

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

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October 2015

Offers They Couldn't Refuse BUT NOT A DONE DEAL

By Bill Price

Most of the abutting landowners who will be affected by the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion – including the Town of Sandisfield – have reached tentative agreements with the energy giant that could provide some protection for their properties during and after construction.

The landowners were strongly advised by legal counsel not to force Kinder Morgan to pursue eminent domain status due to the significant costs and probable loss in court. Those who have negotiated agreements felt it was a situation of “an offer that can't be refused.”

Board of Selectman Chairman Alice Boyd said in a statement that the Board had sought to “develop an Easement and Right of Way to benefit all residents who may potentially be impacted by the pipeline expansion.” She added that a Community Agreement has been approved by the Board and that Kinder Morgan attorneys are now reviewing these documents. The Select Board, she said, felt “obligated to protect our town, our roads, and our residents.”

But resistance to the expansion has not stopped.

The agreements take effect only if the pipeline is ultimately approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions and Kinder Morgan is able to proceed. Chairman Boyd added that the Board continues “to be adamantly opposed to the pipeline expansion.” And so are most of the other abutters and many town residents.

And in one important case, so is the state.

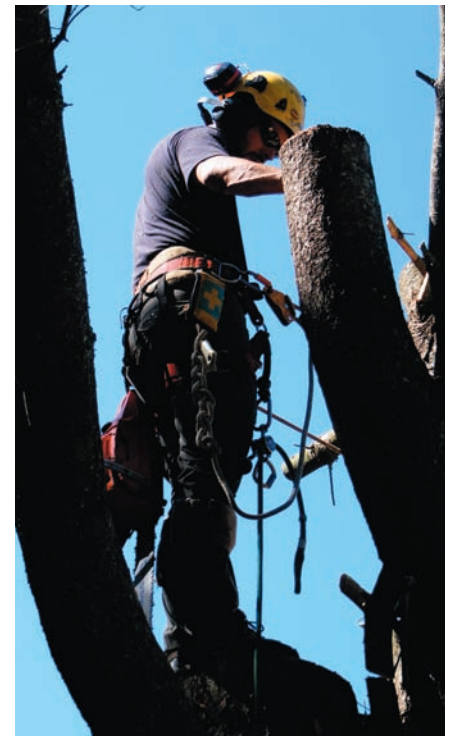
ARTICLE 97 TRANSFER

Opposition is strong against State Representative Garrett Bradley's introduction of a bill to allow the expansion to proceed by removing Article 97 lands at Spectacle Pond out of their protected status. The representative, a Democrat from Hingham, a district about 140 miles east of Sandisfield, was widely ridiculed and his motives were questioned. It is unusual for a representative from one district to submit legislation in another district, particularly if the local legislators are in opposition. In this case both State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Ben Downing remain adamantly opposed.

Representative Pignatelli fought the bill in order to keep it from reaching the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. Article 97 land dispositions require a 2/3rds vote of both the House and Senate, plus the signature of the governor. The bill has not reached the floor of the legislature for a vote and significant opposition in both chambers has increased. Apparently most Republican representatives are in opposition to the bill.

Senator Ben Downing, in a letter dated September 17, wrote that he “is opposed to advancing any legislation that seeks to dispose of open space lands protected under the Massachusetts Constitution and change its use to assist energy pipeline construction projects.” He was writing about the statewide Northwest Energy Direct (NED) project, but his words apply as well to the protected lands at Spectacle Pond.

An additional headache for Kinder Morgan is that statewide opponents of the NED project are



John W. Field Tree Service donated work, skill, and equipment to clear four trees from the New Boston Cemetery. See pages 10-11.



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Offers They Couldn't Refuse

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readying a sustained defense of Article 97 protection for Spectacle Pond. They are concerned that if Spectacle Pond is removed from protection for a commercial pipeline then some 70 other Article 97 conserved parcels along the NED line would be at risk, as well as other important parcels currently under the conservation care of private organizations like land trusts and the National Audubon Society.

Select Board Chairman Boyd led a tour of the proposed pipeline for a state commission in late August, including Pignatelli and Downing, and said later that they "couldn't believe what KM proposed to do."

Another investigative walk along several sections of the proposed expansion was held September 22. The site visit was organized by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in response to the Water Quality Certification application submitted by Tennessee Gas Pipeline, the Kinder Morgan subsidiary that owns the pipeline. Results of the walk and any decisions by the DEP are so far unavailable.


More public meetings are to be scheduled and the fight continues.

PIPEYARD STAGING AREAS

Meanwhile, in Sandisfield, the pipeline expansion work plan included as many as three large staging areas where, the KM proposal stated, nearly 200 truckloads of large pipes and major construction equipment would have to be stored and broken down during the project. But two of the proposed staging areas are no longer being considered.

Two staging areas proposed near Spectacle Pond were nixed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation because of the risk of contaminating the pristine lake. Another site, along Town Hill Road was removed from consideration by the applicants at a meeting of the Town's Conservation Commission in September.

With the beginning of the expansion project delayed from March 2016 until at least June, the company has little time to produce environmentally acceptable alternatives to disapproved proposed staging areas.

The pipeyard still planned is at the Hryckvich farm on South Beech Plain Road. Without a preliminary staging area to break down loads, it is unclear how the large equipment and long lengths of pipe will be able to negotiate the sharp turn onto unpaved and fragile South Beach Plain Road. 



Fruits of Sandisfield's richness.

Photo: Adam Manacher

Harvest Dinner

OCTOBER 24, FIREHOUSE #2

All the fixin's – turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls, desserts. The works.

5-7 p.m. Tickets at the door and takeouts available. \$12 adults/\$5 for 12 and under. Sponsored by the New Boston Congregational Church.



Town Administrator Departs

By Bill Price

Lisa Blackmer, who had served as Town Administrator since December 2013, resigned in early September. She did not state a reason for her departure to the Times.


Ms. Blackmer, currently president of the North Adams City Council, is also vice president of the Massachusetts Municipal Association and is in line for the presidency in 2016.

Ms. Blackmer was the first town administrator in Sandisfield. It must have been difficult to create and define such a position in a town with established ways of doing things, some of which have been in place, it seems, for 250 years.

Select Board Chairman Alice Boyd said that Sandisfield is currently searching for "an experienced town administrator already working part time for another town. We believe a part-time administrator would work best for us now."

The advertisement for the position states that the duties of the position include "chief administrative and financial responsibility for the town and direct responsibility to the Select Board for the management of staff and administration of all town affairs not specifically reserved to another elected body."

Chairman Boyd added, "We need someone who can be an agent of change, personnel manager, excel in municipal finance, and gracefully juggle frustrated residents while meeting numerous deadlines. There is real substance in the job but little control as that lies with the voters and Boston."

For more information, contact Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko at 413-258-4075. Resume and cover letter need to be mailed by October 15 to Town Administrator Position, Sandisfield Town Hall, PO Box 90, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or email aboydbos@gmail.com. 

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

High-Speed Internet: Otis Goes It Alone

*MBI Broadband made a presentation to the Select Board September 28. It was too close to press time for a report in this issue.
News Flash: Dump fees likely going up. Stay tuned.*

Last month when the Otis Board of Selectmen voted to own and control its fiber network – rather than working through the WiredWest cooperative – and go it alone with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), some Sandisfield residents said, “Huh?”

Select Board Chairman Alice Boyd said, however, that Sandisfield “is committed to the cooperative model. We think the benefits of participating in the WiredWest regional solution to obtain access to ultra-high-speed fiber-optic internet are clear. And it’s the only one that intends to pay back the town for their borrowing.”

