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YEAR 16 – NO. 35

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 21, 2018

Turners Falls Softball Heads to State Final



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Juliana Rode (at right) beams with Povertown Pride as teammates hug following Turners' 4-1 victory over Hopedale in the D-III state semifinal Tuesday afternoon.

By MATT ROBINSON

WORCESTER – If it's June, then the Turners Falls softball team must be in the Massachusetts state championship game.

This week, the Turners Falls softball team beat Mount Everett to win the Western Mass. D-III title. Then they beat the Central Mass. champs, Hopedale, setting up a state title game against Abington.

Last issue, I wrote that Turners is going for its fourth consecutive state title. In retrospect, I questioned myself – after all, the years tend to run together, and I may have lost track. They won the trophy in 2015, 2016 and 2017. And in 2014, they lost to Greater New Bedford in the Championship game.

But I have always put an asterisk on that 2014 season, the last time Turners didn't win the States. That year, Greater New Bedford had the title stripped from them by the MIAA, so there was no D-III state champion in 2014.

In 2013, as I was often reminded of this week, Turners was defeated in the Western Mass. title game by none other than Mount Everett, the team they went against last Saturday. So, no correction needed.

And this Saturday, June 23, Turners will play in their fifth straight state championship game.

TFHS 8 – Mount Everett 3

Last Saturday, Turners Falls defeated the Mount Everett Eagles at Sortino Field at UMass-Amherst, clinching the Western Mass. title. In this game, Turners scored eight unanswered runs to turn a 0-1 deficit into an 8 to 1 runaway.

The Birds scored right out of the gate. A leadoff walk, a steal, and a pop single put runners on the corners. A diving catch by catcher Aly Murphy gave Blue some breathing room. The next batter bunted, and the throw was to home. The runner was safe, and Everett took a 1-0 lead.

see **SOFTBALL** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Wastewater Chief Warns Projected Deficit May Cause “Unacceptable” Sewer Rates

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its June 18 meeting, the Montague selectboard heard another dismal report on the fiscal condition of the sewer system from Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) superintendent Bob McDonald. McDonald said that the loss of revenue from the closing of the Southworth paper mill, combined with excess “solids” entering the plant, “creates an unacceptable budget proposition for ratepayers.”

Reading from a memo he had prepared for the meeting, McDonald stressed several “areas of concern.” The first involved the finding by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that the water

treatment plant was understaffed. According to McDonald, the FY'19 sewer budget assumed a staffing level of between five and six employees, whereas the DEP recommends a level of 8.6.

McDonald said he hoped to “negotiate with the DEP” to get approval for a staffing level of 7. “It's all formula-driven,” said town administrator Steve Ellis of the requirements.

According to McDonald's memo, the plant is experiencing two to three times the amount of solids in the system “than the textbook treatment plants would be expected to experience.” The memo suggests that more research is needed “to isolate where the unusual overage of solids

see **SEWER** page A7

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Pooser to Step Down From Wendell Board



Jeffrey Pooser.

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard's first meeting after the annual town meeting was diminished by board member Jeffrey Pooser's resignation, dated one day before, June 12.

Pooser, who ran unopposed this spring to win a fourth term on the board, plans to move out of town, and will not be allowed to hold elective office after that. The day after the meeting, Pooser sent a public message over the town listserv explaining that the “difficult decision” was made because he needed “to

see **WENDELL** page A3

River Advocates Call For Hydro Licenses To Reflect New Fish Passage Research



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

This fish ladder at Turners Falls was built to help anadromous fish climb from the level of the Connecticut River (at right) to above the dam and power canal (at left).

By KAREN SHAPIRO MILLER

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The river-blocking dams and fish-mangling turbines used by power company FirstLight to produce hydropower at Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain have reduced Connecticut River fish populations and impaired the river's ecosystems.

Now, for the first time in 40 years, FirstLight must apply for a new license – a license that may set new ground rules for how the river is treated.

Some river advocates believe that this may be an opportunity to fix some of the harm caused by the hydropower facilities. The terms of the license may require the company change its operating practices, so that hydropower, which typically has huge environmental costs, can be produced in a more sustainable, less environmentally damaging way, going forward.

The criteria for a hydropower license haven't changed since 1920, when the Federal Power Act was passed. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has always been instructed to weigh environmental concerns equally with power generation. But in practice, many feel environmental concerns have been skimmed.

“Current conditions [on the river] are unacceptable,” says Andrew Fisk, executive director of the Connecticut River Conservancy. The Conservancy advocates for the river, and is one of the several stakeholders – non-profits, towns, state and federal agencies, advocacy groups, and citizens – helping to shape the new license.

There's an opportunity now, though, because, compared to 40 years ago, says Ken Sprankle, a US Fish and Wildlife Services biologist involved in the relicensing, “there's been a recognition of the complexities of the ecosystems, and of the interrelationships of the species.”

And, importantly, research tools are subtler, and more advanced. “If you go back 40 years,” Sprankle continues, “the radio tags that used to be used were so large and cumbersome, they had a very negative effect on the fish. We've had advances where now we can use very small tags that are less injurious to the fish. Our monitoring capabilities have greatly improved.”

The researchers are able to learn much more about how fish behave, and what they need to survive. These findings will underpin the licensing changes.

“We developed over two dozen

see **RESEARCH** page A7

First Franklin Candidates Feel Out Their Differences

By MIKE JACKSON

LEVERETT – On September 4, all registered voters in the First Franklin district – 19 towns stretching from Middlefield and Chester in the southwest to Montague and Leverett in the northeast – will be able to choose among eight candidates in the Democratic primary for state representative.

The Republican Party is not run-

ning any candidates in November, so the primary is expected to determine who will fill the seat Steve Kulik has held since 1993.

The candidates have been holding a series of events to introduce themselves to voters, and last Thursday, June 14, all eight took part in a forum at the Leverett Elementary School hosted by the Leverett Alliance.

After a round of introductory

see **CANDIDATES** page A4

JACKSON PHOTO

The eight Democratic candidates introduced themselves to Leverett voters last week.

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Concentration

In 1813, the year the colony Paraguay won independence from Spain, José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, the man who was quickly consolidating control over the newborn republic, established a remote garrison known as Tevego in the country’s malarial eastern borderlands.

Though de Francia’s original design for the settlement may have been defensive, Tevego soon assumed the function of a place of banishment and hard labor. It was a site of intentional misery, a punishment for disloyalty to El Supremo that nevertheless served as an alternative to the dungeon or the bayonet.

De Francia was a brutal utopian, and his main strategy for ensuring Paraguay’s autonomy was to ban marriage between colonial Europeans, so as to foster a mixed-race or mestizo national identity. During the republic’s first decade, Tevego became a place de Francia could park, as Thomas Carlyle would describe it, “drunken mulattoes and the class called unfortunate-females.” Tevego served a specific function relative to the fledgling nation; exile on the borderland was a logical solution for that class of people de Francia deemed criminal, but still hoped would work – and reproduce.

The idea that a nation could use its guilty elements to strengthen itself did not begin with Paraguay. In the 18th century, the British and French empires deported convicts to serve as shock troops on their global frontiers: their indentured labor in far-flung island and coastal plantations could, in time, redeem them of the guilt of their crimes, or at least the guilt of their debts.

These earlier penal colonies killed two birds with one stone: the removal of criminals from the center of power, and the expansion of its frontiers. And it was easier to think of one’s country as innocent at its core when it continually transported guilt to its periphery.

As the age of empires slowly gave way to an era of nation-states, in many places the key challenge of nation-building became one of maintaining, rather than expanding, borders. Since citizens of each nation are asked to see their own state as the guarantor of justice, citizenship itself serves as an underlying indicator of innocence – and foreignness, everywhere, as a warning sign of guilt.

But borders have never successfully separated the innocent from the guilty; they are in reality nearly

always lines established by treaties, artifacts of periods of open violence. They have always contained conquered people, and they have always, in practice, been crossed in times of peace by non-combatants.

In the modern world, each government claims the authority to kill the guilty in order to provide security to the innocent. But actually doing so is rarely a feasible policy: in times of social peace, at least, most of us *don’t* see foreignness as a marker of guilt; most of us *don’t* see birthright as the only way to become deserving of the bounty of the land; and most of us *don’t* want to be implicated in violence and suffering.

In 1830 the Choctaw, defeated by European colonists, negotiated for their survival by agreeing to cede their ancestral land and migrate westward. In 1835 a group of Cherokee signed a similar treaty.

The majority opposed the agreement, but it was ratified by the United States government, and in 1838 their forcible removal began. The US Army rounded up those who did not self-deport and held them in eleven internment camps, mostly in Tennessee. Civilians were offered bounties for murdering stragglers.

Concentration camps are the state’s way of encircling a population with a piece of the border. Those located inside a camp are outside the nation’s borders. The two are physically, not just metaphorically, connected.

In 1862 our government captured and interned nearly 2,000 Dakota people inside a Minnesota fort, separated the men from the women and the children from the adults, and then further removed them onto remote reservations, laboratories where their culture was systematically eroded.

In 1897 the Spanish general assigned the task of crushing the Cuban rebellion tried to spatially separate them into combatants (guilty) and non-combatants (relatively innocent) by dividing the island up into zones and “reconcentrating” hundreds of thousands of people into camps. Three years later, British forces in South Africa, facing an insurgency by Dutch-descended Boers, tried the same trick, herding the civilians into what for the first time were called “concentration camps” in an attempt to reorder the population into guilty and innocent. Both policies led to tens of thousands of deaths.

Internment camps were central to the Turkish genocide of Armenians in 1915 and the Italian genocide in



Jack Villani batters up some onion rings at the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Gill last Friday night.

Letters to

the Editors

Endorses a Write-In

Appreciated Memorial

When I heard that Jo Comerford is running a write-in campaign for the Franklin/Hampshire/Worcester State Senate seat, I literally screamed with delight!

I’ve known Jo for over 15 years and she’s smart, committed to issues I care about, and highly skilled at pulling together people to get things done. She is a true bridge builder, able to work with everyone to advance the common good.

I don’t live in Jo’s district, yet for the next few months I’m making time that I didn’t know I have to volunteer for Jo’s campaign. At a time when western Mass has lost many of our powerful voices in the State House, Jo is the perfect person to step in and represent all of us in western Massachusetts.

Jo has spent her career making progressive change happen at the lo-

cal, state, and national level. Leading the National Priorities Project to help us all understand where our federal tax dollars go, Jo knows that state and federal budgets are moral documents that express our values.

As a campaign director for *MoveOn.org*, Jo spent four years working side-by-side with state and federal leaders to advance support for public education, sensible gun laws, accessible and affordable health care, and renewable energy policies. Now, she’s ready to take her extensive experience, deep knowledge, and strong vision to work for all of us.

Learn more about Jo at *jocomerford.org*, then join me in helping her win a seat in the State Senate!

Mary McClintock
Conway

Libya in the 1920s. It’s easy to make the mistake, given the disastrous result of every one of these attempts to carve populations of society into segments, to see camps simply as preparation for extermination.

But their original intent is almost always different: Transportation. Protection. Deterrence. When Dachau opened in 1933, it was primarily to remove Communists from society and make a visible example of them.

The German state’s attempt, over the next 12 years, to physically separate the people of the continent into an innocent homeland and peripheral penal colonies brought it into catastrophic war. And about halfway through the sheer impossibility of the project resulted a

change in plans: extermination.

The first thing we learn, three generations later, about that particular national project is that it culminated in 11 death camps. It is too easy to forget that there were *tens of thousands of other camps* throughout Europe at the project’s climax.

Humanity is migratory. The idea that the location of a birth should determine where that baby deserves to go in its lifetime is an absurdity. Crossing one of the lines left to us by bloodthirsty 19th-century idiots is not an act of violence, or a violation, and it should not be a crime. Nationalism failed. The logic of borders matured into the logic of camps. It’s over. Let’s try something new.

The significance of the *Montague Reporter* offering a community tribute to Michael Crabtree cannot be overstated.

In a time that is filled with mean-spirited discourse and policies, that the paper chose to celebrate Michael’s life was a balm for our souls. This choice reflects what should be most important, which is to value everyone, regardless of their supposed status in the world.

Thank you to the paper, to everyone who wrote about Michael, and to Mike Jackson for an exceptional tribute. We loved Michael Crabtree and his enormous heart, and he always made sure to tell us that he loved us too.

Michael, May Your Memory Be Eternal.

Sita Lang and Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

The main article, and the fact that the paper gave over an entire page to let people speak about Michael Crabtree, makes me proud both of our community and our newspaper. It’s not easy to capture the essence of someone with such grace and honesty as the *MR* has done.

He seems to have been a man with many burdens which he couldn’t overcome, but people cared about him, and one can only hope he knew that at some level.

Jeri Moran
Montague

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

The sprinkler whale is now spouting at Unity Park in Turners Falls, and will continue to spout until Labor Day. Operation hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days per week. The sprinkler started early this year: the system was being checked out for the year’s operation, and when everything came out fine, Montague Parks and Rec decided to start it up, because the high temperatures we were having Monday were forecast for the remainder of the week. Thank you Parks and Rec!

The Great Falls Apple Corps is hosting a free **Solstice Herb Talk** at 6 p.m. this Thursday, June 21 at the Unity Park Community Garden in Turners Falls. Learn about the medicinal properties of common culinary herbs like parsley, rosemary, sage, and more with a free herb talk from Rachel Labrie.

As with all Great Falls Apple Corps events, the talk is free, but donations are accepted. Questions or comments are welcome at great-fallsapplecorps@gmail.com.

