

# THE SANDSFIELD TIMES

*Tribunus*



*Plebis*

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

*Volume X, Number 8*

*November 2019*

## A Good Use for a Vertical Cliff

### PLANS FOR CLIMBING SITE UNDERWAY

*By Alex Bowman     Photos: Jessica Cofrin*

Hidden in plain sight, Hanging Mountain has long been a rock climber's dream for those in the know.

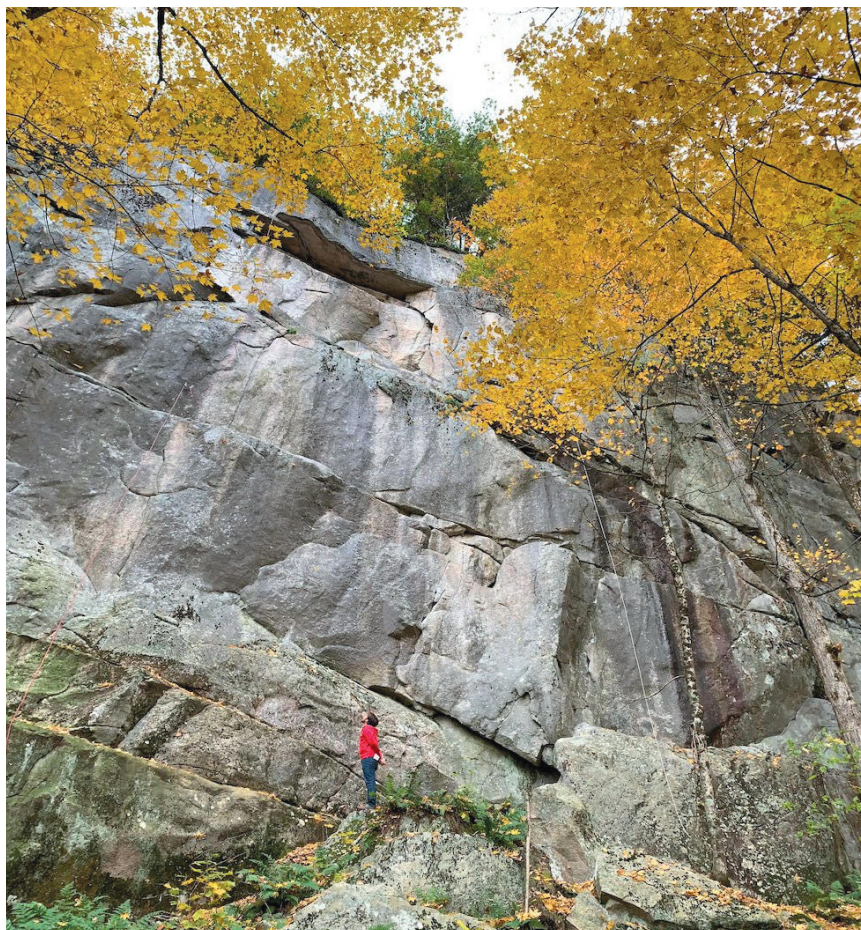
As you drive south on Route 8 and cross the Farmington River for the last time, look to the west and you will see the top of the magnificent granite cliff of Hanging Mountain. The cliff face is 600+ feet wide with 200-foot, nearly vertical sections.

Soon this site will be developed to create easier and safer access for climbers, which could make Sandisfield an eminent destination for climbers from near and far.

The Western Massachusetts Climber's Coalition (WMCC), a volunteer, non-profit climbing advocacy group, is in the process of conserving 14 acres leading up to Hanging Mountain, including a significant portion of the eastward face.

The appeal of Hanging Mountain, according to Jeff Squire, president of the WMCC, is its potential for longer routes up the face, which requires climbers to stop and reset equipment,

*Cont'd p.4*



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## The Lost Wilderness Ranch

### PART TWO, THE COWBOYS

*By Ron Bernard*

Last month, part one of our memoir of the Lost Wilderness Dude Ranch described the ranch and why it remains so fondly remembered not only by those who worked there or were guests but especially by local patrons of the "Golden Nugget" dance hall and bar.

This long story came about after Donna Civitello from Connecticut contacted me seeking information about the ranch which operated on Tolland Mountain near New Boston from the mid-1940s to the

late-1970s. She explained that her father had been one of the first employees, a "foreman" or head cowboy. She said that the family had a trove of photos, clippings, letters, and even home movies. Would I care to come down, meet her father, and see it all?

Would I?! "How about Sunday?" For me, an amateur local historian, this was manna from heaven.

#### **Dan Civitello, Connecticut cowboy, trick rider extraordinaire**

Some background about Dante "Dan" Civitello. Born in Waterbury, Conn., in 1925, Dan developed a love of horses from an early age. Attracted to all styles of riding, by the time he enlisted in the U. S. Army in January 1944, he was proficient at trick riding, a technique originally credited to the Cossacks of 19th century Russia. Due to the popularity of the Western movies, it became the image of the American cowboy.

*Cont'd p.8*

# And They're Off!

An enthusiastic gathering turned out at Spectacle Pond on another beautiful fall day for the 2nd Annual Sandisfield 5K Fun Run September 29. Fewer-than-last-year's group, the runners and walkers nevertheless ran and walked the distance along Cold Spring Road, made the turn and headed back to the finish line where they were greeted by hot dogs and cold drinks courtesy of the Sandisfield Fire Department. The Recreation Committee organizers would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the day a success. 🏆



*The FRRS teachers' contingent.  
Photos: The Sandisfield Times*

## FIRST TEN FINISHERS, RUNNERS. TIME AND PACE

1 Daniel Whitehead	Time: 00:20:59.06	Pace: 06:45
2 Rebecca Hein (age 13)	Time: 00:23:46.76	Pace: 07:39
3 Bobbi Thomason	Time: 00:23:59.52	Pace: 07:43
4 Francisco Ramirez	Time: 00:24:11.76	Pace: 07:47
5 Josh Mason	Time: 00:24:28.67	Pace: 07:52
6 Kimberly Meyers	Time: 00:24:40.74	Pace: 07:56
7 Kevin Thomson	Time: 00:26:47.49	Pace: 08:37
8 Roger Kohler	Time: 00:28:06.90	Pace: 09:02
9 Lincoln Hein (age 10)	Time: 00:28:43.81	Pace: 09:14
10 Joe Clark	Time: 00:28:45.01	Pace: 09:15

# New EMS/Fire Department Training Center Opens

By Ron Bernard

It took a while longer to complete and cost a bit more than originally expected, but the Sandisfield Fire Department's beautiful new training and emergency evacuation center in New Boston was officially opened last month.