Twenty-two rural western Massachusetts towns are participating in the fiber network, including most of the towns bordering Otis.

A detailed point-by-point response by WiredWest has been posted on www.sandisfield.info/welcome-home/wired-west. Ironically the response can only be read if you have internet access, since the response is too long for this issue of the Times. However, if you don’t have internet the response can be read at the Sandisfield Library which has excellent and fast high-speed internet.

The response in a nutshell was spelled out by the WiredWest Legal/Governance Chair in the Berkshire Eagle, September 21: “With ownership comes responsibility: for hiring and managing contractors, for equipment repair and replacement, for responding to emergencies like outages, for serving customers in town who will be in your face if dissatisfied.”

Part of the detailed response was that towns already “own and control” the network through the cooperative. WiredWest added, “Otis is very likely to spend more money than the town would as part of a regional network. Along with the sole ownership and control, the town will face alone the administrative burden of overseeing the construction and operation of the network.”

Otis might have individuals with skills and time to devote to working with the MBI. But about two years ago Sandisfield rejected the idea of becoming an expert in the medical marijuana business. Could Sandisfield become expert enough in the internet business that it can make the right decisions?

Some residents who already have DSL internet connection over Verizon landlines wonder why we need faster, more expensive broadband connectivity. One answer is that the current service may disappear.

Verizon has announced that they are not investing in new copper equipment and are at their limit. The result is that they may refuse to offer DSL to new customers. This was confirmed last month by a Verizon customer service representative. Customers as of 2012 are grandfathered into the system, but if you disconnect for any reason, the company may refuse to reconnect you. If you sell your home, Verizon may refuse to connect the new owner to DSL over the landline.

As WiredWest proponents have warned, Sandisfield Verizon customers should assume that DSL internet service here will ultimately be unsupported, and that the future of the service is in doubt.

*Bill Price
West New Boston*

Around Town Hall

By Alice Boyd, Select Board Chairman

Here at Town Hall the days are too short and the budget too tight to accomplish everything on our plate all at once. It will take time.

However, over the past month we’ve made some real headway. New Hartford Road has been paved, John Skrip and Jeff Grey have been working with the Highway Department, new systems and policies are being implemented, job descriptions wrapped up, a grant was submitted, a new roof was installed, and contracts have been negotiated. Property Assessments are now available on our website, and the gate at the transfer station has been fixed.

Progress is being made.

In early September I submitted the \$1 million STRAP grant (to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) to cover the cost of repairing our bridge located on Rte. 57 at River Road. We’ve also taken state Senators and Representatives on a tour of the proposed pipeline expansion to demonstrate how we’ll be impacted, and we’ve developed a Right of Way, Easement and Community Agreement that will help abutters and residents if Kinder Morgan is successful in installing the pipeline expansion. We are adamantly opposed to

the pipeline but obligated to protect our town and residents if it comes to fruition.

On September 28 we formally unveiled details of the Senior Tax Abatement Work Program. A maximum abatement of \$500 will be given in exchange for work on carefully selected projects within the town. Seniors-in-need may apply. They will need to list their skills and be matched with projects as they become available. We are seeking a volunteer to run this program and supervise the work and workers. Currently we have an extensive filing project, a fence to be painted, and a few other potential jobs. Seniors will punch a time clock, put in their time, and receive credit on their taxes.

With the resignation of our Town Administrator and the impending retirement of our Tax Collector, we have an opportunity to reorganize with a goal of streamlining office functions and saving money. We’re currently advertising for a part-time Town Administrator, someone who could ideally be shared with another town.

We’re meeting with Sheffield and New Marlborough Selectmen and Highway Superintendents to look at ways to work together to save money. We’re also looking at Yanner Park and options for moving this project forward. We

recognize that volunteers worked tirelessly to raise funds, one pancake at a time. We believe this project deserves to be completed. We will research and present a plan at a future Town Meeting.

I’d like to think of this as a “retooling” year, a chance to reorganize while looking at the bigger picture: Sandisfield 2025.

It’s very easy to get caught up in the crisis du jour: bridge closings, litigation, town finances, road complaints, employee issues, and frustrated residents. But we are committed to looking beyond the day-to-day events and focusing on the larger goal.

We may not have enough money to have beautiful roads, but we can make them better. We may not have enough staff to handle every request but we can use technology to help fill the gap. And we may not have the manpower for the jobs at hand but we have wonderful volunteers like John Field and many others who quietly do so much.

Sandisfield is a very special place. The role of the Board of Selectmen is to help move our town forward while maintaining the charm, character and history of our town. If we work together with a shared vision we can accomplish this. 🍷




Movies at SArc

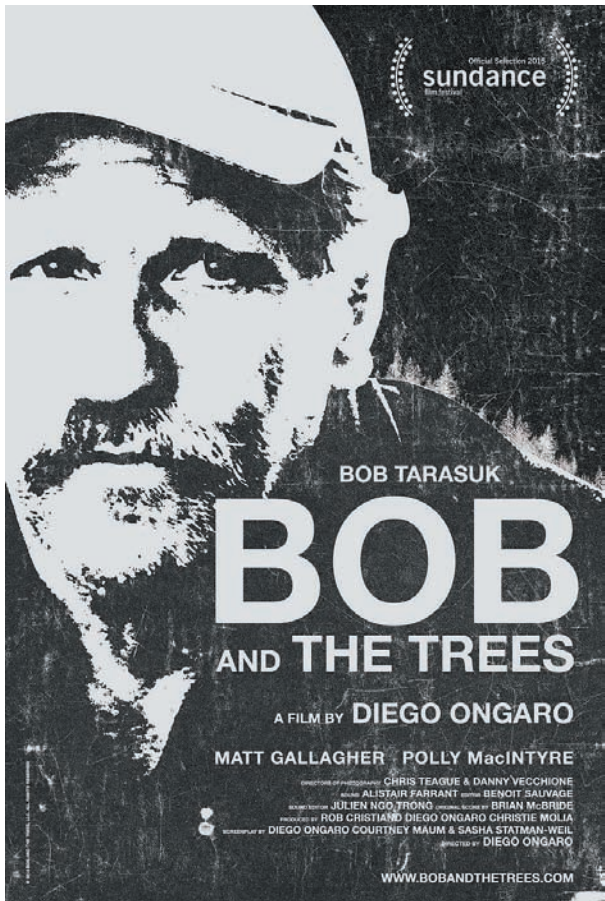
COMING SOON TO THE SANDISFIELD ONE-PLEX

Two very different films will be shown this fall at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Both are full-length commercial films starring inhabitants of – you guessed it – Sandisfield!

“Tin” was filmed with a ‘green screen’ using models and a few location shots. One of the leading roles is played by Sandisfield’s Ben Luxon, who returned to his native Cornwall to act in the play and then make the film.

The first up is “Bob and the Trees” on Friday, October 23. Starring Sandisfield’s Bob Tarasuk and (formerly Sandisfield’s) Matt Gallagher, the film was directed by Sandisfield’s Diego Ongaro. “Bob and the Trees” won the Karlovy Film Festival in the Czech Republic in July and earlier this year was a popular hit at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

“Bob and the Trees,” Friday, October 23. “Tin” on Saturday, November 7. Show time for both is 8 p.m. Don’t miss these two very different films at what will become, at least for two nights, Sandisfield’s movie palace. 



“Bob and the Trees” is scheduled for film festivals in Switzerland, Canada, Poland, in the U.S. in Woodstock, NY; Bend, OR; at Film Columbia in Chatham, NY, and will be the opening film at the Northampton, MA festival.

