

The Montague Reporter

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

State Provides \$456,000 for Make-Ready Work at Farren

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its meeting on Monday the Montague selectboard endorsed all of the articles on the October 28 special town meeting warrant, including a \$1.75 million appropriation to study the feasibility of combining the town’s two elementary schools, which generated a good deal of discussion.

The board also discussed three newly announced state grants, including \$456,000 to fund infrastructure at the former Farren Hospital site; approved a number of requests from the assistant town administrator involving construction and demolition projects; and recognized October as Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

The discussion of the feasibility study for the schools, which would include a “schematic” design for the project, began with a presentation by former town administrator Steve Ellis, who served last year on the Gill-Montague school committee and now sits on the elementary school building committee.

see MONTAGUE page A7

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Must Decide Which Parts of Town Are Cultural

By GEORGE BRACE

At its meeting on Tuesday, the Leverett selectboard held the first of two scheduled public hearings to explore the possibility of creating a state-designated cultural district. Following the hearing the board took up regular business, including a request concerning the Pledge of Allegiance and news about the historical Graves Ironworks site.

Cultural districts are administered through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) with the stated goals of driving economic growth, strengthening local character, and improving the quality of residents’ lives. The MCC requires two hearings for consideration of the designation, and selectboard member Jed Proujansky said the intention Tuesday was to gather residents’ thoughts on the overall idea, and on which Leverett cultural features should be included.

Proujansky said he had asked the MCC if the whole town could be declared a cultural district, and the

see LEVERETT page A5

BEFORE THE FROST



JARED PEARSON PHOTO

The scene Wednesday afternoon at Red Fire Farm. Dablias and other late-blooming flowers can be a lifeline to bees as other food sources dwindle, providing them with nectar and pollen before the hard frosts set in.

High School Sports: Eyes on the Playoffs



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Made it: George F. Bush of Fourth Street, a former student, teacher, and coach at Turners Falls High School and a present fan, is congratulated by well-wishers last Saturday at the French King Restaurant at the celebration honoring his 100th birthday.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – As we head deeper into October, coaches are starting to think about the post-season. Unfortunately, the western

Mass teams’ strength of schedule may give them lower seedings in the MIAA playoff brackets. Several coaches outlined for me how the second season is shaping up, and what they need to do to improve

their standings.

The night with the most home games was last Friday. I went to see golf, two field hockey games, two varsity soccer matches, and a volleyball game, and I even visited the Thunder’s JV soccer match. While at Turners, I enjoyed delicious international food at the high school’s Culture Night celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

Elsewhere that night, the Football Eagles defeated Ware for the first time in 11 years. And on Monday and Tuesday, Franklin Tech beat Turners in volleyball and field hockey.

Field Hockey

TFHS 0 – Palmer 0
FCTS 8 – Mahar 0
West Springfield 6 – TFHS 0
FCTS 5 – TFHS 0

Last Thursday, October 1, the Turners Field Hockey Thunder

see SPORTS page A6



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’s Ella Larouche (right) dribbles downfield on Tuesday, attracting Tech defenders (left to right) Cammy Jacques, Leah Meattay, and Teagan Donahue.

Pioneer Towns Reject Region; Tech School Debt OK’ed

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Two special elections were held Tuesday that may determine the shape of public education in the area for decades to come.

By a 53.7% majority, voters in the 19 towns that comprise the Franklin County Regional Vocational Technical School District authorized the district to borrow \$236,572,983 to build a new school next to its current, half-century-old building.

In five of the towns – Buckland, Shelburne, Colrain, Orange, and Greenfield – a majority of voters opposed the measure. Conway voters were tied, 87 to 87.

For six of the towns, Tuesday was a dual election, with voters also casting ballots on whether to form a new school district.

Majorities in Northfield, Bernardston, and Leyden – the towns currently in the Pioneer Valley regional district – opposed the measure, putting to rest a regionalization study process that began nine years ago. Failing in even one of the towns would have meant the proposal failed.

Voters in Warwick, which left Pioneer in 2023 in order to keep its elementary school open, opposed the new region by a margin of over 4 to 1, though if Warwick had been the

see SCHOOL page A5

Center School Announces It Will Close After This Year

By MIKE JACKSON

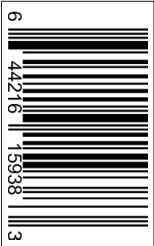
GREENFIELD – Facing a perfect storm brought on by declining enrollment and debt on a new \$10 million building, and following a yearlong fundraising effort aimed at patching a steep deficit, the directors of the Center School in Greenfield announced this week that the school will close in June.

The private pre-K through 8th grade school, founded in 1981 on a progressive education model, is the latest in a wave of private grade schools and colleges in the Northeast to close or merge.

“This is an extraordinarily difficult decision for a community that means so much to all of us,” the board of directors wrote in an official online statement, adding that the vote was unanimous: “[D]eclining enrollment, rising operating costs, significant annual fundraising needs, and the financial burden of our building have created circumstances that are no longer financially sustainable.”

Enrollment data on *US News & World Report* collected before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic cited 29 preschoolers and 122 students in grades K through 8 – with a 7:1 student-to-teacher ratio, and an average class size of nine. This

see CENTER page A3



Fire Upon Babylon

Facing a Perfect Storm.....A1
Herded Under Desks.....A2
Stretched as Far as Possible.....A3
Worked the Internal Things.....A4
Offered to Feel Them Out.....A5
Absorbed Their Impact.....A6
Coming Down the Highway.....A7

Nipped the Vines and Flower Beds.....A7
Killed by an Unknown Animal.....A8
Masquerading as Shells.....B1
Doomed in the Big Picture.....B1
Wrapped in Newspaper.....B2
Located on the Ground.....B3
Set on a Starship.....B3

In Revolt Mode.....B4
Walking on Your Damn Lawn.....B4
Cracked and Overgrown.....B5
Guided Autonomously.....B5
Osmia, Stella Kola, Kielbasa.....B6
Tiffany, Doozy Jane, Dementia.....B7
Might Have Trouble Wrangling.....B8

The Montague Reporter

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August 2002



Russell McCumber cuts up a roll of brown paper for the Montague Reporter at his violin workshop in Turners Falls. We use the brown paper to wrap and label papers going out to our mail subscribers, and cutting the big roll into smaller sections saves us a lot of time slicing and dicing. Thanks, Russell!

Horses Before Carts

On November 9, 2017 we reported on a unanimous vote by the Gill-Montague regional school committee authorizing superintendent Michael Sullivan to apply for a Department of Revenue grant to study the feasibility of three different configurations of either sharing services, or merging, with the Pioneer Valley Regional and Franklin County Technical districts.

In our November 30, 2017 edition we wrote that school committee and town officials had sat down with “four members of the HEART Committee, a group operating in Pioneer’s member towns that is similarly concerned about their own district’s sustainability.... The Pioneer contingent expressed surprise over the efficiency grant, saying they had recently applied for a smaller grant for similar consulting.”

One HEART member, Leyden finance committee chair Michele Giarusso, said her group felt that “if you don’t have the parents and the community involved right away” in school reform efforts, “you’re going to have a failure.”

It took nearly nine years for the super-regionalization idea to be refined and put to a vote, and the answer is clear: Most families in Northfield and Bernardston do not want their children to go to high school in Turners Falls.

If the next chapter is starting over with a new study – of bringing Gill and Montague together with Greenfield, for example – it may be wise to *first* bring the families of the different communities together to get to know each other better.

If they decide they want to build a bigger district together for their kids’ sake, they’ll make it happen.

Letters to the Editors

Guns Correlated With Shootings

The middle school where I taught in New York scheduled regular lock-down drills. Classroom doors were locked and students were herded under desks, or into closets or storage rooms. We practiced hiding from a “potential shooter,” meaning a guy with an automatic weapon intent on murder.

That’s right, murder. There is no other use or purpose for an automatic weapon except murder... no other use for any gun except to kill, and if not killing an animal for food, guns are always used for murder or assault.

Massachusetts has the second-lowest rate of gun violence in the United States. Why? Because we live in a state that has strong gun safety laws.

I’d like to keep it that way. That’s why I’ll vote yes on ballot Question 9 this election day. Yes, I want to keep our gun laws strong. Yes, I want to keep our children safe. Yes, I want to keep automatic weapons out of the hands of “potential shooters.”

Lillian Moss
Turners Falls

Exercises of Democracy

Americans have three tried-and-true places to make our voices heard: in the courts, in the streets, and at the ballot box. The ballot box is by far the broadest and most accessible of the three. That said, this has been an unusually confusing election year. Many of us know whom and what we want to vote for, and why, but may be less certain about how, where, and when we can legally cast our ballots – or even whether our voter registration is still current.

So, here are the basics for Montague voters. First, check your registration. The Secretary of the Commonwealth’s voting website at www.mass.gov/topics/voting allows you to confirm that you are registered, update your information, find your Election Day polling place, and apply to vote by mail. The voter registration deadline for November’s election is Saturday, October 24.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and when you vote on Election Day, you vote at the polling place assigned to your address.

But you do not have to wait until November 3! In-person early voting runs from Saturday, October 17 through Friday, October 30. (Search for *in-person early voting montague ma* for the specific hours.) No excuse, or special justification, is required. During early voting, Montague voters are not restricted to their regular Election Day precinct; all registered residents of Montague’s five villages may vote at the town clerk’s office at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A.

You may also vote by mail, again with no excuse required. Applications for mail-in ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, though election officials strongly recommend applying earlier so there is adequate time for the ballot to reach you and be returned.

And on Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to noon, we invite our neighbors to gather across from Montague Town Hall for a nonpartisan “No Kings: Vote Early” rally. We’ll gather in a spirit of celebration rather than division: helping neighbors check their registration and make a voting plan, cheering on fellow citizens exercising their right to vote, and celebrating the democratic values of self-government, equal citizenship, peaceful participation, and the rule of law.

Whatever candidates or ballot questions you support, democracy works best when citizens know the rules, know their rights, and use them. Check your registration. Make a plan. And vote.

Streeter for Sheriff

I am proud to endorse Lori Streeter for Franklin County Sheriff.

As the State Representative for New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell, I have the privilege of representing three Franklin County communities and working on behalf of the residents who rely on the Sheriff’s Office and its services. That has given me the opportunity to see firsthand the important role the office plays in our communities.

The job of sheriff is about much more than what happens inside the walls of a correctional facility. It is about public safety, treatment and recovery, preparing people to successfully return to their communities, supporting the men and women who do difficult work every day, and being a responsible steward of public resources.

Lori Streeter understands every part of that mission because she has spent more than three decades doing the work.

Lori began her career as a correctional officer and worked her way through the ranks to become superintendent before being appointed sheriff in 2025. That experience matters. She knows the institution from the ground up, understands the challenges facing its employees, and knows that effective public safety requires both accountability and opportunities.

That approach is particularly important in Franklin County and the rural communities of Western Massachusetts. Our sheriffs’ offices are important partners in addressing substance use disorder, behavioral health needs, reentry, vocational training, and the many challenges that can contribute to recidivism. Lori has committed herself to strengthening that work while maintaining the fundamental responsibility of the office to keep our communities safe.

Just as importantly, she understands that public institutions belong to the public. She has made fiscal stability, transparency, and accountability priorities of her administration, including confronting the significant budget challenges she inherited when she assumed office.

There is something to be said for leadership that comes from experience rather than assumption. Lori Streeter has spent her career learning this work, earning greater responsibility and serving the people of Franklin County. She knows the employees, the institution, and the communities it serves.

At a time when confidence in public institutions must be earned every day, Franklin County deserves a sheriff who understands that public office is a public trust.

Lori Streeter has the experience, perspective, and commitment to carry that responsibility forward, and I am proud to support her for Franklin County Sheriff.

Aaron Saunders
Ludlow
State Representative,
7th Hampden District

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Hi folks, you’ve made it to Page A3. First, here’s a few announcements to share with our readers...

A recent executive order by governor Maura Healey has expanded **winter fuel assistance** to an estimated 50,000 households that didn’t previously qualify, juices up the aid available, and eliminates fees from bills.

A lot of people are feeling the stretch, and this addresses that and removes a lot of stress and cold from our communities. Check out mass.gov/heatinghelp for more info.

This Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro, Wendell filmmaker Robbie Leppzer screens his new 45-minute film *An Artist Responds to War*, a portrait of **Bread & Puppet Theater founder Peter Schumann**:

“Born in Nazi Germany and shaped by the brutal reality of war via the aerial bombardments he experienced as a child, Schumann channeled this trauma into one of the most iconic and boundary-breaking theater companies in the world.... Decades later, as international norms collapse and atrocities unfold in Gaza in plain sight, Schumann – now 92 and still working with fierce urgency – finds his life’s central question more pressing than ever.”

A post-film discussion features Leppzer and **Mohsen Mahdawi**, the Vermont-based Palestinian refugee who you may remember was detained by ICE last year after showing up to a citizenship interview, targeted by the State Department for his entirely legal political activism at Columbia University. Courts ordered, then upheld, his release.

Leppzer and co. are raising funds to complete a separate feature-length biography of Schumann, and the cost of tickets, which are available via the Latchis website and which you may want to get in advance, will go toward that project.

If you’re in the vicinity of Turners Falls this month, there’s a bunch of **chances to get a flu shot**, courtesy of the Valley Regional Health Collaborative. Walk right in, bring your insurance card if you have one, and let them know if you also want the Covid and/or pneumonia jabs.

The first clinic is next Thursday morning, October 15, from 10 a.m. to noon at the senior center on Fifth Street. The following Tuesday afternoon, the 20th, from 3 to 5 p.m., they’ll be in the town hall annex, and then that Friday morning the 23rd at Food City.

Anecdotally, several people I know have gotten very sick in the last couple of weeks, so I encourage you to consider doing this. It’s free!

Next Thursday, October 15 at the Wendell Free Library, staff from the Rich Earth Institute – *the pee people!* – and the Connecticut River Conservancy will present on **“climate resilient toilet and grey-water systems.”**

Rich Earth will return on the 22nd, same time same place but this time with Seeds of Solidarity staff, to discuss peecycling, i.e. the use of human urine in farms and gardens.

A **“Clean Sweep” bulky waste recycling day** will be held Saturday, October 17 in this vicinity. You probably have some bulky waste that it would be good to get rid of. Check out the ad on Page A5 for details: there’s a website with a price guide, and you’ll need a vehicle and some cash. But you can do it! And you’ll feel better once it’s done. Trust me.

The 17th is also a **tree-planting day at Millers Meadow** in Greenfield – there’s an ambitious habitat restoration project underway there, and they’re hoping to plant another 200 trees this fall. They’ll also be out there the next three Saturdays, the 24th, 31st, and 7th.

No experience is necessary; see tinyurl.com/Ferngully2026 for details and the volunteer signup form.