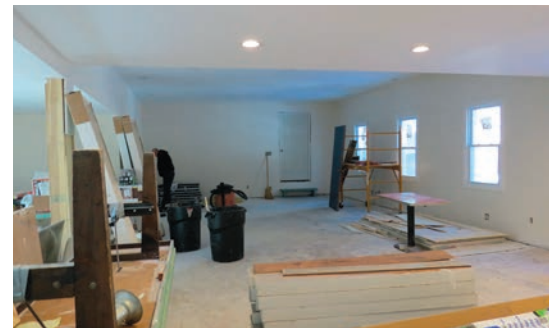
Newcomers would never know that the facility, a big multi-purpose room which is attached to the equipment bay of Fire House No 1, was originally the New Boston schoolhouse. Probably hundreds of neighborhood children attended elementary grades there for about a hundred years from the mid-1800s until it was closed with other small Sandisfield schoolhouses in 1950. The classic one-room schoolhouse is Greek Revival-style, largely intact and contributes to the soon to be New Boston National Historic District.

The building remained as a stand-alone structure before Firehouse No. 1 was built and joined to it. The room served as American Legion Post # 456 headquarters for many years. Title passed to the fire department in 2016 which launched a fund-raising campaign to raise \$50,000 to rehab the building. Most of the labor was courtesy of skilled volunteers including department members and residents.

On Sunday, October 13, the department proudly introduced the new facility in an open house in conjunction with its not so subtle "Highway Robbery" donation check point on Route 8 by the firehouse.

The brainchild of Fire Chief Ralph Morrison, Ralph was also project manager. He told the Times, "This took somewhat longer than we had hoped but it was worth it." Ralph said that the renovations ran about \$75,000 but fortunately several generous donors covered the difference. "We are grateful to all those who made donations small and large," he said.

The room includes meeting space, a kitchen, and a rest room. Its primary function is for EMS and fire training but Ralph said that the site is also earmarked as an evacuation location, especially for the New Boston community, in case of disasters. "This is a big town and now we have two shelters for residents to go to in case of emergencies, which has happened before." The room, with capacity of 60 persons, is also available for community groups and town committees for meetings and functions. For reservations, contact Ralph at 258-4742. 🏆



*During and After. The new training center with renovations in progress, February 2017, and as recently completed.*

*Photos: Sandisfield Times*

# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

## THE COMING YEAR

Last year, The Times covered the Town's news along with providing readers with a monthly heads up as to what was going on locally.

This coming year we'll report on even more, the developing pot farm proposal, how are things going with broadband, why have real estate taxes for many of us bounced as much as 10 percent? We'll publish obituaries, columns about our town and farms and roads, Out on a Limb opinions.

To do that we need your help. Please see the inserted appeal message in this month's Times from founding editor Simon Winchester. We write to you for support only once a year, so your contributions are crucial to our being able to provide you with information you need.

We thank you very much for your response, and, of course, send a big thank you to those who've already donated this year. We hope all of our readers enjoy a gentle and peaceful Thanksgiving holiday this month.

*Seth Kershner*  
*Sandisfield Center*

*Bill Price*  
*West New Boston*

## New Town Manager Takes Charge

### ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH TOWN HALL

By *Tim Brooks*



The Town of Sandisfield has hired Joanne Grybosh to serve as the new Town Manager. Grybosh, a Blandford resident, started her role on October 15.

Since January, Grybosh has served as an administrative assistant for the Town's Department of Public Works. For the present time, she will continue to support that department while also working a thirty-hour week as Town Manager.

At a Select Board work session on October 9, Selectman George Riley stated that he and the other two selectmen – Mark Newman and Brian O'Rourke – had spent time over the past year meeting with current town employees and department heads to get their feedback on the importance of a Town Manager. Fred Ventresco, who left the position at the end of August, also offered his thoughts and perspectives on the role, prior to his departure.

"We were aware of Joanne's excellent work at the DPW," said Newman, "and we were delighted when she expressed interest in this position. Joanne has been very effective helping Brad Curry in a job for which she seemed over-qualified."

She told the Selectmen that she had given the role of Town Manager a lot of thought and felt that her diverse array of skills was highly relevant and transferrable.

Grybosh has previous experience working for the towns of Ludlow, Wilbraham, and most recently Blandford.

In those roles she supported Select Boards, assessors, engineering offices, and DPWs. She has worked with COMMBUYS since its inception. She also has experience in the corporate world, working for General Electric, where she served as communications director and project manager for 16 years. In addition to her undergraduate degree in Management from Western New England University, Grybosh earned an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In an interview with the Times, Selectman Riley said that Grybosh was the "perfect candidate" for the job. "She understands Massachusetts General Law, is well versed in annual business licensing and has proven ability navigating the grant-writing process," he added.

Over the course of the work session, the Select Board offered their thoughts and insights on how the Town Manager might interact with other Town employees. The three selectmen agreed that the position would not involve overseeing staff. Rather, they noted that a town manager can ensure that the Select Board keep their sights on long-range plans without getting tied up with daily issues and routine concerns. The Town Manager must wear many hats and is expected to understand how everything works and who is responsible for what, often directing inquiries and projects to the right person or area for response or action.

At the conclusion of the October 9 work session, the Select Board voted unanimously to offer her the job. "We're delighted to have Joanne in this position," said Brian O'Rourke on behalf of the Selectmen, "and are certain that she will be a great asset to our town, for the foreseeable future." 🍷

## NOVEMBER

For most folks,  
There it sits  
Like an unopened gift  
Wrapped in old roses.  
November,  
It ain't Christmas  
Or the Fourth of July  
Or my birthday.  
It's just an odd old cold month  
Barking elections  
On Tuesdays even if it snows.

But then ... again  
There was the November  
When I met her.  
She was beckoning,  
She was slinging mistletoe!  
Honest, she was slinging mistletoe  
In an old bar with red round plastic stools.  
And I was there alone  
So it had to be me  
That got kissed that November.

*Val Coleman*  
*West New Boston*



## Results of the Nor'easter

Just a small list of what kept the Department of Public Works and Eversource busy during and after the Nor'easter that blew through town October 17. The list was distributed by the Town website.

- Rt. 57 next to Silverbrook, tree in road
- Fox Rd, wires down, road fully blocked
- Smith Rd, trees on wires
- North Beech Plain, trees on wires
- West St/Cronk Rd, wires down, road fully blocked
- East Hubbard, trees on wires
- South Beech Plain, trees on wires
- Roberts Rd, trees on wires
- Shade Rd, trees on wires
- Rt. 183, trees on wires
- Power is out on Cold Spring Rd for 17 hours, trees on wires 🍷

***A Good Use for a Vertical Cliff***  
*Cont'd from p. 1*

an attribute that is rare, if not unrivaled, in Massachusetts. WMCC plans to develop 25 to 50 routes and support a mix of traditional climbing (where climbers place gear as they go) and sport climbing (where climbers clip in to pre-installed bolts), so climbers of varying expertise will be able to enjoy the site.

To access the cliffside currently, a fairly worn trail begins at the top of the river bank near the southwest end of the bridge. The path starts flat but steepens significantly as you approach the base of the cliff. The terrain turns rockier as you go and requires some careful navigation.