Birthday



Begin again, Finnegan.
It was something like morning,
The unkempt night behind.
An old-veined sun
Like Baudelaire’s whores
Shook her hair and beckoned.

A story about a logger’s life in Sandisfield, “Bob and the Trees” is a raw, wrenching story, shot live on location during the polar vortex winter of 2014. Nearly everyone in the cast is local.

A new season
With brave new winds
Was calling me ... whistling winds,
Thistling winds ... tearing, teasing ...
Oh, the thrash of it! I was born
In the cradle of October storms.

The second film, “Tin,” which plays on November 7, is a period piece set at the end of the 19th century in a small mining town in West Cornwall, England. Based on a true story of a famous 1895 mining scam, the film relates the story of how the fate of an entire community rests on the courage of one feisty young maid.



*Val Coleman
Town Hill Road*

*On October 12, Val will turn 85.
Happy Birthday.*

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The Librarian's Corner


By Terry Spohnholz

Fall brings the perfect weather to curl up with a good book and the Sandisfield Library has lots of great books to indulge your fantasies. So come on down and find one or two or twelve! New books are always arriving, and if you don't find what you are looking for, we are happy to request it from another library.

We also have free WiFi, computer access, DVDs, and audio books as well as a brightened children's section with toys, puzzles, Legos and, of course, books for the youngest of readers!

AND Check out our latest addition – Me! Theresa Spohnholz, (Terry), your librarian, born and raised in Berkshire County, a Sandisfield resident for two years, and totally addicted to books. I hope to meet all of you. Bring your ideas and suggestions – it is YOUR library.

A side note: the Sandisfield Book Club meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center (downstairs in the Library). September's book was *Prague Winter* by Madeleine Albright. The Book Club loves new members, so what is keeping you from meeting a bunch of readers who love discussing a good book!? New faces bring new ideas!

October's read will be *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. The date for that meeting is October 28. 



Rabbits Find a Home

LOCAL LOGGER BUILDS A HABITAT



By Laura Rogers-Castro

Recently two Massachusetts officials led a public walk on Chad Pease's property on Sandisfield Road to highlight an innovative and local conservation partnership intended to save the New England cottontail.

A candidate for the Endangered Species List since 2006, the New England cottontail was the rabbit that inspired the story of "Peter Cottontail."

On the walk, Massachusetts Wildlife Habitat Biologist Marianne Piché and State Forester Tom Ryan described efforts across six New England states to help the species survive in the 21st century. One of those partnership efforts is being conducted in the woods behind the home of Chad Pease, a local logger and land-clearer.

The partnerships appear to be working because in early September, soon after the walk on Chad's place, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that the New England cottontail was being removed from the candidate list. Like wild turkeys and bald eagles, EPA intervention may have saved it.

Two kinds of cottontail rabbits are found in Massachusetts, the non-native eastern cottontail (introduced into the northeast for hunting in the early 1900s) and the New England cottontail. Reasons for the decline of the New England variety include competition from the more adaptable Eastern cottontail, habitat loss, and the local increase in the coyote population.

Biologists have determined that one of the major focal points for New England cottontails in Massachusetts happens to be in the southern Berkshires. Apparently at least five locations from Granville to Monterey are homes to the cottontails. They prefer dense, brushy vegetation and shrubby

wetlands. It is hoped that 1,000 acres can be provided for their habitat.

The project on Chad's property, in the woods behind his home, involved his clearing about ten acres of older trees to create a new, young forest. The trees he




Chad Pease with his son Logan, 7

removed were mostly ash, which are expected to succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer in a few years. "Or not," Chad added, hoping that the removal of so many ash trees across the southern Berkshires might encourage the borer to skip over those remaining.

Chad left a few large trees to provide a seed source for new growth. On the walk, Tom Ryan pointed out small cherry, beech, and oak saplings that were already growing.

Downed limbs were left on the ground to provide cover for smaller animals, such as salamanders. The young new forest will not only provide habitat for New England cottontails but for the many birds that rely on the forest for food during nesting and migration.

Chad's next task was to build about 20 brush piles to provide cover for the cottontails, something that would be particularly useful during Sandisfield's long, cold winters. Chad said that the piles were made by criss-crossing two levels of logs, with brush piled on top. He said, "It looks like it could be a bear den." If the bears agree, the cottontails may have to share space.

Many thanks to Chad, Tom, and Marianne for providing an interesting walk and discussion. And thanks also to Marianne for the homemade, delicious, acorn-shaped cookies. 

Rabbit Drawing: Paul Fusco

Our New Librarian

Our new librarian, Terry Spohnholz, writes that it is a good day when she is surrounded by books. She says she has "climbed Kilimanjaro, traveled to Mars, discussed mankind with God, and followed Dickens around the East End of London – all from the comfort of my chair."

Asked to describe herself, she says, "My life has been a series of adventures, some big and some small, but each an experience that has left me with no regrets and eager to embrace the next one."

Library Hours

The library has returned to its regular schedule.

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Thursday: 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Photo: Bill Price

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER



5 Hammertown Rd, Sandisfield, MA
413-258-4100

INFO/TIX: SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

october

Sat, Oct 3 10 AM

Suzanne O'Connell Climate

Change Lecture:

Why is CO₂ a greenhouse gas?

Students FREE, all others buy all three for \$20.

In the Gallery Oct 3 - 25

Bits and Pieces: Works by Barbara Elton and Lucinda Shmulsky -

Opening Reception -

Sat, Oct 3 2-4 PM FREE

Sat, Oct 10 10 AM

Climate Change Lecture:

Importance of understanding atmospheric CO₂ and climate history

Students FREE, all others buy all three for \$20.

Sat, Oct 10 8 PM

Gypsy Layne Cabaret & Co. \$20

Sun, Oct 11 (9AM-5PM) and

Mon, Oct 12 (9AM-2AM)

HUGE Community Tag Sale

LOCATION: Sandisfield Green

(Route 57 & New Hartford Road)

Fri, Oct 23 8 PM

Screening of Award Winning

"Bob and the Trees" Donation

Sat, Oct 24 10 AM

Climate Change Lecture:

Increased CO₂ & Earth's climate future: Rate of change is the key

Students FREE, all others buy all three for \$20.

Sat, Oct 24 8 PM

Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet \$20

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and
Local Cultural Councils

OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

As a pro bono service to the town, **Bogart Muller** and his grounds keeping crew pruned the two weeping cherry trees and trimmed the overgrown rhododendrons facing Sandisfield Road beside the Town Hall Annex.



Sue Campetti, owner of the former New Boston Store, has engaged a crew to rehab the building, turning it into a residence for her family.



Welcome to **Bob and Mary Ann Gacek**, formerly of Waterbury, who have moved to Sandisfield full time. A Sandisfield Times article last January titled "A Tale of Two Cottages" described their long quest to renovate their place on Cold Spring Road. Mary Ann told us, "We escaped from the city ... finally! What are the winters like up here?" She's kidding.

View from the Arts Center



2016 IS UPON US!

By Marcella Smith, President

With the 2016 Arts Center season just around the corner, the programming committee is lining up performers, events, speakers, and theater.

It's not too late to let us know if there are musicians, actors, speakers, authors, readers you want to see on stage at the Arts Center. Send your nominations to me at marcex2@mac.com, with the subject heading: "2016 events at the Arts Center."

Two of our favorites from 2015 – Andy Wrba and the Rotten Apples and the Easy Ridin' Papas – will be on stage again next season. Come enjoy their music again. And if you missed them this year, catch them in 2016, for sure.

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Jo Garfield at the Arts Center.

