



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 37

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 12, 2018

Williams Appointed Acting Chief After Arrest Of Acting Chief Bonnett

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Despite widespread local concern and speculation, the town of Montague will only be



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The town is now on its third chief of police since the fall.

paying the salaries of two, not three, police chiefs. At its meeting on Monday, the selectboard voted to return previous acting chief Christopher Bonnett, who was arrested on the morning of June 29 and charged with “assault/battery on a family member,” to his lieutenant position. The board replaced Bonnett as acting chief with staff sergeant Chris Williams.

Bonnett had served as acting chief since last fall, when former chief Charles Dodge was placed on paid leave. Dodge resigned in March following a report critical of his handling of prescription drugs in a drop box at the police station. Dodge, who never faced criminal charges and officially left on good terms, will continue to receive full pay and benefits until mid-February 2019 as a result of a settlement agreement with the town.

Public concern that the appointment of Williams as acting chief to replace Bonnett, who is on paid leave pending the resolution of his charges, would result in the town having three police chiefs on salary is unfounded, as Bonnett will only receive his lieutenant’s rate.

Although the selectboard rescinded Bonnett’s appointment, they have apparently not discussed the events that led to his demotion, either in any executive session or during Monday’s public meeting.

see **THIRD CHIEF** page A4

Lightning Disables Wastewater Plant, Sending Sewage Into Connecticut River

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CITY – Around 5 a.m. last Friday morning, July 6, a staff member arrived at Montague’s Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) to discover that the two large Siemens screw pumps that lift partially treated sewage from primary treatment tanks up to aeration tanks weren’t spinning.

According to plant superintendent Bob McDonald, those pumps hadn’t been operating all night, because a component in a 480-volt electrical panel containing their motor starter had been damaged by lightning the day before.

The strike apparently caused a cascade of damage. Ordinarily, the pump’s failure would have triggered an alarm, and the plant’s supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system would have called McDonald, the lead operator, and a third on-call employee. But the unit that calls to the SCADA also failed.

As a result, as the town’s sewage and runoff from Thursday’s brief but fierce storm drained into the plant, the primary treatment tank rose until it triggered a failsafe designed to deal with overflow from “wet weather” events.

The town’s “combined sewer overflow” (CSO) sys-



JACKSON PHOTO

This pump house was apparently knocked out by the storm.

tem, which sends surface water from street drains into the sewer system, has caused problems before. In January and February 2016, an overflow event and clogs in the system caused an estimated 9.6 million gallons of sewage-tainted water to bypass the treatment system and be discharged into the Connecticut River.

Last week’s unscheduled release was caught much earlier. McDonald says that, between the pump’s failure

see **SEWAGE** page A3

Lightning Also Ignites K Street Home

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – “I witnessed it – the lightning strike, when it was down-pouring,” said Chad Klaiber of Turners Falls. “It looked

like it hit between this house and that one. I thought it struck the road, but then five minutes later, I saw a bunch of smoke coming from the house.”

Last Thursday morning, many in Montague paused to watch the

powerful thunderstorm that broke over the town like an airborne tidal wave of wind, water, and electricity. In five minutes, three separate lightning strikes befouled the town. One bolt disabled the Water Pollution Control facility in Montague City (see story, this page); another rendered an employee’s car inoperable at the Turners Falls Water Department in Lake Pleasant; and a third bolt, recorded on video by the smartphone of a Turners Falls resident, struck a house on K Street.

“I was just thinking at least something was gonna get hit,” said Andrew Keating, a youth who lives on K. “I felt a little scared.” A thin crowd lined the sidewalks, and many of the porches on the street were full of people, as if it were a strangely delayed Fourth of July parade.

see **IGNITES** page A7



WACKERNAGEL PHOTO

The middle block of K Street was full of firefighters after the July 5 storm.

THE BIG PICTURE

“There’s No Harm In Having The Zoning Regs Be Clear”



JACKSON PHOTO

Montague’s town planner has sweeping zoning reform in his sights.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – Town planner Walter Ramsey reached out to us to discuss the planning board’s ambitious project to overhaul, streamline, and upgrade Montague’s zoning regulations this year.

Long brewing behind the scenes, the effort goes live next week with two public hearings at town hall: Wednesday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, July 24 at 2 p.m.

We took the opportunity to ask Walter about some of the proposed changes, and learn a little more about the role zoning plays in the economic life of a community.

This transcript of our conversation has been abridged for the sake of brevity, and rearranged and edited for the sake of clarity.

MR: So, why do our zoning by-laws need such a major revision?

WB: Zoning documents in Montague were adopted in 1970, and a lot of portions of those by-laws original to 1970 are still part of the bylaws, which have been updated dozens of times in the decades since. Because they’ve been updated incrementally over time, through different generations and different writers, it’s rendered the format a little difficult to use.

Part of this is getting it into good format, and adopting an official zoning map. As far as we know, we don’t have an existing map that exists, or has been printed, since 2001. So we’ll have an official map, and clear, concise bylaws that are easily readable, and you won’t need to have a lawyer or a town staff person to interpret them for you....

The goal is to have clear rules on paper that everybody can follow.

MR: Was there zoning before 1970?

WB: No, that was kind of the advent of zoning – the state passed enabling legislation that gave the towns the ability to do zoning.

It was pretty clear what the priorities were, up front, in the 1970s, when the zoning was just a few-page document – it’s expanded a lot since then. Trailers were one of the front and center things: mobile homes were not allowed in Montague; no campgrounds in Montague; no mobile home parks.

MR: “No Gypsies?”

WB: Pretty much! Some of the

language around that particular section needs to be updated to be consistent with current state law. If people are rebuilding a house after a fire, they have a right, within a certain period of time, to be able to live in a mobile home.

We’re proposing to not prohibit campgrounds anymore, but rather allow them by special permit, in our “Open Recreational Enterprise” section, which allows recreational things – golf courses and stuff – by special permit.

MR: Has that prohibition inhibited people from establishing campgrounds in town?

WB: I don’t know! We’re looking at everything – we’re trying to avoid having to be reactive, and responding to zoning changes as things pop up....

We have a printout of our zoning map – it’s on 54 pages in the building department. There’s been a lot of changes since 2001; they’re penciled in by David Jensen, or in some cases he missed them....

MR: So 48 years in, all these ad-hoc changes have given us something that’s not user-friendly. So there’s a streamlining process.

And the other piece is, while we’re looking at zoning comprehensively, what are the changes that we want to make?

WB: The more you look into it, some things are so interconnected that it makes sense to just do it one big time....

For example, we have this weird zone in Montague called “Public/Semi-Public,” which is zoning that essentially only allows churches and cemeteries. This is a town of many churches, and there’s just not as many churches to sustain the amount of church buildings there are. As a church goes out of use, you can’t do anything with it besides make it into another church – unless you go through a whole rezoning process.

We’ve done that three times now in the last seven or eight years.... It takes six to eight months.

Now, churches, by state law, are already allowed to be in any district. So we’re saying, “why do we have these single-use districts? Why not just zone it ‘Residential’ or ‘Mixed Use,’ and allow cemeteries by special permit in certain districts?”

That’s the plan: to get rid of see **ZONING** page A5

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A Slow Summer

Here's the way it was July 10, 1918: Excerpts from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

The Columbia restaurant on the Avenue closed last week, the proprietor leaving town without any announcement, so that about the only place left where transients can get anything to eat is the Sprague lunch room on Fourth street.

This pronounced lack of accommodation to take care of the inner man is a serious and keenly felt condition of things for visitors to town, as all the hotels have closed their dining rooms to transients and strangers or those otherwise not provided against the pangs of hunger, either have to take their belts and help save food to win the war by not eating any, or go foraging as best they may.

The summer school which the Woman's Club was to have conducted this season, will not be held, as not a sufficient number of pupils presented themselves, only 19 applying.

The annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. was held today, but was adjourned for a month without electing officers, owing to small attendance of the stockholders.

The Wendell town meeting which was called for Saturday evening was not the type to bring out a crowd. Will Ballou desired an extension of time to get the wood off the poor farm lot. The three years allowed has nearly run out. He probably was accommodated.