Just graduated high school? Can’t afford college full time? Want to get that promotion at work? Looking

for self-development and general all-around improvement? Come and check out all that **Greenfield Community College** has to offer! The GCC Admissions team will be at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls from 10 to 11 a.m. this Saturday, June 23, to answer all your questions and point you in the right direction. College degrees can be tailored to an individual’s needs, time and finances. There is a place for you at GCC – you just need to find it. Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank.

Get some good beach reads at the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library **Summer Book Sale** this Saturday, June 23, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the basement of the library. They have over 11,000 books to choose from in their regular stacks. Non-fiction books are sorted by subject and fiction is in alphabetical order, so it’s easy to find what you are looking for, and volunteers will help you in your search. There is always a nice selection of children’s books, as well as many music, book, and movie DVDs and CDs. And for the true bargain hunter, there is a section where you can fill a bag for \$2. Proceeds from the sale will help

the Friends support library enrichment programs and services, such as Homebound Delivery, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, children-adult programming, and free passes for local museums, learning centers, and parks.

The **Montague Community Band** Summer Concert Series starts its 127th season at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 25 at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to come watch an **interactive and silly magic show** at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls to kick off the Summer Reading Program. Help make the magic happen by wiggling your fingers, making magical waves with your hands, and yelling magic words! The program will be held at the Library on Tuesday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Also at the Carnegie Library you will have a chance to take a trip around the world, and **meet snakes from across the globe**, with Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures. Learn about the many ways snakes are special animals, and get up close to observe their fascinating behavior and anatomy. Held Friday, June 29, at 1 p.m.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street in Turners Falls, is holding its **annual giant tag sale** on Saturday, June 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items include furniture, housewares, appliances, exercise equipment, and other treasures at rock-bottom prices. The sale will be held rain or shine.

Learn about the “**Secret Lives of the Quabbin**” with photographer Dale Monette on June 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center (GFDC). Monette spent many thousands of hours on the 82,000-acre Quabbin Reservoir watershed over the last three years, photographing wildlife, and now 130 of his best photographs have been released in a beautiful book. Hear his stories and view photos of the animals of Quabbin as they go about their daily routines throughout the four seasons. See what Monette and his camera saw, from eagles and loons to otters, bears and more, along with scenic views of the 18-mile-long Reservoir. Preceding the program, a very short meeting of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center will be held to elect officers. This meeting is open to the public, and the Friends will provide refreshments.

Mid-May to mid-June is considered **field trip season** at the Discovery Center. During this time 524 students (not including teachers and chaperones) from 16 different schools visited the GFDC for a one-hour field trip during the weeks that the Turners Falls Fishway was open. Students learned about watersheds, habitats, mammals, and water pollution during their visit. Beginning this Saturday, June 23, the GFDC will be open seven days per week, with **extended hours** of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

WENDELL from page A1
prioritize and focus on [his] family.” Pooser’s last meeting will be June 27. The first piece of business the board made was to speak with town clerk Gretchen Smith and schedule a special election for his replacement. Smith’s idea was to hold that election September 4, the same day that the Massachusetts primaries are held, to save the town some of the cost of two voting days. Some logistical details will complicate arrangements: voters will have to check in and out twice, once for each election, and the town may need to borrow a ballot box for one of the contests. The office building meeting room, where voting normally happens, may be too small for both elections to fit, and voting may need to be moved to the town hall. July 13 is the last day that nomination papers for the vacant selectboard seat may be taken out, and signed papers must be submitted by July 31. August 15 is the last day for new residents to register as voters, and August 31 the last day to get absentee ballots.

Solar and Broadband
C2 Power Generation bought a small, but operating part, of the Seaboard Solar SRECs (solar, re-

newable energy credits) projects that Wendell agreed to host. Seaboard agreed to pay Wendell about \$60,000 a year as Wendell’s share of generating revenue, and so far has paid nothing. SRECs have been replaced by a different program, but for the share it owns, C2 Power has begun to pay Wendell monthly, under \$200 each month so far. Selectboard member Dan Keller voiced some of the concerns he has about working with WiredWest for creating and operating a fiber-optic broadband network in town, the same concerns he has voiced previously, and that HG&E mentioned in their consulting report. Under the WiredWest proposal, Wendell would borrow money to build the system, but WiredWest would own it; if Wendell withdraws, WiredWest would still be allowed to use the fibers. There is a five-year period before any town may withdraw. Keller asked, “Why would a borrowing town send its income to WiredWest?”

Kitchen Oversight
A health agent inspection of the town hall kitchen resulted in a two-page list of deficiencies, most of which are relatively easy to cor-

rect. The refrigerator has no thermometer, and personal food items were inside. Board of health chair Nina Keller suggested locking the room and the kitchen could use someone to oversee its use. Keller said that Good Neighbors may be willing to pay for that overseer. Kitchen committee chair Mez Davis, and possibly others will come to the selectboard’s next meeting, June 27, to discuss oversight of the kitchen.

Other Business
Board members agreed to some year-end transfers to help balance department budgets. Utility poles are being moved in Wendell Depot as they need to be to allow replacing the Wendell Depot Road bridge that spans Osgood Brook. FRCOG is offering Wendell help in the town’s application for the next round of community development block grants (CDBG’s) for housing rehabilitation, bringing houses up to code. Wendell now has \$12,000 available. The money available for grants is dropping, and competition for those grants is increasing. Board members voted to waive the chair rental fee for the Misfit Prom. Proceeds from the prom were given to Swift River School.

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Important Message From The Wendell Town Clerk

There will be an open position on the Selectboard as of June 28, 2018. The Selectboard has requested that the Town Clerk hold an election to fill the vacancy. The date of this special town election is set for Tuesday, September 4, to coincide with the State Primary Election scheduled for that same date. If you are interested in running for the Selectboard position you must first obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk, and the required number of signatures from qualified voters in Wendell. Nomi-

nation papers are available *now* at the Town Clerk’s Office. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Friday, July 13. The last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars is Tuesday, July 17. Please don’t wait until the last minute. If you are interested in this position, please act now to get the nomination process moving forward. For more information on the position and the process call or email the Town Clerk at: (978) 544-3395 x2, wendelltownclerk@gmail.com.

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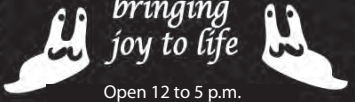
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CANDIDATES from page A1

statements, each candidate sat down with a small group of audience members to hear about their concerns, which they then translated back to the entire audience and responded to. The evening wrapped up with the candidates each answering questions about Leverett’s fiscal challenges, charter schools, and how their views differ from each other.

“Politics isn’t pretty, but we can’t surrender that to the people who would profit off the rest of us,” said **Kate Albright-Hanna**, an investigative journalist who lives in Huntington.

“On the bright side, the zombie apocalypse is bringing a lot of people out to run for office,” she joked. But Albright-Hanna spoke more seriously about connecting local and national issues: “We have an opportunity to turn red states blue,” she said.

Closing the carried-income loophole, she claimed, could save Massachusetts \$938 million; if the state joined with New York and other states it could better prevent tax avoidance from hedge fund managers. “Our Republican governor, who’s a venture capitalist, has not said a word about this,” she said.

Albright-Hanna called public education “the heart of our country,” and said that reinvesting in it could revitalize communities. “We shouldn’t be thinking about it in market terms,” she said.

She told the audience that what set her apart from other candidates was her “temperament,” and praised what she said was the minority of state legislators who “wake up every day really believing, fighting for it, not worrying about offending their colleagues, rocking the boat.”

“I’ve been doing that community-building work with you for over two decades, in 15 of the 19 towns in this district,” Shelburne selectboard member **Andrew Baker** told the crowd of around 60, listing his bona fides in town and school government, economic development, and workforce training. “I’ll bring a community organizer’s experience to our work in the legislature.”

Baker argued that “local commitment does leverage public funding,” but he criticized the “top-down” power structure he said dominated the state legislature. He criticized sweeping, “fantasy” solutions, and said he tended to focus on “small-bore” improvements that can be accomplished in the short term, such as local option taxes on second homes, and more sparsity aid for rural school districts.

“To educate our Eastern compatriots about the charter school issue, and how it affects rural towns out here, is to say, ‘for every percentage that you lower regional school transportation, we will cut charter school funding by the same amount,’” Baker suggested.

“Until you fully fund regional school transportation, that’s money that public schools don’t have for AP Music and Art, and the things that they don’t have to cut to fulfill their mandate to transport kids, that charters don’t have to do. That’s leveling the playing field.”

Asked where he differed most from the other seven candidates, Baker said he supported some forms of biomass energy and a local timber industry for home heating and construction – “rather than importing the logs and the trees for our

decks and our houses from Canada, and burning more gas getting that here.”

Natalie Blais of Sunderland, currently the director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, emphasized her political experience working for US representatives John Olver and Jim McGovern. “Community projects are only successful if they are driven from the ground up,” she said, “and Leverett has shown that time and again.”

“There is such a thing as good government,” Blais declared. “We have to be breaking down barriers, and leveling playing fields.” On the topic of climate change, she called for electric school buses, and said “we shouldn’t be building pipelines, generally speaking” and “we need to be looking at affordable housing that’s located right next to our public transportation systems.... These are rural issues.”

“Less than 5% of our population right now, in western Massachusetts, is under the age of five,” Blais said. “We have to acknowledge that, as a region, and figure out ways it’s impacting every part of our communities.”

Blais said she supported a statewide charter school cap, and said one could most easily be accomplished by electing a Democratic governor, a line that garnered applause. “Charlie Baker – everybody’s like, ‘he’s not so bad,’” she said. “He is not good for rural western Massachusetts. He does not care what is happening out here. Have you noticed that he’s been out here a lot more recently?”

“The thing that differentiates me from the rest of my colleagues here is the fact that I’ve already been working for you for the last decade,” she said, offering as an example her work “behind the scenes” to help restore Amtrak service to the region.

Having grown up in the area, **Christine Doktor** returned to Cummington to help farm on her partner’s family land. “I went to Columbia Law School, and I’m a trial and public interest attorney,” she said, adding that she had used those skills locally to found the pro bono organizations Hilltown Legal Services and First Families Advocacy Project.

Doktor spoke about rural schools closing, and emphasized public education as the foundation of civic engagement, saying charter schools “siphon money” from public systems and worrying that casinos will undermine lottery revenue.

“If it were just
done by land area,
then we’d have
equal representation
to the eastern side
of the state.”

Christine Doktor

“We also have to reevaluate how we value our land here,” Doktor said, and suggested that having more farmers, like herself, in the state legislature would be a way to do that. She decried the court-enforced principle of equal representation in the legislature, pointing out that it meant “we have fewer representatives in western Mass. If it were just done by land area, then we’d have equal representation to the eastern side of the state.”

“We need to take another look

at that,” she said. “Maybe times have changed, and maybe we need a new paradigm.”

“This is very important, that we have people who are connected with the soil” in the legislature, she later emphasized.

“Experience really does matter,” said **Jonathan Edwards**, a Whately selectboard member, offering a view of politics as a process of forging consensus among different parties: “After you listen, you convince people to sit down and find commonalities so that they can move forward and work together.”

“Charter schools,
to me, aren’t
the problem...
Private schools
are the problem.”

Nathaniel Waring

Edwards mentioned “cliff effects,” such as when people stand to lose benefits by earning more, and criticized the region’s spotty public transportation system, calling for more state support. “We need Boston to understand what it’s like to live in rural Massachusetts,” he said.

“It’s healthcare, and it’s education – those are the two drivers” of town budgets, Edwards said, “and until the state starts to pick up the full tab for education, we’re going to keep bumping up against property tax caps.”

Though an audience question called Edwards a “charter school proponent,” he rejected the label. “I’m not pro-charter, I’m pro-family,” he said, arguing that the region is already at its charter enrollment cap in any case, and that in urban areas, charter schools are often the only affordable option many families have to escape failing neighborhood schools.

Edwards touted his accomplishments as a selectboard member, including starting the first Solarize project in the state and reforming emergency services to greatly reduce response time.

“Who are the people we need to put in a room together?” he asked, rhetorically. “Sometimes it takes a little bit longer.”

Casey Pease of Worthington said he had grown up in an “incredibly conservative” family, but had “spent [his] entire career in this district fighting for progressive issues.” “I was one of the youngest organizers on the Bernie Sanders campaign for president.”

Pease advocated for single-payer healthcare, ranked-choice voting, and reform of the Chapter 70 formula for funding schools, and he suggested that elected officials should help build youth civic engagement by going directly into the schools more often. He also recommended that area towns should investigate more shared services and administration.

Pease spoke of his own recent history of riding a bus for an hour to get to a regional public high school. “I didn’t have the option of going to another school,” he said. “The solution to failing public schools is not creating new charter schools – it doesn’t make any sense.”

“Not everybody here is in support of single-payer healthcare,” he noted. “To me, that is a really important policy point.”

“I’m a slightly different type of candidate than the rest of these guys here,” said Sunderland’s **Nathaniel Waring**.

“The one group that’s the largest, and the least represented, is the working poor,” he continued. “There are no poor people in government, because it’s prohibitively hard to run for government when you’re poor. My campaign is about bringing that to light, and having a discussion of how can we solve the underlying problem that the rest of these problems we’re going to talk about today are symptoms of.”