As the WMCC works its way through Sandisfield's permit processes, the site has been approved by the Planning Board as a "non-buildable" lot. Details of the land arrangement are still being worked out.

The purchase will be supported by WMCC's sister organization in Connecticut, the Ragged Mountain Foundation, with additional funds provided by the Access Fund, a nationwide

climbing advocacy group. WMCC plans to add a driveway and build a parking area next spring and expects to draw as many as 25 cars on a busy weekend. The hope is for overflow parking to be available at the northern end of Colebrook River Lake access road.

Mr. Squire has developed a friendship with the nearest homeowner on Route 8 to avoid a common problem climbers often experience: unhappy neighbors. In fact, the Airbnb rental at the same address already advertises climbing on Hanging Mountain as one of the key attractions. The only other neighbor in close proximity is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Another seasonal neighbor the coalition needs to contend with, however, is a pair of peregrine falcons. This spring, MassWildlife reported a nesting site on this very cliff. WMCC has worked with MassWildlife in the past, and will continue to do so by closing off sections of the cliffs to climbers to ensure the falcons can "hatch and raise their offspring in peace."

Mountain climbing can result in injuries, and Mr. Squire reports that in the 13 years he has overseen Farley Ledges in Erving, Mass., there have been a handful of serious accidents requiring emergency services. He states that the best way to manage those unfortunate occurrences is to work with Sandisfield's response team to map out landmarks and establish protocols long before any emergency happens.

When the weather turns warm again and you see some new, outdoorsy looking types grabbing a bite at Tucker's, you'll know to ask them about their climb. 🧗



*At the foot of the vertical cliff. For perspective, see the person in the white circle at lower right.*



*Hanging Mountain from the Farmington River Bridge.*

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# Still Fighting the Good Fight

## A SANDISFIELDER IN FORTUNE

By Times Reporters

*An interview with Sandisfield's June Wink, published in Fortune Magazine at the end of September, was part of a report about the "Raging Grannies," activist groups of elder citizens who support what Fortune described as "the thousands and thousands of teenagers and children striking, marching, and protesting," calling for climate action.*

*Fortune added: "The Grannies are part of a larger, worldwide support group of senior citizens armed with signs, buttons, songs, tips on proper ways to get arrested they perfected while protesting the Vietnam War, plenty of words of encouragement, and a wealth of experience in calling for change within and outside of the system."*

The Power of  
Our Children  
is much stronger than  
The People in Power

### FROM FORTUNE, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019:

June Wink celebrated the youth movement as well, telling Fortune she was "just so proud" of all the young people leading it.

A grandmother and lifelong activist and organizer, Wink and her husband, the late Walter Wink, traveled the world working to dismantle the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile in the early 1980s, fighting apartheid in South Africa by running non-violence workshops, working in Northern Ireland during The Troubles, and even getting arrested for protesting in front of the United Nations at one point.

Though Wink's husband was a theologian she said they were not missionaries, just a couple concerned about people's lives while "working

with evil, power, and money" and writing about it.

Even though age may have limited her to "little things, not big things anymore," she said she emailed all her grandchildren before heading to the climate strike in Great Barrington, Mass., to say she "would be representing them" but stopped short of telling them she was really there because she wants a brighter future for them. "I don't want to be too preachy," she said, laughing at herself.

As she spoke on the phone, Wink walked into another room to find "a good poster" to carry for the strike. She read one to Fortune that she had carried at a gun control protest not too long ago that summed up how she felt about the youth climate movement:

"The power of our children is much stronger than the power of the people in power."



Photo: Patricia Bergland


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# Volunteering Can Make You Smile

By Rita Kasky

Have you ever thought about the things in life that make you smile? Is it that great first cup of coffee in the morning or a satisfying day at work? I hope you've got a lot to smile about – it's important as we balance the ups and downs of living in our world today.

I'd like to share something that makes me smile when I pull into my Silverbrook Road driveway at the end of some special days.

For most of my life I worked in the nonprofit sector with organizations that helped people in many walks of life: anti-poverty programs, health agencies, universities, psychiatric facilities, to name a few. And in the course of those years I met some very special people. Some were the recipients of the work we did, others were volunteers carrying out the mission.

When I retired I looked around to see where I could use my skills in a volunteer capacity. And I lucked out! Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County (Litnet of BC) needed tutors for people learning English as a second language.

Through friends who were Litnet volunteers, I learned that I didn't need teaching experience and my grammar needn't be perfect. What the students were looking for was enough English to get by in the United States. Some needed to better their comprehension for their jobs, others wanted to earn high school degrees, and still more wanted to improve their conversational skills. With trepidation, I filled out an application, went for an interview, and was accepted!

My first student was a young man from Mexico. His boss had asked him to improve his English it so he could communicate with customers more

easily. We worked once a week for an hour (the minimum recommended time) for about three weeks when he found that he just couldn't keep up with the work. He had long work hours, very little help with transportation, and couldn't study as much as he needed. He dropped out.

My second student was a young woman from Turkey. Her English was manageable and she wanted to improve it. She, too, worked long hours at a local restaurant but eagerly devoted herself to learning the language. We read stories, did crossword puzzles, and engaged in some question and answer dialogue. It was going very well – until her visa expired and she had to return to Turkey. That was really hard but she knew she could apply for another work/study visa when she got back home. And she did, but she was denied because she's Muslim. We worked via email but it just wasn't the same so while we are still in touch, it's not likely we'll meet again.


My third student, "Rosa," was a very bright young woman from Colombia with excellent English and comprehension skills. Rosa and I did lots of crossword puzzles from a magazine designed for people who are from other countries looking to improve their vocabulary. With a little coaching from me she was able to identify new words and fill in the puzzle blanks. It was a tremendous kick for both of us when she finished each puzzle. We also read news articles and magazine stories, and I sensed that she was itching to write a story.

Here's what we decided to do. Rosa would come up with a theme for a story and write what we referred to as Chapter One – really just about a page and a half. Then it became my turn to write Chapter Two. Our agreement was I could take the story in

any direction I wanted to, and she could do the same when it came to Chapter Three and so on. What an exciting project – each of us awaiting the other's input. Since we only met once a week, the process became homework and took about a month to write, re-write, kick around new thoughts, and decide how and when to end the story. We managed to crank out three stories over the year until she moved to Connecticut and couldn't make it to class.

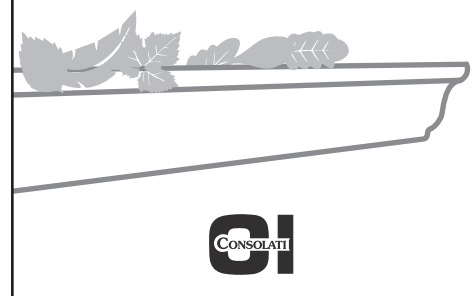
We are still in touch on-line and for an occasional lunch. She has a good job now, her son is in school, and she's still writing stories.