There was an article to raise a hundred dollars to open an abandoned road leading to a place which it is said was once a productive farm before the house was burnt many years ago.

Weekly newspapers are having the time of their lives in getting enough type set to keep them going. Type setters are not to be had, and machines in small places are out of the question.

Even if by any means workmen could be induced to come to Turners falls, starvation would immediately threaten their existence, as no hotels are open, and nobody wants as boarder.

Nearly half a century ago the village needed one hotel and \$60,000 was put into the building. As soon as going, the leading sport of the village was trying to kill it,

but nobody quite succeeded.

Town treasurer John J. McLaughlin and Assessor Daniel C. Dohohue of Millers Falls have been appointed agents for this town to register all males between 18 and 30 years old, who are not engaged in some useful occupation. This registration is to be made under the recent act of the Legislature, the so-called "work or fight" law.

The fire department was summoned Monday evening at 8:30 o'clock, by an alarm from Box 23, to put out a blaze in the rear of the Farren block on Avenue A, the lower floor of which is occupied by Gottlieb Koch, the grocer.

The flames started in a pile of rubbish and were quickly put out, without damage. A young girl passing by saw smoke coming from the windows and gave the alarm.

Fifteen thousand homeless refugees from French villages just behind the trenches crowded into her railway depots during four days, furnished pathetic evidence to Paris that the Germans were advancing somewhat in their recent drive.

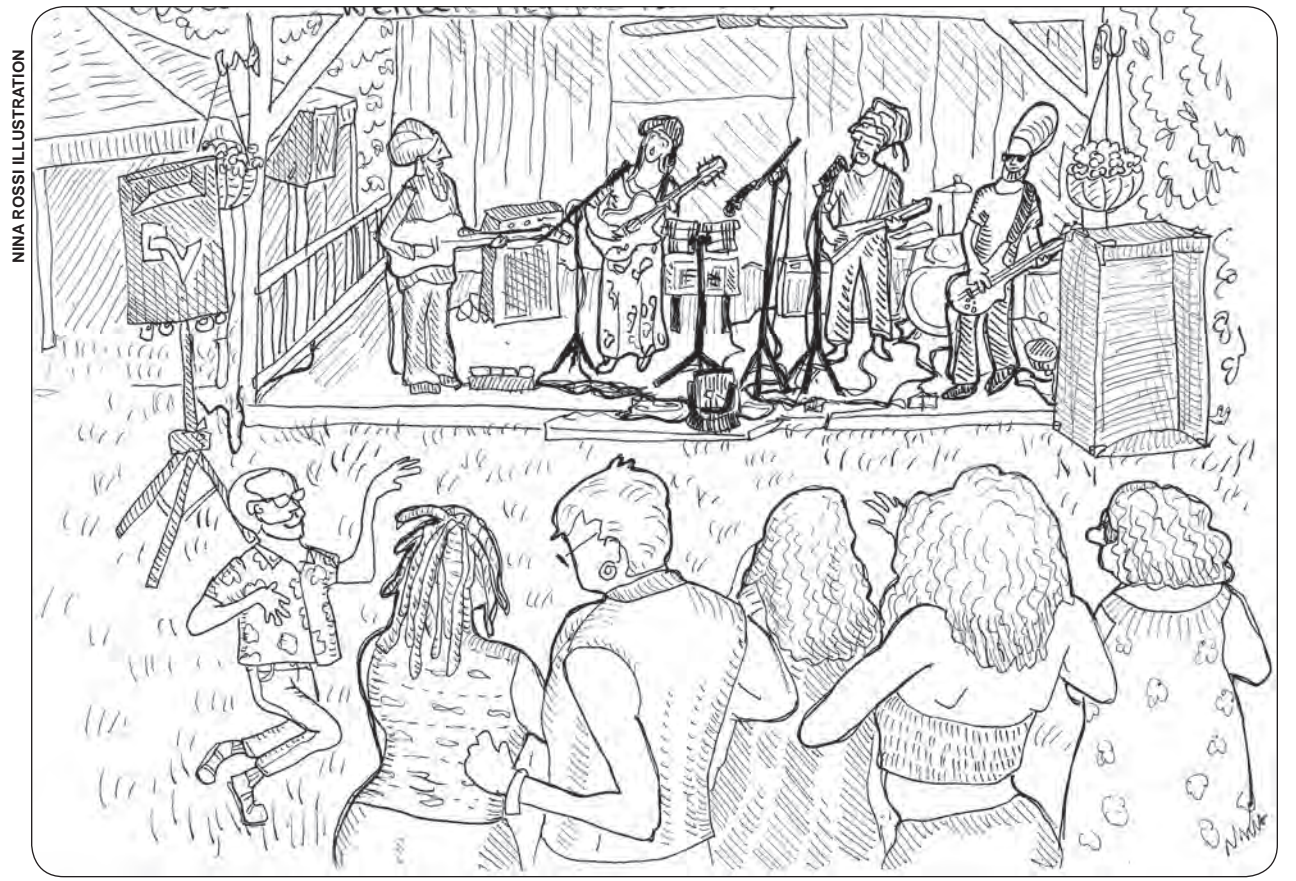
Village after village had come under the German guns and homeless old men, women, children – well, sick, helpless – were hurried into Paris for redistribution to friends and relatives or to be assigned to the care of some unbombarded French city or town.

Reginald J. Tetreault, a 15-year-old Shelburne Falls boy, had his hand practically blown off on the night of the Fourth, by the premature explosion of the charge which he was loading into a small cannon. He was visiting his grandmother in Greenfield at the time. Amputation was made at the hospital.

A Red Cross home nursing class has been organized here, with an enrollment of 18 young ladies. The class has met in Library hall, but meets hereafter in the Baptist church vestry.

The Girls' Club found that they had more funds than they thought, and so they are able to send \$3 boxes to the local boys in France instead of the \$2 boxes originally planned for. All the more gratifying.

John Sullivan of South End has enlisted in the navy. He has been an employee of the Keith mill.



The second annual Wendell Reggae Festival, held last Saturday at the Deja Brew Pub, was well-attended. Above, attendees dance to ReBelle.

Letters to the Editors

War Prep Undergirds US Economy

An editorial in the June 28, 2018 *Montague Reporter* muses: "Why is keeping over 800 bases in 80 countries treated as a normal fact of American life?"

The implication is that the level of US military spending and the global "posture" of the US military, as it deploys in perpetual preparation for fighting two simultaneous world conflicts, is patently absurd. While we all take delight in a world which seems capable of sustaining absurdity like Wile E. Coyote suspended above a calamitous fall, if the posture of the US military is absurd then it is a remarkably enduring absurdity, having persisted since 1942, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and onward into the future as far as anyone can see.

Unfortunately, I think critics of military spending may have to concede to supporters that the US military is, in fact, crucial to sustaining our way of life. A cursory examination of American big business re-

veals as much.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, firms with greater than 1,000 employees employ the largest number of working people and, crucially, provide an absolute majority of higher-paying "middle class" jobs. And, the share of employment belonging to big business is growing (see www.bls.gov/bdm/entrepreneurship/entrepreneurship.htm).

The wages and resulting lifestyles of Americans depend on big business, and big business depends upon the importation of cheap manufactured goods, and on the ability to enforce "intellectual property" rights across international borders, and on the global flow of dollars underlying it all – an ordering of the world inconceivable without force to maintain it.

And this is without considering the numerous direct subsidies from the military to the domestic US economy, from "Silicon Val-

ley" to Walmart.

Proponents of a federal "jobs guarantee," such as Democratic New York congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, must accept that this guarantee, if it puts people in jobs outside of government, will put them in "big business," much as many jobs right now are based on money funneled through defense procurement.

These proposals to redeploy resources presume that the military is not a fully integrated part of a system, whose ends aren't easily disentangled from its means. It is a belief in a politics of spirit: if we will things to be different, then they will be.

To act as if war is not necessary to the livelihood and lifestyle of ordinary Americans takes the critic out into thin air without looking down.

George Shapiro
Lake Pleasant

Advocating Wisnewski for State Rep

Fellow progressive voters of the 1st Franklin District: we are inspired by Francia Wisnewski's campaign for State Representative and are enthusiastically supporting her candidacy!

