments causing a noise disturbance. Units advised of call. Caller called back and said the rig has moved.

11:45 p.m. Caller states that two parties are fighting in the Discovery Center parking lot; would like officers to respond. Verbal argument. One party taking a walk and will keep it down. Units clear.

Friday, 10/16

8:18 a.m. Caller from Third Street wants on record that a female keeps flipping off and staring into his Ring camera.

3:05 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at a Fifth Street property since September; caller has had to pay to remove several mattresses. Caller has camera footage. Referred to an officer.

4:12 p.m. 911 caller reporting two individuals on a dirtbike and minibike near Montague Village Store. Caller states they seem to be operating in an unsafe manner. Officer out with individuals on South Ferry Road. Mother of one party taking custody of juveniles and possession of bikes.

5:40 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road reports a vulture hobbling in the roadway. Call logged.

Saturday, 10/17

1:48 a.m. 911 caller from South Street states that there is a truck in the field by her house, and no one should be on the property at this time of night. Lights are on in the truck and someone has a flashlight. Officers advised. Employee of business; he’s allowed to be there.

6:22 a.m. Caller reports she saw a vehicle with heavy front-end damage parked in front of Greenfield Savings Bank. She turned around and checked on the male in the vehicle, who stated he was fine and waiting for a tow truck. Officer advises vehicle is on the sidewalk in the bushes. Debris in area; fluids on ground. Requesting FD. No medical. A 36-year-old Greenfield man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor

or over .08%; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and marked lanes violation.

1:45 p.m. Walk-in reports that around 11:44 this morning, a truck purposefully blasted him with thick black exhaust while he was holding a sign as part of a peaceful protest. Officer spoke to reporting party and driver of vehicle. Operator states he will apologize about the incident. Caller states he spoke to the individual who was operating the vehicle and states he apologized sincerely and was very sorry for making a stupid choice. Caller states he is appreciative of the party who caused the issue and expressed his gratitude in regards to help with this call.

3:49 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states she and her husband have located tents on her property; requesting officer to location. Caller advises husband will be posting the property and that they found drugs at one of the locations. Officer advises he will drop a bag of medication off at the hospital.

7:42 p.m. Report from Masonic Avenue of two instances of someone jiggling the locked door handle to make entry into their home. The second time, the son reported that the male was obscuring his face and looking for someone specific. Officer spoke to caller and son and advised them to call for any further suspicious activity and also to potentially acquire security cameras.

Sunday, 10/18

4:49 a.m. Caller states she just hit a deer on the curve by the airport on Millers Falls Road. Damage to vehicle; no airbag deployment. Officers advised. Report taken. Message left for DPW.

4:07 p.m. Caller from Poplar Street states that a turkey vulture is hobbling around in his backyard. Believes it may have an injured wing. Advised caller call would be logged; advised environmental police of call’s nature. EPD advises they are going to leave it be as it is still hunting season. Caller advised. Caller states he spoke to a vet in South Deerfield who was willing to help if caller could get the bird there.

8:43 p.m. Text to E-911 reporting loud music and noise from a Central Street location. Officer made contact with individuals, who stated they were sorry and turned the music down.

11:12 p.m. Caller states that they were at a haunted hay ride in South Hadley and her AirPods and keys were stolen; they were tracked to Randall Road. Officer retrieved items and notified caller that they can pick them up at the station.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

little Sixties settlement is still owned and systematically logged by paper companies. In fact, she said, her property and that of her neighbors was purchased from a paper company.

Mello's book caught my attention a few months ago because I thought it may provide insight into what had happened simultaneously to our western Massachusetts forests. We, too, had lost 75% of our forest cover by the 1880s, but I think most of it was cleared by farmers opening new cropland and pasture, not lumber and paper barons feeding the industrial pig, though I assume there was some of that here as well. Our own paper mills in places like Turners Falls and Holyoke would have also been on the lookout for lumber to feed their pulp mills.