Owen Wormser of Abound Design, which won the contract to supervise **the planters on Avenue A** in Turners Falls, reached out to let our readers know what that will look like. “Moving forward, this will still be a community driven project,” he writes. “We have been given a modest budget that will be stretched as far as possible by providing plants and materials at wholesale cost, which translates to 60% to 70% off of retail pricing. We also aim to have volunteers help to the greatest degree possible, which stretches the budget further.”

Volunteers? That’s you! Here’s Owen’s hard pitch:

“Please join us for a planting day Friday, October 23. Help plant 1,600 bulbs in various Avenue A planters. We’ll also be planting 250 perennials, repairing some of the planters impacted by the sidewalk renovations, and cleaning things out for the fall.”

The group will congeal at 12:30 p.m. in front of the Shea Theater. If you can’t help this time but would in the future, email owen@abound-design.org to get on the email list.

Correspondent Joe R. Parzych hit the tech school last Saturday for the **Cool Rides Car Show**. Joe reports that everyone had a good time and the food was good, and shared this picture of him next to a restored 1934 Plymouth Six sedan:



CENTER from page A1
month, the *Greenfield Recorder* reported that enrollment stood at 42 in pre-K and just 60 in K-8.
Full tuition is listed at \$23,170 per year, though many families pay a reduced rate.

“It’s such a loss,” preschool teacher Beverly Ketch told the *Reporter*. “It’s an epically loved school. If you’d ever gone to an 8th grade graduation, and heard these 8th graders talk about it as the happiest time of their lives.... It just doesn’t exist elsewhere. Middle schools don’t feel this way.”

First opened on Conway Street as the Northeast Foundation for Children (NEFC), the school marketed its classroom management approach to educators around the country under the brand Responsive Classroom. The school and NEFC split in 2001, with the latter moving to Turners Falls; it is now the Center for Responsive Schools.

The school, meanwhile, moved in 1989 to Montague City Road – and in 2021 into its new building on Bernardston Road, built with a \$7.9 million mortgage from Greenfield Savings Bank. According to the *Recorder*, the school paid the debt down to \$5.5 million before defaulting on its bond in 2023; this summer the bank put the property into forbearance.

Ketch said the board and administration have maintained “total transparency” about the issue with staff. An online fundraiser launched last year stands at \$845,569, but the *Recorder* quotes the board treasurer reporting the annual deficit at \$450,000.

“Our priority right now is providing a grounded, nurturing environment for our children,” interim co-head of school Amanda Richard wrote this week. “We are focused on guiding our families through upcoming admissions cycles with care and ensuring every student feels supported every single day they step onto campus.”

In their collective statement, the directors wrote that they will “also continue exploring ways to preserve and extend the spirit of the Center School beyond June 2027.”



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Budget Cycle Starts All Over Again; Zoning Bylaws on STM Warrant

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night the Erving selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee set the calendar for developing the FY’28 budget.

In late November, the capital planning committee will review capital requests from departments. Final departmental operating budgets are due at the end of December and will be reviewed in January, February and March. The overall FY’28 budget and town meeting warrant will be finalized by the end of March.

Town departments, committees, commissions, and boards will be expected to submit budget requests level-funded with FY’27, with any proposed increases and the reasons for them presented separately in the narrative section of the budget request. The selectboard and fin com asked that this documentation be provided to them before the requests are presented at the review meetings.

Fin com chair Debra Smith said all department heads should be present for the entire joint meeting of the selectboard, fin com, and capital planning meeting planned for November 9 to gain a holistic understanding of the

town budget. That meeting is billed on the town calendar as a review of actual spending this year versus the approved FY’26 budget, and a review of the status of capital projects and any projects funded by special articles.

November Special

The selectboard and fin com reviewed the draft warrant for a special town meeting (STM), tentatively set for November 16, which will include an article to revise Erving’s zoning bylaws regarding housing options, such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), townhouses, cottage housing, and manufactured housing communities. The new text would provide standards for backlots and common driveways, and update floodplain regulations.

The bylaw would establish a new “mill overlay district,” intended to provide flexibility for redeveloping historic mill properties along the Millers River.

The planning board will hold a hearing on these proposed changes this Thursday night.

November’s STM will also consider appropriating \$200,000 for a schematic design for the roof and heat pump conversion replacement project at Erving Elementary School.

Another proposed article would create a

new animal control bylaw, based on a model recommended by lead Franklin County animal control officer Kyle Dragon. According to a memo from town administrator Bryan Smith, Dragon and town counsel Brian Falk became concerned, during a dangerous dog hearing held in June and July, that the language of the town’s existing bylaw is difficult to enforce.

Debra Smith recommended inserting language stating that before a dog is determined to be a nuisance or dangerous, or possibly euthanized, it should be evaluated by a professional trainer.

The board agreed to add this provision to the proposed bylaw, subject to review by town counsel, with the proviso that the evaluation would be at the owner’s expense.

Office Space

The board reviewed a conceptual design for a new office layout at town hall, developed by selectboard chair Jacob Smith after consulting with department heads and highway foreman Thomas Duffy.

Under the plan, the assessors, tax collector, treasurer, town clerk, administrative, and IT office would be on the first floor. There would be two service counters on the first floor, near the

elevator. The recreation department, an open meeting space, the break room, and a mail and copy room would be on the basement floor.

Selectboard member Jacquelyn Boyden advocated for an enclosed meeting space to allow for executive sessions. Jacob Smith said that an enclosed room would take more space and cost more. For meetings where attendance might be large, he suggested the meeting room at Fire Station 1.

The board asked Duffy and Bryan Smith to speak with vendors about recommendations for dividing the space in town hall, and to get ballpark estimates of the costs of different options.

Jacob Smith said the board would discuss the renovation with the fin com at their next joint session.

Treasurer Appointed

The board appointed Michele Turner, who is also the town’s elected tax collector, as town treasurer, starting on or before November 7. The compensation was set at “Grade F, Step 6,” Turner’s grade and step as the tax collector, at an hourly rate of \$41.96 per hour, slightly less than the “Grade F, Step 7” rate of \$43.24 Turner had requested.

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AT LARGE

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – A 19th-century orator named Robert Ingersoll once said of Abraham Lincoln, “If you want to find out what a man is to the bottom, give him power. Any man can stand adversity – only a great man can stand prosperity.”

I was reminded of the quote last week when for the first time in years I called the Franklin County Jail & House of Correction and punched in Sheriff Lori Streeter’s extension to set up an interview.

“Hi, this is Lori,” said Streeter.

No secretary? No answer phone? It told me all I needed to know that becoming sheriff hadn’t changed Streeter, who grew up in West County, majored in criminal justice at Westfield State, and worked first as a spare and eventually became a full-time CO for sheriffs Red McQuade and Fred Macdonald.

She remembers the claustrophobic feeling of being locked in the block with the female inmates for the entire shift. “We had a radio,” she said of whatever emergency might transpire. “Eleven to seven was torture at times, walking through blocks with flashlights. Weekends we’d let a few out on furlough and pray they’d come back. Most of them did.”

Thirty-five years and however many promotions later, she runs a corrections facility with a \$26 million budget that as of this writing had 176 inmates and 220 employees, including 125 COs, whose annual starting pay is \$67,000.

She was No. 2 in charge when her predecessor Chris Donelan unexpectedly resigned a year ago January, saying 60 was a good age to retire. “He’d been talking about it, but the fact he did it quickly was a surprise,” said Streeter.

After three hiring committee interviews she was invited to Boston to meet Governor Maura Healy and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll at the State House and was appointed the interim sheriff. Now she wants to lose the “interim” label and serve a full six-year term, but politics isn’t in her blood.

Indeed, Donelan was elected sheriff after Fred Macdonald stepped down in 2012, anointed by Democrats who bowed to his father, the county kingmaker. “Chris had a history of politics and I didn’t,” said Streeter. “I’ve been working this job from the ground up. He was the polished politician and I worked the internal things.”

“Superintendent Ray Brown was my mentor,” Streeter said of the late superintendent who passed nine years ago. “I grew up under him. He was a huge piece in getting the new jail, and I was a part of all those transition teams from old jail to the mods to the new jail.”

Running a jail is a complicated business and Streeter speaks of treatment units, accountability units, pretrial populations, and sentenced populations. There are case workers, clinical

Showdown With the Sheriff?

staff, voke-tech education programs, GED opportunities, and courses to earn college credits. There’s inmate transportation to courts, hospitals, and other state facilities.

“People need to understand we process a lot of people,” said Streeter.

Streeter had caught wind that Northfield police chief Jon Hall would be making a run at her. In May he registered with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, collected the necessary 500 signatures to get his name on the ballot, and put \$3,000 in the bank.

“I’d heard rumblings and knew he had an interest, but didn’t know he was going to go through with it,” said Streeter, who started the year with \$21,624 in her campaign war chest, added \$20,348, and spent \$18,163 for a bottom-line balance of \$23,809.

Hall’s quest to be sheriff is, at best, quixotic. His mother is the campaign chairman. He has no endorsements, nor has he asked anyone. He’s had no campaign fundraising events, and says of the media: “I’m waiting for them to come to me.”

He’s spent slightly under \$2,000, mostly for 200 campaign lawn signs that are planted up and down Route 63, and spottily elsewhere. He’s built his own website, votejonhall.com, and says he’s not seeking the support of fellow candidate Gary Gagnon, whose war chest is down to its last \$40.

The signs didn’t start appearing until around Labor Day, mostly in Northfield. “I kept it close to my vest,” Hall said. “People have a short attention span these days. I’m just looking for people to vote for me. I’d be glad to accept endorsements. I’m not desperate. I know a lot of people, I’ve done a lot of good things.”

His strategy is to pursue the unenrolled, or independent, voters. According to 2025 state enrollment statistics, 38,850 of the 58,097 registered voters in Franklin County are unenrolled. “It shows there’s an appetite for the unenrolled to not just vote by party line.”

Born and raised in Turners Falls, Hall worked at the Shady Glen when it was owned by John and Linda Carey. He graduated from Turners Falls High School, GCC, and Westfield State, and his career in law enforcement began in 2004 when he was hired to be a Brattleboro patrol officer. He was subsequently hired by the UMass police department and in 2021 was named the Northfield police chief, overseeing four full-time and three part-time officers.

“I’m running based on my qualifications,” he said. “There’s no attacks coming from me.”

Asked what he’s most proud of, he answered, “The letter from my officers last year. My subordinates were very appreciative of the hard work I did.”

Hall’s campaign slogan is *Bring Change Home*. He quotes Vince Lombardi, wears a Su-

perman costume on his website, and in 2010 was named UMass Police Officer of Year.

As sheriff he said he wants to plug holes in the system, supplement law enforcement presence in towns, cut down on redundancies in the system and clean up the county by “aggressively enforcing illegal dumping and littering.”

Most of all, he advocates for centralized leadership.

“I want to establish how helpful the sheriff can be to other towns and departments,” he told me. “Small-town police officers don’t want to be woken up at 3 in the morning, so if you had a mid-night patrol, you wouldn’t have to wait 45 minutes for a response to an accident or domestic.”

Streeter’s response: “If it was that simple they’d all be doing it. It’s costly. Donelan wanted his own patrol unit and it got a lot of criticism from some of the chiefs. I met with nine of the chiefs and said I wouldn’t do it unless they want it. We have two officers assigned to Greenfield, Montague, and Erving.”

“I’m focused on steady leadership,” Streeter added. “It’s about TRIAD and helping our seniors, and having a solid relationship with our area legislators.”

During his time in law enforcement, Hall said he’s noticed a lack of upward mobility for jail employees. “As it is now, no one in law will come over and work for the sheriff’s department,” he said. “My experience is there are people who have ideas and have been overlooked. I want a jail with upward mobility even if you don’t kiss someone’s ass – change the brand, the pay, all the aspects.”

“We’ve created 30 additional jobs,” argued Streeter. “There’s people who are going to leave unhappy – it happens – but I’ve given more promotion opportunities to COs than any other administration. We don’t just pick randomly.”

Hall said if elected he’ll help inmates “get out without coming back in, get them to a point where they don’t re-offend; pay them while they’re in – first, last, and security to rent a room. Make them very likely to be redeemable.”

When she heard this, Streeter took a breath.

“This is a person who has no understanding,” she told me. “We have re-entry caseworkers right from the beginning, and multiple internal jobs that [inmates] get paid for weekly, like ground maintenance and auto detailing, which is put into their commissary – these guys leave here with a trade, and they’ve left here with \$5,000 and \$6,000 in their pockets.”

As the saying goes, if it isn’t broken don’t fix it, and that seems to be the case at the Franklin County Jail & House of Correction.

“One of the nicest things is the camaraderie with the sheriffs,” said Streeter. “It used to be an old boys’ club, but I can’t tell you how welcoming they’ve been.”

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill, Too, Sees Million-Plus One-Stop Windfall

By KATE SAVAGE

In a 16-minute meeting on Monday, the Gill selectboard celebrated a host of new grants awarded to fix roads, design sewers, improve street safety, and fund cultural events.

“Last week was a really good week for Gill,” said town administrator Ray Purington. The town received \$1 million in its first-ever award through the state’s “Community One Stop for Growth” program. The money will go toward redesigning Main Road from Route 2 up to the northern intersection of Mountain Road, with better drainage and new infrastructure to manage stormwater.

According to the state website, the project is expected to support businesses in Gill. Purington said final construction costs will likely

be covered by the Transportation Improvement Program.

A day after this news, Purington learned the town is getting \$150,000 to design improvements to the aging sewer pump station in Riverside. The money comes from the state’s Rural Development Fund and is expected to “improve reliability, help control costs for residents and businesses, and support future housing opportunities,” according to mass.gov.

Safety & Culture

Gill’s police department also received \$20,140 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Office of Grants and Research, which will cover six additional traffic safety enforcement efforts. Purington said these will likely include campaigns around safe wintertime

driving, summer speed reduction, and seatbelt enforcement awareness.

“Last but not least,” said Purington, Gill’s local cultural council received \$5,700 from the state cultural council for community events in the fiscal year ahead.

“We didn’t really have to apply for that one,” said Purington, “but it came on the same weekend, and felt good.”

Other Business

The board voted to award a one-year bond anticipation note for \$47,000 for the third and final payment on the new fire responder truck. The annual interest rate on the loan is 3.19%, down from previous rates of 3.9% and 4.5% for the earlier installments.

Purington announced that Gill has been designated a “municipal

vulnerability preparedness community” by the state after completing a community resilience-building planning process. He said this would make the town eligible for additional environment- and climate-related grants, including ones that could address flood-prone culverts.

The board appointed Judd Greenstein to the cultural council for the next three years. They accepted the resignation of Marianne Gallagher from the personnel committee, thanking her for her “very fantastic” work on that committee.