Francia is a former elected official (Greenfield School Committee) and a dedicated advocate for children and families who has capably served on many boards and committees throughout the Valley for the past 17 years. (Check out electfrancia.com to learn more.)

She has a deep understanding of the issues facing our district, as well as the courage, skill, and heart to represent us all effectively at the state level.

Francia impresses us as a candidate and as a human being. It's an added bonus that while the Trump administration doubles down on its anti-immigrant policies, we have the opportunity to send a qualified, strong, Latina immigrant woman to Beacon Hill, and help correct the unbalanced representation of wom-

en and minorities that exists in all levels of our government.

In a crowded campaign field, Francia stands out for her experience, her unique perspective, and her deep commitment to our communities.

We can't wait to vote for Francia on September 4, and hope you will join us.

Amanda Doster
Moti Zemelman
Montague

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Join Camp Kee-wanee at Greenfield Garden Cinemas this Saturday, July 14, at 9:30 a.m. for a showing of Sony Pictures Animation's *Hotel Transylvania 3*, starring Adam Sandler and Selena Gomez. Seats are just \$5, and tickets will be available at the door, which opens at 9 a.m. All proceeds will go towards a new structure at the campground.

The Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls is having a **puzzle swap** on Saturday, July 14, from 10 to 11 a.m. Bring a puzzle, get a puzzle.

Join Tom Ricardi for his fantastic live **"Birds of Prey"** presentation at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, 99 Millers Falls Road in Northfield, next Friday, July 20, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Ricardi is a wildlife rehabilitator who will share the fascinating history of these majestic and inspiring birds and demonstrate some of their unique behaviors and abilities live! Ricardi's organization, the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility, cares for injured birds and operates a successful captive breeding program.

Come early and enjoy a bird-themed morning at the Friday Outdoor Playgroup, beginning at

10 a.m. and filled with arts, crafts, books, songs and activities all about our feathered friends. Playgroup activities are geared towards children ages 5 and younger, though children of all ages are welcome.

This creative summertime series is a collaboration between the Union 28 Community Network for Children and the Pioneer Valley Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program. All ages are welcome, no pre-registration is required, and admission is free.

Formed in September 2013, the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region has over 300 members working together to help **reduce opioid and heroin addiction, prevent overdose deaths**, and improve the quality of life in the region through its prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery initiatives and committees.

While great strides have been made, there is still much we can all do to help the folks in our community. The public is invited to the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls next Saturday morning, July 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. to listen to experts from the Task Force committed to making a difference.

This is a unique opportunity to care and share. Feel free to call the bank at 863-4316 for the details. Bring a friend or neighbor!

Saturday, July 21 is **Old Home Day in Wendell**. The event will kick off with a parade at 11 a.m., with floats and antique cars, and continue on the town common all afternoon.

Around 1 p.m., the bell at the Meetinghouse will be rung, to celebrate its new growth this year.

There will be booths with art, crafts, food, tag sales, a farmers' market, yoga, massage, and more. Live music will include Two to the Moon, Simon White and Friends, the Wendell Chorus, the Wendell Warriors drumming group, Mountain River Taiko, the Bear Mountain Boys, Paul Richmond and Friends, the Amazing Swamp Sisters, and more.

The event is free, and open to the public.

Earn your Mass Parks **Junior Ranger Patch!** Become a Connecticut River Watershed expert, and find out who lives along the Canal-side Rail Trail in Turners Falls.

The Great Falls Discovery Center offers a four-part nature education workshop on four consecutive Monday mornings, July 23 through August 13, for children ages 8 to 11. Friends and siblings are welcome.

Junior Ranger programs are free and open to all. Children with a parent/guardian meet at the Discovery Center lobby at 10:30 am. Space is limited so please register at (413) 863-3221.

The Millers Fall Community Improvement Association is sponsoring an **ice cream social** at the Millers Falls Library on Saturday, July 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spoil your lunch with free ice cream, and meet your neighbors. Depending on the weather, the association will be set up in front of or in the library, located at 23 Bridge Street.

"Christmas in July" will be held Saturday, July 28 at Barton Cove. Enjoy Christmas-themed decorated boats and awesome fireworks from the shores of the Connecticut River.

Best viewing locations are from the Riverside section of Gill, or the far end of First Street across from Unity Park in Turners Falls. Fireworks start after 9 p.m. but get your spot early because the best viewing spots right along the river go quickly.

Also at 5 p.m., the Gill 225th Anniversary Committee will hold a pig roast, open to the public, at the Riverside municipal building, 54 French King Highway in Gill. There will be live music, a police K-9 demo, and much more. Tickets are \$15 (free for kids under 5) and are available at the Wagon Wheel and Spirit Shoppe.

A new **4-H Sewing Club** is starting in Greenfield this September. Youth ages 10 to 15 will learn, and use their creativity and sewing skills, to make clothes, pillowcases, tote bags, horse blankets, or anything else they want to stitch, up-cycle, or embellish.

Principles of design, merging patterns, working with various fabrics and sewing tools, expressing your own style, and exploring construction techniques are all areas to be explored. The proven 4-H curriculum strives to help youth grow through sewing skill development, leadership opportunities, and community service in a low-key, kid-friendly environment.

To sign up, contact Kate at greenfieldsewing@icloud.com or (413) 376-8088, or call Tom at the 4-H office, (413) 545-0611.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

SEWAGE from page A1

around 8 p.m. and its discovery nine hours later, 286,740 gallons of liquid were pumped into the river, just downstream of the General Pierce Bridge. This volume is the equivalent of a cube 33 feet on each side.

"It's no fun trying to explain all this," McDonald. "These things don't happen too often, thank God."

Looking on the bright side, the superintendent said that the sewage was at least partially treated. Large solid matter was removed by a bar rack and screens, and some amount of suspended solids settled in the primary tanks and were removed.

The overflow was diverted to a "wet weather tank" – the accident is being referred to as a "dry weather event" – and then passed through the chlorine contact tanks on its way to the river. As it flowed through them, chlorine gas was automatically drawn into the solution, potentially killing some of the microorganisms, though the chlorination was calibrated to sterilize relatively clear water.

McDonald said that about 11 pounds of chlorine were used, but the chlorination stopped at some point during the discharge.

McDonald notified the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of the incident, and was instructed to contact the boards of health of five towns – including Greenfield, even though that town is located entirely upstream from the Montague plant's discharge point.

The DEP, in turn, contacted the Connecticut River Conservancy, a Greenfield-based nonprofit, to help disseminate the news that people should avoid swimming down-



Components in this electrical system were damaged in last Thursday's storm.

stream from the Montague plant for 48 hours while the contaminated water diluted and dissipated. It also contacted a local TV news station.

"This is the first summer that MassDEP has been calling us to give us a heads up on incidents," said Conservancy river steward Andrea Donlon. "We appreciate that they are now reaching out to us. But, we don't have any information on past spill amounts to put it into perspective."

Montague's board of health did not issue any public warning about the river, and the town did not post a notice on its website, nor use its emergency phone system for the situation.

Shortly before 3 p.m. Friday, the Conservancy posted an alert to its Facebook page explaining the

incident. The post quickly went viral; as of press time it had attracted 223 comments and was shared about 1,700 times by other Facebook pages – including the towns of Montague, at 7:14 p.m. Friday, and Deerfield, at 9:36 a.m. on Saturday.

"I did everything I possibly could to get a hold of who's out there," McDonald said. "There were some towns that had forwarding numbers because they weren't in, so I called those numbers – I felt that I did as much as I possibly could to get a hold of those people."

McDonald said the pump was up and running again early Friday morning, and "it was mostly damage control at that point." An electrician repaired the zapped panel. Ironically, the unit that should have activated the SCADA alarm system

when the pump failed sent the signal out when it regained power.

That "mission command unit," according to McDonald, had already been identified as trouble-prone, and the department had ordered a replacement last month, even though it was only four years old.

"Parts are in stock to repair controls today, and the back-up controls to raw influent pumps are operational," he wrote to the DEP in a follow-up letter on Monday.