It was a tremendously rewarding experience to share my time with these young immigrants who hoped to improve their lives in our country. If you want to put a big smile on your face, or to go an extra mile or so to help someone in your spare time, this kind of personal work can be just the thing for you. Of course, if you want to be a volunteer fireman, EMT, or give a hand to the seniors, that also will bring a smile and sense of satisfaction into your life.

Give it some thought. 

## Is your mind in the gutter?

Clean those filthy ways  
before it becomes a problem.

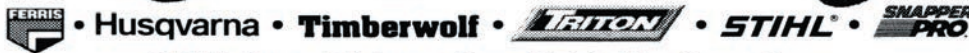


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# Calling All Stage Hands!

## SCHOOL SEEKS COMMUNITY HELP FOR MAY PLAY

Farmington River Elementary School is preparing for its First Annual Community Arts Production of a musical comedy titled "The Cowhands and The Aliens Rescue Earth," written by students at the school and art teacher Laura Catullo. The play explores the themes of conserving the earth's resources while learning to celebrate differences. Much of the script is being developed by the children, as well as many of the musical numbers!

The anticipated date of the show is May 2020. There will be after-school drama intensives beginning in February with special guests from Berkshire Choreography Project and local actors who will share some of their expertise.

We are seeking adults who have any experience in theater or drama to participate in our production, including helping with sound and lighting, taking on small acting roles, painting sets, helping children learn their parts, stage management, and costume design. If you are interested in participating in this community-building event or have questions about how to help, please contact Laura Catullo at [lcatullo@frsd.org](mailto:lcatullo@frsd.org). We welcome involvement from all community members. 🍷

### *Two More by Cindy*

*Cindy Ragusa of Otis sent two of her exquisite photos: a bumblebee, caught like a still-life, and a monarch butterfly with wings spread, both taken in Sandisfield.*



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*The Lost Wilderness Ranch**Part 2, The Cowboys**Cont'd from p.1*

A magazine article entitled, "Lost Wilderness Exhibits a Real Trick Rider" said, "Trick-riding is no simple Western style 'dude' ranch stuff. It's post-graduate cowboy and many aspirants end up sitting and watching." Dan is quoted, "When my friends were saving money for a flivver [well-used car], I was saving to buy my first horse."

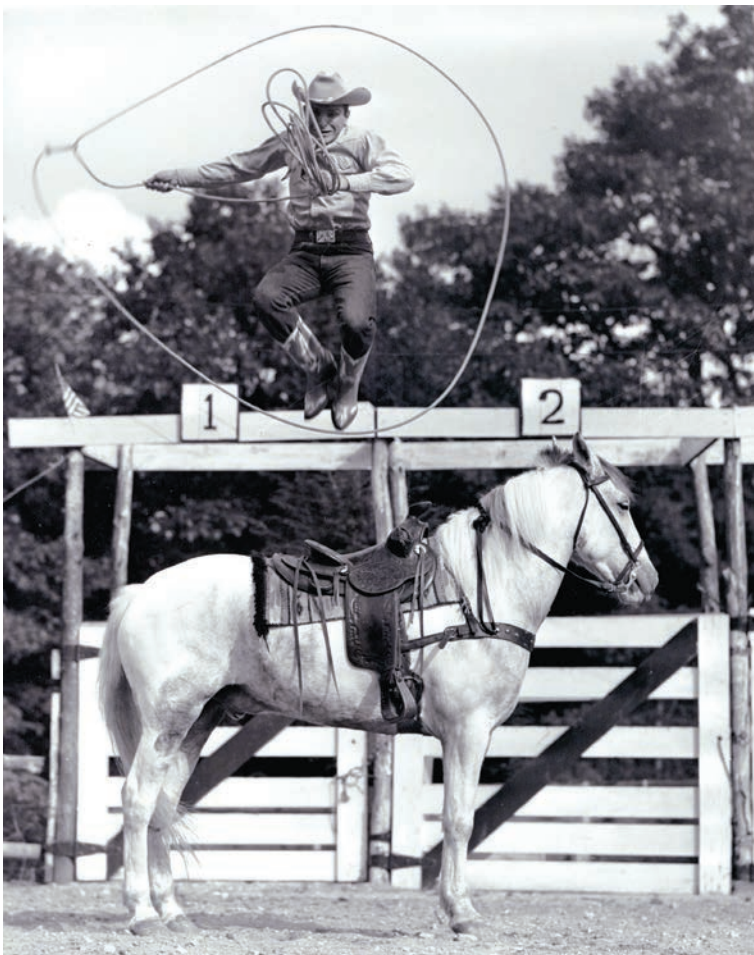
That happened in 1942, and the horse was "Rex." After the war, the two performed in rodeos in 15 states sharing billing with top names. Roy Rogers saw him in New Haven and offered him a spot in his show. The Gene Autry show invited him to perform at Madison Square Garden. His several appearances were a career highlight. "It was a thrill to ride with the best of the best," he told the Times.



*Rex died in 1960; Dan still grieves. Photo, c.1942, Waterbury*

The museum asked if the photo could be enlarged so they could enter it as a candidate for permanent display. Autry himself chose this one over all the rest, according to the family. The photo was carried by newspapers across the country and is iconic.

Years later Dan was invited to a gala benefit for the Gene Autry Museum in Los Angeles, where he sat near the table with Willie Nelson and Glen Campbell. There is an amazing photo of Dan jumping through a lariat over the back of Rex in front of the bucking chutes at Lost Wilderness.



Another ranch hand, Bernie Shulkin from Waterbury, was hired at the outset as a seasonal bartender and part-time cowboy. Bernie befriended Dan in 1941 because of their mutual interest in horses. He told ranch owner Elliott Cavellier about his young friend the trick rider, and Dan was soon hired as foreman.

But a dude ranch needs horses. With not enough horses, Dan was assigned the responsibility of finding many more right away. When he was the winning bidder at an auction in Canaan, Conn., the Lost Wilderness Ranch was in business!

Shulkin, a WWII veteran, was also a serious horseman and had been president of the Connecticut Stock Horse Association. Good looking and personable, he later was made foreman while continuing as a popular bartender by night. A fixture for many years, he became the face of the ranch. Many here remember him and the big rodeo championship silver belt buckle he proudly wore.



*Partners Elliott Cavellier and Gladys Jacques, c. 1961. They operated the ranch for some 30 years. Photo: Clare English*

Recognizing Dan's sensational talent, Cavellier, a savvy promoter, constructed a rodeo arena, something not commonly found at dude ranches. Dan said, "There were not many trick riders in this region, maybe four or five. It was a smart thing to do."

The main activity at a dude ranch is trail riding with guests. In 1953, Dan informed Cavellier that he could not continue all-day riding due to a pre-employment kidney injury from trick riding. Another cowboy who also had been an original hire, Mike Hawks, was appointed foreman; Dan was put in charge of entertainment.