The board signed the warrant for the November 3 state election. With nine referendum questions, Purington called it the “longest one I’ve ever seen.”

The selectboard will next meet on Monday, October 19, at 5:30 p.m. at town hall.

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LEVERETT from page A1

answer was “resoundingly ‘no.’”

Proujansky suggested an area beginning at Leverett Pond and continuing north to Cave Hill Road, which would include the Field building, the library and its performance space, Leverett Crafts & Arts (LCA), the town hall, the entrance to the Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation Area, and several artists’ studios, among other sites.

Board member Tom Hankinson commented that excluding North Leverett “doesn’t seem correct.”

LCA president David Henion, who came up with the idea originally and has been the driving force behind it, agreed that a larger area including the North Leverett Sawmill, the Peace Pagoda, and the Leverett Village Co-op was preferable.

Henion said he had measured the distance between the pond and the coop at 3.5 miles, and said he had received support for this from every entity he has contacted during his outreach, along that route and beyond, and from every town body.

Others in attendance agreed a larger area was preferable.

Cynthia Baldwin, founder and secretary of the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill (FONLS), said the program requirements seemed to be prejudiced against smaller rural towns, and volunteered to provide figures that the FONLS has used in grant applications in support of a more spread-out area for the district than is typical in larger municipalities.

Proujansky said that a larger area was his original idea as well, and that he would go with a consensus, but didn’t want to present an idea that “would never fly” with the MCC, and offered to “feel them out” on an acceptable size for the area. He added that state senator Jo Comerford’s office was supportive of the idea, and that further talks

with them were in the works.

Discussion turned to other requirements, including costs. Proujansky said some amount of time from town staff would be needed to rigorously track the cultural district’s finances, and that things like a website could be expensive, but that the cost would depend on how much the town wants to do initially.

Henion said the local cultural council has offered to serve as the governing body.

A straw poll at the hearing showed unanimous support for pursuing the idea. The second public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, at 6 p.m. at the town hall, and the application is due February 7.

Allegiances

Resident Don Robinson sought the selectboard’s guidance on how to put forth a resolution at the annual town meeting to include a voluntary recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at future town meetings, saying that he believes it reaffirms the “values and freedom” the US flag represents and that residents should be given the opportunity to recite it if they chose to.

Robinson noted that there are other towns that recite it at town meeting, some voluntarily and some in accordance with a bylaw. He added that there is a state law requiring public schools to lead a recitation each day, with a \$5 penalty for non-compliant teachers, though students may opt out. Leverett town meetings are held at the elementary school.

Proujansky pushed back on the idea, criticizing the “under God” phrase for excluding atheists and agnostics, and adding that though he agreed with the concept of a pledge to a republic, he has a “problem” with pledging support to the current government, which doesn’t “hold to what the Pledge is.”

Proujansky also agreed with his

two fellow selectboard members, however, that residents should vote on Robinson’s resolution at town meeting.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy told Robinson he needed to draft a petition and get 10 signatures for the measure to be voted on as a resolution, the same process used to adopt the Native American land acknowledgement read at the beginning of every town meeting.

Other Business

Leverett historical commission chair Susan Mareneck reported that over the summer 15 members of the Society for Industrial Engineers toured the Graves Ironworks site, and that they are now writing an article for their newsletter. She said the group provided a lot of information on the day of their visit, and that more is expected to come.

The selectboard signed the November state and federal election warrant.

The board appointed Neal Bannon as Leverett’s representative on the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection board. Hankinson reported that the town is still in need of a Veterans’ Affairs representative.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that a contract has been signed with the engineering firm Tighe & Bond to use money remaining from Phase 1 of the Dudleyville Road project to begin Phase 2.

She added that the highway department is hoping to begin work on the Woodard’s Corner driveable trail project next week.

McGinnis announced that digital equity grant money is still available and must be spent by the end of the calendar year. She renewed a call for residents in need of technical assistance such as digital literacy training to contact her.



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SCHOOL from page A1

only town to refuse a five-town, rather than a six-town, district would have been created.

In Montague and Gill, the proposal was supported by 65% and 72%. Though unlike the tech school borrowing it was not a simple majority election, the cumulative results came in just short of a majority, 1,872 to 1,892.

Counted as a district, Gill-Montague was 66.6% in favor of a new region, whereas the Pioneer Valley towns and Warwick were 67.3% against it.

Alan Genovese, chair of the Six-Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB), said he was “not upset” at the outcome. “I believe very strongly in a democratic process,” he told the *Reporter*, “and people have decided which direction they want to go in, and I’m fine with that.... This is a significant lost opportunity, though, because we had a plan, we had a very well-written regional agreement, and we actually had the funding.”

Genovese, who represents Warwick on the STRPB, said he was “proud of Gill and Montague for looking at the future of the education of kids.” The Pioneer towns, he said, “will need to figure out a different way to address declining enrollment, and are going to be facing some difficult challenges trying to provide the services people want while trying to support an under-enrolled district.”

“We are grateful for the support from Pioneer towns,” Pioneer Valley superintendent Patricia Kinsella said when reached for comment. “Residents in all three towns voted not to regionalize, and we take that as a vote of confidence in the direction that Pioneer schools are taking. That decisive level of support makes us want to work even harder on behalf of Pioneer students and families.”

Greg Snedeker, a Gill representative and vice chair of the STRPB, said the vote was “disappointing” but not “unexpected, as emotions often run high with regionalization ballot questions.”

“We learned something important,” he added. “Gill and Montague voted overwhelmingly in favor of it. So we can point to a district that is open and supportive of creating a larger educational community that would support more student opportunities.”

Fellow Gill representative Deb Loomer echoed Sne-

deker’s “disappointment” and called the vote a “missed opportunity to enhance the education of our students.”

“It’s gratifying to learn we, the Gill representatives, did reflect the will of our voters throughout this exercise,” said the town’s third rep, Bill Tomb.

Tomb said he wished the Pioneer students well, and that as a Gill-Montague school committee member he would “continue to attempt to provide our students with a strong, meaningful adventure...” He added that in light of the Franklin Tech vote, arguments that a six-town district would harm students by increasing school bus time were “specious in nature... Many bus rides to that institution are long, by the simple fact of the size of that district.”

Montague STRPB rep Dorinda Bell-Upp told the *Reporter* she believes there is “value in continuing to keep the door open on this, or other, regionalization options.”

“The population continues to age and there are fewer school-aged residents,” she wrote. “The committee worked incredibly hard on the regional agreement, and it is an excellent template for future discussions.”

Within the town of Montague, the results of Tuesday’s election were fairly typical. On the question of school super-regionalization, support ranged from 75% in Precinct 1 (Montague Center) down to Precinct 2 (Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant), with the Hill precincts, 3 and 4, firmly in the middle of the pack: 1-5-4-3-6-2.

While the tech school construction borrowing was also best supported in Precinct 1, with 68%, it lost outright in Precinct 3, with 49%. Here the order was 1-5-4-6-2-3, nearly identical to the June 20 vote on borrowing to build a new library, which came in 5-1-4-6-2-3.

“The voters have spoken, and the Town will respect those decisions,” said town administrator Walter Ramsey. Ramsey said Montague would “remain focused on supporting strong and sustainable local schools” within the “existing school district structure,” and work with the tech school district to “help deliver a modern technical school that will serve students for decades to come.”

Ramsey noted that the decisions “come at a significant time financially” for Montague, which will “need to be very deliberate about long-range financial planning.”



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

MONTAGUE ZBA #26-10

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, **October 14th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.** VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON at the Montague Town Hall Upstairs conference room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA for a Special Permit Request from PV Squared Solar to allow the construction of an accessory ground-mounted solar energy installation consisting of approximately 696 sq. ft / 15.9 kW, Under Sections 8.9.4 and 9.2, located at **79 East Taylor Hill Rd (Parcel 48 Map 0062)), in the AGRICULTURAL FORESTRY 2 (AF2) District.**

The filing is available for review at Town Hall.

In-person meeting details and remote meeting login information can be found at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

Joshua Lively, Chairman

Montague Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC APOLOGY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that CAPTAIN’S COMMAND AT BLUEBEARD’S BEACH CLUB OWNERS’ ASSOCIATION, INC. 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

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SPORTS from page A1

hosted the Palmer Panthers. Turners had just defeated the Panthers, and the True Blue faithful expected another victory. They also recognized some of the visiting parents, and had comments to make about their behavior during the last skirmish.

Thursday’s game was filled with corner shots and thwarted attacks, but ended in a scoreless tie. Some on the sidelines conjectured that the players were unable to communicate because many had lost their voices due to the illnesses that have rampaged through the schools.

The best part of the game was at halftime when an official approached some of the Turners mothers. “You seem to have questions about the rules,” she began. A wonderful discussion ensued, and comparisons were drawn with lacrosse and ice hockey rules.

On Friday, the Franklin Tech Eagles shut out the visiting Mahar Senators. I kept one eye on the field and another on the adjoining soccer pitch.

The hockey game was one-sided, with Tech moving down the field in perfect formation and mounting endless attacks. Whenever the Sens intercepted the ball they had difficulty clearing it, setting up another Eagle siege. By the end of the game, coach Rian Lovett rested her starters.

During one attack I apologized to Mahar’s coach, Colleen Barrister, for asking for a roster. She laughed, looked through her clipboard, and said, “I don’t think they’re listening to me anyway.”

Scoring goals for Tech were Amelia Rider and Leah Meattay with two each, Abi Dobias, Ava Worden, Nora Cutting, and Emmy Godfrey. Kiera Taylor helped out with an assist and goalkeeper Redyn Gutierrez only



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS
Players rush to a shot blocked by Thunder goalie Connor Glennon as Turners Falls hosted West Springfield High last Friday. Left to right: West Springfield’s Emily Craven and Gabriella Torres, Turners’s Daisha Ovalle Perez, and Glennon.

needed to make one save.

At the conclusion of the Tech games I headed to Turners Falls High School for volleyball, soccer, more field hockey, and some delicious food.

The field hockey game at the high school was just as one-sided, but this time it was the visitors scoring goals. The Turners fans were just as enthusiastic as West Springfield’s, but the visitors used great passing and fake-outs to run up the score. The Westfield fans’ main topic of conversation was how difficult it was to get through Big E traffic to get here.

In goal, Connor Glennon made 15 saves.

On Tuesday, a brisk and windy afternoon, the Eagles hosted the Thunder. At halftime it was just 1-0, but the Eagles had a solid third quarter and put the game away.

In the opening minutes of the match Tech immediately ran an attack and forced a corner shot. It would be the first of many. The Turners defense knocked the ball away, but Teagan Donahue intercepted it and fed it to Dobias, who shot it in to give Franklin the lead three minutes in.

For the rest of the period Tech kept the ball in Turners’s backyard, but the Thunder marked up and their D weathered two more corners before the horn sounded.

In the second quarter Tech kept the ball inside the circle, made wonderful passes, and forced five more corners. At one point, Tech took a shot and the players piled up inside the net. A penalty stroke was called, but the shot went wide to keep it a one-score game.

In the third, a card was issued to Turners Falls for violating the five-yard rule, giving Tech a two-minute power play. They couldn’t take advantage, but once Turners was back to full strength, the Eagles scored three goals in two minutes.

In the fourth, Tech was awarded six more corner shots. Turners deflected each attack, but each time they attempted to clear the ball Tech intercepted it. With 5:12 left to play, Tech was awarded another penalty stroke. Meattay slapped the ball high and hit the top left corner of the net for Tech’s final score of the night.

Golf
FCTS 154 – Westfield Tech 166

Earlier on Friday, I checked in with Mike Duclos as his players teed off against the Westfield Tech Tigers. Jack Day shot an incredible 31, with Brady Wood (40) and Grady Deery (41) finishing second and third.

Later on, at Turners’s field hockey game, some of the fans were convinced Tech had lost against Westfield Tech. Members of the golf team had apparently reported that had they lost. When I showed folks the text from Duclos with the actual score, one of the mothers smiled and said, “Why, those dirty liars.”

At 14–0, the Eagles qualify for the postseason. On October 20, six golfers will travel to Ludlow to compete in the Division 3 tournament.

Girls’ Soccer
FCTS 4 – Smith Academy 0

On Friday the Franklin Tech hybrid girls’ soccer team shut out the Smith Academy Purple Falcons, but the talk on the field and on the sidelines was about the previous night’s performance against the ’Gansett Warriors. “We didn’t talk,” one player reported.

“We didn’t play as a team,” her teammate added.

But they turned it around Friday and beat the Falcons convincingly. Faythe Sobieski scored all four goals assisted by Kaelyn Mclean, Sofia Melnik, and Carly Walsh. In goal Sheyenne Ballentine made three saves.

Volleyball
TFHS 3 – Southwick 2
FCTS 3 – TFHS 1

Straight after Friday’s field hockey game I went to watch volleyball. On my way in I got a plate of international food outside the gym. They piled up so much food that Paul Wansey gave me an extra plate to balance all the food.

The game, against the Southwick Rams, was intense and grueling. Neither team could pull away in the first set, so it was extended. With the score 25-24, a Ram server faulted into the net to give Powertown a 26-24 victory.

The visitors won the next two sets by identical 25-18 scores, pushing Blues’ sneakers to the wall. In the fourth Turners escaped with another extended-set win, 26-24, setting up the fifth as a decider. That match only goes to 15, and again neither team could pull away, but the Thunder persevered, taking it 16-14.

On Monday the Turners ladies were decked out in color-splash pink uniforms for breast cancer awareness as they hosted Franklin Tech.

Thunder scored the first point, but Tech went on a run to take a 12-2 lead and held onto it to win the first set 25-15. In the second set, Turners took an early 7-point lead and went ahead 24-20. The home fans raised one finger in anticipation of

the winning point, but Tech went on a late-game run to win it 26-24.

The longest volley of the night took place during the third set with dueling blocks, impossible returns, and desperate digs. On top 24-15 at the end of the third, Turners faulted, but Tech returned the favor to hand it to the home team.

The teams went point for point in the fourth, but the Eagles pulled away to take the set 25-18 and the game 3–1.

For Tech, Laura Fuess made five kills, Lily Baldwin had eight digs and 20 assists, and Sarah Beckwith had 10 kills and 10 digs.

On the Turners side Abby Mofatt finished with 13 digs and led in aces, Maddie Haight gave 12 assists, and Jakhia Williams made six kills.

Boys’ Soccer
South Hadley 4 – FCTS 2

My final stop Friday night was back at Franklin Tech, for the boys’ soccer match against South Hadley. Observers on the sidelines predicted a decisive Tiger mauling, but it didn’t play out that way – at least not in the first half.

When I arrived the score was knotted at 1 all, but Tech scored at 2:52 of the half. Or so it seemed. The point was taken away, but the Eagles were granted a penalty kick, which was good, and they regained the lead.