Roosevelts, Right Here

By Bill Price

On a warm September afternoon at the Arts Center, Johanna Garfield presented a memoir of the years she and her family were neighbors to the Roosevelt family on Fox Road. From her first sentence she had the audience's attention: "The first Roosevelt I met wasn't actually a Roosevelt ..."


Seeking other children for her three youngsters to play with during long visits to her summer home, Jo made tentative friends with the family who lived in the house down the road. The house turned out to be Willard and Carol Roosevelt's place, brimming with children and people coming and going all summer.

Willard, it turned out, was "a grandson of Theodore and a distant cousin to Franklin."

Jo's memoir outlines the growing friendship between the families in warm and often touching descriptions of individuals and events. The Roosevelts were an unusual family to Jo, and she describes them as "mysterious and intriguing."

Toward the end she recalls how the deaths of two of the young Roosevelt sons – in separate motor accidents within four years of each other – brought an end to the family's time in Sandisfield. "And soon," she wrote, "no longer able to stay in the house so filled with echoes, Willard and Carol left Sandisfield ..."

Others who knew the Roosevelts in Sandisfield attended Jo's presentation, including Thelma Esteves of Beech Plain Road.

Thelma's husband, Fausto, was a friend of Willard's in New York City. Their visits to the Roosevelts in Sandisfield eventually drew them to buy a home here. Thelma writes, "Years of shared dinners, picnics at Spectacle Pond, intimate musical evenings are mixed in my memories with fun cook-outs, outdoor games, and lots of laughter. The tragedies of our last years together is still painful to recall, but is part of our lives together." 

*"I'll tell you how the Sun rose,
a Ribbon at a time"*

"The Belle of Amherst" as Performed by Mari Andrejco

By Barbara Penn

"The Belle of Amherst," by William Luce, is an imagined version of the life of Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) who today is considered one of America's greatest poets.

Not much is known factually about Dickinson's life other than that she spent most of her 56 years secluded in her family home in Amherst, Massachusetts. In the 19th century, her radically original poetry, its meter, rhyme, form, and subject-matter new and unfamiliar to the traditions of the time, was rejected. She published only a handful of poems in her lifetime; over a thousand were published after her death.

In this one-woman, almost two-hour play at the Arts Center in September, Mari Andrejco took on the daunting task of being Emily Dickinson across many years of her life. Her most daunting task was to portray Dickinson not as a fearful recluse but a fully-realized woman who has chosen her life, a woman whose very life was the poem.


"I see each of you as a poem," said Andrejco, looking into the audience at the beginning of the play. Dickinson's insights into the nature



of love, religion, and life itself were solid. Dickinson knew who she was, and so does Andrejco.

The audience was invited into Emily's parlor, allowed a glimpse into the poet's thoughts about family, friends, religion, correspondence, parts of poems, dialogue with unseen people in her life. Most significant was her long correspondence with the critic Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who told her in a long-awaited visit that it would not be a good idea for her to attempt to publish. This crushing disappointment after almost decade of correspondence is clear in her poem "Hope fell ... it made no sound ... the collapse was within ..."

Andrejco gave a clear, natural, and believable portrait of the poet. Her performance never overreached. The emotions, sense of humor, and delivery of the poems was real and convincing ... though this audience member wanted even more of Dickinson's poems in the production.

Another memorable evening of first-class theater at the Arts Center. BRAVO! 

Calling SANDISFIELD CHILDREN ...

...TO BE HANSEL AND
GRETEL'S FRIENDS AND
WOODSPRITES AND
ANGELS




On December 12 and 13, the Sandisfield Players will perform a staged version of *Hansel and Gretel* at the Arts Center.

We would love to have six children, between the ages of 8 and 12, join us on the stage.

Their roles will involve singing and dancing as a group and becoming puppeteers who work the forest birds. They will be Hansel and Gretel's friends, woodsprites, and angels – all of course in costume.

Once we have our group we will arrange rehearsals that best accommodate the children's timetables, beginning in late October. The rehearsal schedule will not be heavy, probably once a week, with an increase in the final two weeks before the performance.

It will be fun! Anyone out there interested? Please call Ben Luxon or Susie Crofut at 258-4994 or send us an email: susiecrofut@mail.com. 



Ski & Board Shop SALE

Oct. 2nd to Nov. 25th

SAVE 30 to 70% OFF

previous seasons clothing & gear

Fri. Oct. 2nd: 10a to 7p | Sat. & Sun.: 10a to 5p
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 12p to 7p | Closed Thursdays.

Enjoy our Annual Ski & Board SWAP

Columbus Weekend

SWAP = Used Ski & Board - Gear & Clothing SALE
Oct. 10-11-12

Bring us quality items you want us to sell. Or come shop for a gently used item at a great price.

See our Facebook page, website:
www.SkiButternut.com/Ski-Shop

or Call 413.528.2000 x273 for details

Fall Foliage SCENIC CHAIRLIFT RIDES

\$5/person

Sat. & Sun. Oct 10-11

Lift runs 10a to 3p



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2015-16 SEASON PASSES:

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\$150 Kids | \$150 Sr.

Prices increase Dec. 1st - So order early.

ORDER: Online at

SkiButternut.com/SeasonPass

or **CALL:** 413.528.2000 x 111

Council on Aging



By Susan Galik

The joint was jumping on the 23rd at the flu clinic which we hold in September to get ahead of the flu season. Look for us next year.

First up for October is the Apple Fest on the 10th at the Historical Society building on Rt. 183. While the bake sale is going on inside, the COA will be selling apple pies outside, as well as tickets for our Christmas basket drawing, which this year will benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The drawing will not be until the Historical Society Christmas Bazaar on December 5 at the Fire Station on Rt. 57. Looking forward to seeing you at both events.

The senior center in New Hartford has invited us for dinner and a movie on Monday, October 19th. Cost is \$18. The movie is "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." At the Gilson Theater. Call Linda Riiska at 258-4816 to for information and reservations.

The representative from SHINE, the group that coordinates all state benefits, will be here on the 21st. After lunch you can sit down and discuss what programs may be available to you.

Keep your eyes on the front lawn of the Town Hall Annex for when we have our Fire extinguisher safety class.

Flower arranging is back. Monday, November 23 from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$5. You will make your own beautiful Thanksgiving arrangement. This class has grown as word has spread. The greens tend to last long enough that you can add some Christmas colored flowers and use the arrangement for both holidays.

For those who need it, a support group for grievors is held at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Chrissey Rd., Great Barrington. Give them a call as to when the next group will start up.

As always ... every Wednesday at noon in the Town Hall Annex basement we have a pot luck lunch followed by Bingo. We would love to see you there. 🐱



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Country Treasures Yard Sale

TO BENEFIT THE SANDISFIELD PLAYERS, OCTOBER 11-12

By Ron Bernard

The Sandisfield Arts Center's company, The Sandisfield Players, have organized an event called "Country Treasures" to be held over the Columbus Day weekend.

What could be more wholesome than an outdoor event at the peak of fall foliage and harvest time, an event that will raise money for a good cause *and* turn out to be tons of fun?

"We want to do something really different at the Town Green," said committee member Susie Crofut. "This is not going to be your typical tag sale. We expect to have a great number of things and a wide variety: antiques, better household and garden items and equipment, power tools, interesting old and modern furniture, arts and crafts. Lots more."

Local author and playwright Val Coleman has donated a large collection of books including rare sets and individual titles.

Proceeds are intended to help defray travel costs for the Sandisfield Players journey to England next June. The Players will be performing the quintessential American play, Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," at the world-famous Minack Theater in Cornwall. Director Ben Luxon's troupe of amateur actors is believed to be the first American company invited to perform in the theater's 89-year history.