“Property taxes are going up, schools are having issues with funding – all of these things are being caused by an overall transfer of wealth from the middle and lower class to the rich,” Waring argued. “How you fix all of this is you fix the tax code, you fix political financing, and you make it so poor people have a say.”

Waring advocated single-payer healthcare as a way to address rising costs of living for middle-class retirees, and on the topic of climate, made a case that Massachusetts should transfer money to rural communities to reimburse the costs associated with maintaining low density, given that our forests are a carbon sink that helps the state reach its emissions targets – one of the night’s applause lines.

“Charter schools, to me, aren’t the problem,” Waring said, saying his position on that issue is “somewhere in the middle”: “Private schools are the problem, and charter schools are an opportunity for poor kids to go to private school.”

Waring said he thought the federal government could easily fund education if it were as high a priority as the military.

While the district is very liberal, Waring said, “where we differ is how we want to see the legislature move forward: a lot of the talk I hear is about working within the current system to push things a little bit. Where I differ, I want to burn the whole thing down.”

Francia Wisnewski of Montague said she had immigrated from Colombia to pursue her education. “I have seen firsthand the issues of struggling families,” she said, citing her experience working at local social service organizations, her term on the Greenfield school committee, and her current role as chair of the Hampshire-Franklin Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Wisnewski said she would support a “millionaire tax” as a way of generating more public revenue, and criticized the power of corporations. She voiced support for single-payer healthcare, ranked-choice voting, community solar, and better train service.

“Charter schools are private schools that are run with public funding,” she argued, linking charter enrollment to teacher layoffs. “You don’t necessarily have to have your teaching credentials.”

Better affordability, Wisnewski said, would help attract more younger workers to the area. “How are we going to take care of our needs, as an aging community?” she asked. “We have to build our assets.”

Wisnewski said she had been “walking [her] talk,” volunteering at the grassroots level and also recruiting others to run for public office. “If we empower others, we can have a better community,” she said.



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THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

GILL from page A1

Michael Sullivan said the management system request had been sent out in December.

After some confusion about the rationale for placing so many capital requests on a June special town meeting warrant, administrative assistant Ray Purington said the capital improvements committee and selectboard had not been able to review the capital requests by the deadline for the initial town meeting warrant in April.

Peter Gundelfinger asked what the impact on the tax rate would be if all articles in both the special and annual town meetings were approved. Selectboard member John Ward pointed out that the “Ombibus Budget” spreadsheet estimated a tax rate increase of 2.9%, which would translate into an annual tax increase of \$98, assuming the “average valuation of a single-family residence.”

Debt and Taxes

The continuation of the annual town meeting began with Article 15, which fixed the salaries for “several officers of the town,” and continued through Article 26, the resolution on the state flag commission.

Once again the articles, with the exception of the last one, passed unanimously, though not without occasional debate.

Gundelfinger asked why the interest on the loan to purchase the Mariamante property had increased each year. Selectboard member Randy Crochier responded that the state requires that each year the town take out a new loan, and the amount in the budget reflects rising interest rates.

This precipitated a lengthy discussion of the rationale for purchasing the Mariamante property and the town’s original development goals for the property, which were stymied by the discovery of a potential Native American “spokes burial” protected under state and federal law.

“We can’t do much with it,” said Crochier.

Another item which precipitated a good deal of discussion was Article 18, which appropriated \$14,350 to establish the position of “administrative clerk.” The explanation for the article in the packet handed out to voters stated that this would be an unbenefited position, funded for 15 hours per week, to help with the annual town report and town newsletter, and to provide other clerical assistance to the administrative assistant and various boards.

“Does this mean we are going to get the annual report next year?” Gundelfinger asked.

Finance committee member Timmy Smith, noting the long backlog of annual reports, said that Gill is “way out of statute,” referring to requirements for local reports under state law. Purington replied that catching up on the annual reports would be a major priority for the new clerk.

Suzanne Smiley, chair of the zoning board of appeals, said she had been “vocal in trying to get the position” created, but she feared that the number of hours might be “too small” to get the job done.

Unearthing the New Narratives of 1676

Public Information Session on current Archaeology findings at the Falls

Thursday, June 21, 2018 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Turners Falls High School Auditorium
222 Turnpike Road, Montague

6:30 p.m. Final Phase II Archaeology Report
Mashantucket Pequot Museum Research Team

7:30 p.m. Panel Discussion, Q+A
Four Tribal Historical Preservation Officers *and* Author Christine DeLucia

Sponsored by the Montague Planning Department and the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program. For more information, call (413) 863-3200 x 207 or see www.kpwar.org

Article 19 appropriated \$8,467 to pay for debt on “energy improvements” at Gill Elementary School. The improvements consisted mainly of a new boiler, installed in 2011, which the energy company Siemens had estimated would produce significant energy savings. Due to the low cost of energy and the failure to properly insulate the roof, “the anticipated savings have not been realized.”

“So is this another bad investment?” asked Gundelfinger, referring back to the Mariamante discussion.

John Ward, after a lengthy history of the boiler and the town’s efforts to recapture perceived savings from the regional school district, which budgets for heat at the school, responded that the boiler debt was a “gray area.”

A discussion of an appropriation to assess property owned by the FirstLight Power Resources revealed that most of the income generated taxing the power company’s holdings came from the fact that half of the company’s dam on the Connecticut River is in Gill.

“The value of the land they own is negligible,” said Bill Tomb, chair of the board of assessors. “Two hundred thousand plus is in the dam.”

Terrible Mistakes

Over two hours had already passed when the meeting took on Article 26, concerning the state flag showing an Indian warrior. The lengthy resolution, which contained nine “whereas” clauses and two action recommendations, was read by Ivan Ussach and Kit Carpenter.

Virtually all the “whereas” clauses either pointed to examples of the historical oppression of indigenous people in Massachusetts or raised criticisms of the flag itself. For example, the resolution’s preamble states that “Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation of their symbols for public schools and sports teams, the diminution and pollution of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their cultural lifeways.”

The resolution also argued that the “proportions of the body of the Native man [on the flag] were taken from a native skeleton kept in Winthrop,” and that the bow was “modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665...”

The conclusion of the resolution endorses a bill by state representa-

tive Byron Rushing (D-9th Suffolk) calling for an investigation by a special commission “to recommend changes to the state flag or seal...”

The proposal produced a negative reaction from some town meeting members.

Peter Conway, who said he lived on Riverview Drive “near where native people once camped and fished for shad,” said a vote by thirty town meeting members would not represent the “Town of Gill.” “Put it on a town election forum,” he said. This view was also endorsed by Gundelfinger.

Gary Bourbeau read a statement by a supporter of changing the flag which, he believed, accused those of supporting the status quo of being racist. He said that he “resented” the implication of that view.

“There were some terrible mistakes in judgment, genocide,” Bourbeau said. “But to be told we have to worry about this is a form of mind control, or I’m a racist and genocidal. Next we will change Plimoth Plantation, send the Mayflower back, change Myles Standish Forest.”

Jim Bates said he thought the resolution in fact had “two parts,” and that “all this other information is not relevant.”

A number of supporters of the resolution stated that they did not agree with the preamble in its entirety, but wanted to see an investigation of the flag at the state level. Ussach called the “whereas clauses” in the resolution “background information,” some of which he did not endorse.

“Calling for a special commission does not mean we all agree,” said Ward.

“Our consciousness of the treatment of Native Americans is an enormously important issue,” said Tupper Brown. “The resolution merely asks that it be investigated in the legislature.”

Claire Chang argued that the fact that only a few town residents would be voting on the issue simply represented a chronic problem with local town meetings. “If you don’t come [to town meeting], then you are not represented,” she said. “An election does not guarantee full representation. You will always have people who do not vote.”

In the end, the article passed by what appeared to be a slim margin on a voice vote. No one in the room requested a standing count, and so the meeting adjourned, just before 10 p.m.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving To Assess Its Vulnerable Side

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard adopted an annual employee review schedule, where reviews would be completed each year by October 31 and mid-year reviews by April 30. Because mid-year reviews have not been conducted yet this year, the deadline for 2018 reviews will be July 31.

Board chair Scott Bastarache and member William Bembury discussed developing a uniform merit raise structure. Several years ago, the town ended the structure of steps and grades, and started giving only cost of living adjustments (COLAs) and merit raises. Bastarache pointed out that the town has “no standard practice” and “no benchmarks” for providing merit raises.

Bastarache and Bembury asked administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to include the merit raise discussion on a future agenda, when selectboard member Jacob Smith could also be present.

The board also authorized Bryan Smith to sign a contract with the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for a \$20,000 “Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness” grant. According to the EOEA website, the grant allows communities “to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans.”

Smith recommended that the money be used for preparation of a vulnerability assessment under the EOEA program. He said that Franklin Regional Council of Governments is experienced in this kind of planning, and recommended hiring them for the vulnerability assessment – and concurrently, to prepare a related hazard mitigation plan, as recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

According to the FEMA website, hazard mitigation plans “identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters, and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events.”

The board appointed people to 56 positions as employees, board members, committee members, commission members, and town representatives on regional committees for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Employee positions included water operator, election workers and animal inspector. A list of the appointees is available from the administrative coordinator.

The selectboard will next meet at 6 p.m. on Monday June 25, rather than its normal meeting time of 6:30 p.m., in order to complete its business before the special town meeting that night at 7 p.m.

The special town meeting will consider five articles:

- Transferring \$150,000 from free cash to the capital stabilization fund;
- Appropriating \$10,000 for codifying the town’s bylaws;
- Appropriating \$350,000 for the capital stabilization fund;
- Appropriating \$5,500 to increase the assistant librarian hours from 19.5 to 26; and
- Instituting a 3% excise tax on retail marijuana sales.

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2017 Water Quality Report

Turners Falls Water Department

226 Millers Falls Road

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376-1605

PWS ID#1192000

We are once again proud to present our annual water quality report, covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2017. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies. For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Michael Brown, Water Department Superintendent, or Suzanne Leh, Clerk/Collector, at (413) 863-4542.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. Our Annual Meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April.

Our Department Board of Water Commissioners: Kenneth Morin, Stephen Call, Bruce Merriam. Pump Station Operators: Jeffrey Hildreth, Stephen Fitzpatrick, Brandon Breault.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells located off Center Street in Montague Center. These gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. At the plant, the water is sand filtered for the removal of iron and manganese; the treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity-fed distribution system.

The new Hannegan Brook Well located near Lake Pleasant is up

and running. This new backup water supply can yield 1.44 MGD to meet future water demands. The water quality is good and only requires the addition of water treatment chemicals for pH adjustment. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies.

Please call Mike or Suzanne to answer any questions at (413) 863-4542, email turnerswater@yahoo.com, or www.turnersfallswater.com.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) prescribe regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water

(both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water include: Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife; Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which may also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead in Drinking Water

How does lead get in my drinking water?

In Massachusetts, most drinking water sources like reservoirs and groundwater are lead free. When lead is present in water, it is typically due to the water flowing through lead pipes or plumbing in homes with lead parts or solder. Service lines, which are the pipes that connect your home to the water main, could have lead in them. Inside your home, you may have lead pipes, copper pipes connected with lead solder, or brass faucets or fittings containing lead. Lead levels are highest when the water has been sitting in lead pipes for several hours. Hot water causes lead to enter water faster.

How does lead get into my body?

In many cases, most exposure to lead is from paint dust, paint chips and soil contaminated with lead. Lead can also get into your body by drinking or cooking with water containing lead. Young children absorb lead more easily than adults, and lead can be passed from a mother to her unborn child. For

these reasons, lead in drinking water can be an important source of exposure for pregnant women, young children, and infants that are fed powdered formula.

Lead is not absorbed through the skin. Bathing or showering in water containing lead should be safe.

What can I do right now to protect my family?

Run your water before using and use COLD water. Always use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not use hot water for cooking or baby formula. Hot water usually has higher lead levels than cold water. Running the water before using will usually reduce any lead levels by flushing out the water that has been sitting in lead pipes for several hours.

Boiling water does not eliminate lead. If there is lead in your water, boiling it will increase lead levels.

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water.

Here are a few tips: Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Write down the meter reading before going to bed at night or leaving for a day. Include all numbers, write down the new reading in the morning and subtract the prior reading. If there has been a change it is probably due to a leak.

What's a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in

the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals.

Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. For more information, review the Cross-connection Control Manual from the U.S. EPA's Web site at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/cross-connectioncontrol/index.cfm>. You can also call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Source Water Assessment, Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the groundwater supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high-ranking threat land-uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the TFWD, the Board of Health office, and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm>. For more information, call the TFWD at 863-4542.

Things You Can Do to Protect Our Water Supply

Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the town's hazardous waste collection sites, use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and do not use the river beds to dispose of any waste.

Turners Falls Water Quality Data

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The table below shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state allows us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community. Our next round of lead and copper sampling will be in 2018.

Substance (Unit of Measure)	Year Sampled	Action Level	MCLG	Amount Detected (90th %ile)	# of sites above action level	Violation	Typical Source
copper (ppm)	8/29/2017	1.3	1.3	.054	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
	3/1/2017	1.3	1.3	.074			
lead (ppb)	3/1/2017	15	0	1.5	0/20	No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservation
	8/29/2017	15	0	1.9			

Definitions:

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs

allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Rate Increase

Effective October 1, 2018 there will be a rate increase for water usage. The cost per 1,000 gallons will go from \$2.40 to \$2.50. The out of district rate will go from \$4.80 to \$4.90. This new rate will not affect the semi-annual billing in November but be will be reflected in the May 2019 billing.