A local case of forestry loss impacting a town's 19th-century population loss was that of Conway. By the mid-19th century, much of that hilltown's upland forest had been removed and there was nothing left to hold thin topsoil in place during heavy rains and spring

runoff. Low agricultural yields then led to a mass exodus of farm families to the greener pastures of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois, where they hoped to improve their self-sustaining family-farm prospects while cashing in on cheap land incentives.

As a hunter touring the Conway woodlands, I often found abandoned farmhouse sites by stumbling across hidden cellar holes accompanied by an apple tree or two, lilac bushes, and maybe even a stone-clad well hidden under deep forest canopy. Such cellar holes are common in our hilltown forests. Curious about the story behind them, I searched for answers and learned of that 19th-century exodus to better Midwestern land.

This is not to suggest there was not expansive lumber and paper-mill logging in western Massachusetts forests; just that it was conducted on a lesser scale than in Vermont. The closest author Mello creeps to Franklin County is his look at the Deerfield River Company, the Deerfield Valley Railroad, and the Deerfield Lumber Company – all of which were

involved in large-scale clearcutting by paper and lumber industries in the Wilmington, Vermont neighborhood extending south toward Heath, Rowe, Monroe, and Charlemon.

An important lesson to take from Mello's tale of Vermont forest destruction fueled by industrial greed is the political battle between the conservation and industrial camps. Boiled down, it parallels our current climate-change debate in many ways. As the conservation advocates preach immediate policy change, opposing politicians, scientists, and profiteers with deep connections to industry weave oppositional disinformation and wads of cash into the debate.

In Vermont, the forestry-management argument endured for some 80 years. Conservation advocates favored an innovative, environmentally-friendly approach, but on the other hand, the pro-industry camp favored timber farming and widescale industrial logging.

The pro-industry folks held that clear-cutting and regeneration were good for forest ecosystems. Plus, they were determined to