Twenty-seven cast members will make the trip, including several families. As much as possible, the cast will pay for their own transportation. While the group will earn a share of admissions for their seven performances over five days, the income is not expected to cover all of their expenses.

The site of the Community Yard Sale, at the top of the hill at the corner of Rt. 57 and New Hartford Road, is now a rocky hilltop and grassy field. No passerby would know that the section was for many years the vibrant social, religious, and commercial center of the town. The green was home to taverns and inns, general stores, stagecoach stops, a series of three churches, our first public library (1808) and first post office (1807), schoolhouses, and even a bank. A farmer's market was busy six days a week. When the town's fortunes changed in the 1870s, the Center declined and the loss by fire of the magnificent third Church in 1908 was the end of significant community activity on the site.

But for many years the Center green had proudly served as Sandisfield's front yard. The "Country Treasures" yard sale, probably the first event of its kind here in living memory, recalls the market tradition at this place which has been dormant for more than a century.

Who knows, maybe a successful event will prompt more in the future and rekindle the tradition. In the meantime, leaf peepers, treasure hunters, and bookworms of all ages are assured of fun, food, and bargains over the Columbus Day weekend. Mark your calendars and come support your Sandisfield Players!

The Players are seeking donations (tax deductible) of items in new or good, serviceable condition. Donors please contact Lauren Paul at 413-258-4296. To volunteer or for more information, call Ron Bernard at 413-269-0012. ♡

A Free Play Group on Tuesdays

By Nina Carr

Most of us in the southern Berkshire area know what a wonderful job the Childrens Health Program has done over the years supporting children and families. Now known as Community Health Programs (CHP), the network has been serving families out of its Great Barrington center for 40 years.

I would like to remind Sandisfield families of a CHP service that is available nearby – a free play group for young children and their caregivers.

All children, including those who are still babies, are welcome. It is held in the gym at Otis Town Hall every Tuesday morning from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The program includes craft/art projects, singing, story time, and, of course, free play. We can also help connect families to services they may want to use at our center in Great Barrington.

Please come and check us out. Every Tuesday morning, we're ready to play! ♡



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A Gift to Sandisfield

By Nina Carr

Photos: Bill Price

Bright and early on Thursday, September 17, four trucks, one excavator, one large chipper, and eight men arrived at the West New Boston Cemetery next to Carr's field.


They were about to begin the day-long process of taking down four trees that had been identified as either dying or dangerous. One, a large white pine, had already toppled a couple of headstones and was threatening others.

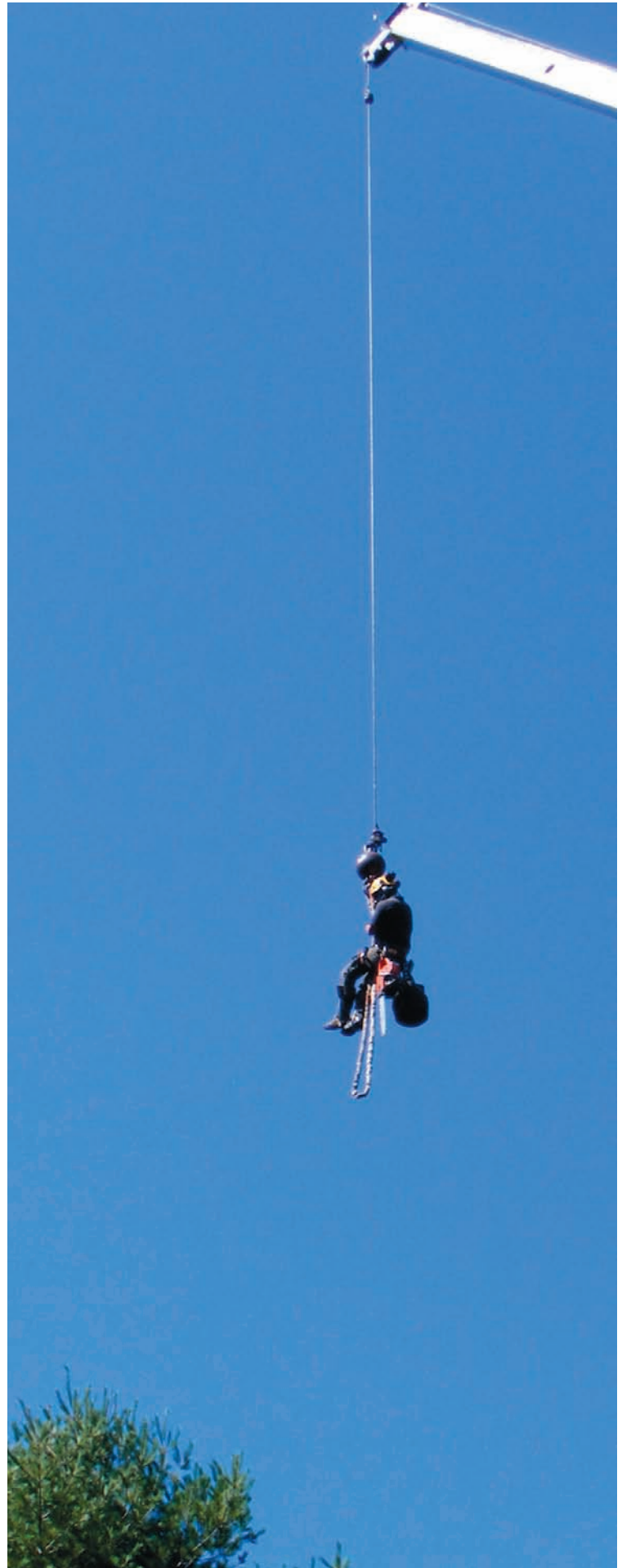
The Cemetery Committee had asked John Field, the local owner of John W. Field Tree Service, if he would do the job for the town. Not only did he do the job, but he donated all the equipment and his crew's time.

He even rented a 127-foot crane truck from Bartlett Tree Company, operated by Chris Rines, a former Sandisfield Highway Superintendent.

As you can see from the pictures this was a complicated and dangerous job. Two state policemen were on hand to direct traffic, and for a time Rt. 57 was closed completely.

Will Pennington, John's younger brother, explained the techniques used as the crew worked like a well-oiled machine. They even remembered to carefully move the flags and flower pots that the Cemetery Committee had put up this spring. The trees were removed, the debris cleaned up as the crew worked, and not one ding in the old wooden fence that had been recently painted or damage to any of the ancient tombstones.

When asked about this kind of a major donation – the skill, the work, the crew, the equipment – John said, "The town trusted me and hired me when I was just starting my business. I wanted to pay some of it back." 







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Photo: Matthew Virginia

Reservoir Running Dry?

NOT QUITE, AND THERE IS GOOD NEWS

By Tom Christopher

Matthew Virginia has been worried. One of the favorite spots in town for this Sandisfield resident has long been Clam River Lake. He likes to watch the eagles that roost on its western shore in spring. He likes to kayak on its water and picnic on its island. But in recent weeks he watched the water level drop until the former island was just a muddy walk from shore. He suspected that the dam which formed the lake had sprung a leak.

In fact, this dam has a troubled history.


Clam River Lake is one of three flood control reservoirs in Sandisfield created in the wake of the catastrophic flood of August 1955 that inundated much of central and eastern Connecticut, killing 90 people; the other reservoirs are located off West Street and Silverbrook Road. All three were created by the Army Corps of Engineers in the late 1960s, at the same time as the Farmington River was dammed to make the Colebrook River Reservoir.

Something, however, went wrong with the construction of the Clam River Dam.

According to the recollection of neighbor and local historian Don Peet, this defect prevented the filling of the reservoir for roughly 15 years, until the dam was repaired. Drained again around the year 2000, the dam was repaired for a second time and refilled in 2007.