SEWER from A1

is coming from. We are currently examining industry, commercial septic haulers, I & I” – an industry term for “inflow and infiltration” – “and residential sources.”

After treatment, Montague ships sludge to either Cranston, Rhode Island or Lowell, Massachusetts. “For solids disposal, maintaining the current pace will cost at least \$410,000 for FY’19,” McDonald read. “That’s \$250,000 more than what is in the FY’19 budget.”

McDonald estimated that the decline in revenue, combined with increased disposal cost, have resulted in a “net loss” of \$820,173 over the past three years. He also noted that his department’s long-term debt will increase significantly due to reconstruction projects at two pump stations.

McDonald was asked by an audience member about the so-called “Montague process,” which operated at the WPCF just prior to his becoming superintendent. The experimental process was said to significantly reduce solids, nearly eliminating disposal costs and allowing the plant to take in solids from other towns as a source of revenue.

The superintendent responded that most of the staff who had pioneered the process had left the plant. “I can’t duplicate what they did,” he said.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that a “pilot” experiment with the process “did not pass muster with the DEP,” which now requires that the town operate what it calls a “conventional” sewer plant.

McDonald floated the idea of using money from the sewer stabilization fund to address the gap in the upcoming fiscal year budget. Kuklewicz said he was skeptical of that op-

tion because the use of reserves to fill budget gaps only delays the problem without addressing it.

McDonald said the long-term solution would be the proposed construction of an “anaerobic digester” for processing solids, which is being considered in collaboration with Greenfield.

Probing Our Weaknesses

The board hosted a lengthy public information session about Montague’s “Vulnerability Assessment.” The assessment is part of a state-funded program to help Massachusetts communities prepare for the impact of climate change.

Alissa Larose, a planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, gave a presentation on the program. Larose said the process started with a “community resilience-Building workshop,” which had included most town department heads as well as representatives from the regional school district, the regional housing authority, FirstLight Power Resources, and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The group’s “highest priority recommendations” included improving emergency communication capacity, strengthening neighborhood groups and improving “Lake Pleasant’s wildfire preparedness.”

The planning process allowed Montague to apply for the first round of state grants under the program. The town has received \$33,750 for the design of “nature-based solutions” to chronic flooding on Montague City Road.

“Montague City Road has been a problem for many, many years,” Kuklewicz said.

The board voted to approve the Vulnerability Plan.

Deserted Island

Ellis reported on the progress of the state capital bond bill. The bill contains a proposal to fund a sewer pump station on the “island” between the Turners Falls power canal and the Connecticut River. The island contains the former Railroad Salvage building, the former Housing Authority building now owned by a cidery, and the former Southworth Paper building.

The bond bill also includes a proposal for reconstruction of the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge leading to the island.

Ellis said that Jay Ash, the state Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, had told him the progress of the bond bill was “something to be glad about but not something to celebrate yet.”

Ellis and town planner Walter Ramsey reviewed the status of various properties and buildings on the island, beginning with the former Indeck plant. Ramsey said the town now owns that parcel, and is about to commence a second “environmental” assessment in anticipation of a potential sale.

Two options are being considered for the Strathmore building—a nearly total demolition, the bid-ready plans for which are being funded by a community development block grant, and a potential sale under the town’s urban homesteading program.

Ellis did not mention the current status of the former Southworth Paper factory. He did note that the former Housing Authority building is being renovated by Wild Child Cellars cidery, and that the town has brought the owner of the collapsed Railroad Salvage building to court for failure to pay property taxes.

The lack of a sewer connection is causing a delay in the renovation

of the adjacent Railroad Salvage Annex property.

Other Business

Ramsey reviewed the progress of the solar array being constructed by Kearsarge Energy on the former landfill off of Sandy Lane. He said the array would be “partially interconnected” with the electric company Eversource this week, and that there will be a “ribbon cutting” this fall, and 100% interconnection by next summer.

Ramsey also presented a timeline for a second Kearsarge solar array on the adjoining former burn dump. He said the “design phase” of that project should be completed by the end of the year, and the array itself in operation in the fall of 2019.

Ellis requested that the board review and execute a deed for a lot in the airport industrial park being purchased by the Ja’Duke theater school. The lot will be combined with property currently owned by Ja’Duke so the company can build a new theater and classroom facility.

The board approved the request, which carries a price tag of \$44,000.

The board voted to create and then populate a new public works facility building committee. The committee is charged with overseeing the design and construction of the new highway department building approved this spring by Montague town meeting and a townwide debt exclusion vote.

Ken Morin, Jay Dipucchio, Mark Fairbrother, Mark Williams, Bob Macewicz, Pam Hanold, and Ariel

Elan were appointed to the committee, and Richard Widmer appointed as an alternate.

Ellis said he had visited Hubie’s Restaurant and Tavern on Avenue A in Turners Falls to monitor the response to a selectboard order to install automatic door closers in response to noise complaints. Ellis said the closers were on the key doors, and that owner Lynne Hubert was “invested” in keeping the doors closed when live music is being performed.

The board voted to refuse to accept the resignation of Josh Dempsey from the highway department, because Dempsey had changed his mind after the resignation was placed on the Selectboard agenda. The board appointed Glenn Bachelder as a DPW custodian, and Cindi Oldham to the Montague Cultural Council.

The board approved an agreement with James Toth for “engineering assistance” for sidewalk replacements on Avenue C and Worcester Street.

Entertainment permits were granted to cultural coordinator Suzanne LoManto for two “Night Skates” at the Unity Skatepark on July 21 and 28.

Ellis announced that a historic poster of a 1920s event at the Colle Opera house would be presented to the Shea Theater on June 24. The poster, which Ellis called a “unique artifact,” has been restored under the direction of the town historical commission.

The next Montague selectboard meeting will be held June 25 at the town hall.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 19, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

**A Deluge of Nays
Sinks Override**

As thunder crashed and rain came pouring down, the Montague selectboard waited for news of the override results on Monday night. It wasn’t long before results came dribbling in.

Assistant town clerk Mandy Hampp came upstairs to the second floor meeting room at about 7:45 p.m. with the tallies from Precinct 5 – downtown Turners – where the \$150,000 Proposition 2½ override to help fund the town’s ’09 operating budget passed by a narrow margin: 53 to 49.

But she also brought results from Precinct 6 – Montague City and the Patch – where the margin was far more decisive, and predictive of the landslide of No votes that would soon bury any hope town officials harbored of raising new revenues by the oft tried, oft failed method of asking voters to voluntarily and permanently raise the levy limit on their property taxes. Precinct 6 defeated the override 43 to 139.

Overall, with 21.53% of the registered voters turning out, the override went down by a vote of 440 to 766.

**Town Meeting Cuts
Town Nurse, Police Cruiser**

A certain level of confusion reigned on stage at Montague’s special town meeting on Tuesday in the aftermath of the defeated override vote. Four or five compet-

ing proposals eventually came forward for dealing with the \$150,000 hole left in the budget after the annual town meeting wrapped up its work on May 22.

Town officials had hoped voters would approve an increase in the tax levy in the same amount, but on Monday those hopes were dashed by a 63.5% No vote. This left members of the selectboard and finance committee vying for town meeting’s support on a range of options, including across-the-board 2% cuts to most town departments.

But in the end, town meeting agreed to adopt a middle path advocated by selectboard member Patricia Pruitt, who spoke in favor of using an unanticipated \$70,000 windfall from a new pole tax from a new assessment recently allowed on electrical poles in Massachusetts, in combination with the elimination of \$35,000 in spending from a special article for a new police cruiser, and \$19,000 from free cash to fund the town’s nurse position, plus \$26,000 in expected local revenue from local receipts.

**Gills Gets a New
Dumptruck, Though**

On Tuesday the town of Gill narrowly approved a debt exclusion override for \$135,000 to cover the cost of a new dump truck for the highway department. The truck that will be replaced is 19 years old, and has seen better days, repair wise.

Twelve percent – or 129 – of the town’s 1,060 registered voters showed up at the polls to vote on the single ballot question. They approved the new dump truck by a nine-vote margin, 69 to 60.

RESEARCH from A1

study requests,” says Sprankle, who is also one of the many stakeholders submitting official requests. “We outline how many radio tags should be released, when they should be released, how it should be monitored, how the data should be analyzed. We lay it out as cleanly as we can, to maximize the likelihood of us getting the information that we need [about how many fish are getting past obstacles].”

State and federal laws should also support more protective protocols in the new license. These include the Fish Passage Prescription Authority, the Endangered Species Act, Section 18 of the Federal Power Act, and the Massachusetts 401 Water Quality Certification.

“Fish and Wildlife has some real standing,” says Sprankle. “We have the legal authority to use the data we have to be as protective as we can for those species [in our charge].”

The government guidelines, says Fisk, are that between 40% and 60% of the fish that pass any given dam should pass the next. While that’s not a biologically optimized number, he says, it’s what they are working with for now.

At Turners Falls, the percentage of shad that pass the dam going upstream has been under 20%.

“We feel there’s a demonstrated impact, in the power canal, with adult shad,” says Sprankle. “We feel there is an impact with juvenile shad and adult shad when they’re still at the dam. In Northfield, we’re concerned about adult eels migrating downstream past pump storage.

“Turners Falls is a real bottleneck, and the power company doesn’t deny

that. We’re looking to address that with them, and we can make some real progress there.”

Tools for Survival

In theory, some solutions for these problems exist. Fish, for example, can be excluded from danger areas with a number of physical or behavioral methods.

One ongoing study is testing the possibility of using ultrasound to repel fish so that they don’t swim up into the turbine blades at Cabot Station. Another will see if barrier nets can physically block fish from entering the Northfield Mountain Pump Station.

**“Turners Falls is a
real bottleneck, and
the power company
doesn’t deny that.”**

**Ken Sprankle,
US Fish and Wildlife**

Requiring that FirstLight use only the river’s natural flow, rather than manipulate water levels, to produce electricity, would decrease erosion, and help provide fish with the water levels they need. Some stakeholders even advocate that the Northfield Mountain Pump Station be reengineered into a “closed loop” system, which doesn’t take water from the river. “We do maintain, and have asked, that Northfield be evaluated as a closed loop system,” Fisk says.

But all those potential fixes must be negotiated, evaluated, chosen, and implemented.

Northfield selectboard member Julia Blyth has been participating for the past year as her town’s representative in ongoing stakeholder discussions with FirstLight. In addition to fish passage issues, the town’s concerns also involve things like beach access and bank erosion. Those topics have not come up yet, says Blyth.

“So far, the meetings have primarily involved data sharing and analyzing, and focused on fish passage,” Blyth says. “We’re all starting to understand each other’s perspectives a little bit more, and so maybe there’s some chance that we can find something that’s somewhat tolerable to everyone. ... It’s certainly going slowly.”

The remaining studies are scheduled to be finished up next year. “We’re not seeing a license application that is real until 2019,” says Fisk.

Fisk says he’s concerned that the process may continue to drag on. But, he emphasizes, “there is abundantly clear law.” He says that he’s confident that “we will meet the goals of restoring our migratory fish populations.”

“There’s a lot of room for improvement,” says Sprankle. “These fish and wildlife populations are under a lot of stress. I guess my hope is that we can work to achieve some balance – some people will be satisfied with what comes up, and others won’t be.

“But if we want organisms to persist, if we value the natural environment, it can’t be business as usual. We cannot continue to not recognize the impact we’re having.”



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SOFTBALL from page A1

Jade Tyler retired the next two batters, but the damage was done, and Turners took their first at-bats down by a run.

Drawing first blood in a championship game is big, but erasing that lead in the same inning tips the momentum scale back to even. And Turners did just that. In the bottom of the first, Aly Murphy hit a 1-out popup just inside the right field line. Then, with two out and two on, Tyler clocked the ball to right field, scoring Sienna Dillensneider, who was running for Murphy. A walk loaded the bases, but a high pop to the catcher retired the side, stranding three runners. But Turners had gotten the all-important tying run, and the game was tied at 1.

Turners loaded the bases again in the second inning. Olivia Whittier then got a base hit, scoring Taryn Thayer and Taylor Murphy. Hailey Bogusz came up next and hit into a force out, but the runner came home to complete the 3-run inning.

In the fourth, Peyton Emery dropped a shallow fly, sending Whittier and Bogusz home to increase Turners' lead to 6-1.

Powertown's final two runs came in the fifth. Thayer cracked a double, and Aly Murphy got a single, scoring Thayer. Cassie Wozniak, who took courtesy runner duties, then scored on a wild pitch.

The Eagles narrowed the gap late in the game, scoring a run in each of their last two innings, but Blue Town held on to win 8-3 and earned a date with the Hopedale Blue Raiders, the Central Mass. champions.

TFHS 4 – Hopedale 1

On Tuesday, Powertown defeated Hopedale 4-1 at Rockwood Field at Worcester State University.

The day after Turners beat Mount Everett, I sent this email to the editor of the *Reporter*: "Mike, Turners won Western Mass. They play the central mass champs on Tuesday. After they win, they'll play on Saturday against the winner of the north/south game. Matt."

I was pretty sure Turners would beat Hopedale. After all, the Blue Raiders had nine losses in the regular season, and came into the playoffs ranked #9 in Central Mass. What did concern me was that Hopedale was hitting their stride. After starting the season 5-9, they went on a nine-game winning streak, defeating the best teams in Central Mass. in the process.

But streaks aren't important, what is important is today's game. And the team in front of Hopedale on Tuesday was Turners Falls, the reigning D-III Massachusetts champions.