At halftime the officials explained that the original kick had been touched by a Tiger hand, and the play had been whistled dead before the ball went into the net.

In the second half, though, Tech simply couldn’t clear the ball as the Hadley players repeatedly put their bodies in front of kicks, absorbed their impact, and stole possession, setting up three straight goals to ice the win.

Nathan Gheorghita and Cody Yetter scored Tech’s goals, while Jakob George made seven saves in net.

The soccer fan is a different animal. South Hadley strategically placed 25 adults in the Tech bleachers, where they proceeded to out-yell and out-scream the hometown folks, many of whom were students. Three Franklin girls told me they didn’t want to “stir the pot” by screaming back at the adults.

When I mentioned this to one of the Eagles’ grandfathers, he replied, “That’s big boys’ soccer!” as he cheered for Tech from the Tiger sidelines.

Football
FCTS 32 – Ware 28

For the first time since 2015, the Tech Eagles beat Ware last Friday. But it wasn’t easy. With four defensive and three offensive starters sitting out due to injury or illness, Tech had to dig deep to escape with the win and remain undefeated on the season.

Mason Bassett threw for 206 yards and Tech gained 191 yards on the ground with Justin Lent (131), Hunter Donahue (32), and Mason Bassett (28) carrying the ball. Donahue scored 12 points, Lent 8, and Mason and Cole Bassett each put up 6 points. On defense, Nolyn Stafford led in tackles and made a sack and an interception.

The Eagles play Greenfield this Friday, then travel to the South Shore the following week to take on the Hull Pirates.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

Ellis was accompanied by capital improvements committee chair Greg Garrison, interim Gill-Montague superintendent Tari Thomas, and Sheffield Elementary principal Kerry Heathwaite. “We can’t make any decisions, because we have a quorum,” Ellis warned. Town administrator Walter Ramsey and selectboard member Marina Goldman, who were present on Monday, also serve on the building committee.

“We are trying to get to the best and most effective solution to ensure educational programming is provided in appropriate physical spaces in our buildings,” Ellis told the board members.

He assured them that the town would receive a reimbursement of approximately 75% of the phase of the project – the feasibility study and schematic design – but said that town meeting must first fund the entire \$1.75 million cost.

The basic design of the project, heavily restricted by standards set by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) – the main funding source – will be chosen from a variety of options, with influence by local public input.

Garrison supported Ellis’s comments. “When you’re dealing with these highly regulated, highly enforced, types of projects,” he said, “costs do get high.” Garrison said his biggest concern was that the district needs to complete the study by January, and that this requires a “Yes” vote at the October 28 special town meeting.

Ariel Elan, a member of town meeting and the capital improvements committee, asked why the cost of \$1.75 million was so much higher than similar work for the planned downtown Turners Falls library, which came in at \$250,000. “Schools are much bigger and more complicated,” she acknowledged, “[but] proportionally, it seems like the price tag on this is too huge.”

She added that the finance committee was recently told that the 75% reimbursement from MSBA was not a “done deal,” and that the state had not yet clearly defined which costs would be eligible for reimbursement.

Ellis replied that the calculation of a 75% reimbursement was based on “some fairly long precedents,” and that if the reimbursement turns out to be lower, the town can decide not to move forward with the project. He also reported that the state had sent him a document earlier that day which clearly defined the eligible costs.

Senior Tax Program

In the end the selectboard voted to support all of the articles proposed for the upcoming special town meeting warrant, including the feasibility study. The other items include paying bills from the last fiscal year, two articles funding past and projected shortfalls in the airport budget, plus another \$61,502 to fund “structural grant deficits,” nearly all of which also stem from the airport.

The articles would also appropriate \$12,032 to maintain town cemeteries and cover the stipend for the cemetery sexton; spend \$16,300 on a floor scrubber for the police station plus an infield grooming machine and playground repairs at Unity Park; give the selectboard the power to reduce taxes for residents over 60 in return for volunteer work; and

allow it to negotiate a new 30-year lease on the town-owned building at 34 Central Street.

It is expected that the lease will be renewed with Community Action Pioneer Valley, which operates a Head Start program at the former school building.

Funds from Boston

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller announced that Montague had been awarded three grants through the state platform known as Community One Stop For Growth, which encourages municipalities to combine their highest-priority economic development and housing needs into a single application.

The package consists of \$456,000 to develop infrastructure at the former Farren Hospital site on Montague City Road, \$209,000 for ADA-compliant access ramps on Avenue A, and \$40,000 for downtown “wayfinding” signage.

“The embargo on that news was just lifted,” Nolan-Zeller said.

Later, Ramsey announced that state and local officials would be convening at town hall on Tuesday to “announce” the grants, and would then visit the Farren site.

Tuesday’s event included a range of officials, including Juana Matias, the secretary of the state Office of Housing and Livable Communities (HLC); representatives of the semi-public organization Mass-Development; and state senator Jo Comerford. Two Montague selectboard members, Goldman and Rich Kuklewicz, attended, along with several other local officials.

However, at the beginning of the event, this reporter was asked to leave, as the event was a “planning” meeting and the presence of the media would presumably undermine open discussion or debate.

A press release issued by the HLC on Wednesday related that Ramsey gave an “introduction to the Town” behind those closed doors to Matias and the other state officials, then led a downtown walking tour and discussed the “opportunities and challenges that the town faces with respect to housing and economic growth and the achievements of the Town to date.”

The delegation then went to Montague City to view the Farren lot.

“The Healey-Driscoll Administration is taking underused land and turning it into opportunities to build more housing, and identifying potential properties like Farren Memorial Hospital is crucial to that effort,” Matias wrote after the visit. Her tour also included stops in Orange and Greenfield.

Ramsey wrote that Tuesday’s event was “a chance to show the Secretary downtown Turners Falls and some of the positive momentum happening here,” and thanked Comerford for arranging the visit.

“Montague has spent five years doing the planning, community engagement, zoning, and partnership-building needed to turn a difficult redevelopment site into a real housing opportunity,” he added. “That groundwork is now translating into major state investment.”

Shining a Light

Heather Wood, executive director of the Heartwing Center in Turners Falls, and Montague public health director Ashley Gough requested that the board endorse a proclamation about domestic violence

and declare October to be Domestic Violence Prevention Month in Montague.

Gough said that while domestic violence is most often thought of as a law enforcement issue, it is “also a public health concern, because of its widespread impact on the health, safety, and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.” She discussed the links between domestic violence and a range of “long-term health consequences” for individuals, and their impacts on the broader community.

Wood spoke about activities the Heartwing Center is promoting, including distributing purple hearts to be displayed in the windows of businesses along Avenue A and a “Light the Bridge” event on Thursday, October 22, during which supporters will illuminate the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge with electric candles.

Goldman read aloud the proclamation to recognize October 2026 as Domestic Violence Prevention Month, and then the board endorsed it, after amending it to eliminate the “2026” because Gough said it should be an annual event.

Purple lighting has also been installed at the town hall.

Destroying & Creating

Nolan-Zeller reported on the progress of a number of capital projects.

The first was a contract with Skanska USA Building Services, Inc. to provide owners’ project manager services for the Strathmore Mill demolition, which the town recently learned are required by state law. Nolan-Zeller noted that the funds for the demolition are limited, and said Skanska agreed to a significant fee reduction with the scope of services “not to exceed” a mere \$399,440. The board approved this contract.

It also approved a \$60,000 contract with Fuss & O’Neill, Inc. to produce “design documents” to remedy the drainage disaster on Oakman Street in the Hill neighborhood; a change order of \$7,824 for Omasta Landscaping to replace the “beloved old tube slide” and the pour-in-place surface of the Unity Park playground; an agreement with the US Department of Agriculture for \$1.9 million in loans and \$1.1 million in grants to fund upgrades to the sewer system; and a “notice to proceed” valued at \$9,900 with the firm Crowley & Associates to obtain easements from residents for the reconstruction of the North Leverett Road bridge.

Other Business

It was also a busy night for the board wearing its personnel-board hats. Highlights included a new contract with Josh Hoffman to serve as deputy police chief, a temporary agreement with the airport commission allowing public works administrative assistant Brandy Patch to provide accounting services to the airport for up to five hours a week, and the resignation of longtime chair Barbara Kuklewicz from the parks and recreation commission.

The board began the process of finding and appointing a replacement parks and rec commissioner until the spring town election.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, October 19.

Mike Jackson provided additional writing.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on October 6, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

Four-Town Selectboard Round-Up

“There’s some real changes in law enforcement coming down the highway,” Leverett’s police chief, Gary Billings, told his selectboard Tuesday night. “An old dinosaur like me just said, no thank you.... It’s time for a younger, more ambitious administration.” Billings will be retiring from the post as of January 7.

The town of Montague has signed a consent agreement with the utility Eversource which will

allow the company to connect with a planned solar-generating facility on town-owned land off Sandy Lane.

Erving’s selectboard formally accepted the \$491,650 bid from Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare of Chicopee to construct the first phase of Riverfront Park on Arch Street, at the former Usher Mill.

And Wendell will be among the first five western Massachusetts towns where Osmose Utility Services will begin its pole surveys, a crucial preconstruction step toward extending “last mile” high-speed broadband internet service to the rural communities of the area.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 5, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

Indeck Equipment Heading to Guatemala

The Montague Energy Group, owners of the former Indeck co-generation facility on the eastern end of the peninsula formed by the power canal in Turners Falls, have been busy dismantling the coal-burning plant’s equipment in preparation for removal and the rumored sale of the equipment to a foreign company. Multiple sources in town hall said the

power plant’s equipment would soon be leaving town, destined for a company in Guatemala.

Virginia Huling, an attorney based in Saugus who acts as the Montague Energy Group’s spokesperson, declined comment.

Tax collector Patricia Dion said the town of Montague had placed a lien on the power plant property for \$1,109,250.24 in back taxes owed from FY’05 and the first half of FY’06, when the Montague Energy Group owned the coal burning-plant. Dion said the town’s attorney secured payment of the back taxes in full and released the lien on the property on September 14.

140 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 6, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

A severe frost Friday night nipped the vines and flower beds. Eggs are getting scarce and high again and the hens want coaxing to do their duty.

The electric lights were started on Monday evening. There are fourteen on the streets, and three stores have lamps. The streets were never better lighted especially the Avenue.

The flues of the boiler in the kindling wood factory were burned out last week, necessitating the shutting down for repairs.

Miss Marble and Miss Annie Rochford have opened a millinery and small-wares store in Riley’s block, on the avenue.

Dr. Sornborger’s fine horse “Prince” died yesterday afternoon near the Long farm, Federal street, Greenfield.

The long-talked of sidewalk at Riverside bids fair to be a reality. M. Fitzgerald began this morning to widen the road from the bridge to the saw-mill, and in time a sidewalk will extend from the bridge

to the crossroads at A.E. Perry’s.

The Fitchburg railroad is replacing the rails on the V.&M. division with steel rails of greater weight than those heretofore used, and will relay the rails taken up on some of its branches where the traffic is not so heavy as on the main line.

Few people comprehend the magnitude of the business that is being done by our great railroads. The Fitchburg road, for instance, runs out of Boston 240 trains a day or one train on an average in every six minutes. The train dispatcher, in his office in Boston, controls them all and knows their whereabouts from time of starting until they reach their destination.

John G. Eppler has raised in his Second street garden as fine grapes as ever grew on a vine, which shows that the soil of Turners Falls is not the worst in the world; in fact men like J.F. Bartlett, who know what they are talking about, are quite positive that the plain land back of High street is more fruitful than that of Vineland, N.J. When the water comes through the plain in quantity, the Turners Falls company will find their real estate of greater value than they ever dreamed of.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Sweatshirt Burns; Unknown Animal Kills Sheep; Cone Stolen; Baby Bird Found; Four Bulls, Snapping Turtle Loose In Yards

Saturday, 8/1

2:04 p.m. Caller reported a middle-aged woman was seen on his camera trespassing. Determined to be neighbors looking for a cat.

Monday, 8/3

7:32 a.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.
2:29 p.m. MassDOT reported a two-vehicle crash with airbag deployment, French King Highway.

Wednesday, 8/5

3:58 p.m. Caller would like to get her car back from the mechanic and is having trouble doing so.

Thursday, 8/6

8:25 a.m. Caller reported a sweatshirt in the road that appeared to be on fire, Main Road.

Friday, 8/7

6:41 p.m. Officer wanted on Riverview Drive; caller was en route for a party that jumped the fence. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 8/8

7:16 a.m. Signs at Main and Gill roads destroyed.

Sunday, 8/9

3:02 p.m. Report of unattended SUV at the French King Bridge. Unfounded.
9:28 p.m. Tree down on Riverview Drive, blocking the road. DPW advised.

Monday, 8/10

12:59 p.m. Disabled box truck on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Assisted out of roadway with push bumper.
3:40 p.m. Walk-in report of larceny via a stolen credit card.

Friday, 8/14

11:49 a.m. Dirt bike stolen, Boyle Road.

Saturday, 8/15

10:04 a.m. Caller reported two white dogs running around, Center Road.
12:33 p.m. Rear-end crash at the Gill Mill, no injuries.
2:15 p.m. Sheep killed by an unknown animal, South Cross Road.
4:55 p.m. Vehicle parked against another vehicle in the boat club parking lot. Information exchanged.

Tuesday, 8/18

8:31 a.m. Wallet found, Main Road.

Wednesday, 8/19

12:51 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with a death investigation.

Thursday, 8/20

9:38 a.m. Unattended death, Grove Street.

Sunday, 8/23

11 a.m. Served summons, French King Highway.
6:30 p.m. Served summons, French King Highway.
6:45 p.m. Served summons, Chappell Drive.

Monday, 8/24

9:29 a.m. Resident reported a blue traffic cone was missing from the front of town hall since Saturday evening.

Tuesday, 8/25

1:27 p.m. Assisted rec department, Boyle Road.

Wednesday, 8/26

7:05 a.m. Medical emergency, Barton Cove Road.

Thursday, 8/27

7:22 a.m. Accident with no injuries, Main Road.

Friday, 8/28

5:15 p.m. Caller advised a party in a pickup revved and caused a lot of exhaust to come out to harass them.

Sunday, 8/30

8:29 a.m. Caller reported a loose goat dragging a long "wire," Mountain Road. Called back to report the goat was "staked" in their yard; owner will retrieve same. Also, it was a sheep.

Tuesday, 9/1

9:11 a.m. Oak Street caller reports her sister found a baby bird three days ago. Options provided to call MassWildlife.

2:04 p.m. Branch in the roadway, Main Road.

2:30 p.m. Removed fallen tree from travel lane, Center Road.

Wednesday, 9/2

10:38 a.m. Assisted citizen looking for answers about evicting a tenant from his rental property.

Thursday, 9/3

3:31 p.m. Minor accident, Main Road and French King Highway.