Though not nearly as large as 2016's CSO overflow, last week's incident comes during a difficult time for Montague's WPCF. Recently one of the town's most successful departments, it is now operating at a significant deficit, and town officials are scrambling to shore up its budget to soften or delay the inevitable impact on sewer user fees.

The town had been importing sludge from other jurisdictions for several years in order to feed the so-called "Montague process," an unconventional and little-documented routine developed by plant operators. The DEP, unconvinced the process was working legitimately or unable to understand why it would be so successful, ordered the plant to restore a conventional treatment process. Attempts to restart the experimental one on a trial or research basis have been unsuccessful.

Compounding the loss of revenue from sludge imports, one of the town's largest sewer users, Southworth Paper Company, abruptly stopped sending waste last August when it closed and sacked its employees. Southworth reportedly still owes on back sewer user fees.

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THIRD CHIEF from page A1

According to Greenfield District Court documents, state police were called to a residence on Millers Falls Road at 1:12 a.m. on June 29 when Montague police requested "assistance with a domestic incident involving their acting chief." There they met Bonnett's girlfriend, who told them she and the acting chief had been drinking and arguing about their relationship. She said Bonnett "threw her to the ground" and later "pushed her from behind" on her way out the door.

State police reported that the alleged victim showed signs of "slight swelling above the right eyebrow, a small laceration on the left corner of her inside lip, bruising to the left upper leg, and redness to the right knee."

State police then proceeded to Bonnett's house, where they interviewed the acting chief. According to the documents, Bonnett also told them he and his girlfriend had been drinking and arguing. He said that when he asked the woman to leave, she threatened to "ruin" him, and that as he escorted her to her car she threatened to "jump off the bridge."

Determining that they had "probable cause" for Bonnett's arrest, state police placed him in handcuffs and took him to the state police barracks. At his arraignment later in the morning at the Greenfield District Court, he was charged with one count of "assault and battery on a family/household member."

The state police report also stated that they had seized 52 firearms from Bonnett's house "as evidence."

A pretrial hearing on the case is scheduled for August 9.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told this newspaper that Bonnett had been placed on leave "pending the resolution of his court case," and that the selectboard would "not initiate an investigation until the legal process is resolved, or reveals something that would cause immediate intervention."

Downtown Frustration

Prior to the appointment of Williams as acting chief on Monday night, the selectboard heard from a number of local residents expressing concerns about recent opioid deaths in downtown Turners Falls, as well as the large number of people panhandling outside of establishments like the Rendezvous and FL Roberts. They were critical of the absence of a community policing officer in recent years.

"It's really hard when you are going into a store and people are asking you for money, people who I have known for years," said Fourth Street resident Jean Hebden. "We're going to be in the process of hiring a new chief, and I hope we can bring it up and talk about it more at length. People have worked too hard downtown to make things better..."

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said that the problem of opioid addiction existed not only in downtown Turners but "all over the world... I see it in my travels." He added that "we may have to look at the size of the force. Is it worth it to have additional resources available?"

Later in the meeting, Williams stressed that the opioid crisis had been magnified by the tendency to lace heroin with the powerful synthetic drug fentanyl.

Williams also said that he did not realize that panhandling was such a big issue, and said he would be willing to meet with a group of downtown residents to discuss the

issues Hebden and others raised.

In response to a question from the audience, Williams said that "sometime in July" the regional District Attorney's anti-crime taskforce would meet to consider whether Montague should be asked to rejoin. The town was suspended in the summer of 2016 following an initial state investigation of Dodge's handling of the prescription drug drop box.

After appointing Williams as acting chief, the board appointed John Dempsey to fill Williams' position as staff Sergeant. Williams also announced that he had chosen officer Daniel Miner to be the new school resource officer.

Looking to the Future

The board next reaffirmed its previous decision to hire a new permanent chief under the state civil service system. Selectboard member Chris Boutwell noted that the "original motion" to hire the chief under civil service also included a provision to review the town's involvement in the state system in the future.

Montague Center resident Mark Lattanzi asked about the upcoming process to re-evaluate the town's participation in the civil service system, given the recent experience with chiefs under that system.

"We would have to have a relatively strong contract with the chief if we went outside of civil service," responded Kuklewicz. "We may have ended up close to, if not the same, as we wound up under the current situation."

Steve Ellis said that "I believe that we have had a couple of exceptional, unusual things happen that are not to me evidence of a systemic problem in our police department."

The discussion of the police department ended with the announcement by Ellis that a firm called Integrity Testing had been chosen to administer the "assessment" process for ranking candidates for the permanent police chief position. The selectboard will make the final selection, which does not necessarily need to follow the ranking.

Ellis said there was an "interesting wrinkle" in the process, due to the fact that one of the owners of Integrity, Alfred P. Donovan, had also conducted the external investigation of Dodge that led to his termination agreement. Ellis said that Donovan had agreed to recuse himself from the police chief hiring process.

Ellis also addressed a "community needs assessment," which he saw as an important part of the hiring process. He said he would like to involve "some people throughout the town" in a "single conversation relative to needs and concerns about law enforcement." He mentioned "representatives who are working with older citizens, younger citizens, the schools, and different villages." Ellis said that the meeting would produce "input into the assessment center design."

He also mentioned that "security" involving the questions to be asked of candidates would be a crucial part of the process.

Kuklewicz suggested that fellow selectboard member Mike Nelson be involved in the needs assessment, to which suggestion Nelson agreed. The board approved the choice of Integrity Testing, and Ellis said he would try to have the final contract with the firm ready by the board's next meeting on July 23.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Unsure of Digester

By REPORTER STAFF

At their July 9 meeting, Erving's selectboard:

- Read a letter inviting the town to endorse a regional anaerobic digester to process waste sludge, but felt they wanted more information about the digester's costs of construction and operation before they would be willing to send a letter of support. Erving used to pay Montague to take its sludge, but it is now being transported to Lowell.

- Approved the creation of a cook position at the senior and community center, to help with the daily lunch programs the town provides in coordination with LifePath. The position will start between \$13.65 to \$16.58 per hour, and should be publicly advertised shortly.

- Heard that a newly installed stop sign and painted turning lanes northbound on North Street at Church Street had calmed traffic at the intersection, but that some drivers were still ignoring it. The next step is to install a guardrail.

- Approved the purchase of a

cargo van for the town custodian.

- Reviewed and discussed a proposal to develop a structured tax agreement for a solar array the New Jersey-based company Soltage Inc. hopes to build on Northfield Road.

- Officially declared a house on a town-owned lot at 34 Northfield Road as surplus property. The former residence is undergoing asbestos abatement, and the town plans to demolish it to build its new library.

- Issued a business license for a farmstand, Fallen Oak.

- Reviewed but did not take action on the town's new "Complete Streets" policy, its "Website Disclaimer and Privacy" policy, and a scope of work with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to produce a local hazard mitigation plan and a municipal vulnerability preparedness plan for the town.

- Read a proposal for a proposed Comcast cable franchise.

The board's next regular meeting will be held July 23. (*Thanks to administrative coordinator Bryan Smith for helping us provide this update.*)

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Lazy Summer Days

By MIKE JACKSON

Gill's selectboard met for thirteen and a half minutes on Monday evening. "I love these July meetings," chair Greg Snedeker said when the regular business had been discharged and he and his fellow board members moved on to adding their official signatures to pieces of paper.

The biggest news was about a party. Gill's 225th anniversary is this year, and the 225th Anniversary Planning Committee is putting the final touches on plans for the July 28 party at the Riverside municipal building, scheduled to correspond with the Franklin County Boat Club's annual Christmas in July event.

The town has already voted to grant the boat club public funds to supplement its annual marine fireworks with more fireworks, and there will be an anniversary pig roast at the municipal building, with \$15 tickets available at the Wagon Wheel and Spirit Shoppe. Children 5 and under may party for free, and announced event details range from K-9 police to cole slaw.

"I do need to talk with you about what time you guys want to play," Snedeker's fellow selectboard member Randy Crochier told him. Crochier sits on the anniversary planning committee, while Snedeker contributes cello, keys and vocals to Ask Wanda, listed on pig roast fliers as a "pop/rock/folk/funk" outfit.