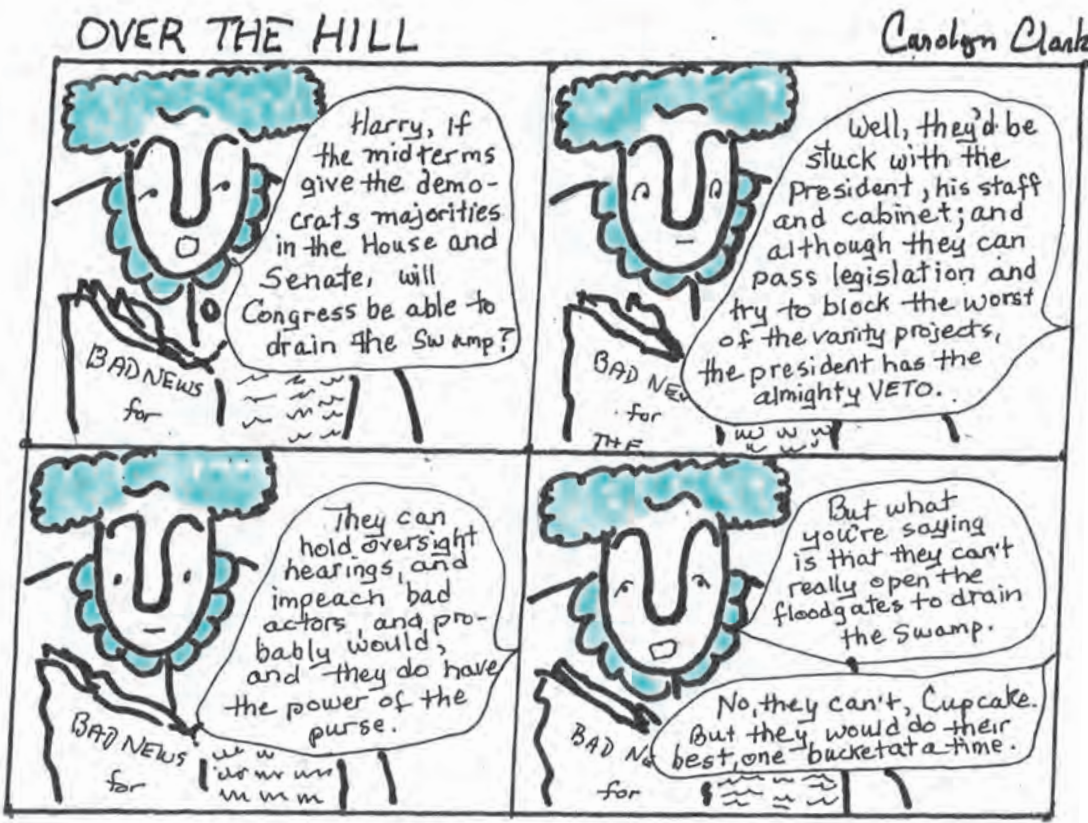
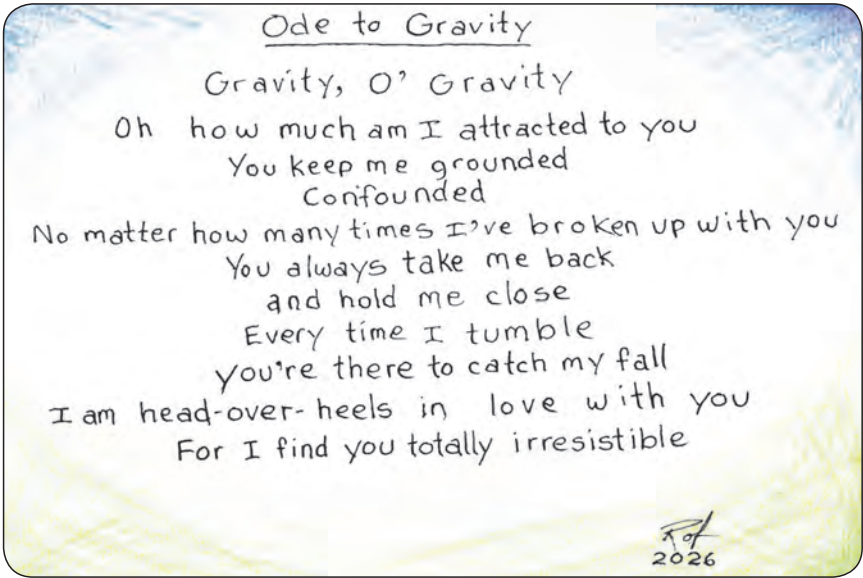
protect private landowners' rights. Government regulation of logging on private property was wrong, they said, if not unconstitutional, and certainly un-American.

Public opinion was shaped by upstanding industrial families who were important community members, held political office, and owned newspapers. So, the impasse endured for decades as forests fell and landscape destruction continued. That should sound familiar. We're living it today, as the fossil-fuel industry twists facts to drive its message in the global-warming debate.

When the Trees Came Back is a good read for anyone interested in regional history and perspectives about conservation, forest, fish and wildlife management, and environmental protection.

It shows that in environmental debates, perseverance pays.

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



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The Children's Page

YONERMOD ILLUSTRATION

Through The corn Maze, here we go! The SKY above,
The Earth below. But where is the exit? Not this way!

Words by Beverly Ketch & Pictures by Hannah Brookman

Turn around, Search and stray! It's fall and time

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Music Connection, Turners Falls: Listening party for new *Olivia Tremor Control* album. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Urine My Garden: Why and How to Peecycle*, ecological sanitation talk and discussion with Seeds of Solidarity and Rich Earth Institute staff. 6 p.m. Free.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Heartbroken Sutz, Miracle Curse, La Claire, Shane "Bray" Kerr, Julipode*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Glasss, Negative Action, Divergents*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *"David Bowie," "Neil Young," "Nina Simone," "Stevie Wonder," "Klaus Nomi," "Velvet Underground."* Other costumes encouraged. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Documentary, *Far Out: Life On & After the Commune* (2024). Discussion with filmmaker Charles Light, Daniel Kelle, Sam Lovejoy, and Patty Carpenter follows. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst: *Christian McBride & Ursa Major*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Carsie Blanton, The Burning Hell*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ella Aslin, Hazel Basil, Lila!*. 9 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Food City, Turners Falls: *Flu Clinic*. Covid and pneumonia vaccines also available. Walk-ins welcome. Bring your insurance card if you have one. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