*Cowboy Bernie Shulkin with guests, c. late-1950s.*



Getting good ranch hands was a constant problem. Cavellier advertised country-wide but many responders were “drugstore cowboys” who didn’t last very long. Dan said, “Hugh Coulter was different. He wasn’t a great rider but he was great guy.”

Born in California in 1919, after service in the Army Air Force in WWII, Hugh Coulter studied art at several notable schools. Besides painting, he worked as



*Hugh Coulter, rodeo cowboy-artist at Lost Wilderness, 1950s.*

a cowboy in a travelling rodeo to make ends meet. In 1962, while performing in New York, he met the Rev. Robert Wood, an important early gay rights activist and author. The two entered a lifelong relationship that ended with Coulter’s death in Massachusetts in 1989. Coulter achieved recognition as a “fine figural painter of abstract art.” In 1978, he held several one-man shows in New York and won awards for originality at local exhibits.

Dan has so many stories about his experience there they could fill a book. “Do you recall any of the locals?” we asked. “I remember well Steve and Jappi Campetti



*Coulter’s painting of the Lost Wilderness Ranch bucking chutes, a gift to Dan Civitello.*

... and Francis Deming,” he said. “I sold him my 30-30.”

Mild-mannered Dan was not only a patient riding instructor, he also imparted to young guests wisdom from life’s lessons. He recalled, “There was a young fellow, Steven Metz, son of a prominent dentist in Springfield. His father wanted to ‘toughen him up’ and thought that rodeo ranch experience and exposure to horses might help. When he broke his arm his father said, ‘that’s good progress.’ Well, this city boy became a famous veterinarian for exotic animals. He kept in touch over the years, grateful for my coaching.”

At Lost Wilderness everyone had many jobs – whatever was needed. There was plenty to do, sun-up to late night, six days a week. But, hey, the pay was terrible. Sometimes guests volunteered to help with the horses, even cleaning the stalls.

### Cowboys in love

Dan left the ranch in 1958, married to a guest, JoAnna Costello from New York. With a couple of kids in the picture, management thought Dan no longer fit the profile of a cowboy. Wife and kids – bad for the image. So they returned to Waterbury where he opened a western gear shop. He also played in local venues with his country music group, the “Frontier Jammers.”

Clare English of Sandisfield worked at the ranch on and off for several years in the mid-1960s. “I did everything,” she said. “Secretary, the books, housekeeping, you name it but the pay was very low.” Why did she do it, we asked. “We were young and this place was fun. Besides I got free room and board and experience. They were good to me, at least. Everybody liked Elliott and Bernie. And I met my late husband there.”

Cowboy-guest marriages were common it seems. So much so I wondered why the enterprising Cavelliers did not have a wedding chapel. Dan spoke of his good friend Bernie who died in 1988. “He loved to dance and went to a lot of the local dance halls. He also married a guest, a girl named Betty. The marriage lasted about a week. The joke at the time was that he could not stand that she ate crackers in bed,” he said.

According to Clare English, by the late 1960s the business was on the down-swing. Fewer guests were booking. The ranch closed in winter although the bar and dance hall remained popular. Services and food quality also declined. There were no more rodeos. “I recall only three cowboys and maybe ten horses, rented ones. There wasn’t that much to do anymore,” Clare said.

Sisters Donna and Bette Civitello were born too late to see their father in his prime at Lost Wilderness. But they know everything about his remarkable life, his amazing talent and fearlessness, his work ethic and character. And a good family man who met his wife of 61 years at the ranch. At 94 his mind is sharp but his body is frail. Despite the years, Dan vividly remembers and cherishes his experience at the Lost Wilderness Ranch and we are glad we met him.

Mr. Civitello has compiled home movies taken by Hugh Coulter of his performances at Lost Wilderness in the early 1950s into a 15-minute video. It is available on You Tube. Search for “Lost Wilderness Dude Ranch.”



*Francis Deming, 85, of Tolland, left, and Dan Civitello, 94, renewed acquaintance after 63 years; at Twining Pond, Tolland State Forest, former site of the ranch.*



*Donna and Bette reminiscing about ranch days with their father, September, 2019.*

*Old photos courtesy Civitello family.*

# Police/Fire/EMS Logs

**NOTE: North Main Street is Rt. 8 north of New Boston Bridge; South Main Street is south of the bridge.**



## POLICE

### September 2019 Incidents

- September 1 . . . . . 911 Hang up, Roosterville Road
- September 5 . . . . . Tree down, South Main Street
- September 6 . . . . . Fire alarm, Sandybrook Turnpike
- September 7 . . . . . Motor vehicle accident, North Main Street
- September 9 . . . . . CO alarm, Mountain Home Lane
- September 10 . . . . . Burglar alarm, Sandybrook Turnpike
- September 11 . . . . . Tree in road, North Main Street
- September 11 . . . . . Suspicious motor vehicle, North Main Street
- September 11 . . . . . Medical, Viets Road
- September 12 . . . . . Theft, Silverbrook Road
- September 13 . . . . . Motor vehicle accident, North Main Street
- September 20 . . . . . Medical, mutual aid to Granville
- September 23 . . . . . Medical, South Beech Plain Road
- September 24 . . . . . Vandalism, Sandisfield Road
- September 24 . . . . . Assist animal control officer, Lower West Street
- September 25 . . . . . Fire, Dodd Road
- September 25 . . . . . Suspicious activity, Sandisfield Road
- September 26 . . . . . Medical, Norfolk Road
- September 26 . . . . . Building check, South Main Street
- September 27 . . . . . Medical, Tolland
- September 28 . . . . . Animal call, South Main Street
- September 29 . . . . . Medical, Hubbard Road
- September 29 . . . . . Medical, Hubbard Road
- September 29 . . . . . Medical, Hubbard Road
- September 30 . . . . . Animal call, Sandisfield Road



## FIRE

### September 2019 Incidents

- September 2 . . . . . Smoke detector activated, investigate, no fire
- September 6 . . . . . Fire alarm activated, investigate, no fire
- September 7 . . . . . Motor vehicle accident, North Main Street, no injuries
- September 9 . . . . . CO alarm activated, investigate
- September 25 . . . . . Dispatched for possible structure fire, heavy smoke seen in area, investigate all buildings on property, no fire, unknown source of smoke



## EMS

### September 2019 Incidents

- September 2 . . . . . Medical, Tolland, transport to Winsted Health Center
- September 4 . . . . . Medical, Tolland, Otis responded as Sandisfield had just one EMT available
- September 5 . . . . . Medical, transport to Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington
- September 6 . . . . . Medical, Tolland, transport to Fairview Hospital
- September 11 . . . . . Medical, patient refused transport
- September 19 . . . . . Medical, Tolland, transport to Fairview Hospital
- September 20 . . . . . Medical, mutual aid to Granville, transport to Baystate Medical Center, Springfield
- September 23 . . . . . Medical, Otis responded as Sandisfield had just one EMT available
- September 26 . . . . . Medical, no transport
- September 27 . . . . . Medical, Tolland, no transport
- September 29 . . . . . Medical, no transport
- September 29 . . . . . Medical, transport to Fairview Hospital
- September 30 . . . . . Medical, Tolland, transport to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Torrington



## OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

You may have noticed a new ad in the last couple of months? This month you'll see it on page 12. Sweety and Hun (**Vicki and Pauline Bakunis**) are creating knitted scarves, hats, throws, all of which make great holiday gifts. Visit them at Sweety and Hun's Crafts on the websites listed in their ad.