Saturday, 9/5

2:01 p.m. Medical emergency, French King Highway.
5:21 p.m. Caller reported he

struck a deer on the French King Highway on his way to work that morning.

Monday, 9/7

7:26 a.m. Four loose bulls in a yard, Gill Center Road. Assisted on scene. Owners retrieved their cattle.

3:29 p.m. NMH security requested PD for a loose dog.

Tuesday, 9/8

12:25 a.m. Dog was on a porch on Lamplighter Way.
4:32 p.m. Cross Road caller reported a stolen bicycle.
11:56 p.m. Tree down on River Road, blocking lanes.

Thursday, 9/10

8:30 a.m. Assisted caller looking for a copy of a no-trespass order from court that morning.

2:08 p.m. Flagged down by Eversource contractor on Center Road advising a tree fell in front of him; lines down. Same did not have service to call 911.

Friday, 9/11

11:04 a.m. Caller reported a tractor trailer leaking fluid, French King Highway.

Sunday, 9/13

3:24 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, Lamplighter Way.

Monday, 9/14

5:14 a.m. Fire alarm, Stonecutter Road.

10:28 a.m. Fire alarm, Franklin Road.

2:55 p.m. Caller reported he had his phone stolen out of a package delivered that morning by FedEx.

Tuesday, 9/15

4:17 p.m. Caller reported a male party on the French King Bridge who appeared distraught, wearing a sweatsuit.

7:16 p.m. Setback Lane caller requested an officer to keep the peace between her and her landlord during a move out.

Wednesday, 9/16

6:46 p.m. Officer wanted, Setback Lane.

Thursday, 9/17

9:35 a.m. Carbon monoxide hazard, Highland Road.

12:02 p.m. License and small pouch found and turned in.

4:31 p.m. German Shepherd reported loose on

Main Road.

Friday, 9/18

8:28 a.m. Walnut Street caller reported her vehicle was vandalized.

2:20 p.m. Walnut Street caller reported a snapping turtle in her yard.

Saturday, 9/19

3:36 p.m. Caller from Walnut Street requested to meet an officer about his vehicle being vandalized.

5:17 p.m. Debit card left in a gas pump, French King Highway, turned in.

Sunday, 9/20

1 p.m. Welfare check requested for a party wearing cargo shorts on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Monday, 9/21

8:25 p.m. Caller reported he lost his wallet.

Wednesday, 9/23

12:07 a.m. Medical emergency, South Cross Road.

Thursday, 9/24

6:49 a.m. Caller parked in a French King Highway parking lot reported a tractor-trailer unit backed into her vehicle.

Friday, 9/25

8:43 a.m. Met with Montague PD, who were investigating a large number of businesses tagged in their downtown area.

5:01 p.m. Loose husky mix reported, Main Road.

Saturday, 9/26

1:11 p.m. Tree down on wires, North Cross Road.

Sunday, 9/27

2:34 a.m. Medical emergency, French King Highway.

1:40 p.m. Montague PD reported past assault, French King Highway.

4:26 p.m. Branch in the road, French King Highway.

4:45 p.m. Caller stated someone struck her mailbox and snapped it in half.

Tuesday, 9/29

10:10 a.m. Large tree down across Barney Hale Road.

4:41 p.m. Montague PD requested assistance with over 10 juveniles on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. MPD called back to advise Gill may stand down; not as reported.

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Montague Community TV News

Board Seat Vacant!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Montague Community Television is looking for one person to fill an empty seat on our board of directors, and if you are reading this, we hope that you will consider it! The commitment is low – just one meeting a month – and food and drink are provided. No experience is necessary. Please reach out by emailing a

letter of interest to infomontaguetv@gmail.com, calling us up at (413) 863-9200, or stopping by the station at 34 Second Street to talk with Dean or Deirdre, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Check out all we do, including all recent recordings of town committee meetings, at our Vimeo page, which can be found linked on the "Videos" tab at montaguetv.org. And if you see us out there filming, say hi!

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SARAH ROBERTSON PHOTO

Above: A windowbox planter at Montague’s Sawmill River Arts, in full bloom.

RECIPES

ORZO: PASTA’S TAKE ON RICE



HOPLEY PHOTO

The difference between orzo produced by Barilla using ordinary Teflon-coated dies (below), and by DeLammo with bronze dies (above). Both samples were purchased at Big Y. Barilla, the world’s largest pasta-maker, is an Italian company that makes its orzo in Illinois; DeLammo, based in Pennsylvania, imports its bronze-die extruded pasta from Italy.

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Orzo is a tiny rice-shaped pasta that most people, including many pasta lovers, don’t use much. Some may never have heard of orzo nor noticed the smallish boxes of it, which are often on out-of-sight lower shelves. But orzo is worth knowing about because it’s good in soups, and perfect for casseroles and pilaf-style dishes.

Like all pasta except that made fresh, orzo is made from durum wheat grown in the Dakotas. This is true whether it’s made in the United States or Italy. Durum wheat is high in protein, making it perfect for pasta but not for many other things. The only other ingredient in dry pasta is water.

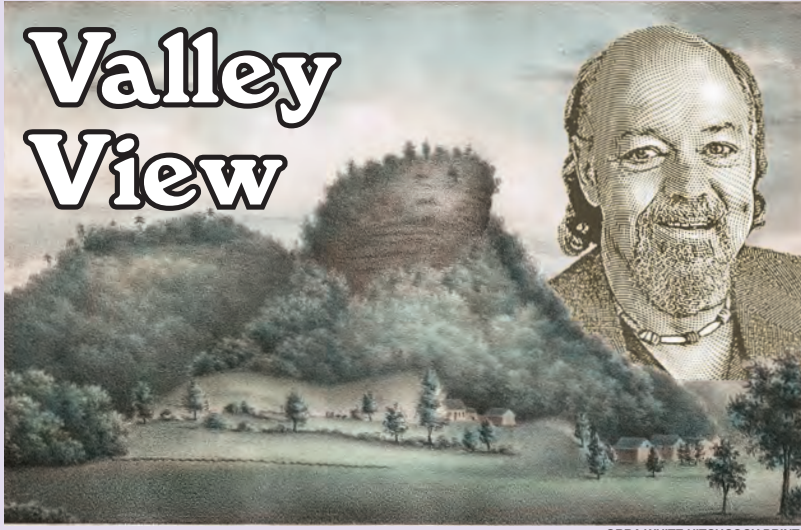
Part of the fun of pasta is its myriad shapes. Spaghetti is long and stringy; lasagna is broad and flat; macaroni is hollow; ravioli has been filled. Best of all, pasta is a copycat, masquerading as shells, as wagon wheels, as corkscrews – and as rice.

But why have a rice-shaped pasta? Why not just eat rice?

The historical answer may be that when rice reached Europe in the early Middle Ages, brought by Arabs to 9th-century Spain, it was very expensive. When freed from its brown husk and served white, it was the acme of rare culinary pleasures – a delicacy for the rich.

Europeans couldn’t make it less expensive by growing their own, except in a few places. One was the Po Valley of the northern Italian peninsula, but northern Italians ate all the rice they could grow. Elsewhere in Italy, pasta ruled the dinner table. Choosing

see **RECIPES** page B8



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

Huge Shad Surge Ignored

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Thus far lost in the 2026 Connecticut River anadromous-fish shuffle is a notable development in Turners Falls, one that’s destined to soon be publicized in a US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) press release – that and a little Atlantic salmon tidbit.

The big news? That’s easy. For the first time since the Turners Falls fish ladders were opened in 1980, the uppermost Gatehouse ladder transported more than 100,000 American shad over the dam to historic upstream spawning grounds. Through June 15, more than half of them had already passed the dam in Vernon, Vermont.

“Very exciting!” gushed fisheries biologist Corey Eddy, responding to my recent email query sent to his FWS Connecticut River Fish and Wildlife Conservancy Office in Sunderland. “The final tally at Turners was a record 101,263.”

At the time, he was still awaiting the final Vermont numbers from counting stations at Vernon and Bellows Falls. Those counts should be released soon. In fact, the final rundown may be complete before this column hits the street. All he could offer at press time was a partial Vernon number of 54,079 through June 15.

Eddy said he recently reached out to Vermont for final numbers but, “The passage videos for Vernon and Bellows Falls are still being reviewed by the Connecticut River Conservancy for Vermont Fish and Wildlife, which appears to be a very slow process.”

He can say that again.

So, as we await the final 2026 migration report, why not a quick update on the 10 salmon that unexpectedly passed Holyoke this year, and were discussed right here this summer? To me, a longtime local fish-run observer, they’re worth following as a point of interest, even though I know Connecticut River salmon are doomed in the big picture.

That, however, doesn’t stop the

state of Connecticut from continuing the fight. The Nutmeg State still funds an Atlantic Salmon Legacy Program at its Kensington Hatchery. The facility nurtures the Connecticut River strain of salmon, which are stocked as juveniles into tributaries such as the Farmington and Salmon rivers. When queried in July about the origin of the adult salmon that had surprisingly passed Holyoke this year, Eddy speculated they were most likely Connecticut fish seeking alternative refuge after swimming past their trickling targeted natal streams during a dry spring characterized by low river flows in the valley.

My summer piece reported that, by July 10, none of the Holyoke fish were known to have passed Turners Falls, and I suggested they could have been holed up in nearby Franklin County tributaries. An FWS report dated August 13 reported that five of them had subsequently passed Turners Falls, and one weary traveler had made it above Vernon. We’ll soon find out how many others passed Vernon, and potentially even Bellows Falls.

But enough already about the cheap thrill of salmon. Back to the record shad run through Turners Falls.

This year’s run of 101,263 shattered the 2024 record of 72,155. The other two best years on record paled in comparison, occurring in back-to-back runs of 58,079 in 2015 and 54,760 in 2016. Other than that, we’re looking at a long list of disappointing runs through the Powertown, where totals rarely reached 10% of what had passed Holyoke.

Take, for example, 1992, the record year for Holyoke shad passage (721,764). That year, only 16% (60,089) made it past Turners. Even worse were years like 1993, when only 10,221 of 340,431 Holyoke shad passed Turners. Worse still was 2002, when the Turners number (2,870) was more than 100 times less than Holyoke’s (374,534).

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3



‘There’s Always a Role for Someone to Play’

By MPRESS BENNU

GREENFIELD – For this month’s *Front of the Line*, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Amanda Sanderson, the executive director of the Resilience Center of Franklin County (RCFC).

The Resilience Center is a non-profit crisis and resource center serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. It was formerly known as NELCWIT. All survivor services provided by the center are free and confidential.

I first met Amanda two years ago when she invited me to sit on the board of directors for NELCWIT.

After attending the meetings, I came to the realization I would be of more support to the community as a crisis line advocate. I approached Amanda and she happily accepted me as a part-time employee. NELCWIT changed its name to the Resilience Center of Franklin County to better reflect inclusivity and to welcome all people of any gender, sexual orientation, or ability who experience violence or abuse.

When I sat down with Amanda, I wanted to learn more about the person behind this organization that serves nearly 1,000 clients across the region. Our conversation centered on service, collaboration, and the power of community.

see **FRONT** page B2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the author spoke with Amanda Sanderson, director of the Resilience Center of Franklin County.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘BLUE’

Meet Blue, a young Labrador Retriever ready to steal your heart. He treats every human like a future best friend. Blue greets each day with enthusiasm and a wagging tail. He has plenty of energy and thrives on action, whether it’s daily runs, hiking trips, or yard games. His absolute favorite sport is fetch.

Blue previously lived with cats and did well, making him a great fit for a home with feline friends. Like any energetic youngster, he needs continued training and guidance on basic manners, but his happy-

to-please attitude makes learning a fun time for everyone. Blue is crate-trained and nearly fully house-trained, making his transition into a new routine smooth and easy.

If you’d like to adopt Blue, start the process by calling the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield at (413) 781-4000 to be sure he is available. Open adoption hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. There is a \$199 adoption fee. Visit www.dakinhumane.org for more information.

FRONT from page B1

I asked her to tell me about her role and what led her to this work. “Supporting survivors is an issue that is near to my heart,” she responded, “and it’s been an honor to work at the Resilience Center for the past several years.”

She explained that her career has always focused on helping others. Before joining the Resilience Center, she worked at Boston College as a crisis line advocate and later as a residence director, supporting young adults as they navigated college life. Prior to that she had worked at other schools in both Boston and Birmingham, Alabama. “Human services have really been the foundation of my professional career,” she said.

I then asked what accomplishments stand out most to her. Rather than focusing on personal achievements, she immediately pointed to the people around her.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to work in Franklin County and to collaborate with so many wonderful humans,” she said. “It’s been exciting to win a few grants and further initiatives that were requested when I first started working at RCFC.” She also spoke about efforts to address housing challenges throughout Franklin County: “We’re working to tackle some of the housing challenges in Franklin County, and I hope those efforts prove fruitful in the next few years.”

When our discussion turned to community partnerships, her enthusiasm was unmistakable. I asked about the nonprofit collaborative that has connected organizations across the region.

“The nonprofit collaborative has been a joy to create and participate in,” she responded. “I love bringing people together and learning about everyone’s missions... Huge shout-out to my fellow nonprofit collaborative organizers, Fred Warren, Gary Yuhas, Kena Vescovi, Kirsten Levitt, Tom Taaffe, and Geoff Naunheim.”

I asked how she believes her work has impacted the local community. “I’d say my impact has largely been through creating the conditions for my staff to better serve our communities, and through collaboration,” she said.

The idea of collaboration emerged repeatedly throughout our conversation. “My coworkers at RCFC are a big motivator,” she added, “as is the impact I know my actions will have on survivor services in the region.”

I mentioned that many nonprofit leaders are facing significant chal-

lenges and asked what obstacles have stood in her way. “The unpredictability of funding has been a challenge,” she acknowledged. “But luckily, RCFC has been able to maintain relative stability over the last few years.”

More concerning, she said, is the growing level of need among survivors, “in terms of the depth of need.”

“That’s something I think about constantly,” she said. “If prices continue to rise, it will get harder and harder for RCFC to contribute meaningfully to re-stabilization for our almost 1,000 clients.” She expressed hope that additional resources could help relaunch programs that provide support survivors may not otherwise be able to access.

“If prices continue to rise, it will get harder and harder for RCFC to contribute meaningfully to re-stabilization for our almost 1,000 clients.”

— Amanda Sanderson, RCFC executive director

Wanting to understand how the organization continues to meet those challenges, I asked how she brings others into the work. “I collaborate with a lot of Franklin County nonprofits to try and create a more holistic service experience for our community members,” she said. “At a time when many things feel beyond my control, leaning into and building relationships with people across Franklin County and North Quabbin has brought me joy.” She added that these relationships have made it possible for organizations to support one another and work collectively toward solutions.

I then asked what advice she would offer to someone who wants to make a difference in their community.