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

Leverett Town Hall, Leverett: *Cribbage*. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *Clue: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater*. Tickets include pasta dinner. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *The Addams Family*. 7 p.m. \$.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Briezyjane and the Hurricane*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Florence VFW, Florence: *Dawn of Sorrow, Siberian Kiss, Fifth World, Bullzeye, Six2Twelve, Industry Standard*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Choke Out, Obsolescence, Caedus, By Virgil's Guide*. 7 p.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Creative Writing, Dominick & The Family Band, Slowpoke Records*. 7 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Outer Shapes, Feldspar00000, Mary Jester, iKandy*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

118 Elliot, Brattleboro: *Al Margolis, KBD, Matt Weston, KaneLoggiaHypothesis & Scott Prato*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Doctor Gasp, Moon Hollow*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Vapors of Morphine, King Saison*. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jacob Kordas*. 8 p.m. No cover.

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

Blackbird, Northampton: *Princess Ghoul, So Le Noid*. 8 p.m. Free.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

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. \$.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Forest Health and Managing Forest Fire Risk*, talk and discussion. 1 p.m. Free.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Swedish Dance*. Intro workshop, yummy snacks, open dancing. Live music on five-string fiddle and nyckelharpa. 1:30 p.m. \$

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: *Kids' Costume Party*. Music, snacks, games, prizes. 5 p.m. Free.

Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant: *Owsley's Owls, Grateful Dead* tribute. 6 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Ghost Town at Sundown*. Pop-up trick-or-treat village on the common. 6 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Zoe Tuck*, book launch; *Ell Davis; Miriam Saperstein; Sarah Ahmad*. Readings. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *Clue: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater*. Tickets include pasta dinner. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Dan Belmont Jazz Quartet*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

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

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *The Addams Family*. 7 p.m. \$.



Veteran singer and songwriter Claudia Schmidt, an early fixture on A Prairie Home Companion, gives a concert of acoustic music and storytelling this Saturday at the Unitarian church in Greenfield.

All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Claudia Schmidt*. 7 p.m. \$.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Josephine Foster, No Land, Moon Bros*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Ruby Vine, Northfield*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Insane Clown Posse*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Rumyn, Couchboy, Datura*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Institute for the Musical Arts, Williamsburg: *Bitch, Kay Turn Her, The Pages*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

The Drake, Amherst: *Lady Lamb, Space Cowboy Newt*. 8 p.m. \$.

Catamount Hill Forest Farm, Colrain: *E. Rose, Head of Wantastiquet, Shane "Bray" Kerr, Cursed Image*. 8 p.m. By donation.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Tin Can Paper Making*, workshop with materials provided. Ages 6 and up. 10:30 a.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Open Up!*, installation by Lo Roux, through October.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Migrations*, colorful works depicting scenes of village life, history, and Mayan culture in Guatemala, through November. *Day of the Dead Altar*, built by local families, on display until November 3.

Montague Center Library, Montague: *Flower Show*, paintings by Kate Spencer. Through November, with a reception Monday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: Guest artist *Emet Aron* of Dream Seed Arts displays prints, ceramics, and wearables, through November. Guest jeweler *Chelsea Dupuis*, through November, with a reception this Saturday, October 24 at 1 p.m.

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

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Color Stories*, paintings, prints, drawings, and quilts by Sarah Stroud, Sara Casilio, and Lori Lynn Hoffer, through October.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Photography and collages by *Morgan RaShel Kelner*, through October.

Greenfield Library, Greenfield: *Coalescence*, group show by Laura Davis, Jorie Morgan, and Whitney Robbins. Through October, with a reception next Friday, October 30 at 5:30 p.m.