With Thanksgiving approaching, non-perishable food items will be collected by the **Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center** for donation to the Elizabeth Freeman Center (Great Barrington and Pittsfield) to help families living in the shelter during the holiday. Staff members and community residents may contribute items until November 20.



## News from the PTA FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENTS COMING UP

PTA meeting: Wednesday, November 6 at 3:15 p.m. in the school library. Open to community members. Child care is provided.

Half-day school day, Thursday, November 7, for teacher/parent conferences in the afternoon and evening. The PTA will provide a Mexican-themed dinner for the teachers.

Please join us on Friday, November 8th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., for our **Quarter Auction Fundraiser!** Many items from local vendors, such as Vineyard Wines, Perfect Posh, Dot Dot Smile dresses, Pure Romance, Tastefully Simple, and Norwex will be auctioned off, as well gift certificates and baskets from local businesses. Each vendor will also have a table from which items may be purchased directly. Dinner, desert and a 50/50 raffle will also be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the school classrooms.

Thanksgiving school break will be November 27-29th.

This year's **Holiday Shop** will be held Thursday December 12 and Friday, December 13. The Holiday Shop allows students in grades K-6 to hand-pick gifts for family members, teachers, friends, and pets. The PTA seeks donations of local handmade items (such as maple syrup, jams, hot sauces, honey, jewelry, hair bows, ornaments, etc.) to be sold at the holiday shop. We sell items with a price range \$1 to \$5. Donations of reusable holiday gift bags for wrapping purchases are also welcome! If you can volunteer your time by helping to run the holiday shop, please notify [frsrdptatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:frsrdptatreasurer@gmail.com) by Friday, Dec. 6. 🍷

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## The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

### Library Hours:

Monday and Tuesday from 9am until 12:30 pm

Wednesday from 2pm until 5pm

Thursday from 5pm to 7pm

Saturday from 10am until 1 pm.

The Sandisfield Free Public Library will be closed Veterans Day, Monday, November 11.

### HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Arts and Crafts with Kids, Saturday, November 9 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (Arts and Crafts with Kids are held every second Saturday of the month). This month will feature pinecones and things you can create with nature's bountiful amount of them in New England.

Yoga has resumed at the Community Center (lower level of Library). Join Ann Gadwah for some easy yoga – stretch, relax, and recharge yourself. Wednesdays from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. – November 6, 13, and 20. Bring your own mat, beginners always welcome.

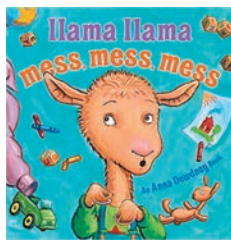
### NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

*The Guardians* by John Grisham. A former priest works for an organization that searches court transcripts and personal letters from convicts to determine if someone is wrongfully imprisoned. If the organization believes in the potential client's innocence, it will do everything it can within the boundaries of the law to free an innocent person, investigating and pushing for a new trial. Another suspenseful thriller from Grisham.

*Death in Focus* by Ann Perry. The first in a new mystery series set in pre-World War II Europe, an young photographer carries her dead lover's final, world-shattering message into the heart of Berlin as Hitler ascends to power. A tale of love, danger, betrayal, and murder.

*A Better Man* by Louise Penny. Beloved Chief Inspector Armand Gamache returns to the Surete du Quebec. A mysterious disappearance, rising spring rivers, and a hounding media stalk the implacable Inspector along with the question "what would you do if your child's killer walked free?" reverberate throughout the novel.

*A Book of Bones* by John Connolly. The erstwhile private detective Charlie Parker once again finds himself enmeshed in another eerie and disturbing mystery. Gothic horror, a complicated plot, and richly drawn characters. Just keep the lights on!



**Children's books.** *Llama Llama, Mess Mess Mess*, the continuing adventures of everyone's favorite little llama.

**Young Adult:** Jana Laiz, a popular Berkshires author, and the Sandisfield Arts Center graciously donated four of her books: *The Twelfth Stone*, *Billy Budd in the Bread Box*, and *Thomas & Autumn*

## Council on Aging



By Nina Carr

Following up on last month's article by Tina DeManbey, seniors can soon expect to receive a survey in the mail. The survey is part of an effort to improve the quality of life for seniors and hopefully enable more seniors to age in place at home.

Also, recently the COA received information on the Home Modification Loan Program. This program will provide 0 percent loans of up to \$50,000 to seniors for ramps, stairlifts, and bathroom or kitchen modifications that can

Don't forget the Library has passes to various museums, thanks to a Sandisfield Cultural Council Grant Stop by and find out what's available. Included are the Springfield Art Museum, the Dr. Seuss Museum, the Clark, MAMO, and various Trustee sites. Go out and explore your world.

The Library thanks the Sandisfield Recreation Committee for helping to sponsor our Arts and Crafts Events and the Berkshire Rehabilitation Center and especially the Sandisfield Cultural Council whose grants allowed us to have both Ed the Wizard and Davis Bates visit the library and entertain us all. Without the generosity of these organizations, many library events would not be possible. Many thanks! 🙏

\* Please note that the library cannot accept donations of books, magazines, or games. We appreciate your wishing to donate to our small library but we simply do not have the capacity. \*

allow seniors to remain in their homes. More information is available at the COA.

The Sandisfield COA continues to provide lunch and a social hour on Wednesdays as well as Qi Gong on Monday mornings and Chair Yoga on Wednesdays.

We also have volunteer drivers available for appointments and shopping on Tuesdays.

This month we will again sponsor one of our most popular events. A Flower Arrangement Class with a Thanksgiving theme will take place at the COA Center on November 25 at 2:00 p.m. The cost of \$10 includes all supplies necessary. Please call and leave a message on the COA phone or call Linda @ 258-4816 or Nina @ 258-3314 to reserve your spot. 🙏

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# Comings and Goings

## WALTER LINKOVICH 1926-2019

Sandisfield has lost one of its best known and most loved individuals.

Walter Linkovich died peacefully among close friends at the Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Facility in New Boston on September 28. He had recently celebrated his 93rd birthday at the facility surrounded by family and many Sandisfield friends.

Remarkably, Walter lived nearly all his life in Sandisfield on the property where he was born September 20, 1926.