“Find a few things you’re interested in, apply some trial and error, and stick with the one that you want to tell everyone about,” she said. “If you are genuinely passionate about something, your passion will be infectious.”

Amanda paused before adding what may have been the simplest and most powerful message of our conversation: “Making a difference can seem so daunting, but it can literally begin with just a kind word and an offer to help.”

As we wrapped up, I asked what

keeps her motivated, especially when the work is difficult.

“It’s not always easy,” she admitted. “But knowing that each day the work I do contributed to something beyond myself helps me keep motivated, and keeps my perspective.”

Before we concluded I asked what message she would most like readers to take away from our conversation. She responded without hesitation: “There’s always a role for someone to play in contributing to safer, healthier communities – whether it’s talking to youth about healthy relationships, supporting a friend, adopting workplace policies that support survivors, or joining community events. Showing up matters, and there are a hundred ways to show your support.”

She then reflected on the importance of relationships and community. “We are in relationships our entire lives. From family and intimate partner relationships to colleagues, friends, and acquaintances,” she said. “The work RCFC does is often responsive to when relationships go wrong, but we also do preventative work.”

Her final thoughts captured the heart of the Resilience Center’s mission.

“Community is built, invested in, and improved upon,” she said. “Isolation can be one of the greatest vulnerabilities for someone in or leaving an abusive relationship. Creating more supportive relationships and opportunities for connection will literally make people safer.”

As our conversation ended, it was clear that for her, the work is about far more than crisis response. It’s about fostering connections, strengthening relationships, and helping build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This is a national campaign held every year to mourn victims, honor survivors, educate the public on relationship abuse, and unite advocates working to end domestic violence. DVAM originated from a “Day of Unity” in 1981 and was officially designated by Congress in 1989.

Should you or anyone you know need support from the RCFC, you can contact their confidential hotline – available 24/7, 365 days a year – at (413) 772-0806.

Next month, we will be sitting down to have a conversation with Hannah Bertrand from the Brick House Community Center in Turners Falls.



Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 12 THROUGH 16

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 10/12

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch

3 p.m. Quilling

Tuesday 10/13

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
10:15 a.m. Therapy Balls
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 10/14

Foot Clinic by Appointment
10 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
at the Discovery Center
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 10/15

10 a.m. Flu Clinic
1 p.m. Pitch
3 p.m. Writing Workshop

Friday 10/16

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance
9 a.m. Tablet Class (pre-register)

October 20. Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us, or check the town newsletter or the Leverett-Connects listserv.

ERVING

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

Monday 10/12 Closed

Tuesday 10/13

9 a.m. Stretch and Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing

11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 10/14

9 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/15

9 a.m. Barre Fusion

10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 10/16

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting and

Open Sew

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is 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 #1

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.

Betsy Cook of South Hadley won with her painting featuring cats in fall leaves. She 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?*

BC: I hope the person being given something in my wrapping paper would smile because they like the warm colors and the cute cat.

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

BC: Probably a cute kitty-related gift. Or chocolate. Always chocolate.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

BC: Well, taken one way, newspapers keep us connected to our communities and that’s a gift. But it also makes me think of when my children gave me things wrapped in newspaper.

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TELEVISION

Strange New Worlds Season Tells Stories in Many Genres

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Season 4 of *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* started with a premiere that was basically a time-travel episode, which I didn’t care for at all. (I discussed it in my August 6 column.)

The finale was a much better time-travel episode than the premiere. It was called “Tomorrow’s Enterprise,” and it gave us a glimpse of how things might be with the *Enterprise* in the future.

The storyline of each episode in between these two was more like different types of movies you would probably find on the big screen, with a different character at the center each time.

One, called “Once La’an a Time,” was a sequel to a Season 1 episode called “The Elysian Kingdom,” in which the show’s characters act like completely different people than who they usually are. The sequel has them come face-to-face with their doppelgangers.

The story that is featured in “Once La’an a Time” is a fairytale one, and we even see a dragon. This being like a *Game of Thrones* story, or a *Dungeons & Dragons* movie, is done well. The characters run into people who look like someone they know, yet are very different people. It’s a cool thing to do as a story.

Paul Wesley shows up again as Kirk in this season, including as his doppelganger in the sequel episode, and in another episode where he’s at the center of the story.

The episode “The Griffin Incident” was more like a ghost or horror movie, only set on a starship, the *USS Griffin*. They did a good job of making it feel like a ghost ship, and the *Enterprise* crew members who go on board encounter ghosts.

“Human Best Friend” was like the movie *The Hangover*. The char-



acters in that movie had to piece together a night of partying they couldn’t remember, and this is what happens after the *Enterprise*’s crew takes a shore leave. This is a fun episode. It was also one of several that featured Wesley’s Kirk.

Una is at the center of an episode called “A Case of Chiaroscuro,” when she is mistaken for someone who looks just like her – but who’s in a resistance movement against the Klingons. You could call it a black-and-white detective movie, and the episode is literally in black and white.

The episode “Off-Hour” plays out like a disaster movie. People are trapped in parts of the ship, and the ship could go down at any moment. “Like Chronitons Through the Hourglass” is a soap opera episode, and it even had Deidre Hall, a famous soap opera star, in it. “Orders of Magnitude” was like *The Bounty*, and Kirk is at its center, trying everything to stop an admiral played by Joe Morton from destroying a planet.

I really loved some of the storytelling in Season 4, and felt that it worked well in this universe.



VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Sadly, such imbalance has been more the rule than the exception. The problem is that the power company that lights our homes is busier maximizing profit than improving poor performance by the Turners fish ladders it built and maintains. It has been clear for decades that something ain’t right in the Powertown, but little effort has been made to correct it.

The biggest obstacle to comparative historical analysis is that the fish-run data to compare these ratios to from the colonial contact period is nonexistent. Unfortunately, we have absolutely no idea how many anadromous fish passed sites like South Hadley Falls, Turners Falls or Bellows Falls annually in the days of Plymouth Rock, when forests were endless, mills and ferries still coming riverscape attractions.

Who knows? Perhaps back then less than 50% of the annual salmon run and an even a smaller percentage of the shad run ever made it as far north as Bellows Falls. But we will never be able to quantify those runs, no matter how deep archaeologists dig and prehistorians pry for clues.

Frankly, I sometimes find myself

wondering if the annual Turners Falls counts I’ve tracked since the beginning still matter to the general public. The question is: Do readers really give a hoot about fish runs? Better still, do the federal watchdogs overseeing fish-passage operations dare to criticize ladder efficiency, or powerful energy industries, in these days of political intimidation and the summary dismissal of government critics and whistleblowers?

When the interactive Cabot Station, Spillway, and Gatehouse fish ladders were opened in the spring of 1980, I was a cub sportswriter soon to take on an outdoor column at the *Greenfield Recorder*. Back then, expectations were soaring. There was excitement in the spring air, sweetened by invigorating lilac scent. We dreamed that soon we’d be casting colorful streamers to 15-pound salmon and fighting them to the net on nine-foot flyrods at Rock Dam and below Bardwells Ferry Bridge.

Well, that fantasy never came to fruition, and interest had faded greatly by July 2012, when the plug was pulled on the federal Connecticut River Atlantic Salom Restoration Program. Now, 14 years later,

the golden boy is long gone, and interest in river fisheries has noticeably dwindled. It seems shad, sturgeon, and lamprey eels just don’t cut it anymore.

Now, I’m still chasing final numbers in the fall, long after the runs are over, and they’re not complete, still in progress – in my interpretation, no longer seen as important as they once were. So, I jump online to seek “news” about Turners Falls fish passage and, go figure, even during the budding Artificial Intelligence era, what comes up on the first screen but a 2016 column of my very own!

I guess the fluorescent handwriting is on the wall. I’m old news. Interest in our valley’s fish runs is fading fast. The times they are a-changing.

Makes sense. Let’s be real. How is it humanly possible to cast a streamer, execute a back cast, tie a streamside blood knot, or even descend a steep, damp riverbank to the water’s edge with an iPhone planted in your face?

The captains of industry love it.

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



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Dog Stolen From Pound; Red Bull Stolen From Dollar Store; Glass Door Compromised By Rock; Scream Reenacted

Monday, 9/28

2:12 p.m. Caller reporting vandalism to bus stop shelter on Avenue A. Investigated.

Tuesday, 9/29

2:18 a.m. Caller states that a male and a female in a car in the First Street parking lot are yelling at each other; states the female was yelling “Stop hurting me.” Verbal disagreement. Parties were separated.

12:22 p.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer about harassment of his mother by a former neighbor. Officer spoke to involved parties; both parties agreed to leave each other alone.

4:12 p.m. Walk-in reporting suspicious activity in the area of Turners Falls Road and Avenue C; a male and female were pushing a stroller and carrying boxes, and the female party pointed in the direction of a neighbor’s house that had a package on its porch. Caller advises package was not taken; however, the entire situation seemed odd. Officer checking area on foot; unable to locate.

4:32 p.m. Caller reports a raccoon acting oddly in the roadway on Taylor Hill Road. States it was not foaming at the mouth, just acting odd. Second caller reporting possibly injured raccoon in the roadway near his house. Officer checked on raccoon; it is favoring its right front leg; does not seem to be a mortal wound. Requesting call be printed out for animal control officer (ACO) to check on in the morning. Additional caller reporting issue of raccoon in roadway; advised it was checked on, nothing could be done and the ACO will check on it in the morning.

8:23 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states

she has seen somebody outside her window the past few nights and can see them outside again; states party is shining flashlights in her windows. Caller stayed on line until officers arrived. Officers checked yard and surrounding area; unable to locate anyone. Caller advised to call 911 if she sees anyone on her property again.

Wednesday, 9/30

6:45 p.m. Caller reports that the latch to a porta potty at Peskeompskut Park has been pried open; padlock is still there. Officers out on foot checking on porta potty. Officer advises unknown whether damage was caused or the latch fell apart due to its condition. Requesting DPW be advised so they can contact the company that owns it, Carson’s Cans. Message left for DPW.

7:16 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments states she was told by a friend/neighbor that someone was yelling and causing a disturbance in the vicinity. Caller states she does not know the involved male’s name or exact location; advises male pushes his dog in a stroller and lives up on the Hill. Officer advises units checked area; unable to locate. Officer spoke to residents who were outside on Second Street and advised they did not hear anything.

8:43 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street reports seeing a flashlight outside of her window; reported similar incident yesterday. Officer advises no one in area, nothing suspicious seen. Caller advised to call 911 if she sees the flashlight again.

10:19 p.m. Caller reports hearing “two rifle shots”

coming from an area near Federal Street and DeWolf Road. Officer advises he checked length of North Leverett and Ripley Roads as well as the gravel pit; nothing showing; no noise heard.

10:33 p.m. Anonymous caller reports a silver vehicle parked in the rear of the Fourth Street alley with people inside smoking marijuana. Officer advises vehicle is on private property.

Thursday, 10/1

8:21 a.m. ACO reports that someone broke into the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and stole a dog overnight. Report taken.

9:30 a.m. Caller from East Taylor Hill Road states that she called two days ago about a sick raccoon near her home but there has been no response yet. ACO contacted by dispatch; he will respond by the end of the day today.

1:34 p.m. 911 caller advising of a sick, mangy fox running around in an open field near the Routes 47/63 crossover and into the road. ACO notified and responding.

2:38 p.m. 911 abandoned call from Sheffield Elementary School; no answer on callback. Call made by juvenile messing around on the phone. Student advised of future consequences if it happens again.

5:05 p.m. Caller from Family Dollar requesting PD to store; states that ten minutes ago, a woman stole a case of Red Bull. Woman no longer on scene. Store manager will email footage and statement to officer by tomorrow morning.

7:56 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road states she saw flashlights in her backyard. Officers spoke to a male who stated he was outside on his property walking his dog with a flashlight.

8:18 p.m. Caller from Main Street reports her neighbor is working on his roof, has a spotlight set up that shines into her windows, and is using a drill. Feels it’s too late to be doing this. Contact made; states roofer is coming tomorrow and he was attempting to prep. Will be done within 30 minutes.

11:21 p.m. 911 caller states that a male just broke into an Avenue A apartment building and stole a bunch of stuff; would like to file a report. Female party advised; will be by in the morning to fill out a statement form.

Friday, 10/2

9:42 a.m. Caller from Old Sunderland Road reports that a ground level sliding glass door was compromised and a medium-sized rock with glass residue was located on the ground in proximity to the window. A shattered window observed

on a sliding glass door and the rock were pointed out to the officer. Rock was used as scent evidence for a K9 track to investigate further. K9 was able to locate a track matching the suspect’s odor, but tracking behavior terminated between affected address and a nearby farm. This K9 behavior commonly indicates the subject has left the area by a mode of transportation, usually a vehicle. Report taken.

9:52 a.m. Family Dollar employee reporting that a female who shoplifted from there yesterday just walked into Aubuchon’s. Female identified. Investigated.

10:51 a.m. Officer advised of two red hound dogs running loose in area of Fosters Road. ACO notified.

10:35 p.m. 911 caller reporting white SUV on Montague City Road breaking into vehicles and screaming homicidal threats. Officers advised and responding. Additional caller states she manages a Montague City Road property and the suspected vehicle was there threatening tenants. Units clear; checked with tenants, no sign of break-ins. Suspected vehicle not on scene. Third caller reporting same; advised officers were already on scene.

Saturday, 10/3

4:29 a.m. 911 caller from Second Street reports that he was just part of a disturbance in which people threw crack pipes at him and his friends after they confronted them for doing a drug deal in front of them. Investigated.

1:41 p.m. Caller from an Avenue A apartment building states that officers were at his place the other night for a “home invasion” involving a male party who goes by the name of “Scoob.” Caller concerned for welfare of an involved female party, who he last saw around 3 a.m. Caller concerned she may become a missing person. Officer advised of call’s nature. Caller called back and advised he located the female party sleeping downstairs.

2:54 p.m. Passerby reports a sickly looking fox in the Old Stage Road area. Call logged.

7:50 p.m. 911 caller reports hearing a little girl scream in the area of the train tracks off Green Pond Road. Officer states he located two juveniles at the Highland Street Apartments who were reenacting screams from horror movies they have been watching. No issues.

8 p.m. Report of threatening/harassment on Twelfth Street. Officers spoke to both parties, each claiming harassment by the other. Advised of options.