The board approved a \$29,649.88 sewer commitment for Riverside. Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said that "nothing stands out as being out of whack" for the bill. Gill pumps that neighborhood's sewage under the river for Montague to process.

Purington did note that the volume of drinking water used and waste water produced in the neighborhood was "up slightly," and he hypothesized the increase was "just attributable to the Mill. That structure is a larger user of water - and at least of sewage - than the rinky-

dink men's room and ladies' room that was at the old gas station."

"Seems to be more traffic there," said Snedeker. "Good for them."

Four routine purchase orders were approved for the fire department: \$4,000 for maintenance on two trucks, \$2,636.91 to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for maintaining the county radio system, \$700 for service on the breathing apparatus air compressor, and \$675 to ACS Software Systems.

The state department of transportation, MassDOT, has agreed to place signs on Route 10 in Northfield, westbound and eastbound, helping motorists find the turn that would put them on Main Road in Gill. It could happen soon.

The state has also approved a requested liquor license transfer at the Gill Tavern. "That seemed to go faster than normal," Crochier said.

"Could be the timing, could be that it was a very straightforward transaction," Purington offered. The selectboard unanimously approved finalizing the transfer.

Selectboard member John Ward was approved as the town's alternate representative to FRCOG. Snedeker is the representative, and Crochier is unable to serve in the role due to an outside conflict of interest.

By a unanimous vote, Linda Miner was appointed as an election worker through June 2019.

Besides the Christmas in July quasibicentennial celebration on July 28, town officials expressed their wishes to bring to the public's attention the Gillbilly Paddle on the morning of July 21, an event the morning of July 28 in which members of the public are invited to view a video about building science and can receive a rain barrel kit (details on the town website), and an August 7 Common People concert on the town common featuring the Tropical Sensations Steel Drum Band.

Snedeker mentioned that the sound of steel drums made him feel "always really happy."

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ZONING from page A1

what I call “single-use districts.” They’re highly restrictive, and they’re parcel-based. It’s not best practice to have them.

Montague has 13 different zoning categories, which is a lot for a little town. We also have a “Recreation/Education” district, which is just school parcels and some parks – not all the parks – and a golf course.

MR: Are the types of available categories standardized by the state?

WB: There’s no set criteria for districts. Towns have the right to develop their own zoning bylaws and regulations. Each town can define their own districts – some towns don’t have an industrial district, and aren’t required to have one....

Most of Montague is Agriculture-Forestry: all these shades of green [gestures at a huge, marked-up map leaning against his office wall]. Everything west of Route 63 is “AF-4.”

Most of our prime farmlands are in the “AF” zone, which is half-acre lots, which is really weird. If your goal is to preserve farmland, you don’t want to have tiny lots by right; it just encourages carving up farmland into residential lots. We’re proposing to up that to one-acre zoning.

The area around Randall Wood Drive, which is already tiny little lots, we’re proposing to rezone to “Residential.” There’s no agriculture or forestry, and it’s on water and sewer....

We’re also proposing to allow “open space residential development,” by special permit. This has been on the town’s wish list for a while. It’s an alternative to a traditional subdivision whereby you can cluster your lots and build less road, so it’s cheaper to build a subdivision, in exchange for putting land into protection.

It makes a subdivision more feasible financially, and the community gets the benefit of having more open space. And sometimes having smaller lots, when they’re designed in an appropriate manner, can be much more attractive than the traditional large-lot subdivision that your zoning would require.

Montague hasn’t had a subdivision in decades now. There really isn’t much demand for housing; it’s too expensive to build roads.... Winthrop Street, off Millers Falls Road in Millers Falls, I think was the last traditional subdivision built in town, and that was maybe 20 years ago.

MR: Is that a trend nationally, to try to encourage people who are looking at setting up subdivisions to have the residences be more of a nucleus on the lot?

WB: Cluster subdivision is a pretty well-established zoning tool at this point. It gives everybody a little bit of flexibility when designing a residential neighborhood, which I think is to both the community’s benefit, developers’, and the eventual homeowners’.

MR: You save on miles plowed, length of sewers, wiring hung...

WB: ... And then the neighborhood and community benefits from the open space, instead of that being private lawns. And if it’s near farmland, you can protect farmland; that’s when it becomes a very useful tool....

The town’s done a really good job putting ag land into permanent protection – about 60% of the really good farmland is protected. But I worry about that other 40%.

MR: As one generation passes away, if there’s not someone lined up to farm, then a developer can find it in their hands.

WB: And we’re lucky to have young farmers on the scene, now. We’re trying to come up with zoning tools to protect our prime farmland, which time and time again comes up as the community’s priority – we want to preserve farming as a lifestyle, and that means protecting it through zoning.

MR: I notice there’s one very large zone in the center of town that’s currently “Industrial”: the Montague Plains. That’s proposed to become Agriculture-Forestry?

WB: Yep, that’s one of the biggest changes. It’s not really realistically going to change anything, because all that land is owned by the state as part of the Wildlife Management Area.

The zoning map’s supposed to be a statement of what you want to do for the future of your community; it’s misleading to state that you want that to be “Industrial” when it’s protected by Article 97 of the state constitution; it’s not going to be developed.

MR: There was all this land on the Plains owned by the power company – where are all of those lots?

WB: These parcels on Millers Falls Road and Lake Pleasant Road [gestures again at map] are utility-owned. These ones in the back, that the utility owns recently, went into conservation so that they could develop their solar facility.

They got permission to do 23 acres of disturbance, and they had to put 70 acres of this back lot into protection with the state.

We’re still going to keep what’s remaining, that the utility owns, “Industrial.” Because it’s clear in our [1999] Comprehensive Plan that the town did want the northern third of the Plains to be reserved for industrial, commercial development.

That was part of the compromise that was reached: the town will support protecting the heart of the Plains, but they really wanted to see all the land the utility owned to be a potential industrial park. But that never quite happened.

MR: Tell me about the proposed bylaw changes that would affect the solar industry.

WB: Solar is a rapidly evolving industry. At this point, Montague’s developed two large-scale solar facilities, and two others have been permitted.

We think that’s a good amount, and we want to put the brakes on and learn a little bit from the ones we’ve already permitted. What we’re proposing is to not allow it in the “General Business” district anymore.

These things are larger than we thought at first – one of them’s 23 acres, one’s 35 – and at this point we’re worried about the supply of land that’s commercially zoned, and connected to water and sewer. I think it would be a disservice to the town to put the majority of that supply of land into solar. We want to encourage the highest, and the best, use of the land that’s sewered....

MR: Thomas Memorial [Golf Course] will be zoned “General Business?”

WB: That’s going to be one of the big changes, actually – we’re proposing that. Right now it’s “Recreation/Education,” and you can’t do anything but a golf course there.

By no means are we shutting off the tap to solar – it’s still going to

be allowed in “Industrial” and “Historic Industrial.”

MR: “Historic Industrial” encompasses the Canal District?

WB: Yup, and there’s a little in Montague City, the old Rod Shop.

Right now, the regs limit any residential use in that district: it needs to be “accessory” to a primary use, which means your primary use must be more than any housing. We’re [proposing]... a change here: to allow multi-family, in old mill buildings, as long as it’s not to exceed 75% of the floor area.

MR: So a building like [Strathmore] Building #11 could be three stories of condos, and one story of commercial or work space?

WB: Yeah. Right now it’s not clear – you have to make the argument that residential supports a primary use.

MR: Or Southworth?

WB: It would open up options there. That particular building has potential for some type of housing use – more so than most of the other mill properties.

MR: Has that issue been raised by anyone there?

WB: It’s been raised as a possible limiting factor. I don’t think we want to be in a position where we’re limiting options, at this point.

MR: What about accessory apartments?

WB: Montague’s accessory apartments – this isn’t practice everywhere – are by special permit, and they’re tied to the owner of the property. You come to the zoning board, get a permit, build it at your house, and then [if] you sell the house to somebody else, you can’t sell it with an accessory apartment....

I’m proposing to have it run with the land. That’ll help [buyers] get financing from the bank; we’ve been running into problems with banks having issues with the way that our bylaws are written right now.