The son of William and Rose Linkovich, Walter learned to be self-sufficient working on his family farm at 182 Sandisfield Road at Sandisfield Center. The family raised livestock to feed themselves and sold milk, cheese, and butter to the community. Walter remembered the Depression: "The truth is we were OK and had plenty of food because we were a farm. Dinner was running around in the back yard."

Until the 8th grade, he attended one-room schoolhouses in Sandisfield. Graduating from Lee High School in 1945, near the end of World War II, he was immediately drafted into the U.S. Army. He served honorably at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and Fort Knox, Kentucky. Following his discharge in 1946, he attended trade school in Meriden, Connecticut, graduating as an electrician in 1950. He worked for an electrical contractor until the death of his father in 1967, when he returned to the family farm.

He moved into a home on the property, a house that had once been a bank in once busy Sandisfield Center.



*Photo of Walter taken in 2011  
by Setsuko Winchester*

That's when Walter became the town's electrician. "I expect," he said in a 2011 interview with The Sandisfield Times, "that I've wired up almost every house in Sandisfield, most of the business, the Arts Center, Town Hall, Pete's Store, the Post Office, the American legion, the Nursing Home, you name it."

Walter had a passion for Cadillacs, buying his first one in 1967. "I provided high-class electrical service," he said. "I used to arrive at a job with my tools in the trunk of a Cadillac."

Walter was a world traveler. He enjoyed England, Italy, Germany, Austria, California, Mexico, and Branson, Missouri. He was a hunter, an ice fisherman, a water skier, and he loved to dance. "I went dancing all over," he said. "Hartford, Las Vegas, New York, Hawaii, and don't forget that there were the three dance halls in Sandisfield!"

In a tribute to her uncle, Walter's niece, Lorraine Slepski, wrote: "He was a very cool uncle. He was our bachelor uncle who loved to square dance and polka, and have a good time with friends. ... When I think of Uncle Walter, I think of happy memories from the time I was a young kid.

"... One special Easter Sunday, when my sister Ann and I were around 9 and 10 years old, Uncle Walter took us for an airplane ride at Brainard Airport in Hartford. I'll never forget that ride. It was amazing.

"Our family spent summer vacations and weekends at our camp up the road from the farm. That's what we called Uncle Walter's home back then, cause that's what it was, the house Uncle Walter grew up in. ... Uncle Walter owned a beautiful boat that he took to Lake Buele on weekends to waterski. During the summer he would take us and my other cousins on the boat. We had the greatest time. We learned to waterski thanks to Uncle Walter.

"We were very blessed to have him for our uncle. Things we experienced with him were things we would never forget."

Walter leaves behind a whole community of friends and will be especially missed by his very best friend, Dana Beardsley. His survivors include his closest niece, Lorraine Slepski of Wethersfield, Conn., and his nephew, Stanley Linkovich and wife Kathy of West Danville, Vermont. He is also survived by his niece Donna Guidi of Torrington, two grand-nephews, Scott and William, and two grand-nieces, Danielle and Allison. He was predeceased by two brothers, Mike and Stanley Linkovich, and two sisters, Helen Kokoszka and Arlene Finkle. He was a member of the Sandisfield Council on Aging and the Sandisfield American Legion Post #456.

A Funeral Mass was held on October 5, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at Our Lady of the Valley Church, Sheffield. Burial with Military Honors followed in Mill River Cemetery.



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# November at the Arts Center

**NEIL SIMON COMEDY, SONG BALLADS, FREE MOVIE, AND OPEN MIC FUN!**

*By Hilde Weisert*

More than 50 Sandisfielders of all ages dropped by the Arts Center on October 5 for our Open House and family barbecue. Old and new friends socialized over burgers and hotdogs, pasta salad and delicious desserts and heard a bit about volunteering at SARC. It was also a time for recognition of long-term volunteers in attendance: June Wink, Ron Bernard, Connie Canty, and Dassy Herman. Look for an Open House in 2020 as an annual event.

November features three free events. The first is an opening reception for photographer Andy Holtzman's show, November 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. On November 8 at 6 p.m., bring a dish to our potluck supper and Free Film for Grown-ups, then settle in to watch the 1954 version of "A Star Is Born." James

Mason and Judy Garland give performances of a lifetime, and Garland's singing will knock you out.

The month ends with the third free program. On Friday November 22 at 7 p.m., we will host an Open Mic Plus Grown-up Show and Tell, with a "Bring Your Own Talent" theme. Linda Mironti and Hannah Fries will host this "get to know your neighbors even better" fun event.

In between, there will be two dynamite performances. On November 9 at 8 p.m., the Sandisfield Players present a staged reading of Neil Simon comedy, with hilarious vignettes from classics like *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, and *The Odd Couple*.

On November 16 at 8 p.m., this year's Evening of Song features the songs of Sammy Cahn and Julie Styne, performed by returning favorites Mary Verdi, Brian DeLorenzo, and singer/producer Linda Mironti, accompanied on the piano by Joe Rose. As a fundraiser (\$50), this show helps support those free programs. Great music from talented pros plus fancy desserts and Prosecco at intermission combine to make this a very special evening.

For more information on all the programs, visit [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org).



## Sandisfield Historical Society



Our October Apple Fest was a great affair at the Meeting House on Rt. 183. The apple pies made by the ladies of the Council on Aging sold out by noon. The hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on our grill tasted great, and we had quite a few new items for the tag sale which was also a huge success.

Our November meeting will be on Saturday, the 9th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Meeting House.

Following the short business meeting, we will honor our nation's veterans with a discussion by local historian Ron Bernard, who will speak about Sandisfield's native son and Revolutionary War hero, Col. John Brown. After the talk, please join us for our annual wine and cheese social. We welcome everyone to share the day with us.

Our Christmas Fair this year will be December 7, Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at Firehouse No. 2 on Rt. 57. We believe Santa will join us, and there will be a large group of vendors with a wide assortment of items for sale. If you would like to rent a table, please call me at 258-4415. Cost per table is \$20.



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# Sandisfield Arts Center

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## NOVEMBER

IN THE GALLERY

**Nov 2 - Nov 28**  
**ANDY HOLTZMAN:**

Photographs

Reception: Sat, Nov 2, 2 - 4 PM



**Fri, Nov 8, 6 PM**  
**FREE MOVIE NIGHT!**

*for Grown-ups*  
*with Pot Luck dinner*

**"A STAR IS BORN"**

1954 GARLAND/MASON VERSION



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**Sat, Nov 16, 8 PM \$50**  
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*(fundraiser!)*

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**Fri, Nov 22, 7 PM FREE**  
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**GROWN-UP SHOW & TELL**





## Letters to the Editors

### Editor's Note: Pot Farm Proposal

The letter below, by Melissa Bye, refers to last month's article about resistance to the proposed cannabis-growing facility proposed for West Hubbard Road. Jennifer Pilbin, who recently moved to Sandisfield from South Carolina in order to build the facility, is currently proceeding through the building permit process for a house she intends to build on the property. No applications for the facility have yet been received by a Town board.

### ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

Because my husband and I chose to retire to peaceful, rural Sandisfield to escape the stresses of living in one of the largest and fastest growing cities in the country, Houston, Texas, I understand the Mauro's and Garwood's concerns that having a marijuana farm close to their

properties could disrupt their quality of life. However, before completely dismissing Ms. Pilbin's plan to build her farm, I respectfully recommend that the Mauros and Garwoods research the effects these farms have had on folks in other parts of Southern Berkshire County.

Case in point, I have a good friend who lives close to a marijuana farm in Sheffield on BowWow road. This farm is in a particularly beautiful and rural area of Sheffield populated with farms and historic homes. I realize my evidence is anecdotal, but during several trips to my friend's house (at different times of the day), in which I've had to pass Equinox Farm, I have never noticed increased traffic or "curious onlookers." Indeed, I'm frequently the only driver on the road.


While financially sound, Sandisfield is not a wealthy town nor does it have many revenue generating businesses. Thus, I would think the opportunity for a profitable agricultural concern like Ms. Pilbin's would be embraced. Our New Marlborough neighbors voted not to have marijuana farms, which is, of course, their right. That said, New Marlborough has several thriving businesses which produce tax revenue for the town. New Marlborough also has three-phase power and thus can fund its new broadband build with tax revenue produced by privately owned solar fields. Sandisfield not only has few businesses but also lacks the infrastructure to support revenue-producing solar fields. A profitable marijuana farm could be a means to help fund our broadband build, extensive road repairs, and other needed infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

Before Ms. Pilbin is summarily dismissed, I would hope our town's citizens and leadership do their due diligence regarding the effects (both positive and negative) of such a farm, and think long and hard about how it could help add to our town's coffers and improve our quality of life.

*Melissa Bye  
New Hartford Road*

## 2020 Census is Hiring


The 2020 Census is only a few months away and hiring for census takers is already underway. These are temporary, part-time, flexible schedule jobs with pay starting at \$18 per hour. In order to have people employed and trained by the Census Bureau by March 2020, when the Census begins, people need to apply now. Apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs) or by calling 855-562-2020.

For information on Census activities in Berkshire County or to answer questions on applying for jobs, please contact Mark Sebastino, Partnership Specialist for Berkshire County, online at [mark.a.sebastino@2020census.gov](mailto:mark.a.sebastino@2020census.gov) or 401-834-2778. 

## A Custom-Made Outfit



*Photo: Margo Morrison of Sandisfield, Charlotte's owner*

Charlotte, an Italian Greyhound who lives on West Street and New York City, models a fall and winter suit made especially for her by local resident Kim Paspuletti. A seamstress since the age of 10, Kim was schooled in textile and clothing and worked for a time for designer Elie Tahari. She styled and made Charlotte's outfit to the required specific dimensions. 

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# NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

**Playgroup** on Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Library Community Room (library basement). No pre-registration is necessary. The playgroup features a story time, too. Led by Nina Carr. Free!

**Wednesday Weekly Gatherings** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging, basement level at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57.

**Chair Yoga** on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging, basement level at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57. Free.

**YOGA** has resumed at the Community Center (lower level of Library). Join Ann Gadwah for some easy yoga – stretch, relax, and recharge. Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., November 6, 13, and 20. Bring your own mat or towel, beginners always welcome. \$5.

**Opening Reception: Andy Holtzman** on Saturday, November 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Photography. Private showings by appointment with the artist. The exhibition will be on display through November 28.

**Paint and Sip** on Wednesday, November 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Fire Station #1 in New Boston sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreational Committee. Learn to paint a seasonal image of “Autumn Maple Tree” on a large 16 x 20” canvas. Pre-register online at Berkshire Paint and Sip. All supplies, snacks, and wine included. \$30.

**Free Movie Night!** on Friday, November 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. The James Mason/Judy Garland feature *A Star is Born* is this season’s selection. Bring a dish to share and beverage of your choice. For grown-ups with a potluck dinner. Free.

**Sandisfield Historical Society’s Wine & Cheese Social** on Saturday, November 9, at the Old Meeting House on Route 183. Following a short business meeting at 11 a.m., local historian Ron Bernard will speak about Sandisfield’s native son and Revolutionary War hero, Col. John Brown. The presentation is free, as is the Wine & Cheese Social. All welcome. Information, contact Ann Wald at 258-4415.

**Celebrating the Work of Neil Simon** on Saturday, November 9, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. The Sandisfield Players bring to the stage excerpts from *The Odd Couple*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, and others. The performances will be script-held. For more information visit [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org). \$20.

**New Boston Church Service** on Sunday, November 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome!

**Evening of Song: Our Hit Parade Fundraiser** on Saturday, November 16, at 8:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Come spend a very special evening immersed in the music of two of the most beloved song writers of all time, Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne. This special evening includes an intermission with Prosecco and a resplendent dessert table. For tickets and more information visit [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org). \$50.

**Open Mic plus Grown-up Show and Tell** on Friday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. What better way to spend a chilly autumn evening than warming it up with your friends and an adult beverage, as we entertain one another with our songs, stories, jokes, or poetry, and offer a show and tell of some of our favorite experiences or accomplishments. For information, visit [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org). Free.

## OTHER EVENTS IN NEARBY TOWNS

**Quarter Auction** on Friday, November 8, at 5:00 p.m. at the Farmington River Regional Elementary School on Route 8 in Otis. Many items for raffle, including local vendor wares, gift baskets, and 50-50. Dinner and dessert will also be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the school’s classrooms.

**Free Community Open House** on Sunday, November 24, all day at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington. Go for a swim, use the cardio machines, hike, or bring the kids to enjoy the play equipment in the courtyard. Visit [berkshiresouth.org](http://berkshiresouth.org) for more information.

**Green Friday!** on Friday, November 29, from sunrise to sunset. Head to a Trustees of the Reservation Property for free admission and parking. All outdoor properties, including Bartholomew’s Cobble in Sheffield. For more information, visit [thetrustees.org](http://thetrustees.org).



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# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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*The Times is grateful to readers  
who have donated this month.*



*Alison Cleveland*

*June Wink*



The Sandisfield Times is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers from the Sandisfield community and funded by individual and business sponsors. Its mission is to connect the community through reliable, regular, and relevant information. The paper is published 11 times each year, with a joint January-February issue and monthly issues thereafter.

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Copies are also available in Otis at Berkshire Bank, Katie's Market, Papa's Fuel, Otis Library, Otis Rec Center, Farmington River Diner, Otis Poultry Farm, Otis Woodlands (May-September), Knox Trail Inn, and the Laundromat. Locations in Monterey include the Library and the Roadside Café. Also available at the Southfield Store in New Marlborough, at the general store and post office in Colebrook, and at the library of NW Connecticut Community College in Winsted. Back issues are available for purchase.

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