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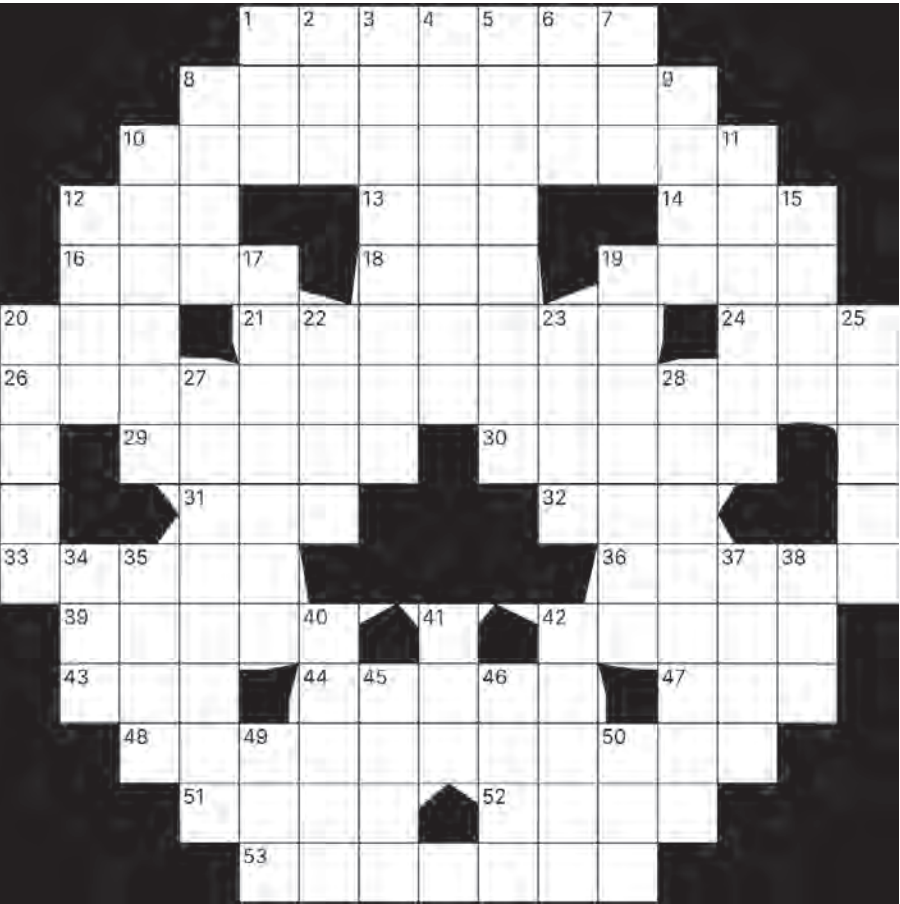
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Across

- 1 Unusual characteristic of 53- across
- 8 Don't stop doing it
- 10 With respect to money
- 12 Unusual characteristic of the species of 53-across (360 million years!)
- 13 Letters that can make a word from B-, C-, F-, S-, T-, W-, Y-; or an historical unit of measurement equal to 45 inches
- 14 Greek goddess of the dawn
- 16 Fermented paste
- 18 Toothy musical instrument?
- 19 Indigenous individual of the Arctic
- 20 Hotel
- 21 Exuberant enthusiasts
- 24 ___ Offensive
- 26 Group to which 53-across belongs
- 29 Indian honorific meaning sir
- 30 Pops
- 31 Honey
- 32 Ingredient of 16-across

- 33 Arab Spring nation

- 36 Floaters
- 39 Dance with Afro-Cuban roots
- 42 Divine shield of mythology
- 43 Bad actors in Guatemala, Chile, Cuba, and beyond
- 44 Cheers in German
- 47 Couple's cruise?
- 48 Prince's domain?
- 51 Avenue A entertainment hotspot
- 52 Turing of the test
- 53 "Most misunderstood" fish of the Connecticut river

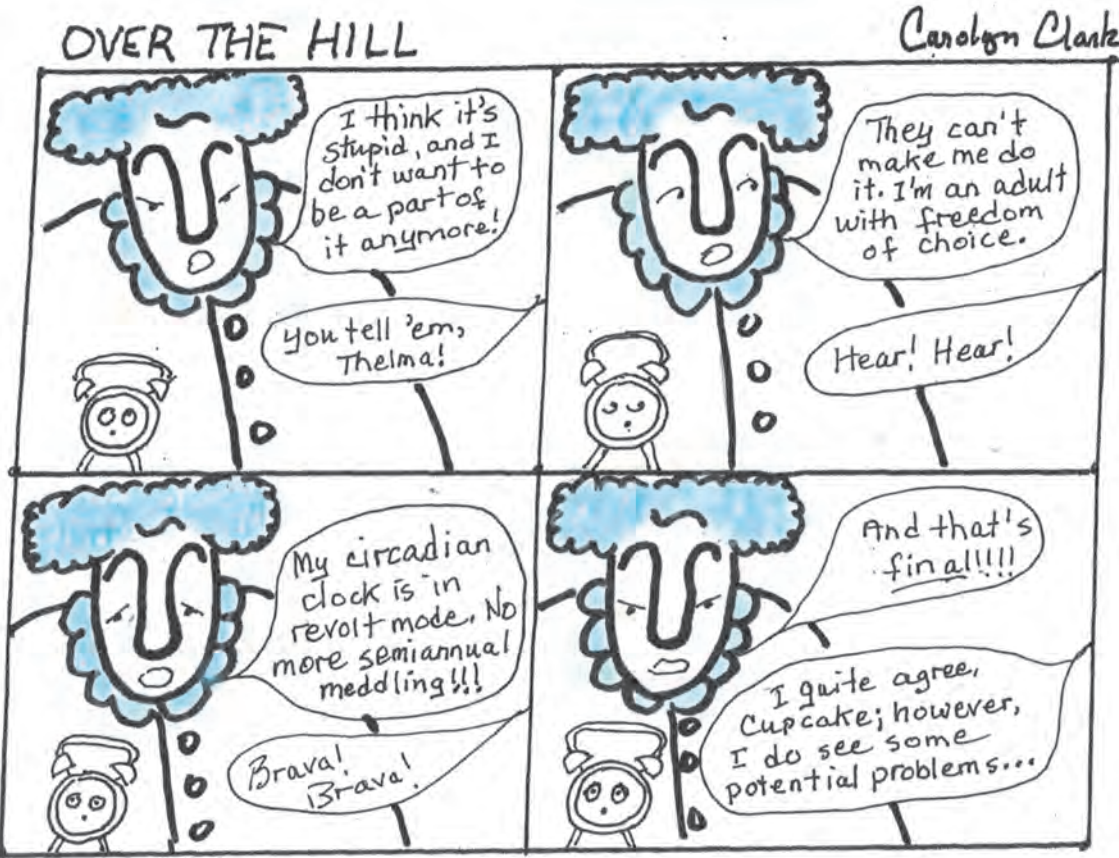
Down

- 1 "Friends" star, to friends
- 2 Words before carte or mode
- 3 Terroir terror
- 4 French surname meaning "the bright"
- 5 You've got to change them
- 6 "Chandelier" singer
- 7 NYC comedy staple
- 8 Raises one's paddle, say
- 9 Shady spot

- 10 Trysts
- 11 The ones always walking on your damn lawn
- 12 All
- 15 ___-ball, arcade staple
- 17 Some Nebraskans
- 19 Saint's name meaning gift of an Egyptian goddess
- 20 Suggest
- 22 The result of 25% of all soccer games
- 23 Bottom-line bigwigs, in brief
- 25 One-time Russian monarchs
- 27 Gargantua and Pantagruel author
- 28 What was that?
- 34 Top left key
- 35 Grievously injure
- 37 They might be Douglas
- 38 Repeated scolding
- 40 Sleep disruptor
- 41 Feathery accessory
- 42 Warm cornmeal drink
- 45 500 sheets
- 46 Pole, mast, yard or boom
- 49 Home of The Mammoth
- 50 "___ Lady ___"

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Solution in the October 15 Montague Reporter



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Above: German filmmaker Hito Steyerl, in her 2013 work *How Not To Be Seen*, stands at an abandoned surveillance calibration site at a US Air Force Base in the California desert.

If you have questions, comments, or news tips for our Science Page Editor, please send them to science@montaguereporter.org.



HIDE

Become Smaller Than One Pixel

By JOSH WATSON

TURNERS FALLS – In 1989, writing the preface to the English edition of his 1984 book *War & Cinema*, the cultural theorist Paul Virilio quoted former US Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering William J. Perry – who would go on to be named Secretary of Defense during the Clinton Administration: “If I had to sum up current thinking on precision missiles and saturation weaponry in a single sentence,” Perry said, “I’d put it like this: once you can see the target, you can expect to destroy it.”

“If what is perceived is already lost,” Virilio wrote, “it becomes necessary to invest in concealment what used to be invested in simple exploitation of one’s available forces.”

Virilio wrote of what he called the “logistics of perception,” the way that in modern warfare troops required not only weapons and ammunition and meals, but also comprehensive digital imagery and data, by which he meant the visual and spatial information necessary to control the field of battle.

In 2018, Antoine Bousquet’s book *The Eye of War: Military Perception from the Telescope to the Drone* was published by the University of Minnesota Press. Bousquet, an assistant professor of political science at Swedish Defence University, traces the history and methods of remote surveillance from the 17th century to the current era.

How are we surveilled? It started with the telescope, the original invention of which is obscure, but, at some point between the 13th and 17th century, sailors were aligning lenses to accumulate enough light to visually bring distant objects near. As Bousquet reports, the Spanish called them *espia de vidrio*, or “glass spy,” which became the familiar English word “spyglass.” And as telescopic sights were combined with conoidal ammunition and rifled barrels, targets previously hidden now came into view.

In the 1930s, the US military eagerly adopted the “electro-optical system for the transmission and reception of moving images at a distance,” commonly called television. In 1934 the RCA engineer Vladimir Zworykin conceived of a missile equipped with a television camera and a remote control, allowing the operator, as Zworykin said, to “see the target through the ‘eye’ of the torpedo as it approaches.”

As the century progressed, the military developed methods for detecting energy waves outside the range of normal vision, including infrared and thermal radiation, allowing the invention of night vision goggles and missiles guided autonomously by ther-

mal signatures given off by enemy aircraft. Radar and sonar technology employed sound waves that not only located enemy craft, but calculated the velocity and direction of travel; in the modern era, “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation” or lasers perform similar but more powerful and precise roles in targeting.

It’s unclear whether laser weaponry has been developed in any useful form, but that has been a goal for the military since 1962 when, as Bousquet quotes, General Curtis LeMay told the public that “beam directed energy weapons would be able to transmit energy across space with the speed of light and bring about the technological disarmament of nuclear weapons.”

Bousquet describes the four “orders” of targeting: *aiming, ranging, tracking, and guiding*. “Each order,” Bousquet writes,

... enfolds the previous one within its operation. The ranging of distance to a target necessitates taking visual aim at it. Tracking a mobile entity in space and attempting to predict its future trajectory requires a steady stream of range measurements. Finally, guiding a projectile to its intended destination involves continuously tracking their relative positions. The four orders are therefore all present in the contemporary battlespace, variously instantiated within military assemblages.

Under this modern surveillance, along with the growing use of armed but unmanned drones, the contemporary battlespace is transformed from the one in the popular imagination – a field with trenches on either side, or a hill to be taken, or a beach to be stormed – into what the French philosopher Grégoire

Chamayou, and now the US military, calls the “kill box.” Scott Beauchamp, in a 2016 article in *The Atlantic*, offered a simplified explanation of kill boxes as “three-dimensional cubes of space on a battlefield in which members and allies of the United States military are completely free to open fire.”

It may be that all we can do is hide. A 1970 episode of the television show produced by the British comedy collective Monty Python’s Flying Circus included a short skit entitled “How Not to Be Seen.” Premised as a government public service film, the offscreen narrator presents a series of pastoral, and at first seemingly uninhabited, landscapes, in each of which the narrator identifies, by name, a local person hiding. The object is to remain unseen lest the government blow them up. At first they are discovered simply by asking them to stand up, and as they do, they’re summarily shot. Later, the narrator employs methodical methods to find and destroy each camouflaged British subject.

In a 2015 conversation published in *ARTFORUM* between the filmmaker Laura Poitras and the German multimedia artist Hito Steyerl, Steyerl relates one method for drone avoidance:

I was told about how rebels avoid being detected by drones. The drone sees movement and body heat. So these people would cover themselves with a reflective plastic sheet and douse themselves with water to bring down their body temperature. The paradox, of course, is that a landscape littered with bright plastic-sheet monochromes would be plainly visible to any human eye – but invisible to the drone’s computers. And people were reading books underneath these sheets until the drones left.

Inspired by this method, and by the Monty Python sketch, Steyerl had created her 2013 video piece “How Not To Be Seen: A Fucking Didactic Educational .MOV File,” now owned by the Museum of Modern Art and periodically available on YouTube.

Steyerl’s video was released only days before Edward Snowden’s leaks appeared in the media. Snowden, a young National Security Agency contractor, had obtained tens of thousands of classified Australian, British, and American files and began to release them to journalists, including Poitras. In 2015, Poitras won the Academy Award for Best Documentary, the subject of which was Snowden.

As reported by the *New York Times* in November 2013, among the revelations contained in Snowden’s files was the NSA’s aspiration to develop a program called “Treasure Map.”

“It collects wi-fi and geolocation data,” reported the *Times*, “and between 30 million and 50 million unique internet provider addresses – code that can reveal the location and owner of a computer, mobile device or router – are represented each day on Treasure Map.”

Steyerl’s piece is funny and weird, narrated by a text-to-audio reader somewhat slowed until its British cadence sounds droll and drunk. As with the Python sketch, Steyerl structured her piece as a how-to or public service film, and it is divided into a series of chapters each with cogent advice. “Resolution,” the narrator intones, “is visibility.”

Steyerl offers a series of schemes to therefore become “invisible,” including the advice to be smaller than a single pixel. Portions of her piece were filmed at, and above, an abandoned military site in the California desert: an acre or so of cracked and overgrown pavement painted with a grid, intended to be used as a visual aid for the calibration of airborne analog surveillance cameras.

“Rogue pixels hide in the cracks of old standards of resolution,” the narrator says. As the visual resolution of digital surveillance improves, each pixel represents a smaller and smaller portion of ground, a tinier area in which to hide.

In Lesson 4, “How to Be Invisible by Disappearing,” the methods travel down the privilege ladder from living “in a gated community” or “in a military zone” to being a “superhero” or a “female over 50” to being “undocumented or poor” or “disappeared as an enemy of the state.”

The narrator’s voice becomes female, its slowed demeanor the same.

“Disappeared people,” the voice tells us, “are annihilated, eliminated, eradicated, deleted, dispensed with, filtered, processed, selected, separated, wiped out.”



A scene from the classic Monty Python sketch.