The good news for Matthew Virginia and other lovers of Sandisfield's outdoors is that the current

leak has been plugged by the State's Department of Conservation and Recreation and a part needed to make this current repair permanent is on order. A recent visit to Clam River Lake found the water level returning to normal, with dog walkers on the shore and kayakers on the water.

And, despite rumors to the contrary, a telephone call to a spokesperson for DCR revealed that such recreational uses of the flood control lakes are sanctioned under state regulations. Local boaters, dog owners, and fishermen, not to mention eagle-watchers, should be happy to have this information. 



Fallen Leaves

The wind blowing through leaves
Wonderful sounds are heard
Bright colors come alive
In all shapes and sizes
Falling gracefully to the ground
As to sleep
Till nature awakens again.

*Mary Ann Gacek
Cold Spring Road*

Revving Up Their Engines

SANDISFIELD MOTOR CLUB


GETTING UNDERWAY

By Peter Baiamonte

Wade Boucher, Jay Reynolds, and I have been attending classic car shows and helping each other with our vehicles over the last year or so. We started discussing the idea of a Sandisfield car club.

Wade suggested the name "Sandisfield Motor Club" to make it more inclusive for classic tractors and any other type of vintage vehicle.

We are hoping to have a first meeting sometime in October, with a goal of establishing not only a local club/organization, but also starting an annual classic vehicle show in Sandisfield.

Anyone interested in getting involved, please get in touch so we can include you in the first meeting when we get it going. Either send me an email at peterbaiamonte@icloud.com or call me at 917-328-3567. 

Knox Trail Rediscovery Hike

OCTOBER 17,
RAIN OR SHINE

By Ron Bernard

Last year at this time we reported about a local historical research breakthrough.

Tom Ragusa of the Otis Historical Commission announced that after nearly three decades of research and mapping, the Sandisfield portion of the old Knox Trail was finally and officially "connected."

The Sandisfield segment, about 4 miles long, is the largest – perhaps the only – undisturbed original pathway out of some 30 miles that once ran through the Berkshires to connect Boston and Albany.


Known since the mid-1600s by a variety of names, in modern times the trail is named in honor of Col. Henry Knox and his teamsters who salvaged cannons from Fort Ticonderoga at Lake George and dragged them through the frozen wilderness to the besieged Gen. Washington in Boston in the winter

of 1775-76. Recognized as an almost super-human feat, it caught the British navy by surprise. The British sailed away without sacking the city and the Continental Army survived to carry the fight for Independence. Some historians believe this underappreciated event at the outset of the Revolution was crucial to the outcome of the War.

For this and other events involving it, the Knox Trail has national historical significance. It is Sandisfield's most important historical legacy.

By the mid-1820s, the Trail was abandoned in the Berkshires in favor of improved roads for stage coaches. The old roadway has been obliterated by development except in Sandisfield and part of Otis. Fortunately, most of the Sandisfield portion is on protected, never-developed State land, although the original road, never much more than a path through rugged terrain, has been subsumed into the forest floor.

A long-time DCR employee, Tom Ragusa, has waged a passionate if lonely quest to rediscover and to resurrect "The Great Boston-Albany Road." His hard work and determination has paid off because this year the State agreed to rebuild the trail in Sandisfield and agencies will meet about it February. One day soon, a safe, well-marked, and historically correct trail will be available for biking, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

Sandisfield's legacy asset will become a star attraction for our Town. 



HUGE Community Yard Sale!

SUN, OCT 11,
9AM-5PM &
MON, OCT 12,
9AM-2PM

**SANDISFIELD TOWN GREEN,
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 **Proceeds will help defray Sandisfield Players' transportation expenses to Cornwall, England for performances at the Minack Theatre in June, 2016.**

Antiques and better quality household & garden items & equipment, furniture, artwork from local artists, crafts, many books and much more – bargains galore!

To donate items (tax deductible): call Lauren, 413 258-4296.
To volunteer / for more info: call Ron, 413 269-0012.



Take A Hike

Join Tom Ragusa on Saturday, October 17 to hike from Upper Spectacle Pond to the trail's terminus at Route 8 and the Farmington River. Meet at 10 a.m. at the old CCC dam at Upper Spectacle near the site of the former Henry Spring Tavern. The hike is rain or shine. Parking is available. The hike is at least 2 miles and can be rigorous. A water bottle and proper boots and clothing, and a walking stick are advised. Please buddy-up as you will need a ride back to the starting point. As always, the hike is at your own risk. For further information contact Tom at tomncin14323@aol.com.

Making a Living in Sandisfield

BILLY RIISKA: HOW IT WAS – AND IS

By Bill Price

As the guest speaker at the Sandisfield Historical Society's June meeting, orchardist Billy Riiska was interviewed by his daughter, Bethany Riiska Perry. Last month the Times outlined Billy's "growing up" in Sandisfield, a story that ended with Bill being drafted into the U.S. Army at the height of the Vietnam War.



With the 101st Airborne, 1967.

While only 73 and hardly an old-timer, Billy's earliest stories reminded his audience of the Depression era of the 1930s. Instead, he grew up in the 1940s-'50s. In Sandisfield, however, even then he was schooled in one-room schoolhouse, his family took in hunters every deer season for extra money, and everybody "lived within their means." Despite some hardship, Billy remembered, "They were good days."

Then the Vietnam War thrust Billy into the 1960s. Drafted for two years, he volunteered for Airborne and was assigned to the 101st Division. Of the war, Billy says, "Most of what happened over there should stay over there." He was wounded during the battle to recapture Hue after the Tet Offensive; all the other members of his platoon were killed. When his two years were up, Billy came home. (See the sidebar, "Vietnam/Berkshires.")

BACK IN SANDISFIELD

After his discharge from the army, Billy worked on seasonal construction projects, including the building of Rt. 8 through Waterbury and north to Winsted. He worked in rock quarries. "Drilling was not very healthy, but when I first started I got a dollar an hour, then up to a dollar and a quarter. The sweat shops in Winsted were only paying 60, 70 cents an hour, so I thought I was doing pretty good."



Logging Days

Then he started logging. "That I could do year round."

In the meantime, he owned a '67 GTO 400 convertible. "I got in trouble with that car," he said. "Going too fast all the time."



Bill and Barbara

Billy's daughter, Bethany, said, "You were lucky enough then to meet my mother. I'm very grateful for that."

"When I met Barbara," Billy said, "I was doing three bad things: gambling, drinking, and everything else. I stopped most of the bad things, and we got married."

The young couple moved to Otis, but, Billy said, "I always wanted to do something with the farm. My mom and dad were living on it then, and I started planting a few trees. When my dad passed away, then my mother, Barbara and I moved back to Sandisfield and the farm."

AN ACCIDENT HELPED START RIISKA BROOK ORCHARD

The land was where Billy's Finnish grandparents had built a large dairy farm on New Hartford Road in the early 1900s. The farm was operated by Billy's father and mother after his grandparents



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died. "They all did pretty good," Billy said. "They came here with nothing and built something."

Billy got more serious with apples: He started with 500 trees, added 200, then 400 more.

While working his still small orchard, Billy kept up with seasonal logging. Then the accident happened, as described in 2008 in the Torrington Republican-American by Sandisfield reporter Brigitte Ruthman.

"Logger and farmer Bill Riiska," she wrote, "thought he was done cheating death when he returned from Vietnam half a lifetime ago until Nov. 4, when a falling tree limb nearly killed him. As he had done thousands of times before during the 40 years he has worked with chain saws in the woods, Riiska cut down a large oak tree."