GCTV, Greenfield: *Headspace 3*, immersive installation of over 150 large multimedia illustrations and sculptures by Connor O., through December.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Bernardston: *A Touch of Whimsy*, fanciful and humorous art, through this Sunday, October 25.

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

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Floorscapes: From Mountains to the Sea*, new designs on painted table mats and runners by Joanne Gold, through October.

New England Visionary Artists Museum, Northampton: *Gaia's Garden*, paintings by Charlotte Treiber and Jules Jones, through October.

CALL FOR ART

HumanArtis Gallery in Northampton is looking for portraiture and figurative work featuring people, doing what they do, for an exhibit called *Humans Being Human*. Submission deadline is November 7 for December show. Email info@humanartis.org with "Entry Question" in the subject to learn how to submit.

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CALENDAR



Leverett Town Hall, Leverett:
Council on Aging Luncheon,
with talk by All Out
Adventures executive director
Karen Foster. Contact [coa@
leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us) to order
lunch. 12 p.m. Free.

Shelburne-Buckland
Community Center, Shelburne
Falls: *Pie Potluck Party*, hosted
by the Franklin Community
Co-Op. Homemade pie
competition, pie sharing,
door prizes, kids’ activities.
1 to 3 p.m. Free.

Ja’Duke Theater, Turners Falls:
The Addams Family. 2 p.m. \$.

Erving Public Library, Erving:
Book club, *Remarkably
Bright Creatures* by
Shelby Van Pelt. 2 p.m. Free.

Raymond Hall at NMH, Gill:
Rays of Hope, concert by
Northfield Mount Hermon
students. Fundraiser for
local breast cancer care
and research. 3 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving:
Trick or Treat. 4 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records,
Florence: *Alexander,
Glockabelle*. 4 p.m.
By donation.

Turners Falls High School,
Turners Falls: *Clue: Murder
Mystery Dinner Theater*.
Tickets include pasta
dinner. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Quarters, Hadley: *Western
Mass Electronics*, with
featured artist *Sandy Cilantro*.
Bring your own synth,
drum machine, sampler,
etc. 7 p.m. No cover

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Freak
Phone, Inner Cross, Owen
Manure, Fugue State,
Jackals*. 7 p.m. \$.

Haze, Northampton:
*Sleep Destroyer, Eevie
Echoes & The Locations,
Riconnaissance*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro:
*Cursed Image, Handfruit, Jake
and Scott, beetsblog*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Brewery at Four Star Farms,
Northfield: *Moon Hollow*.
3 p.m. No cover.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls:
Writing the Arcane Workshop.
For teens and adults;
registration req’d. 5 p.m. Free.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *Rodrio y
Gabriela*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Cold Spring Hollow,
Belchertown: *HSFB, Levogyre,
Diagram:A, Hurry Scurry,
Scald Hymn*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:
Adult book group, *Tom Lake*
by Ann Patchett. 11 a.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Sheffield Elementary, Turners
Falls: *Flu Clinic*. Covid and
pneumonia vaccines also
available. Walk-ins welcome.
Bring your insurance card if
you have one. 3 to 5 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:
Matinee, *All About Eve*
(1950). 4 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

Carnegie Library, Turners
Falls: *Pokémon Club*.
For teens. 5 p.m. Free.

Colonial Theater, Keene:
Josh Ritter. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Jordan Bashaw. 9 p.m.
By donation.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

Discovery Center, Turners
Falls: *Landscapes of the
Montague Plains*, natural
history talk with geologist
Richard Little, ecologist
Mike Akresh, and MassWildlife
staff. Register at [tinyurl.com/
montagueplains](http://tinyurl.com/montagueplains). 5 p.m. Free.

Madhouse Multi-Arts,
Greenfield: *Rockin’ Puppies*.
5:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

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.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Cloudgaze Productions
presents *A Happening VI:
Salvage*. Immersive art
experience. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Darlings, Northampton: *“Tom
Petty,” “Bill Withers,” “Kate
Bush,”* music of *Twin Peaks*.
Other costumes encouraged.
7 p.m. By donation.