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Osmia, Teen Driver*. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Spectre, Rednave, Memphis Bage*. 6 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Alex Homan, Stella Kola, Financial Collapse, Shane Justice McCord*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance with Easily Distracted*; Will Mentor calling. Jammers welcome. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Unnamedable Books, Turners Falls: *Ryan Ridge, Mel Bosworth*, readings. 7 p.m. \$.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A Touch of Class*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Palladium, Worcester: *Knocked Loose, Superheaven, Denzel Curry, Boundaries*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

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

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Letters of Marque, Plague Skater, Escape Durgin, Minikin & Corsica*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. 8 p.m. \$

Academy of Music, Northampton: *David Cross*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Devendra Banhart & HUG*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

Blackbird, Northampton: *The Greys*. 9 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

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

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Turners Falls: *Pierogi Day*. Luncheon featuring kielbasa, pierogi, etc.; frozen pierogi and baked goods for sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$.

Big River Chestnuts, Sunderland: *Chestnut Festival*. Roasting, music, demos, vendors. SNAP accepted for chestnuts, etc. 10 a.m. Free.

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

Fabric of Life Farmhouse, Shelburne: *Barnfest*. Music and dancing, vendors, kids' activities, raffles, more. 12 p.m., by donation; community supper at 5 p.m., \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Needle Felting Workshop*. Registration req'd. 1 p.m. Free.

Brick House Annex, Turners Falls: *Halloween Costume Swap Party*, for all ages. 3 p.m. Free.

Unnamedable Books, Turners Falls: *Emerson Whitney, Miriam Saperstein*. Readings and discussion. 6 p.m. Free.

Kitchen Garden Farm, Sunderland: *Forrest Fleur, Deathless Forever*, many more performers, Rough Chop food truck. All proceeds benefit the Center for Jewish Nonviolence in Palestine. 6 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic*, with featured performer Olivia Nied. 6:15 p.m. By donation.

Montague Elks, Turners Falls: *A Night of Spirits & Ghosts*, presentation on mediumship & the paranormal. Proceeds benefit the Elks. 6:30 p.m. \$\$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Awnthay, Cum Dumpster, Magnolia, When The Time Comes, Vomit Dolls*. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Bob Bellerue & Katie Porter*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Kimaya Diggs, Alisa Amador*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Wishbone Zoe, Bimbo, Rick Rude*. 7 p.m. \$.

Divine Theater, Holyoke: *BASIC, Matt Krefting*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Bobby Bare Jr., Catrick, Rumyn*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Farewell To Kings, Rush* tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

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

Iron Horse, Northampton: *White Denim, Arc Iris*. 8 p.m. \$.

Haze, Northampton: *Goldsetter, Jewel Thief, Consumables, Last Devotion*. 8 p.m. \$.

Organ Factory, Brattleboro: *DJs Yulia, dystecha*. 9 p.m. By donation.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Buttersnakes, Anna Claire, Josh Burkett*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Leaf Peeping Walk*. Ages 6 and up. 10 a.m. Free.



This Saturday is Pierogi Day at the Polish church in Turners Falls! Above: St. Hyacinth Pierogi Maker Filomena Jaracz displays potato and cheese pierogi at the Easter bazaar.

Main Street, Ashfield: *Ashfield Fall Festival*. Food, games, tag sales, live music by *Forest Avenue, Over Easy Jazz, Houghton & Hazen Metro*, more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Puzzle Swap*. 1 p.m. Free.

Quarters, Hadley: *Lexi Weege, Parker McQueeney*. 1 p.m. No cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Celebration of Life for Dave Riebschlaeger* with *Simon White & Rhythm, Inc.* All welcome. 2 p.m. Free.

Unnamedable Books, Turners Falls: *Lauren Haldeman, Melissa Dickey, Halie Theoharides*. Readings. 4 p.m. Free.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *An Artist Responds To War (2026)*; post-screening discussion with Palestinian human rights activist Mohsen Mahdawi and filmmaker Robbie Leppzer. 4 p.m. \$.

Feeding Tube Records, Northampton: *Glockabelle, Chicken Tenders*. 4 p.m. By donation.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bobby Bare Jr.* 7 p.m. \$.

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. *A Day of the Dead Altar* built by local families will be 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, reception 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.

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

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

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: *ILSSA Diagrams*, hand drawings of creative practices contributed by impractical laborers. This weekend only: Friday, October 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, October 10, from 12 to 5 p.m.

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

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

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Variations/ Sensations*, paintings by Janet Winston, 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 30, with a reception this Friday, October 9 at 6 p.m.

CALL FOR ART

Montague Center Library: Calling all Montague fiber artists! Submit your work for exhibition at the Montague Center Library in December and January. Art due November 30. For more information email kmartineau@cwmmars.org.

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CALENDAR

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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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Darlings, Northampton: *Tom Petty, Bill Withers, Kate Bush*, and the music of *Twin Peaks*, as performed by *babe wait*, *Girthworm*, *Mary Jester*, and *Wrapped in Plastic*, respectively. Other costumes encouraged. 7 p.m. By donation.

Firehouse, Worcester: *AFK, Abbatia, Film & Gender, Cursed Image*. Wear a costume. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Blackbird, Northampton: *LOADED: A Live Tribute to the Velvet Underground*, with members of Dust Witch, Owsley's Owls, Mibble, and Hung Trucker. 8 p.m. \$.

Tin Can Alley, Southampton: *Two Point Oh, Dolly Sods, Sleep Destroyer, Saliba*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bent Light, Creative Writing, Paper Jays*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

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

Living Room, Florence: *Jason Calhoun, Moontype, bobbie*. 7 pm. \$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Shutesbury Town Hall, Shutesbury: *Community Sing-Along*, sponsored by Neighborhood Aging and Dementia Support. 2 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Matinee, *Winter's Bone* (2010). 4 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Writers Read, featuring *Amy Gordan, Cheryl Dukes* and *JuPong Lin*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Kimaya Diggs, The Get Down*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Atomic Prey, Corrode, D.O.D., Demented FX*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

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

The National Spiritual Alliance, Lake Pleasant: *Lofi Lab on the Road*. Creative hangout space for kids and teens, sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries. 4 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Ariel Shapiro & Clarissa Lyons*. Yiddish music from the archives to the present. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Climate-Resilient Toilet and Greywater Systems*, talk and discussion with Connecticut River Conservancy and Rich Earth Institute staff. 6 p.m. Free.

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Co-Existing with Black Bears*, presentation by biologist Meghan Crawford. 6 p.m. Free.

LAVA, Greenfield: *Open Stage*. Five-minute slots for Halloween-themed performing arts. 7 p.m. By donation.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Spectre Folk, Jumpy, barbie.ai, Intac*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *The Burning Reed*, one-person show by Joe Laur with new versions of Rumi's stories and poems. 7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Needle-Felted Pumpkins Crafts*. For adults; registration req'd. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston : *The Happy Accidents*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Garold Amadon*. 7 p.m. No cover.

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

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Melinda Georgeson*, harpist. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Dungeons & Dragons*. Single-day campaign for ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at www.northfieldrec.com. 11 a.m. Free.

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls: *Fred Eaglesmith and The Velvet Frogs*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Steely Beck*, dual Steely Dan and Jeff Beck tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *The Suitcase Junket*, special guests. 8 p.m. \$.

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

CitySpace, Easthampton: *The Culture*, ballroom showcase with Springfield's *Maison of Saint Morta*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Apex Orchards, Shelburne: *Fall Festival*, with vendors, food, face painting, music by *Matt Emmer*. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Indigenous Fishing Along the Kwenitekw*. Learn traditional fishing methods and the cycle of the seasons from Indigenous perspective, weave a fishing net, more. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

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

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Saving Vice, Slob Drop, In Shallows, Provenance, The Lycan, The Eyes of Apathy, Amora Downs*. 2 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dustbowl Revival*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Karaj*. 8 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: Best Briefs book club, *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood. 4 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Needle-Felted Pumpkins Crafts*. For adults; registration req'd. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Suzanne Vega*. 7 p.m. \$.

De La Luz, Holyoke: *The Blind Boys of Alabama*. Tribute to Stevie Wonder's *Songs In the Key of Life*. 7 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Earl Sweatshirt, MIKE*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Jessica Pavone, Kelly Bray, Julie Bodian*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Next Saturday at the Academy of Music in Northampton: Phil Elverum has been at it for 30 years. His turn-of-the-millennium albums as The Microphones paved the way for a generation of murky, experimental "indie" "folk" singer-songwriters, and his next project, Mount Eerie, while more of the same, was named one of the "10 Non-Metal Artists That Metalheads Love" by Kerrang!. In 2017 he put out a harrowing album about the death of his beloved wife, recorded with her instruments in the room where she died. Check it out.... Anyway, there are still tickets to see Mount Eerie at the Academy. Mirah opens.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *The Burning Reed*, one-person show by Joe Laur with new versions of Rumi's stories and poems. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Born Again Vintage, Northampton: *Letters of Marque, Daisy Chain, You Are Not Brave Enough, YourArmsAreMyLegs*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Ladies of the '80s*, tribute show. 8 p.m. \$.

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

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Grotesque Burlesque, Fool & the World, Orange & Amber*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kilgore Trout, 3verbound, Science In The News*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

Avenue A and Second Street, Turners Falls: *No Kings* voter registration event. 10 a.m. to noon. Free.

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RECIPES from page B1

rice-shaped orzo may have been an imitation of wealthier northerners who ate the real thing. Indeed, orzo is often known as *risoni* in Italy, a word that means “big rice.” In Spain it’s called *piñones*, or “pine nuts,” which it also resembles.

Nowadays rice and pasta cost about the same, but orzo has other claims that make it desirable. One

is its size. In Italy it’s classed as *pastini*, a group of tiny pastas used in soups and in dishes for children and others who might have trouble wrangling a tangle of spaghetti or a slab of lasagna.

Another virtue of smallness is that orzo cooks quickly. Most packages advise 8 to 9 minutes cooking time. Some recipes treat orzo like other pasta and suggest boiling it in

lots of liquid and draining it when it’s done; others treat it like rice adding less liquid and cooking it by the absorption method used for cooking rice.

A final reason for choosing orzo is that its protein content is significantly greater than that of white rice.

Italians are not the only people who enjoy orzo. Greeks do, too. They call it *krithiraki*, a word that, like the Italian orzo, actually means “barley.” For centuries Greece was ruled by Turkey, a rice-eating country, and orzo was a rice look-alike used by the poorer Greeks to mimic the rice in Turkish pilafs. Today in Turkey orzo is still popular, often cooked with lamb.

One final note about orzo: most pasta-making companies produce it, so you can probably find it in your favorite brand. Some brands make slightly larger orzo than others, and like all pasta, some packages note that their contents are “bronze cut.” This means they are shaped using traditional bronze extrusion dies, which make the grains slightly rougher – a prized characteristic, because they hold the sauce better, so the dish is tastier.



CHICKPEA, BUTTERNUT, AND ORZO SOUP

- 2 or 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 lb. butternut squash, cut into 1-inch cubes (3 cups of cubes)
- one 15-oz. can diced tomatoes
- one 15-oz. can chickpeas
- 3 cups vegetable stock or water
- ½ cup orzo
- 1 bay leaf
- one 3-inch cinnamon stick
- 1 or 2 pinches of nutmeg, to taste
- salt to taste

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large saucepan and add the butternut cubes. Stir them in the oil and

cook for about 2 or 3 minutes.

Now add the chopped onion and continue cooking, stirring often until the onion and butternut have softened – about 5 minutes.

Add the tomatoes and chickpeas, including the liquid in the can, and then the vegetable stock or water. Bring to a boil and stir in the orzo along with the bay leaf, cinnamon stick, a pinch or two of nutmeg, and salt to taste.

Simmer, stirring often for 8 to 10 minutes or until the butternut and orzo are tender.

Serves 4 or 5.

ORZO, SAUSAGE, AND MUSHROOM CASSEROLE

- 12 oz. sweet Italian sausage, or half sweet and half hot sausage
- 1 large onion
- 2 celery sticks
- 2 cups baby carrots, washed
- 12 baby bella mushrooms
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 cups chicken, beef, or vegetable stock (made with a bouillon cube if necessary)
- 1¼ cups (7 or 8 oz.) orzo
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp. dried thyme or sage
- 1 to 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp. snipped chives
- salt to taste

Cut each sausage into two-inch chunks. Chop the onion and celery. Rinse and wipe clean the mushrooms, then halve or quarter them.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan or stovetop casserole over moderate heat. Brown the sausage chunks in it for 3 or 4 minutes, then set them aside.

Add the onions, celery, and carrots; cook for 5 minutes without browning. Stir in the stock, thyme, crushed garlic, and the bay leaf. Bring to a boil



and stir in the orzo, then the sausage. Season with salt to taste.

Cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes until the orzo is tender, stirring a couple of times to prevent sticking and adding the Dijon mustard 2 to 3 minutes before the end. Garnish with chives.

Serves 4.

ORZO PILAF WITH SHRIMP & SWORDFISH



HOPLEY PHOTOS

Pilaf-style orzo dishes with fish and seafood are popular in both Italy and Greece.

- 10 to 12 oz. swordfish
- 1 lemon
- salt to taste
- 1¼ cups (7 or 8 oz.) orzo
- 1 medium onion
- 1 celery stalk
- 1 medium-size red pepper
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- ¾ cup defrosted green peas
- 2 tsp. oregano
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 oz. large raw shrimp
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley

Cut the swordfish into one-inch cubes, discarding skin and any bloody bits. Halve the lemon, cut one half into slices and reserve, and squeeze the juice of the other half over the swordfish cubes. Set aside for 20 to 30 minutes while you proceed.

Bring 4 cups of water to a rolling boil, then add a teaspoon of salt and the orzo. Stir well and boil for 8 minutes, stirring once or twice during this time. Scoop a cupful of the cooking water and reserve it. Drain the orzo and reserve. To prevent clumping, toss it lightly every few minutes until ready to use.

While the orzo is cooking,

prepare the vegetables. Chop the onion and celery; cut the red pepper into quarter-inch strips and then cut them across the middle to make shorter pieces; mince the garlic.

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a stove-top casserole or frying pan. Add the onion, celery, and pepper strips and cook for 5 minutes without browning. Add the garlic and cook for another minute using the remaining oil if necessary.

Stir in the orzo, then sprinkle with the oregano and half the parsley. Mix everything together, then add the swordfish pieces, the bay leaf and half a cup of the water reserved from the orzo. Cook gently for 3 minutes.

Gently stir in the peas, season to taste with salt, and then scatter the raw shrimp on top, using shell-on or shelled shrimp as you prefer. Cover and cook for 4 or 5 minutes or until the shrimp are pink and opaque. If the mixture looks too dry at any point, add the remaining liquid from cooking the orzo.

Serve sprinkled with the remaining parsley and garnished with the lemon slices.

Serves 4.

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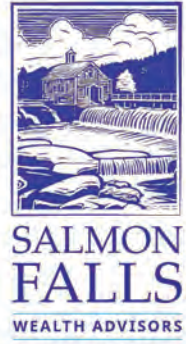
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