The vibration from the falling tree caused a large limb from a tall, dead ash tree nearby to break free. The limb hit Billy "at an angle across his back, compressing six vertebrae along his lower spine and breaking three others, his shoulder, and several ribs as it drove his body to the ground."

Billy's logging companions, Richard Hamilton of Sandisfield and Billy's stepson, Keith Larson, told him not to move and called 911 with a cell phone. Paramedics were dispatched from New Hartford along with a Life Star helicopter.

As hurt as he was, reported Brigitte, the sound of the helicopter brought Billy memories of Vietnam.

In time, he recovered from the accident, but Billy knew from now on his logging days would be limited. He became a farmer.

His family helped, sometimes reluctantly. Bethany remembers when the orchard was getting started how miserable she was selling apples from a tent with a baby on her hip. "It's very different now," she said. "We have the Apple Shack, and it's a nice place where families come to visit."

Bill said, "If my friend Richard Hamilton hadn't built the Apple Shack for me, my family would have quit. They didn't like to sell apples out of tents in the rain."

Asked at the Historical Society program if he had ever thought he would end up living back on the farm, Billy said, "Yes. Someday. I just didn't know when. I was born there, and it was the only place I wanted to live."

Now, drive south on New Hartford Road and as you crest the top of a steep hill the apple orchard is before you in rows of over 2,500 trees across 25 acres: Macintosh, Cortlands, Honey Crisp, Empires, Spencers, Fujis, Galas, Ida Reds, Braeburn, Macouns. Blueberries, pumpkins, and now chickens and eggs. It is a family operation. On fall weekends daughter Bethany Perry helps with the fruit stand, along with her sister, Sue Avery. Sue's husband Matt works on the place and runs the family fruit stand at the Norfolk Farmers Market. The grandchildren pitch in: Katrina, Scott, Tom, Eric, and Melissa. Grandson and musician Andy Wirba operates the orchard's website: RiiskaBrookOrchard.com.

Go there this season. The "Apple Shack" is open every day of the week until Thanksgiving. 🍏



Of his friend Wicki Spring, Bill says, "Wicki does all the mowing and a lot of the work up here. I couldn't run the orchard without him."

Vietnam/Berkshires: A Vietnam Story

A paratrooper with the 101st Airborne, Billy was helicopter dropped with his platoon into a hot landing zone in the City of Hue. Just as they jumped off, one of their buddies was killed.

It was too hot to stay and fight it out. They loaded their buddy back in the helicopter and jumped in after him.

A bullet went through the helicopter doorway, through the back of the pilot's seat, and out the front window, just missing the pilot. The pilot started yelling and complaining. He had three days to go in Vietnam and they sent him out on a hot mission and he nearly gets killed. Billy said, "He kept complaining all the way back to the base."

Years later, now a logger back home in Sandisfield, Billy hauled a load of logs to Corvaco in Great Barrington. "Unloading the logs," he said, "I said something in Vietnamese, maybe French. A fellow at the loading platform, Jeff Cohen, asked me, 'Were you in Vietnam?'"

Billy told him, "Yes." Jeff replied, "I was a chopper pilot."

It turned out that he was an army helicopter pilot with the 1st Cavalry. Billy said, "You were a warrant officer." Jeff said, "Yes."

Billy said, "I looked at him. I said, 'I know you. Were you ...'" and he described the bullet through the seat and the three days to go.

Jeff was the helicopter pilot who was nearly killed in Hue who brought Billy into danger and brought him safely out again.



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About two weeks ago I was walking on the road in front of our home and fainted. Low blood sugar.

As a long-time diabetic, I should have known better, but ...

Most fortunately, I was rescued by a good neighbor and his young son and even younger daughter – Wilbur French of East Otis. I was a bit of a mess, bleeding from cuts on my forehead, nose, chin, and both hands. My wife was home, and Wilbur delivered me to her. Now, I am 100% well.

Thank you, Wilbur.

John Grammer
South Beech Plain Road




Sandisfield Historical Society

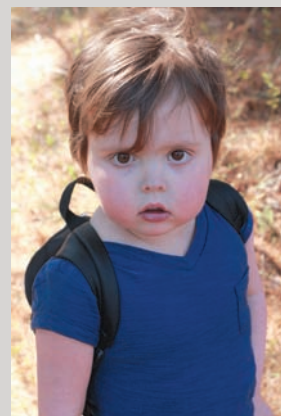
By John Kuzmecz



The Historical Society thanks Rosemary Allen for opening up about her life in Sandisfield at the September meeting. An article reporting some of her comments will appear in the November Times.

Our financial situation at the Society compelled Gary Bottom to generously donate his time and equipment to maintain our large lawn in recent weeks. We thank him very much.

Our Annual Apple Festival will be held Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. These festivals are a crucial component of our fund-raising. We will have colonial re-enactors, a large tag sale, apple press demonstration, bakery and pie sale, and hamburgers and hot dogs. Anyone is welcome to join us and sell their wares. We expect a lot of traffic as this is a holiday weekend. Potential vendors: please contact Marcia Ignace at 258-2898. Please support our Apple Fest 10/10 at 10 am, at the South Sandisfield Meeting House, Rt. 183. 



CORA CAMPBELL BARRETT 2009-2015

Cora Barrett, age 5, died on September 12 at Boston Children's Hospital as a result of complications following a heart transplant on July 25th. Cora had waited more than 18 months for her new heart. She was planning to enter kindergarten at Farmington River Elementary School this fall.

The daughter of Patrick and Hannah Barrett, Cora was born December 2, 2009, at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Diagnosed in utero with Hypoplastic Left-Heart Syndrome, Cora knew she had a "special heart" and embraced all that that entailed: she grew to foster a very special relationship with her primary cardiologist, Dr. Michael Willers, as well as the staff at Children's Hospital – in particular the nurses on 8 East and 8 South as well as her surgeon, Dr. Frank Pigula, her cardiologist, Dr. Betsy Blume, and her "poop doctor," Kevin Sztam – all of whom lifted her up and tirelessly cheered for her.

Cora's life is one to be celebrated. She had a fabulous sense of humor and loved to tell jokes; she was incredibly articulate and full of wonder; she had kindness and compassion that drew others to her. Cora loved living life, and she did so with lots of smiles and great enthusiasm.

She rode the white van to pre-school to see her beloved teacher, Mrs. Scott; she swam at York Lake with her best friend, Ethan; she made snow angels and did flips on the trampoline despite wearing her Milrinone backpack; she picked apples at Riiska's Orchard; she played babies with her sisters, ran from the seagulls on Little Beach in Ogunquit, and gathered blueberries from her grandparents' bushes.

In her too short time on this earth, Cora exemplified kindness, generosity, perseverance, fearlessness, and tenacity. She taught others by example how to find the good in any situation, and she brought joy to all who knew her.

She was predeceased by her paternal grandfather, John D. Barrett, and her faithful pooch, Molly.

A celebration of Cora's life will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 1 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; a reception will follow at Gedney Farm from 2-4 p.m.

Donations in Cora's memory may be made to the Edward J. Madden Open Hearts Camp, 250 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230, in order to provide another child with a "special heart" the chance to experience summer camp in the Berkshires and to delight in the place that Cora was lucky enough to call home.



WENDY PENNINGTON

1961-2015

Wendy Beth Pennington, 53, died at her home on Sandisfield Road on September 3. During an illness lasting nearly a year, Wendy had the love and support of her family, love and support that remains for her memory.

Born in Great Barrington to Roy and Jane Adams Hallock on September 22, 1961, Wendy graduated from Lee High School in 1979. She married Tom Pennington in 1987. She lived in Sandisfield nearly 30 years.