Right now, it’s limited at 700 square feet, it can only have one bedroom, and it needs to be within an owner-occupied single-family dwelling....

I’m proposing to allow accessory apartments by right if it’s within an existing single-family house, and by special permit if you’re going to change the footprint of your house.... I’m also proposing to change the [maximum] size from 700 square feet to 900, and allow detached units to be by special permit – if someone wants to make a garage into an apartment.

MR: Or the upstairs of a barn?

WB: Right. Right now that’s not technically allowed, though the board finds ways to permit it; there are several of those in town. It allows for multi-generational living, and extra income sources for people.

MR: It’s not a Trojan horse for communes, is it?

WB: [laughs very slightly] No, I think there’s enough limitations in there; there’s some pretty strict criteria. You can’t have multiple accessory apartments on a parcel, which I think answers your question – it’s gotta be with a single-family house.

MR: And you’re looking to change the signage laws?

WB: Signage is tricky. You can spend a whole year working on just signage – we’re just trying to shape it up a little bit. That’s the hardest

chapter to write.... it’s one that we want to put out there, and see how people feel.

Do we want to have rules for LED signs? Right now, the way our bylaws are written, it’s not even clear if you can have an LED sign....

MR: And all this is obviously not a predetermined process, because there’s going to be hearings and deliberations, and it’s ultimately going to be in town meeting’s hands?

WB: There’ll be a whole process – and yes, ideally, it will go to a fall special town meeting. A bump in the road might knock it back to next spring. It requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

And yes, there will be public hearings.

All this came about last year or so. The [planning] board has been tasked with going through the bylaws and coming up with recommendations for changes to update it. I’ve also been working closely with the new building inspector on this. The way the bylaws are, they’re a struggle to interpret – not just for the residents, but for inspectors as well. There’s a lot of ambiguity in the way that they’re written right now....

And we’ll have it in a format that’s easy; this can be posted somewhere down at town hall where people can see it, down at the clerk’s of-

fice; we’ll be able to make changes to it easier, rather than having to reprint the whole bylaws, all 54 pages, every time a zoning map change comes through....

Clear, concise regs are always a good thing to have, so everybody knows what to expect, and how to enforce.


MR: That’s a strongly ideological statement!

WB: Yeah, it is.

MR: Other people could argue that there’s actually benefits to having confusing, or opaque, regulation in a town. But that’s not our current strategy?

WB: I mean, in my office, I hear from potential businesses a lot, and they want clear regulations. That’s business; that’s homeowners, someone wanting to build a house in town. Right now, they have to come to town staff just to interpret what zoning district they’re in, and what they can do.

And that’s fine – but I think there’s no harm in having the zoning regs be clear, and having your map be a clear statement for the future; having your regs be specific as to what the town expects for development, the clearer the better.

That’s the camp that I come from, but I’m a planner. 

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was July 10, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

State Sets \$16.8 Budget For Gill-Montague

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has set a so-called “1/12” budget for the Gill-Montague regional school district, allowing them to operate and bill the district towns month by month until a final budget is agreed to. According to a letter the district received from DESE, the state has for the time being fixed the GMRSD’s operating budget for the fiscal year that began July 1 at \$16,820,004.

GMRSD business manager Lynn Bassett was quick to point out Wednesday, “That is a \$198,000 decrease from what we asked for at town meetings.”

On the other hand, it is \$721,681 more than Montague appropriated on June 17 to fund their share of the assessment.

“We can’t afford the 1/12 budget,” said Gill selectboard member Ann Banash in frustration Tuesday.

Montague finance committee members Jeff Singleton and Mike Naughton have called on the town to notify the state it cannot pay the 1/12 budget.

Tanzer Sentenced For Strathmore Arson

Jonathan Tanzer, 44, convicted for setting the fire that burned Building #10 at the Strathmore Mill in May 2007, was sentenced in Greenfield Superior Court on July 1, to 12 to 15 years in state prison.

Tanzer received eight to 10 years for arson, two to three for

burning personal property, and 12 to 15 for breaking and entering in the nighttime, the sentences to be served concurrently.

Cats Back on Erving Selectboard’s Agenda

Debra Reynolds of Highland Avenue returned for a third time June 30 to speak with the Erving selectboard about the problem of nuisance cats from the neighborhood disturbing her peaceful enjoyment of her home and defacing her property.

The board, after consulting with town attorney Donna MacNicol, has decided to seek volunteers to serve on a nuisance animal committee, to see whether the town’s newly-adopted dog bylaw can be adapted to cover other nuisance pets, like cats that spray neighbors’ property.

Gill and Bernardston Consider Sharing a Chief

On July 7 the Bernardston selectboard met with Gill’s to discuss the possibility of Gill police chief David Hastings working in the same capacity for Bernardston. “What we’re thinking is that he would be chief of both departments; it’s all a matter of scheduling,” said Gill member Ann Banash.

“We know what kind of a job he does and how he does it. He’s open to talking about anything, and he knows Bernardston,” stated Banash. “He does everything,” she continued, stressing the word.

Hastings has been Gill’s chief of police for the last thirteen years. Bernardston chief Jason Bunk submitted his resignation last month, for personal reasons, and Sergeant James Palmieri has been working as acting chief in that town for the last two weeks.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Officer Dan Miner Assigned To School Beat

By MIKE JACKSON

The Gill-Montague regional school committee held their shortest regular business meeting in recent memory Tuesday night, wrapping up their public meeting in under an hour and twenty minutes.

They were joined by Winniphred Stone, a newly appointed representative from the town of Erving. Erving has a non-voting seat on the committee, which has been empty since last fall.

Dianne Ellis, the district's new director of pupil services, was also on hand and introduced herself to the committee. A longtime district parent and Turners Falls resident, Ellis, who has been a school principal and most recently served in a similar position in Greenfield, said she was "pleased to be in this role – I feel like it's a coming home."

Superintendent Michael Sullivan also reported that the Montague police had selected an officer, Dan Miner, to serve as a school police officer in the fall. Miner is a Turners Falls High School graduate himself, as well as a district parent.

The new program, in which the district will cover three-quarters of the cost of a shared position supervised and scheduled by the town of Montague, can only be ended by mutual agreement, according to an agreement developed this spring with former acting police chief Christopher Bonnett.

Business Management

Business manager Joanne Blier reported that FY'18 was finished "in the black," despite a drop in anticipated revenue through the state's Medicaid program after it was uncovered last year that the district had been claiming reimbursements for ineligible services for many years.

School choice was higher than expected, in both the revenue and expense sides, and tuition expenses to charter schools was down significantly.

The committee's meeting began with executive session to discuss the district's litigation strategy against New England Medical Billing, which had processed its Medicaid claims for years in exchange for a percentage. No public announcement was made after that session, but later the committee voted unanimously to pay a \$6,051.30 bill from Bulkley, Richardson, and Gelinis LLP, the firm retained to help on the matter, and voted unanimously to continue to retain them.

Another error, this time apparently on behalf of the state, was discovered to have resulted in Gill-Montague being overcharged for school choice sending tuition this year by \$107,077. Blier said this error related to one out-of-district special needs placement, a cost that was supposed to have been split evenly with the Department of Children and Families, which made the placement. The \$107,077 will be credited to the district during the next fiscal year.

Aging Structures

Blier also reported that for the second year in a row, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) turned down a project to

replace the Gill Elementary School roof. Last year, citing too many applications for its repair reimbursement program, the MSBA raised the minimum age of eligible roofs from 20 to 30 years; this year, similarly, it set the bar at 25 years, which Blier suggested was cause for optimism in coming years.

Montague member Mike Langknecht, who serves as a liaison to that town's capital improvement committee, reported back about discussions of underground oil tanks at Hillcrest and Sheffield elementary schools, which must be removed.

Langknecht said the Montague energy committee, which he described as "very high spirited" and "not really interested in promoting fossil fuels and all that," was investigating alternative heating systems for those buildings.

He described a number of available incentives for building a system that burns dry wood chips, and said the energy committee was recommending the district apply for a Massachusetts Energy Technical Assistance grant to study the possibility. The grant deadline is July 17, and the town will assist the district in filling out a quick application.