The question before the game began was, *would it be good if Greenfield won?* Green were the D-II West champs, and were playing Leicester at UMass. Greenfield went 1-and-1 against Powertown this year. Some felt that if Greenfield won their State title, it would be a feather in the cap for Franklin County softball; others argued that Greenfield is, well, Greenfield, the age-old rivals of Turners Falls.

Jenna Putala and Adam Graves kept the rest of us updated throughout the game, and most seemed disappointed when it was announced that Greenfield lost in extra innings.

Both Hopedale and Turners Falls are young teams, and as the lineup was announced, someone said, "It's like a JV game!" Both teams were loaded with underclassmen,

and Hope even had a 7th-grader on their roster.

The Raiders did get a hit in the first inning, but two infield grounders and a K ended the threat. In the bottom of the first, Wozniak drew a walk, Taylor Murphy hit a blooper, and Whittier got a single to load the bases. Then Tyler batted in Wozniak to give Turners a 1-0 lead.

In the third inning, they built on that lead. Wozniak and Whittier got hits, and Tyler cracked a 2-out double to widen it to 2-0.

Hope made it a 1-run game in the sixth. The leadoff batter bunted on, eventually making it to third base. Then with two outs, Taylor Murphy corralled a wild pitch and tossed it to home plate, but the runner slid under the tag and scored.

In the bottom of the sixth, Whittier led off with a base hit, followed by a hard shot by Tyler. Peyton Emery advanced the runners and then Juliana Rode came off the bench. Rode hit Whittier and courtesy runner Eliza Johnson home to give Turners a 4-1 lead with three outs to go.

In their last at-bats of 2018, the Hopedale Blue Raiders went down swinging. The first batter struck out, and the next two were retired by Hailey Bogusz catches.

So the Turners Falls softball team will play for the Massachusetts state title for the fifth straight year. But streaks don't matter. The

only thing that matters is the game in front of you.

And this Saturday, June 23, the Turners Falls Softball team will take on the Eastern Mass. champions, the Abington Green Wave, in a

winner-take-all contest at Worcester State University.

Next week: The state championship game – and Thunder thoughts!



DAVID JOHNT PHOTO



Top: Turners' Taryn Thayer blasts a single during the second inning of the Western Mass. final against Mt. Everett at UMass-Amherst last Saturday. Left: Jade Tyler sends the heat to the plate at the top of the third. Above: Taylor Murphy (left) and Sienna Dillensneider (right) celebrate Turners' 4-1 win over Hopedale in the D-III state semifinal at Worcester State University.


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Dumpsters of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Monday, 7/29/13
8:24 am. Complaint of a strong odor, “as if something died,” over the past three days in the area of Montague Street in Lake Pleasant. Officer located source of odor as a dumpster on 9th Avenue and confirmed that “it is really bad.”
9:30 am. Second call regarding odor in Lake Pleasant. Caller’s mother heard it was coming from a dumpster. Confirmed.
Monday, 10/14/13
7:08 p.m. Advised male in dumpster on Avenue A to stay out of dumpster.
Sunday, 10/27/13
5:28 p.m. Second incident of purse being stolen from shopping cart at Food City. Suspects identified and apprehended. Some stolen items located in dumpster on Fourth Street and returned to owner.
Monday, 11/11/13
5:50 p.m. Investigated suspicious dumping in dumpsters at new Greenfield Co-op Bank site on Avenue A. Dumper stated he was on the job there.
Tuesday, 12/3/13
7:09 p.m. Couple and dog attacked by fox in their yard on Grout Circle. Caller killed fox and left body in his truck. Advised caller re: medical attention and requested that dead

fox be brought to station for testing. When caller was contacted the following day, he stated that he had bagged up the fox and put it in his truck, but that the bag had slid out of his pickup bed somewhere between home and work. DPW contacted; confirmed that one of their workers had retrieved bag, which was now in their dumpster.
Wednesday, 1/8/14
12:26 p.m. Report of large blue dumpster in the middle of the road in Millers Falls.
Friday, 5/23/14
4:39 p.m. Report of party frequenting dumpster at Cumberland Farms. Party spoken to and advised to stay out of dumpster.
Monday, 6/9/14
1:53 p.m. Cable equipment spotted in a dumpster on Fourth Street; caller wonders if it’s Comcast’s.
Thursday, 9/11/14
8:05 p.m. Caller observed a couple who lives at the house across K Street dragging a couch to the dumpster behind Booska’s.
Friday, 10/24/14
3:54 p.m. Caller reports that he just saw a male light the dumpster near St. Stan’s on fire.
Tuesday, 11/11/14
2:52 a.m. Burglar alarm at Kali B’s Wings and Things. Responding
see **DUMPSTERS** page B5



By DK KNAUER

SHELBURNE – Have you ever looked at a painting, perhaps of a landscape, and wondered what it would be like to live in the art as it is depicted? For the artist Glenn A. Ridler, this became a goal that took over thirty years to completely accomplish. He is the designer, builder, and artist who created the Little Big House on Patten Hill.

Little Big House is an art installation, a whimsical optical illusion, and a home situated high in the hills above Shelburne Falls. Imagine driving down an unpaved road in a bucolic setting consisting of farmland and woods, and coming upon a house that looks like a child’s plaything, only to discover that it is an illusion. The front door is eleven feet tall, and the doorknob is nine inches across, hand-thrown on a potter’s wheel by a friend. The two windows on either side of it are in proportion to the door, but in reality, are floor-to-ceiling windows on the second floor of a three-story home.

Ridler began taking the project from concept to reality in 1972, after obtaining his MFA from the California College of the Arts. While in California he was teaching drawing at California Polytechnic State University. One of the people he became friendly with there asked him to act as a client to his class of architects. The students asked him to describe the details of the proposed house – how many windows, the size of the various rooms, and how many floors. Glenn replied, “You know, the main thing I want

Living In His Art



Artist Glenn Ridler stands at the door of his whimsical gallery and residence, the Little Big House, on Patten Hill in Shelburne Falls.

is a house that has a sense of humor about it.”

A student asked Glenn to give them an example of what he meant. He turned to the blackboard and drew a picture very similar to the Little Big House, which looked like a child’s drawing. The class was puzzled until Glenn added a small human figure to the drawing, and then they understood the humor in the concept.

It was an idea none of the students had ever heard in relation to architectural design. But Ridler had seen the work of the Spanish architect, Antonio Gaudi, and greatly appreciated its incredible playfulness and wild creativity.

After coming east from California, Glenn was hoping to settle in New York City, the obvious choice for an artist seeking recognition and gallery representation. However, the reality of the cost of living there, as well as the pull of the back-to-the-earth movement in the late 1960s, encouraged him to seek a more pastoral setting.

In addition, there was this idea of a house as a conceptual piece of art brewing in his mind.

Glenn and a group of friends from New York purchased a farm in the Patten Hill area of Shelburne. He purchased the hired man’s house and the acreage around it for himself. He worked on that house and later sold it, keeping the grounds he lives on now.

And that was when the work began on the Little Big House. Ridler
see **BIG HOUSE** page B5



WEST ALONG THE RIVER Last Night’s Fun

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS – Well, this morning I won’t be telling you about sitting on the porch with dog, coffee and birdsong, what with the jigs and reels still ringing in my head. Today it’s more about the fun we had just last night up in the village of Millers Falls, at the pub we call The Element.

I say up in the village because from this porch and house, it’s only a five-minute walk upstreet, up a slow-rising hill from the Flat, and across the river.

The Element is home to a brewery of strong beers and a distillery of whiskey, gin, and vodka. My Millers Falls ancestors, most of them career drinkers, would have loved to have a brewery like this right in their own home town! Of course, the ones I’m talking about are all up in their graves in the Highland Cemetery by now, and I’m sure they don’t begrudge me the good time I had last night in the local pub.

In the heyday of Millers Falls and the numerous local factories, there were plenty of places to wash down dust, dirt, grime, and hard times with a shot and a beer or two. There were establishments like Equi’s Spanish Gardens, the Vets’ Club bar, and the Red Lantern, to name a few. But those days are long gone.

Yet these days, after a long dormancy, there’s a sort of resurgence going on in the village, with all the Obear restoration building projects, among others. There’s the Tux and Bridal shop in the old Hawley

Pharmacy of the Powers Block; there’s a coin-operated launderette; Rodney Madison’s busy art studio in the old post office; and Ward’s Block is home to a number of artisans. There’s certainly a new vibe in town. There’s been a happy convergence of a skilled town planner, and a village improvement association squirmed into existence by the determined Richard Widmer.

But back to last night in the pub. We were four musicians in a small open room with excellent acoustics, just off the bar.

Sean, Tim, Bart, and myself, on mandolin, concertina, bouzouki, and fiddle, in that order.

It was the key night of the microbrewers’ weekend across Franklin County. Some of the thirty patrons present had partaken of the beer-themed dinner provided by Bittersweet Catering of Deerfield. I could name some old friends and regulars, like Sandy, Nancy, and Jack, plus others like Marcia, husband David, and friend Jerry, who were all holding up well under the musical onslaught of three hours of jigs, reels, and sometimes sad, sometimes bawdy songs from Ireland.

During the fun, I occasionally found myself drifting into a parallel zone of memory. Regarding that tendency, I take a certain pride in playing there in that particular pub on Bridge Street.

Let me explain.

It’s located just across the street from the former Congregational Church that my great-grandparents
see **WEST ALONG** page B8



A Lyme Vaccine? More Glimmers of Hope

By EMILY MONOSSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – When the neighborhood chit-chat inevitably ends up talking ticks, Lyme, and pesticides, you know there’s a problem. A big problem. A 300,000-cases-of-Lyme-a-year problem.

Which may not seem like a lot until you look at a map and realize most of these are here in the northeastern United States – in Massachusetts.

While the incidence is higher in some eastern regions, rather than here in the “mid-western” part of the state, we all know someone who’s had Lyme. And while we are all well aware of the antibiotic overuse problem, here in tickville I imagine there is one antibiotic whose popularity is growing: doxycycline. Used to treat Lyme, plenty of my neighbors and my neighbors’ dogs are popping the doxy or similar drugs.

Last year Ella, our perky cattle dog mix, was tested, retested, diagnosed, and treated for a grand total of \$180. She now sports a Seresto collar, as does our cat. Expensive but effective.

While I won’t get into the controversy about chronic Lyme and treatments, as I’ve become more aware of the impacts of antibiotics on our own microbiome and resistance,



Permethrin, used by the author to treat clothing.

I’ve wondered too about the impact of doxy on one’s microbiome, and about when we might start hearing about resistant Lyme.

A recent group of researchers, curious about the same, tried to push the bacterium to evolve under pressure from antibiotics, but failed – although failure in the laboratory doesn’t always mean failure in nature. (Just ask any grower who uses Roundup, the apparently “evolution-proof” herbicide.)

Still, so far, so good.

Except, evolved resistance isn’t the only way a bacterium can defeat attempts to poison them into oblivion. In 2015, Northeastern University’s Kim Lewis and colleagues found that Lyme bacteria is particularly good at forming “persister cells.” That is, they manage by essentially going dormant, sort of like rolling up like a pill bug, until the coast is clear. Then they once again go forth and multiply.

While scientists and physicians
see **LYME** page B4

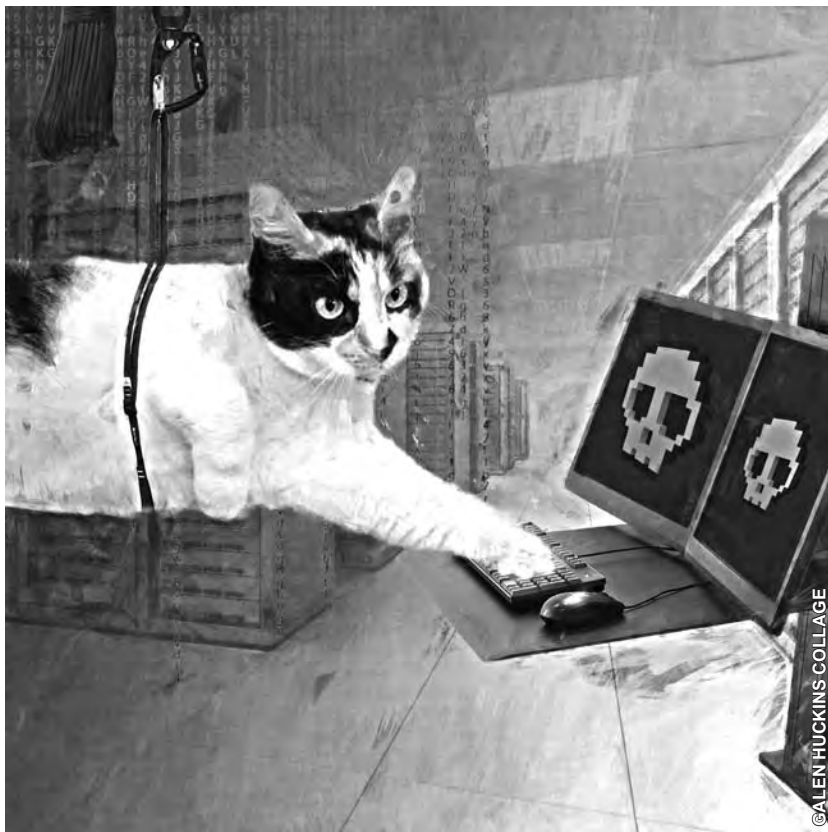
Pet of the Week

Deep in the heart of a digital fortress, a stealthy master of encryption descends from the ceiling.