With four children, Wendy was a “stay-at-home” mom. “She raised us until we were grown,” said her son, John Field. “On vacations, the kids were always included, and always to the Cape. She was a gifted cook and could make anything taste good. We always had dinner at home. After we were grown, she began doing things for herself, like learning to dance well. But still she worried about everyone but herself. She always made sure everybody was square.”

John added that his mother was “happy with the simple things of life.”

Wendy, in fact, became a superb dancer. Many will recall Wendy and Tom at steak roast suppers dancing until the musicians gave up. She and Tom attended dances across the tri-state area. It didn't matter to them if it was a week night or a weekend.

She was an excellent horsewoman, riding along Rt. 57 to West Street and then up to West Lake, usually with a Great Dane trotting alongside almost as tall as the horse. When not on horseback, Wendy walked every morning along 57 between Shade Road and Bosworth. A neighbor recalled that she

always knew, driving to work, if she was early or late by where she would pass Wendy on her walk.

Wendy was a dog rescuer. Over the years she took in five Great Danes, one of which, Emmy Lou, pictured with her here, was unable to walk when Wendy adopted her.

A member of the Sheffield Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Wendy achieved Pioneer status with her congregation and was proud of her accomplishment.

She is survived by her husband, Tom Pennington, and her four children: Jennifer Field of Otis; John W. Field, Jr., of Sandisfield and his wife Tara Birkett-Field; Will Pennington of Pittsfield and his wife Lindsay Pennington; and Sarah Pennington of Pittsfield. She is also survived by five grandchildren: John Field III, Kasandra Brevoort, Ariana Bauer, Desiree' Field, and Mitchell Monterosso.

Her brother and sisters survive her: Lee Roy Hallock of Otis; Carol Somes and her husband Marshall of Otis; Jane Kimberly and her husband Bobby of Otis; Lynn Lennon and her husband Tom of Dalton; and four half-brothers and sisters: Beverly, Barbara, and Joan all of Connecticut and Ross Hallock of North Carolina. Wendy was predeceased by her parents, Roy Hallock and Jane Adams Days, and half-brother, Sherman Hallock.

Funeral services were held at Sandisfield Center Cemetery. Donations in her memory may be made to the Berkshire Humane Society through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.



A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HOWARD SMITH

A memorial service for Howard Smith, who died in June, will be held Friday, November 27, 11 a.m., at Grace Church, Crissey Farm, 426 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington. A light lunch will follow. Howard, with his wife Valerie, formerly owned the historic Sears-Hawley House on Silverbrook Road. The date, the day after Thanksgiving, was chosen because all of Howard's family will be here for the holiday. Directions to Chrissey Farm can be found at crisseyfarm.com.


 Carrings & Gaings


Study Skills

STUDYING AT HOME CAN HELP YOUR KIDS AT SCHOOL

By Mary Anne Grammer

With the 2015-16 school year underway, now is the time to help your children – the young students in your home – establish or, in some cases, re-establish good study habits.

Homework is a good place to start. Homework reinforces skills taught in school, and if you can help your student establish a daily routine studying can become a habit.

Show your children that you consider education and homework as important parts of their day.

- When your child returns home from school, ask how his/her day was. Ask academic and social questions: who did you have lunch with, what was interesting, did you go outside for recess?

- Ask if there is a homework assignment.

- Set a regular time for homework. Usually the best time is after-school and after a light snack. Establish a routine.

- Set up a quiet, well-lit homework area. This can be in your child's room or at the kitchen table while dinner is being prepared.



- Turn off the television and put other distractions such as cell phones out of sight.

- Have essential supplies available, such as pencils, pens, erasers, writing paper. Sometimes a stapler, scissors, a ruler, maybe index cards.

- If your child has difficulty with an assignment, assist him or her but don't do the work. If your child is unable to complete an assignment, write a note to the teacher saying so. Perhaps your child didn't understand the assignment. If your child is unable to complete an assignment too many times, set up a meeting with the teacher.

- Talk to your child about their school day, every day. Make school a part of home. 📖

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NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

Please send notices for Now Hear This! to calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Climate Change Lectures with Suzanne O'Connell on Saturdays, October 3, 10, and 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. \$10 each lecture. Info at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Gallery Opening Reception on Saturday, October 3, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. The Gallery will feature Works by Barbara Elton and Lucinda Shmulsky. The exhibit is on display October 3-25 and open during performances and each Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

QiGong on Mondays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Silverbrook Road. \$2 per class, sponsored by the Council on Aging.

Sandisfield Historical Society Apple Fest Fair on Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the South Sandisfield Meeting House. Tag sale, baked goods, raffles, and vendors. If you would like to be a vendor, contact John Kuzmech at 258-4906.

"Country Treasures" Yard Sale to benefit the Sandisfield Players, Sunday, October 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday, Columbus Day, October 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain or shine. Sandisfield Center at Route 57 and New Hartford Road. Donations wanted. See p. 9 for more information.

Gypsy Layne Cabaret & Company on Saturday, October 10, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. Burlesque in the Berkshires. \$20.

Church Service at the New Boston Congregational Church on Sunday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m., 4 Sandisfield Road, Route 57.

Dinner and Movie with the Council on Aging, Monday, October 19. Hosted by the Senior Center in New Hartford, CT. \$18. Call Linda Riiska at 258-4816 for information and reservations. See p. 8.

"Bob and the Trees" film on Friday, October 23, 8 p.m., at Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. The movie was filmed in Sandisfield, directed by resident Diego Ongaro, co-written by his wife, Courtney Maum, and features local actors.

Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 24, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2, Route 57. Turkey and all the trimmings. \$12 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets at the door, takeouts are available. Sponsored by the New Boston Congregational Church.

Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet on Saturday, October 24, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. \$20.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Award-Winning Authors on Saturday, October 3, at 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House in New Marlborough. Host Simon Winchester talks with expatriate writers

about their adopted country during Music and More. For information, call 229-2785. (Note the date is Oct. 3, not the 4th as reported last month in the Times.)

Monterey Oktoberfest on October 10, noon to 4 p.m. at the Community Center, corner of Rt. 23 and New Marlborough Road. Locally sourced brats from Prairie Whale restaurant; beer from Wandering Star brewery; home-baked goods; live music from area musicians; plus crafts, games, and more.

Photography Exhibit in October at the Otis Library and Museum. Images by Street Photographer Ollie Rosengart. A reception will be held on Saturday, October 10, from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

The film "Tin" on Saturday, November 7, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. story of an 1895 mining scam. Sandisfield's Ben Luxon plays a featured role.

Historical Society Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 5, at the Fire Station on Rt. 57.

ONGOING EVENTS

Select Board, The Select Board meets at the Town Hall Annex on Mondays. Regular meetings are held at 7 p.m. and working sessions at 2:30 p.m. See posted agendas for meeting schedules.

Farmington River Regional School District, first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Farmington River Regional School, Rt. 8, Otis.

Planning Board, second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Board of Assessors, second Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Conservation Commission, third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Board of Health, first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center, Town Hall Annex. Pot luck lunch at noon, bingo at 1 p.m. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

Finance Committee, second Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sandisfield Library.

Strategic Planning Committee, third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Fire Station #2 on Sandisfield Rd.

Sandisfield Public Library Hours: Monday/Tuesday: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Thursday: 2 p.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-noon.

Historical Commission: First Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Library.

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Donations of all sizes are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper. Please send checks to: *The Sandisfield Times*, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or donate online at our website: www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

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Monterey include the Library, the Store, and the Roadside Cafe. Available also at the Southfield Store in New Marlborough. Back issues are available for purchase.

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