Langknecht was unanimously reappointed as the liaison to the Montague capital improvement committee.

Underlying Forces

Sullivan shared a working draft of an open letter composed by a committee of the "civic leaders group," composed of a number of local town and district officials, arguing that the "Chapter 70 Funding Formula Taxes Poorer Communities." The letter had been re-drafted following feedback from the Montague selectboard urging a revision of its "tone," but not its "content," Sullivan said.

Sullivan also reported back from a presentation given by consultants studying the possibilities of sharing resources, or potentially regionalization, among the Gill-Montague, Franklin County Tech, and Pioneer school districts.

The committee, Sullivan, and Blier reviewed charts showing the growing gaps between "actual net school spending," "required net school spending," and what the state considers the three districts' "foundation budget" based on student population. The gap was largest at Pioneer, which, as Blier pointed out, has been "held harmless" for declining enrollment – to such a degree that even a very significant change in the Chapter 70 formula would be unlikely to result in increased revenues there.

"With declining or flat enrollment for all three districts," the report's summary section argued, "Chapter 70 cannot be looked at as the funding savior... future funding plans will need to be based on expenditure savings through shared services, collaboration, and other initiatives..."

Up Next

The committee's next meeting will be a working session to discuss its goals. It will be held in the downstairs meeting room at Turners Falls High School at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24. The next regular meeting is currently scheduled for August 14.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Fragmented Selectboard Meeting Addresses Sewer System Woes, Police Department Crisis

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting scheduled for Monday, July 9 had promised to be a busy affair. The board had to address a variety of complex and potentially controversial issues involving the police department and Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). Summer meetings tend to have crowded agendas, since the board meets every other week, rather than on a weekly basis as is the norm.

However, due to a "posting error," the first page of the agenda failed to make it to the bulletin board outside of town hall 48 hours before the meeting, as required by state law. As a result, the first nine agenda items of the Monday meeting took place on Wednesday, July 11, after the board had met with the finance committee.

The Wednesday meeting – which was primarily the first 45 minutes of the unposted Monday agenda – began with an update from Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob McDonald. McDonald reviewed a letter he had sent to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about a "dry weather event" that occurred at the facility on the night of July 5 and 6.

McDonald said that on that night an intake pump failed, probably due to a lightning strike (*see article, page A1*). The flow into the plant was diverted into the "wet weather tank," and then discharged into the Connecticut River. In his letter to the DEP and EPA he estimated that this caused 286,740 gallons of "untreated but disinfected" sewage to be released into the river.

The discharge continued unnoticed for nine hours, according to McDonald due to a failure of something called the "mission command unit" to "call out" alarms in the plant's control system to on-call staff. McDonald told the board that in June, the facility management had decided to upgrade the warning system, which he said in his letter has been an ongoing issue.

McDonald said the pump had been repaired, the alarm system was now "up and running," and reports had been submitted to state and federal authorities within five days.

The selectboard raised few questions about McDonald's explanation. Members did express concern about the failure of the warning system, apparently its second major failure in two years.

The board also approved a plan presented by town accountant Carolyn Olsen to address the ongoing shortfall in the WPCF budget. She said this shortfall was due primarily to loss of revenue from the closed Southworth paper plant, and the termination of the "Montague process" for reducing solids, which had formerly allowed the town to receive extra sludge, and money, from other jurisdictions.

The board voted to transfer \$20,000 budgeted for sewer department debt payments to fund a potential shortfall in the account that pays for solids processing. Then they voted to transfer \$45,000 from veterans' benefits, and \$65,000 earmarked for town employee benefits, into the sewer "enterprise fund." These moves are intended to reduce the impact of budget increases and revenue shortfalls on upcoming sewer rates.

Olsen said these transfers were made possible by overages in the three line items, and predicted that they would not have a significant impact on end-of-the-year balances or available "free cash." Earlier in the evening, the finance committee had also voted in favor of the transfers, but requested that the WPCF be required to repay the town budget the \$110,000 taken from veterans' and healthcare benefits.

Aging in Place

The section of the agenda which had been posted in a timely fashion took place on Monday. It featured a variety of topics involving the appointment of a new interim police chief, the process for selecting a permanent chief, and the lack of community policing in downtown Turners Falls. (*See story, page A1.*)

The session began with the appearance of Montague cemetery commissioner Judith Lorei, who came before the board with a proposal for a "green cemetery" in town. Lorei said that the town currently owns seven cemeteries, which she described as "inactive, historic" cemeteries with no space for new burials. There are also seven private cemeteries in town, owned by churches and non-profit organizations.

Lorei defined a "green cemetery" as one in which burials do not involve embalming or coffin linings, and use biodegradable coffins. "These burials are becoming

more and more popular in a way they haven't been in the past," she said, suggesting that such a cemetery might become a "source of revenue" for the town.

She noted that she volunteers for Green Burials Massachusetts, an organization that promotes green burials, whose website states that there are currently no cemeteries in Massachusetts dedicated to such burials.

Lorei has been working with the board of health and planning board to identify a location for the new cemetery. The state has proposed a "land swap" involving a 16-acre parcel it owns on Lower Meadow Road for several town parcels on the Montague Plains.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said the swap would require an act of the state legislature, since the Lower Meadow Road property is protected under Article 97 of the state constitution. Land covered under Article 97 cannot be sold or transferred to a different use without a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he was "intrigued" by the idea of a new cemetery, but would like to see a "business plan or model... what's it going to cost to get it up and running, how many spots would there be, how would you arrange it, what would be the cost of improving the [access] roads?"

Lorei and Ramsey agreed to develop such a plan.

Art and Bikes

Ramsey proposed that the board appoint members to a new oversight committee for the RiverCulture program. He said committee members would be appointed to "staggered" two-year terms, and would meet quarterly and produce an annual report.

The selectboard voted to appoint the eight members Ramsey proposed, and then voted to establish the oversight committee itself – "so our appointees will have a place to go," in the words of Kuklewicz. The board also voted to grant Suzanne LoManto, newly renamed as the town's first cultural coordinator, a credit card with a balance of \$5,000 for purchases related to the RiverCulture budget.

The board approved a request for the use of public property in downtown Millers Falls for the annual Arts Bridge sidewalk arts event on Saturday, July 28. Richard Widmer, who made the request, said in response to a question from the audience that the event should be called the "Millers Falls Pop-Up Art Happening."

They approved a request from River's Edge Cycling LLC for its annual biking event, also on Saturday, July 28. The event's three routes, which vary in length, will run through other towns but will include the canalside bike path in Turners Falls, Millers Falls Road, and East Mineral Road, and eventually finish in downtown Turners Falls.

The board also voted to approve the use of public property at the Industrial Park for a bicycle race sponsored by the Northampton Cycling Club. This is an annual event held in late July and early August.

Other Business

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard voted to appoint Kevin Boissonnault to the position of chief operator, and Patrick Murphy to the position of laborer, at the WPCF. Mathew Phillips was appointed to the position of custodian at the department of public works, and Cody Wells to the position of full-time police officer.

The board approved a letter to the state Department of Housing and Community Development concerning a "final quarterly report" from FY'16, and an open letter complaining to state officials about the "inequity" of the Chapter 70 school aid formula. The latter, which was also endorsed by the finance committee, complains that the cap on the local contribution at 82.5%, a key part of the formula, "unfairly taxes poorer communities."

Ramsey reported on the public response to the fact that certain street lights on Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls have been turned off since April. He said there had been no complaints about the lack of lights. Further public comments should be addressed to the town planner or the Turners Falls Fire Department.

Steve Ellis reviewed the progress of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) "Transition Plan" for town buildings and sidewalks. "It's a big deal," he said. "It updates a document that was last developed in 2001." Ellis said he would put the final draft on his own section of the town website and would organize a public input meeting.

At Ellis' request, the selectboard agreed to invite Megan Rhodes from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the author of the ADA plan, to their August 20 meeting.

Ellis announced that a request for a grant from the state to assist with rehabilitation of the Colle Opera House in Turners Falls had been rejected. He said he was not sure why, but noted the large number of grant requests for limited state funds. However, he advocated the town continue to move forward with the Colle work without the grant.