Mina is the most adorable cyber-threat this nation has ever faced, and she is moments away from another dashing expose on Whisker-Leaks. The corporate hounds will be none the wiser as Mina leaves

not a trace of her digital daring, only the hint of a pawprint and the faintest whiff of tuna.

A loner hack-cat with a conscience, welcome this feline data-breacher into your home today. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“MINA”

Senior Center Activities JUNE 25 TO 29

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: Noon Lunch

Monday 6/25:
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/26:
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean

Wednesday 6/27:
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 6/28:
9 a.m. Tai Chi w/Mari
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga w/Andrea

Friday 6/29:
1 p.m. Writing Group

NOTE: July Brown Bag: 7/13.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 6/25:
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
No Lunch Served

Tuesday 6/26:
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 6/27:
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
Noon: Bingo & snacks

Thursday 6/28:
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo

Friday 6/29:
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 a.m. M3 (Music, Movement, Mayhem) Fun!

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Wednesdays 10 a.m.: Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Fridays at noon: Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

Solar Access: Solar Power and Efficient Heating and Cooling for Middle Income Homeowners

By SALLY PICK

MONTAGUE – Massachusetts recently launched a new pilot program, Solar Access, to guide middle-income homeowners through the process of purchasing solar power together with a very efficient electric heating and cooling system called air source heat pumps. (Mini splits are a type of air source heat pump.) More about heat pumps later. The idea is to use clean, renewable solar power to generate electricity that can help heat or cool your home efficiently.

“The Solar Access Program is helping to bring clean energy technologies into the homes of a wider array of residents in western Massachusetts,” said Massachusetts Clean Energy Center CEO Stephen Pike. “By reducing the barriers to clean energy adoption for the Commonwealth’s moderate income residents, we can expand the clean energy economy while helping the Commonwealth mitigate the effects of climate change.”

To find out if you qualify for Solar Access, call, text, or email the Center for EcoTechnology (CET), at (413) 341-0418 or solaraccess@cetonline.org, or get started from their website, GetSolarAccess.org. To participate, you’ll need to earn between 60% and 80% of the state median income (*see below*), but you can call CET regardless of your income, to be guided to the applicable programs and incentives for solar power (a.k.a. photovoltaics, or PV for short) and air source heat pumps (ASHPs).

Households with income between 60% and 80% of the MA median income qualify for Solar Access.

CET will send an energy guide to your home, at no cost, to see if it is a good candidate for solar PV and ASHPs. Participating homeowners will take out a single 10-year loan from UMass Five College Federal Credit Union that covers the payments for both systems. The best part is that the program guarantees energy cost savings higher than your loan payments, and will cover the difference if you do not come out cash positive. And, they cover the first six months of your payments!

Through Solar Access, homeowners can take advantage of incentives for PV and ASHPs. For solar, there’s a 30% federal tax credit, a 10% state tax credit, and a principal reduction on your loan of up to \$10,500! For your ASHP/mini splits, you can tap both the Mass. Clean Energy Center (CEC) and MassSave rebates.

Homeowners with a median income below 60% will be connected with the ABCD Program for discounted PV and ASHPs. If your income is between 80% and 120% of the state median, you still qualify for CEC rebates that are higher than their standard state rebates for ASHPs. And for everyone else, CEC rebates for ASHPs are significant too.

So, no matter your income, if you contact Solar Access, you’ll be guided to incentives for solar PV and air source heat pumps/mini splits.

Heat Pumps & Mini Splits

So, what’s an air source heat pump, and what are mini splits? Everyone has a heat pump in their home (now you’re thinking I’ve gone bonkers!). If you have a refrigerator, you have a heat pump. They move warm

Household size	60% of MA median income	80% of MA median income
1	\$ 34,380	\$ 45,840
2	\$ 44,958	\$ 59,944
3	\$ 55,537	\$ 74,049
4	\$ 66,115	\$ 88,153

Saturday, June 23: Franklin County Pride March and Rally

This Saturday, Franklin County’s LGBTQIA+ community and allies will celebrate Pride with a full day of events including a parade, rally, music, speakers, dancing, and family fun for everyone.

In 2017 over 600 participants shared a vision for Franklin County to be a community in which all youth, adults, and families can enjoy the freedom to live safely and openly. This year promises to bring even more people together.

More than half of LGBTQIA+ Americans reported experiencing violence, threats, or harassment based on their sexuality or gender identity in 2017. Bringing our community together to show our solidarity, while celebrating our differences is more important than ever.

Franklin County Pride 2018 promises to bring inspiration, entertainment, and fun. Check out www.franklin-countypride.org for a complete list of events.



Top: A floor indoor mini split unit. Middle: Outdoor unit of a mini split. Bottom: An indoor, wall-mounted mini split unit.

air from the inside of your fridge out a back vent, where you can feel warm air exhausting.

Like a fridge, an air source heat pump moves warm air from outside, transferring the warmth into your home for very efficient electric heating. It even manages to find some heat in the coldest temperatures below zero! To be most effective, your home should be fairly well weatherized. They even work in tightly insulated and air sealed homes in New Hampshire and Vermont.

In the summer, air source heat pumps and mini splits can also cool your home by moving warm air out of the indoor space and are more efficient than air conditioners. A centralized ASHP is connected to ducts throughout your house and has an outdoor unit that looks like a centralized AC unit.

Mini splits are a type of ductless air source heat pump with individual indoor units, like the ones in the photos, that heat or cool one or several connected spaces. They are joined to an outdoor unit that’s smaller than the cube-shaped ones used for centralized ASHPs.

There’s no telling if Solar Access will keep going past its pilot stage, so now’s your opportunity to start heating and cooling your home with clean, fossil-fuel-free solar power and pay lower energy bills to boot.

For more information, contact: Sally Pick, member, Montague Energy Committee: SJPMEC@crocker.com.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week, explore the Turners Falls Fishway with our newest video from MCTV! This video features fishhook-making, fish-printmaking, watching fish swim by, learning about fish, painting fish pottery and more! Did you catch a theme there? Learn more about the fishway at www.h2opower.com/recreation/

[turners-falls-fishway/](#).

Something going on you’d like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’re excited to work with you!

The Millers River Plein Air Art Show

ATHOL – The Second Annual Millers River Plein Air (Outdoor) Art Show is now on display at the Athol Public Library through the end of June.

Fourteen works created outdoors are featured in various media. The Library and the Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) have sponsored the event, and are pleased to announce the following awards:

Lucille Kumstis of Athol received the Best in Show medal for a work in watercolor. First Place ribbons were given to Tom Kellner of Royalston for a work in oil, Sid

Solomon of Worcester for pastel, and Ralph Caputo of Shrewsbury for a water color. Second Place ribbons were given to Charlie Gray of Holden for a watercolor, and to Jean Murphy of Brookfield for oil.

Millers River watershed residents Rice Flanders and Heidi Strickland joined MRWC director Ivan Ussach to do the judging. MRWC is planning a watershed-wide photo contest to be shown at the Athol Library in October; guidelines will be out soon.

For more information, go to millerswatershed.org.

EVENT PREVIEW

The Food Justice Bike Ride

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Food Justice Bike Ride’s primary objective, as described on its official website, is “to fight hunger and assist with funding those organizations that best deliver nutritious food directly to those in need.”

The ride takes place this Sunday, June 24. I learned from the website that either a 15-mile ride or a 43-mile ride can be undertaken. The 15-mile one will start at 9:30 a.m. and goes through parts of Bernardston and Greenfield. The 43-mile one starts at 8:30 a.m. and goes through several townships in Franklin County. Both will end at the Just Roots farm community, at 34 Glenbrook Drive in Greenfield.

The whole Food Justice name comes from the organizers’ desire to do the important role of playing a part in all parts of “the nutritional well-being in our community.” They want to raise \$3,000 to give the Stone Soup Café that helps feed people in Greenfield.

You can register online for the ride on their website. For a fee of \$25 dollars to race, or \$30 dollars on the day of it, you get in free at the Just Roots Farm Fest, which includes music, food, dancing, and workshops at 10 a.m. at that farm. Riders also get a memento wrist band, lunch, and places to stop for refreshments.

Roark Herron, the “founder and ride director this year,” said that when it came to founding the ride, “I created it three months ago.”

“I decided to do it because I like biking,” Herron said, “and I am a director of the Stone Soup Café – I’m on the board.” This is probably the reason he decided to help out the cafe with this ride – he knows first

hand the good this place does.

As for the numbers of riders in the event, “we hope to have about 60 riders,” he said. Roark also mentioned they “plan on doing it every year, if successful. However, the beneficiary will change every year. A possibility for a new one is to work with the Healthy Incentives program so people can afford to buy food from local farmers.”

The Franklin First Credit Union is partnering with Food Justice for the event, and other local sponsors include Just Roots Farm, another farm called Upinngil, Bicycle World, Bicycles Unlimited, and Franklin Community Coop.

I learned a few things from one man named Ariel Pliskin, founding executive director of the Stone Soup Café, that made me think it’s a good place to help with getting food to people. The café is held every Saturday at All Souls Church, 399 Main Street in Greenfield.

Pliskin said Stone Soup has “been here every Saturday since January of 2012.” The place serves “about 100 people every week.” He said he is hopeful about raising a good amount of money through the ride, because “it provides people the opportunity to shape the community they’re living in.”

If that is not a ringing endorsement of the café, then I don’t know what is!

The perfect stroke of luck for this ride to continue would be for them to earn the \$3,000 they want out of doing this. I believe that happening will help with this ride being continued each year, so my fingers are crossed for that stroke of luck to happen.

For more information, see foodjusticebikeride.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fax Machine Calls 911; Noisy Welder Warned; Gen. Pierce Bridge Pops Tire; Transformer Smokes

Monday, 6/11

3:30 p.m. Caller states that she received a call from someone who stated that he received a call from her home phone number. When he answered, it was someone trying to sell hearing aids. Advised of options.

9:17 p.m. 911 caller reporting she struck a deer near the railroad bridge on Federal Street and there is damage to her vehicle. She is uninjured; unsure about the deer. Officer advising that deer has been dispatched. Officer following driver and vehicle to her home.

Tuesday, 6/12

1:29 a.m. Commercial burglar alarm at Millers Falls Rod & Gun. Perimeter checked; people setting up for Mutton and Mead.

1:09 p.m. Two-vehicle accident at Turners Falls and Old Greenfield roads. One operator cited for failure to use care in starting. One operator transported by MedCare. Both vehicles towed.

2:02 p.m. Report of oil spill in the road creating hazard at South Prospect and Highland streets. TFFD responding.

3:28 p.m. 911 open line call with no voice. TTY and silent call procedures initiated. Second 911 call received from same number/location; tweedle of a fax machine presenting at this time. Officer advised; made contact with staff members at location who advised that the facility does not own a fax and no one was trying to call 911.

4:20 p.m. First of several reports of scam calls. Reporting parties advised not to engage with callers and to report incidents to the United States Department of the Treasury.

7:23 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street requesting that an officer create a police report for damage that occurred to her vehicle last night at this location. Report taken.

8:03 p.m. Caller complaining of loud noise coming from a Central Street location; described as a generator running, hammering, and bangs. Caller would like officer to use noise meter, if possible. Officer spoke to male party, who was found welding in his shed. Male was made aware of complaint and agreed to keep the noise down.

Wednesday, 6/13

7:35 a.m. First of several calls reporting issues related to the closure of Greenfield Road.

9:12 p.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that a male came to her home asking for help. He is being chased by

some people from a house down the road who want to beat him up. After further investigation, it was determined that the caller had an active warrant. A 24 year old male from Turners Falls was arrested on a default warrant.

Thursday, 6/14

1:24 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that two males were arguing in the street and then started to physically fight; urged police to get there quick, then hung up the phone. One party claiming that he was hit by the other and hit him back in self-defense. Officers spoke with involved parties, who are leaving the area to go to separate locations for the night.

7:13 a.m. Report of metal cover that has come out of place on G Street. Same covers a deep drainage hole (10+ feet) located by the green fenced-in building at the end of G Street. DPW advised.

8:13 a.m. Caller from L Street requesting options re: a loud group of approximately fifteen kids who congregate on the corner outside her residence in the mornings before school. Caller advises that bus stop is on another corner so she is not sure if the kids congregate there while waiting for the bus or for other reasons. Advised of options by officer.

9:18 a.m. Caller reports that while crossing the General Pierce Bridge, she ran over a piece of metal that popped her tire. Vehicle now disabled on Turnpike Road; caller has someone en route to help her change tire. Officer checked both lanes of bridge and approaching areas; no debris located.

2:07 p.m. Report of fight that just occurred on Second Street. During the fight, one male threw another male into the caller’s vehicle, causing damage. One party took off on foot and went into an apartment up the street; other parties left in a white Honda. Investigated.

4:45 p.m. 911 caller from Randall Wood Drive reporting that her back door appears to have been tam-

pered with and she has found money missing from her home. Report taken.

6:08 p.m. Caller states he saw a disheveled male carrying a large black box across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to the Gill side and then hide it around the right side under the bridge. Shelburne Control notified for Gill PD, who will be responding.

7:05 p.m. Anonymous caller from Second Street reports that there are minors standing in the road consuming alcohol. Officers watched area and did not see anything matching description.

8:08 p.m. Anonymous caller reporting a car parked on Turnpike Road by the high school with its hood up and a guy smoking. Area checked; nothing found.