Brick House, Turners Falls:
*“The Sundays,” “Suicide,”
“Violent Femmes,” “Grizzly
Bear,” “Ween,” “Bob Weir,”
“Iron & Wine.”* Other costumes
encouraged. 7:30 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

Wendell Meetinghouse,
Wendell: *The Gift of Life*,
songs by Steve Alves. 4 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Greenfield Garden Cinemas,
Greenfield: Screening, *Mister
Roberts* (1955). Discussion
prior to the movie with
theater historian Jonathan
Boschen. 6:30. p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben
Falkoff Trio*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: *Steve
Gunn, Spectre Folk*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

Deep Thoughts, Northampton:
*Bob Desaulniers, Girshwin,
Junk Orbit*. 7 p.m. By donation.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Living Room, Florence:
*Kristine Leschper, Hoonah,
Mr. Michael Motorcycle*.
7 p.m. By donation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Living Room, Florence:
*Jeff Coyne, beetsblog,
Purse, Jetties*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Second Congregational
Church, Greenfield: *GCC
Community Chorus* fall
concert, “Songs of North
America.” 7:30 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Nova Arts, Keene:
*Lafayette Gilchrist,
Hearing Things*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
*Paper Jays, Bent Light,
Creative Writing*. 9 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Montague Common
Hall, Montague Center:
*Taylor Ho Bynum Quintet,
Montague Marching Band*.
Fundraiser for the Common
Hall accessibility plan.
6:30 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Hutghi’s, Westfield:
*Jeanines, Now,
Time Thief*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Brick House, Turners Falls:
*Whait, Bow and Arrow,
K8A*. 8 p.m. \$.

Tubby’s, Kingston NY: *LUCY,
God’s Wisdom*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Polish American Club,
Feeding Hills: *Western
Mass Record Convention*.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Stone Church, Brattleboro:
Owsley’s Owls. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Palladium, Worcester:
*American Football, She’s
Green*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

Wistariahurst Museum,
Holyoke: *Peter Evans*.
7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *Richard
Thompson & Band,
Clayton Linthicum & Quinn
Bachand*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

looking forward...

Halloween weekend, October 30 and 31, Cloudgaze Productions will take over the Shea Theater for its sixth annual “Happening,” bringing together over 50 artists from around the region to build an immersive world, with “new lore and rituals that develop through the years.” This year’s theme is “Salvage”: “audiences will visit... a community shaped by loss, and move through memories that lead to joyful celebration.” Two 90-minute showings are offered each night. Above: Scenes from the 2023 and 2024 Happenings.

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RECIPES from page B1
twitted his Welsh characters for their fondness for cheese.

My Welsh grandfather made Welsh Rarebit the original way. He put thin slices of cheese and a splash of milk on an enamel plate set about 18 inches from the coal fire. He watched as the cheese gradually melted, and at the right moment he tipped it on the toast he'd made while guarding the melting cheese.

Nowadays Welsh Rarebit is usually made in a saucepan over a low burner. Beer sometimes replaces the milk. Another variation keeps the milk, but stirs in beaten eggs just as the cheese melts. With a vegetable such as tomatoes or broccoli on the side, the eggy version below is a quick and moreish meal.

Spain has a rarebit-style toast called Costrada Manchego. Covered in a paste of manchego cheese and wine, the toast is tucked into a baking pan and broiled to soften the topping. A fried or poached egg then goes on top, and a sprinkle of parsley and garlic zings the flavor. An even simpler and much-loved Spanish breakfast choice is a roll or piece of baguette dressed with olive oil and garlic and spread with freshly grated tomatoes.

Locally, the Upper Bend Café and Bruncheonette on Avenue A in Turners Falls offers several on-toast dishes, among them refried beans served on griddled sourdough with shredded iceberg lettuce and a chili sauce.

Co-owner Billy McKerchie explains that they created this to solve a problem: “We use the cooking liquid from beans to make our vegan sauces, which resulted in us having many leftover beans to deal with.” Cooking them Mexican-style and piling them on toast was the answer. “It’s a dish we came to out of necessity,” McKerchie says. “It turned out to be one of our most popular.”

Beans on toast is also wildly popular in Britain. Indeed, it’s counted as an archetypical British dish. In fact it riffs on New England baked beans. In the late 19th century the Heinz company of Pennsylvania decided to market canned baked beans in the UK. Instead of packing them in the traditional New England molasses-based sauce it switched to tomato sauce and marketed them as an exotic luxury in fancy London stores.

Now they sell over 540 million cans a year – and that doesn’t take account of the numerous copycat brands. Kids are major consumers.

Bananas on toast is another kid-pleasing quick-fix. It’s cinnamon-flavored bananas with a melted sugar topping. You can use muffins, toasted waffles or even French toast as the base. As the Upper Bend’s McKerchie notes, “Toast is a great vehicle for basically any food combination you’re into.”

Among the creations of the Upper Bend cooks there’s also tahini and marshmallow toast, blue-

BAKED BEANS ON TOAST

This recipe recreates the flavors of the canned beans served on toast in Britain.

1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 can navy or great northern beans
¼ cup tomato ketchup
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 tsp. sugar
½ tsp. white vinegar
salt and pepper to taste
2 or 3 slices thick-cut sandwich bread, buttered



In a small bowl mix the cornstarch to a thin paste with a tablespoon of cold water. Set aside. Put a sieve over a medium-size saucepan and drain the beans. Set the beans aside. Mix the tomato ketchup and

Worcestershire sauce into the liquid in the pan. Stir in the sugar, vinegar and ¼ cup water. Now add the beans

and simmer over moderate heat. Take a tablespoon of this liquid and stir it into the cornstarch, then stir that into the beans. The sauce should not be too thick, so dilute it with a little more water as needed to make it medium-thick. Taste and add more sugar, vinegar, or Worcestershire sauce as you think fit. Keep it hot while you toast and butter the bread. Put a slice of toast on each plate and pour the beans on top. Sausages or bacon can be served alongside, if you like.

Serves 2 or 3.

COSTRADA MANCHEGO

1½ Tbsp. chopped parsley
pinch of salt
1 clove garlic, minced
8 oz. Manchego cheese, grated
¼ cup white wine
4 eggs
2 bolos or English muffins



Turn the oven to 450° F and lightly grease a shallow baking pan that can hold the toast in a single layer. Mix the parsley, salt, and minced garlic and set aside. Mash the cheese and white wine to form a spreadable paste. Halve and toast the bolos or muffins. Spread the paste on top, lay it in the baking pan, and put it in the oven. Keep an eye on the toast and remove to individual plates when the topping is just a little bubbly – about 2 or 3 minutes. Meanwhile, fry or poach the eggs. Place one on each toast and sprinkle with the parsley-garlic mixture.

Serves 2 to 4, depending on appetites.

WELSH RAREBIT

2 eggs (optional)
8 oz. extra-sharp cheddar
3 Tbsp. milk
black pepper to taste
2 or 3 slices sandwich bread, toasted



If using the eggs, beat them together in a small bowl and set them aside. Slice the cheddar thinly. Put the milk in a medium saucepan, add the cheese, and cook over low heat until the cheese has melted. If using the eggs, add them and stir for about 2 minutes or until the eggs and cheese are

mixed and thick. Season with pepper, spread on hot buttered toast, and serve immediately.

Serves 2 or 3.

BANANAS ON TOAST

2 ripe bananas
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. nutmeg or ginger
2 whole wheat English muffins, split
About 2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. light or dark brown sugar



Turn the broiler to 500° F and lightly grease a baking pan that will hold the muffin halves in a single layer. Mash the bananas with the cinnamon and nutmeg or ginger. Set

aside. Spread butter on the muffin halves and toast them – under the broiler or in a toaster – until the butter has melted and the muffins are lightly browned. Remove and put the mashed bananas on top. Place in the prepared pan and sprinkle with the brown sugar. Put under the broiler for about 2 minutes and watch until the sugar melts, then remove quickly, before it has time to burn .

Serves 2.

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