9:40 p.m. Caller states that he saw a man shove a woman in the alley next to Hubie’s Tavern. The woman then left in a car, and the male went inside the bar. Area checked; nothing found.

9:42 p.m. 911 caller reporting that he is receiving text messages, including photos with a firearm in them, from someone threatening to “shoot up” his house. Vehicle description provided. Vehicle in question stopped on Central Street. Vehicle operator detained, then allowed to leave with the vehicle. Investigated.

Friday, 6/15

3:18 a.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle parked in Family Dollar lot. Running lights on. Upon clearing, officer advises female occupant is part of cleaning crew for store; getting ready to clean same.

10:37 a.m. Officer flagged down on L Street. Party wanted to advise officer that he does not sell drugs.

12:29 p.m. 911 caller reporting a fight in progress in the small parking area at G and Fifteenth streets. Caller states that a red SUV pulled up and a girl jumped out and started hitting another girl. Officers out with red SUV on Migratory Way. Report taken.

2:41 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that

he crashed his car into his house; he called the gas company because there was some damage to a gas line, but never called the police or fire departments. PD and FD en route.

6:05 p.m. Caller from Third Street requesting that an officer remove a neighbor from his property. Caller states that neighbor is digging in his yard even after caller explained to him that it was not his yard to dig in. Caller instructed not to engage with neighbor until officer arrives. Situation mediated.

6:07 p.m. Following a vehicle stop at Avenue A and Third Street, a 53-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (fourth offense); operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license (subsequent offense); driving an unregistered motor vehicle; disturbing the peace; furnishing a false name/SSN/address/phone post-arrest; and assault and battery on a police officer.

Saturday, 6/16

3:37 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering on Avenue A. Under investigation.

10:16 a.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that the transformers across from her house just made a loud booming sound and are smoking. MCFD and Eversource notified.

5:09 p.m. Caller from Main Street reporting a loud noise that could have been a cherry bomb. No smoke or flames in area. Officer searched area; nothing showing. Will stay in area to monitor for further disruptions.

Sunday, 6/17

3:36 p.m. Caller advising that a white man in his mid to late 50s is dumping dirt, broken bricks, and other fill material in the middle of the First Street alley. Caller states that man is moving material with a bicycle with attached baby trailer. Officer spoke to caller, who showed him pile of material in wood line off public parking lot. Officer will continue to be on lookout for suspect.

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LYME from page B1

debate the meaning of this (does this help explain how Lyme behaves in some patients?) the utter tenacity, the insidious nature of Lyme and its hosts and vectors – like the poppy seed-sized nymph, which may find its way into a bodily crevice or hide along a hairline – and its growing number of victims make prevention worth far more than a pound of cure. Aside from shunning the outdoors for what is becoming an increasingly extended tick season, vaccines are seeming like an increasingly brilliant solution.

As dog owners know, there are vaccines for our pooches, although there is some uncertainty about their efficacy, and options like tick collars and other treatments. And there was, for a blink in time, a vaccine for us, too.

I recall when my mother-in-law participated in a Lyme vaccine trial. We were living on Long Island at the time: a hotbed for Lyme, where I once paraded my husband down the hallway of the SUNY Marine Science Research Center showing our colleagues the textbook bulls-eye rash spreading across his back. And I remember being hopeful about a vaccine.

But as it turned out, the vaccine was safe, but not perfect: it was only about 80% effective, and required boosters. While I had assumed that its relatively low efficacy (compared with the inactive polio vaccine which has an efficacy of over 99% after three doses) led to its demise, it turns out efficacy was only one factor. The vaccine was also under pressure from the antivax movement, and from lawsuits by those who believed they were harmed by the vaccine. First offered in 1998, that first Lyme vaccine was pulled by the developer, GlaxoSmithKline, in 2002.

Nearly a decade later, Gregory Poland, director of the Mayo Vaccine Research Group, writing in the Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases, wasn't optimistic about the future of a Lyme vaccine: "[I]t is important to note that few, if any, scientists, believe the evidence points to any substantive safety concerns. Although multiple factors played a role, it appears that the anti-vaccine sentiment and class action lawsuits that resulted, will, in and of themselves, effectively hamper development of any further Lyme disease vaccine candidate in the United States."

By 2002, we had been living in Montague for a bit over six years. Our kids ran through the grassy fields behind our house with little worry. Our daughter patted down the grass

and had tea parties. Our son chased his friends though the fields and into the woods. Things that might make us cringe today.

Back then, we were snooty about Lyme. It was a "southern" disease: Long Island, Rhode Island, Connecticut. We had stopped taking our kids to Rhode Island in the summer (my husband's home state) because of Lyme, and I'd forgotten all about the vaccine. We didn't need one anyway. At that time, only a handful of cases had been reported around here.

There are now hundreds of confirmed cases, and more likely thousands of cases in our region alone; according to the CDC, 606 cases were diagnosed in Franklin County between 2000 and 2016, although they estimate that only roughly 10% of all cases are diagnosed and reported. Across the country, diagnostic labs are testing upwards of 2.4 million blood samples a year, and finding infection in about 288,000 of them.

Some have suggested that Lyme is the first epidemic of these climate change years. (For more about that, see *Lyme: the First Epidemic of Climate Change*, by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; Island Press, 2018.)

Makes me want to wrap a Seresto collar around my own neck.

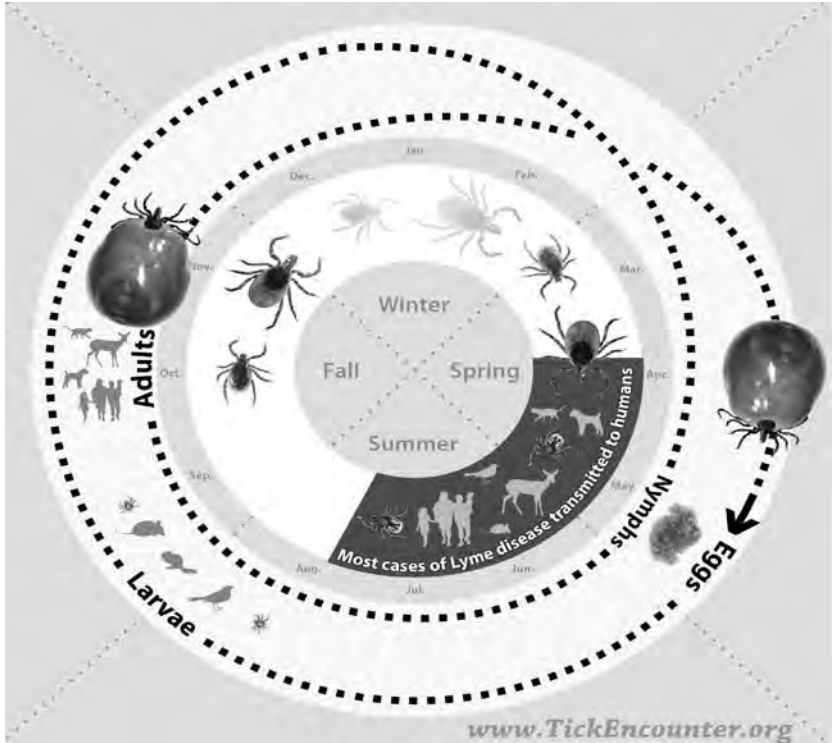
Instead, I've been heading out to the field in a permethrin-impregnated scarf and pants, which, according to a recent study by the CDC, is a good way to discourage ticks from climbing aboard in search of the next blood meal. You can either find pre-treated clothing online, or treat your own with specific products made for clothing.

There are also some glimmers of hope for a vaccine. In the waning days of 2016, the FDA gave the go-ahead for a new Lyme vaccine developed by French biotech company Valvena. After passing the first hurdle, human safety, the vaccine is on to the next phase of study, efficacy. Let's hope it makes it through the billion-dollar testing gauntlet soon.

Then of course, we'll have to deal with those other tick-borne diseases, like Powassan, Babesia, and that meat allergy caused by the Lone Star tick – which means that, even if a vaccine becomes available, I'm keeping the treated clothing by the door.

For more than you could ever want to know, take a look at the University of Rhode Island's tickencounter.org website.

Emily Monosson is an independent toxicologist and writer blogging at toxicevolution.wordpress.com.



The life cycle of Ixodes scapularis (a.k.a. the blacklegged, or deer, tick). Courtesy of the the University of Rhode Island TickEncounter Resource center.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Hungry Bear, Sick Fox, Clam Bake, Dead Deer, Rolling Balloons, Moose, Raccoon Hunting, Dead Dog In River, Unsafe Jet Ski Operation

Monday, 5/14

9:20 a.m. Took possession of discarded hypodermic needles near bridge abutment.
4:04 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD serving warrant.
9:59 p.m. Report of erratic driver in Erving, headed toward Gill.
10:21 p.m. Franklin Road caller reports bear in her yard, eating from her bird feeder.

Tuesday, 5/15

1:35 p.m. Larceny of vehicle parts from French King Highway business.
3:30 p.m. Accident, no injuries, Route 2 and Main Road.
7:13 p.m. Abandoned vehicle towed from private property, French King Highway.
9:35: Caller states driver on French King Highway swerved into oncoming traffic and was using blinker when there were no places to turn.

Wednesday, 5/16

12:02 p.m. Assisted with funeral procession through Route 2 intersection.
4:02 p.m. Disabled vehicle, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.
8:04 p.m. Fire alarm, West Gill Road. Burnt food in oven.

Thursday, 5/17

3:26 p.m. Main Road resident reporting a trespasser in her driveway.

Friday, 5/18

4:13 p.m. Caller reports he was flipped off, brake checked on French King Highway.

5:06 p.m. Disabled vehicle, French King Highway. Not a hazard.

Saturday, 5/19

2:15 a.m. Medical emergency, Elm Street.
12:53 p.m. Medical emergency, NMH lower fields.
1:30 p.m. Vehicle operator reported having erratic behavior while pumping fuel on French King Highway.

2:28 p.m. Medical emergency, NMH lower fields.

Sunday, 5/20

11:19 a.m. Assisted Montague PD, Avenue A and Fourth Street.

1:06 p.m. Report of a large column of smoke visible from Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls. Determined to be smoke from clambake.

Monday, 5/21

6:08 p.m. Dead deer on River Road.

Tuesday, 5/22

8:43 a.m. Caller on Mountain Road reports subject with yellow shirt and black pants lying in the road, rolling from grass to the road several times. Officer found old balloons blowing across the ground. Removed and disposed of.

12:45 p.m. Accidental 911 call on West Gill Road: Painter accidentally set off 911 button on lock

screen.

3:54 p.m. Report of possible animal cruelty, Mountain Road.

9:51 p.m. Medical emergency, Oak Street.

Wednesday, 5/23

3:58 p.m. Served warrant, Main Road.

4:28 p.m. Welfare check on French King Highway: female party appearing upset in driver's seat.

Thursday, 5/24

8:55 a.m. Assisted DCF, Main Road.

4:39 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with possible fire, Parmenter Road.
7:03 p.m. Medical emergency, Oak Street.

Friday, 5/25

10:37 a.m. Complaint of moose walking down Route 142 towards Route 10. Unable to locate on arrival.

Saturday, 5/26

11:39 a.m. Report of harassment, South Cross Road.

7:06 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with warrant arrest, Capt. Beers Plain Road.

Sunday, 5/27

10:22 a.m. Report of a tree down on the power lines, South Cross Road.

3:36 p.m. Neighbor complaint on Trenholm Way.

Monday, 5/28

6:35 p.m. Checked on motorist on French King Highway. Just resting after a long weekend.

8:58 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with possible suicidal subject.

Tuesday, 5/29

3:04 p.m. Caller states he has a gray Toyota Camry following him on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, and the two people inside are having a disturbance.

Wednesday, 5/30

9:21 a.m. Vehicle parked unattended at French King Bridge. Made contact with operator, who was fishing in the river.
10:38 a.m. Complaint of motorcycles driving by at high rate of speed from local business.

6:37 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with car vs. pedestrian accident, Third and L streets.

Thursday, 5/31

3:02 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD and state police with numerous brush fires on Routes 2 and 91.

Friday, 6/1

11:30 a.m. Caller reports two West Gill Road mailboxes struck by vehicle; vehicle still in area. Contact made with driver, repairs to be made.

11:31 a.m. Report of a delivery box truck on fire, Lamplighter Way.

9:26 p.m. Welfare check, French King Bridge. Subject found parked in vehicle with medical issues. Transported to Franklin

Medical Center.

Saturday, 6/2

11:30 a.m. Unattended vehicle parked at French King Bridge. Determined to be a disabled motor vehicle.

11:58 a.m. Caller advises she is standing by with a loose dog that has been roaming in the area of Franklin Road.

5:48 p.m. Missing dog, Ben Hale Road.

7:05 p.m. Tree down, blocking Mountain Road. No wires involved.

Sunday, 6/3

12:50 a.m. Illegal raccoon hunting at the end of River Road.

6:12 p.m. Suspicious activity, South Cross Road.

10:57 p.m. Suspicious person, South Cross Road.

Monday, 6/4

1 p.m. Report of cable in road, West Gill Road.

1:59 p.m. Assisted citizen in civil issue with past tenants.

5:28 p.m. Complaint of blue Subaru, marked lanes violations, West Gill Road.

Tuesday, 6/5

10:06 p.m. White Ford F150 pickup truck all over the road, Route 2 westbound.

Wednesday, 6/6

12:10 p.m. Assisted Montague PD in investigating larceny in their town; subject now in Gill.

12:21 p.m. Complaint of baby unrestrained in the lap of one of the female parties in the back seat of a vehicle possibly going over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

1:35 p.m. Report of line down in driveway on French King Highway. No fire hazard.

Thursday, 6/7

10:33 a.m. Assisted Montague PD, Avenue A.

11:10 a.m. Animal complaint, Main Road.

4:43 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with traffic stop, French King Highway.

Friday, 6/8

10:24 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with unwanted person.

11:41 a.m. French King Highway manager reports female tried buying cigarettes and the transaction was denied, so she continued to walk out without paying for them when confronted by the clerk.

4:58 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge heading toward Gill.

Saturday, 6/9

9:52 a.m. Complaint of three roosters on Mountain Road going off between 4 and 8 a.m. every morning.

10:43 a.m. Located large bear eating from bird feeder at Franklin Road address, then climbing tree. Advised property owners of same. Request-

ing feeders be removed.

10:52 a.m. Animal complaint, West Gill Road.

4:27 p.m. Caller advises she struck a deer on Main Road.

5:47 p.m. Caller advises she has a sick-looking fox on her West Gill Road property.

Sunday, 6/10

10:05 a.m. Vehicle with flat tire on Main Road. Owner advised AAA was en route.

11:10 a.m. Tried to serve warrant, Main Road. No contact.

11:40 a.m. Spoke with three parties who were fishing from the fenced-off dock area on Barton Cove Road. Same Climbed back to proper side of fence.

9:21 p.m. Report of dead dog in river, Barton Cove Road.

Monday, 6/11

5 p.m. Loose fox on Main Road. Not sure on physical condition. Running around front yard. Gone on arrival.

Tuesday, 6/12

5:29 p.m. Report of unsafe jet ski operation in Barton Cove. Environmental police officer is too far out (NY border area).

Wednesday, 6/13

8:58 a.m. Center Road caller reports problem fox in the area is now sleeping in their backyard.

Thursday, 6/14

9:06 a.m. Main Road caller advises there is a dead fox in her yard.

6:12 p.m. Report of a male party hiding a box under the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Saturday, 6/16

8:39 a.m. Cell phone stolen, later located in Turners Falls. Charges pending.

12:03 p.m. Motor vehicle accident, Lamplighter Way. No injuries.

2:26 p.m. Unattended vehicle parked at French King Bridge. Located party underneath bridge.

4:48 p.m. Low-hanging tree may be impeding traffic on French King Highway.

5:58 p.m. Disturbance on Barton Cove Road.

8:11 p.m. Caller complained of red Honda Accord tailgating another vehicle on the French King Highway.

Sunday, 6/17

12:02 a.m. Trespasser, Lamplighter Way.

9:55 p.m. Noise complaint on French King Highway: caller states large group is congregating in the area of the boat ramp.

Monday, 6/18

5:33 p.m. Phone lines removed from Main Road roadway. Not a hazard.

7:43 p.m. Lines down, Main Road.

9:38 p.m. Suspicious vehicle, French King Bridge.

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The Children's Page

A Little Tree Goes Walking

Story and photographs by Beverly Ketch
Puppet created by Nell Koenings

I am going on a little walk.

I see beautiful white flowers. I will put one in my hair.

There are red flowers too!

Yellow flowers everywhere!

I hope someone sees how beautiful I am.

I love your beautiful singing. Do you like my pretty flowers?

Now we're friends!

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Childhood Memories

When I was a little girl I liked to color and to sound out the words I saw on signs. I couldn't read books as we rode, because I felt carsick then. I loved books most of the rest of the time. I remember being very excited when I got my first bicycle. I rode it all over. I usually preferred being inside, but my bike in summer and ice skating in winter got me outside. my grandmother had kittens, which I tried to sneak into my bed at night, but they would tickle my feet and my grandmother would hear me laughing.

Words by Beverly St. Amand, age 80. She has 15 grandkids and 6 great-grandkids (so far)

Illustrated by Hannah Brookman



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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels, traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Straight-Ahead Jazz*. Balcony. Afternoons.

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Traditional Irish Music* in the Wheelhouse. 7 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

2ND AND LAST TUESDAYS

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy in the Wheelhouse* with Jon Ross, 8 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 8 p.m. Free.

2ND WEDNESDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hip hop dance night with *Crazefaze*. 7 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 7 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*, 8 p.m.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country with Heath Lewis*, 9 p.m.

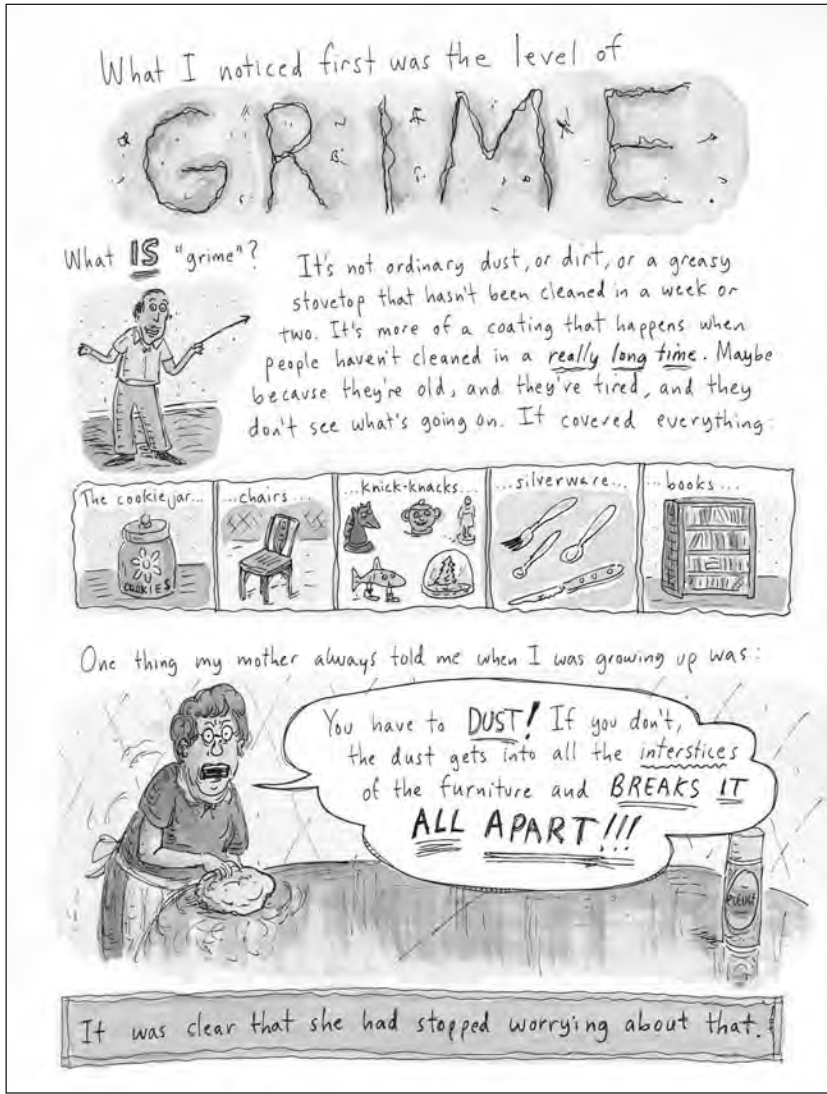
EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5 to 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Six new Summer exhibits: *Best of Springs*, *Sprockets and Pulleys [continues]*; *Roz Chast*; *David Rios Ferreira*; *Debra Ramsey*; *Shona Macdonald*. Through Sept. 24.



"Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" consists of 139 original illustrations from New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast's 2014 graphic memoir. The memoir is a grimly funny and deeply poignant examination of end-of-life issues as Chast experienced them with her aging parents. "I didn't want to forget how they talked," said Chast, "and I didn't want to forget how they were... Some of the stories that emerged were hilarious, but also heartbreaking, and they became a record of my experience with them." Through September 24 at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Hall Art Exhibit: Flora and Fauna Quilts*. Leslie Cook and Anneke Corbett celebrate Nature's bounty through traditional and contemporary quilts. Through June.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Magic and Flow: A Collection of Contemporary Paintings*, by Dave Hay. Abstract and "pop portraits," all painted in his bold palette. Reception Friday, June 22, 6 p.m. Through July 21.

Greenfield Community Television Studios: *PRECARIOUS*, paintings by Alice Thomas. Poems, art, and Artist Statement about her research and methods concerning the precariousness of nuclear weapons. Through August 31.

Leverett Library: *Recollections of Schooling in Leverett*. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls:

Sculpture by Ron Edwards. Edwards is a retired mathematics professor and a self-taught artist. The small scale mixed media sculptures on display in this show are made from wood collected along rivers and in forests. The 82-year-old artist also makes uniquely detailed walking sticks. Through June 23.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne

writer. Through June.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Call for artists for *PaperJam: A Month Long Riff on Paper*. Exploded View invites artists to submit artwork on, about or related to paper, its personal or local significance, or your creative interpretation thereof – use your imagination! Exhibit to be held in September at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Send info, three jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com by August 22.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Deus Ex Machina*. Immersive theater experience by John Bechtold. Repeats nightly through Sunday, June 24, 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. \$

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Joe Jencks*. Lyrical, baritone singer-songwriter. 7:30 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Mystra Nite #3: fOoM/foAM, Hung Trucker, MMTT, Alto Jeffro*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Junior Reid*. Legendary reggae artist. 8:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater presents *The Road to Mecca*. Award winning play set in the 1970s in South Africa. 7:30 p.m. \$ Repeats June 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. and June 24 at 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Closet Goth, Rong, Jay Keery Weingarten, and Owen Manure*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Bill Kirchen, Dez Roy*. 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *TAUK with support by Flux Capacitor*. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blu Groove*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Franklin County Pride events: *Drag Brunch, Tea Dance, Kaki King*. 9 a.m. to noon. \$ *LeFox Tea*: An After Pride Tea Dance, with *DJ Koti LeFox*. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. \$ *KAKI KING* w/s/g *Treya, Pamela Means, Wooly Mar*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Kindling, Sunburned, Lovelorn*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistoleiros*. Outlaw Country. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kid Gulliver and The Deep State*. 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *100 Who Care*. A quick, affordable way for busy people to build community and give collectively. 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Local bands playing Tom Petty for *Covers for a Cause*. This is a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. 7:30 p.m. \$




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WEST ALONG from page B1 attended. That was where my grandfather Abe got in trouble over a piece of chocolate cake at the church picnic around 1902. Somehow the neighborhood boys at the picnic got into horseplay, and food started flying through the air. A piece of cake hit the stern, bald-headed minister, Reverend Charles Clark, right in the forehead. He blamed my grandfather, who maintained his innocence right on through his late seventies, never admitting guilt.

Knowing our grandfather, we're pretty sure he did it. I've written about the full incident in *West Along the River* before; if you want the full version, let me know.

And also, I'm sitting there with my fiddle just one street over from Peanut Alley, where my poor Irish rose of a grandmother landed high and dry and all alone, orphaned as it were when her Irish immigrant moth-

er died, and her father (both were from the same village in the West of Ireland) left her with his brother-in-law in Millers Falls. He headed out to start a new life in the West of America. She lived and worked at her uncle Teahan's boarding house on the river bank on Peanut Alley, until she married my chocolate cake-throwing grandfather.

The Element Brewing Company itself used to be a garage for Mackin's fuel trucks, and my own uncle Sammy drove one of those trucks in the '50s. The garage door used to be about four feet away from where I was sitting on Friday night, cranking out fiddle tunes for the long dead, and for the friends very much alive this night, surrounding our musical quartet.

So for me, with my sense of the circular nature of time and a strong sense of place, I take a quiet joy in finding myself back among the

memories of those long gone, all the while playing music in this dimension here and now.

Every third Friday, the Element Brewery hosts us, and we play for pints and occasional measures of whiskey served in test tubes. The chemistry theme is cleverly woven into most aspects of the bar, given owners Dan and Ben and their scientific, laboratory-based backgrounds.

You can't do much better with your time on a third Friday – or any other time, for that matter – than to drop in or sit out on the sidewalk terrace, and take an imaginary trip back to Ireland with us.

As for me, when the fun is done, and the instruments are back in their cases, I'm out the door and down the street, just a few minutes' walk from my home on the Flat. I have to tell you, with my penchant for time-travel and talking with the dead after a whiskey or two, there's a rowdy gaggle of ghosts and invisible spirits accompanying me all the way down to the old covered bridge over the river. We're all laughing, feeling no pain, quite merry with the evening of music at the Element, and just a little tipsy.

I set off with my invisible crowd across that covered bridge that burned down in the 1890s. They drift away from me in the middle of the bridge, and when I come out on the other side, I'm alone and it's a summer's Friday night under the stars in June 2018.

It's all down hill from there, all the way to my own front door.



LYNN PELLAND PHOTO

Lynn Pelland writes: "I spotted this raccoon keeping cool yesterday (Sunday), mid-day. Just by chance: a quick glance, and saw him as I drove by."



The covered bridge at Millers Falls, circa 1872. (Image courtesy of the Erving Historical Society.)



PHOTO COURTESY ANNIE LEONARD

Left to right: sixth graders Ricky, Izzy, and Syna, the top three winners of last week's Second Annual Great Falls Middle School 6th Grade Poetry Out Loud Festival, with ELA teacher and master of ceremonies David Brewster. Students chose, memorized, and recited poems; this year's theme was "Say It Loud!"

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