The board agreed. "As I've often said, we need to take care of our buildings," said Kuklewicz.


Selectboard member Chris Boutwell said he had talked to someone from the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT), who hoped that the White Bridge off of Canal Road in Turners Falls would be reopened by the end of July.

The next Montague selectboard meeting is scheduled for July 23.

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IGNITES from page A1

Klaiber made another observation: “What was weird was when the lightning struck, the rain subsided. It was weird.”

The storm exposed the myth that the highest place is always the one struck. Lightning eschewed four nearby church steeples and a tall tree in the house’s backyard, instead striking the roof of 39 K at around 11 a.m., causing combustion in the attic.

“When I showed up, there was fire showing in the back corner,” said Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman. Upon arrival, first responders treated one resident and sent them to the hospital to be evaluated. The fire crew then entered the building with a hose, or “line.”

“We knew how to get to the attic from the resident, so I sent the guys in,” said Zellman. While a ladder crew quickly quelled the flames burning on the exterior of the house, crews fighting the fire inside were cycled in and out to prevent exhaustion. The fire moved from the attic to the first floor before it could be finally extinguished after two hours of fighting.

The blaze was a “two-alarm” fire, meaning that support from other fire companies descended from every direction. Around 50 emergency responders and 30 vehicles were called to the scene from nearby fire departments. Turners Falls, Montague Center, Greenfield, Erving, Bernardston,

Orange, Northfield, South Deerfield, and Gill all helped to fight the fire. Members of the Brattleboro and Whately fire departments took over the Turners Falls station to cover the rest of the town.

The Turners Falls Water Department, Berkshire Gas, and the Montague police arrived as well, as did Eversource – “to secure the power so that the guys inside don’t get electrocuted,” Zellman explained.

As excessive, sweltering heat was the major obstacle of the operation, the FRTA sent a bus to be used as an air-conditioned room, and the firefighters also deployed a very large fan. “All that gear takes a lot out of us,” explained Chief Wonkka of Erving.

The spectacular nature of the event was highlighted by the number of news agencies that descended on K Street. Reporters from this paper and the *Greenfield Recorder* were in the crowd, and a TV crew from WWLP Channel 22 made the block, briefly, a center of regional attention.

Fear of Lightning?

The fire on K Street was caused by a type of storm system referred to by meteorologists as “isolated, discrete cells.” This leads to widely scattered thunderstorms across a region. This type of extremely localized weather event is caused by convection occurring in many relatively small, singular spaces, each producing a single storm cell.

Convection occurs when warm, moist air at ground level rises to meet colder air high in the atmosphere. According to paralegal, poet, and self-taught weatherman Dave Hayes, the “Weather Nut,” “convection causes cumulonimbus clouds to form, and they rain out.”

It was cool aloft on the morning of July 5, and when the sun warmed the moist air on the surface of the earth, convection began. Hayes was watching the radar during the storm. “It formed over South Deerfield and did what was called training,” he said. “There’s convection in a small area – it re-fires in the same area.” Basically, weather conditions that continued throughout the morning caused several storms to form over Deerfield and proceed in a line, like a train on tracks, over Montague.

Lightning is a popular metaphor in literature and spoken vernacular, and while they say aphoristically that it doesn’t strike the same place twice, we certainly know it can strike the same town more than once on the same day.

Lightning can ignite buildings, but “it’s rare that it does,” says Zellman. “We have strikes that hit and cause no damage.”

New England is an area of relatively low lightning occurrence. According to the Global Lightning Frequency Map created by NASA, our region receives four lightning flashes per square kilometer (km) every year. (The scale goes from pretty much zero flashes near the Earth’s poles to around 150 in Central Africa and parts of South America near the Caribbean.) As Montague is 81.5 square km, that means the town may receive about 326 lightning flashes per year, total.

Fire records show only one other fire caused by a lightning strike in Montague during the past 10 years. On June 30, 2009, a Chevy Malibu registered in Tennessee was struck in the parking lot of the airport, across the street from the Country Creemee, where someone dialed 911. The driver, a Mr. Norman Ferdette, was sitting inside the car with the engine off during the lightning strike. He reported that upon being hit, all the lights switched on and the windshield wipers were activated. When, shortly thereafter, smoke began to rise, Mr. Ferdette exited the car unharmed. It was not his car.

While the statistics do not bear out a real need for astraphobia, emergency responders recommend not taking the chance. “Everyone takes thunder and lightning for granted,” says Chief Zellman.

“If you hear thunder, there can be lightning. There was blue sky showing, like a beautiful day, and a lightning strike hit. It may look OK, but it’s really not.”

Town of Leverett (Leverett Elementary School)
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Modification of current sprinkler system: Ninety-four Dry Type Recessed Pendant Sprinkler Heads/Installation

The Town of Leverett is seeking bids for ninety-four (94) dry type, recessed pendant sprinkler heads and their installation, including re-piping as required to allow for installation of these heads, and is to be included in this bid.

Complete specifications are available from the Executive Administrator at townadministrator@leverett.ma.us or (413) 548-9699, or from the Principal’s Office, Leverett Elementary School (lacey@leverettschool.org) (413) 548-9144. Sealed bids marked “LES Sprinkler Bids” are to be submitted no later than August 9, 2018 at 10 a.m. when they will be opened and publicly read. Prevailing wage rates will apply.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Lake Wyola Rescue; Internet Complaint

By **ROB SKELTON**

A lawsuit filed against the town of Leverett by retired art teacher Susan Boss to secure spousal benefits denied her by the town’s recent policies found for the plaintiff, it was revealed at the July 10 selectboard meeting. The court decision nullifies the annual town meeting’s vote to reign in family benefits, and will impact the budget, the board noted.

Police chief Scott Minckler introduced Jake Hagen of Greenfield as his newest hire – reserve academy trained, tech savvy, young (age 21) and eager, and willing to put in time and effort, the chief said.

Hagen joins newly-hired officer William Kimball (Greenfield fireman; cop in Erving and Northfield) on the roster of the Leverett police.

Minckler got the okay from the board to institute a paper trail to confirm his employees’ ongoing required 40 hours’ yearly supplemental training, a stipulation of continued employment.

“Failure to train is a classic liability that ends up in damages,” said board chair Peter d’Errico.

“I agree with Peter. Training is paramount, absolutely,” added selectman Tom Hankinson.

Minckler recapped a recent accident resulting in a death on Route 63, referring to it as “a long day, a long incident, which took 25 hours until the last truck left.”

He also described taking part in a rescue at Lake Wyola, where Leverett officer Galenski, working a detail shift with Department of Conservation and Recreation lieutenant Hunt, pulled a person from under water and saved a life.

Minckler noted that he himself was working a detail on Cave Hill Road when the call came in. Knowing there was no local police coverage in Shutesbury that day, Minckler called in a sub and raced to the lake, where the aforementioned officers had a handle on the situation. Commendations are to follow, Minckler said, describing it as a successful emergency response.

The Leverett fire department’s new rescue truck will be on display Saturday at an open house event held at the fire station, from 9 to 11 a.m. A blessing of the truck will take place at “0930” by chaplain Bruce Arbour of the Amherst fire department.

Tom Wolfe of the Leverett Alliance presented some Kentucky

artwork to be framed and displayed publicly in one of the town buildings, commemorating the Alliance’s “Hands across the Hills” efforts to connect with Trump voters in Whitesburg, Kentucky.

D’Errico pointed to a blank spot on the meeting room’s wall as a possibility; town administrator Margie McGinness noted an adjacent spot currently hosting a faux-antique wallclock.

“That clock should go,” she said.

Leverett Center resident Betty Thurston, elderly and with no landline and spotty cell coverage, came to the meeting to complain about the consistency of her internet connection.

“I live in a community that isn’t wired well,” she said, at which d’Errico visibly bristled.

“The internet in Leverett is not third-rate,” he said, having spent much political capital over a decade to bring broadband to town.

“I know people who’d disagree with you,” she retorted, describing a recent trip to the library where she claimed “many people” were having the same problems.

Selectwoman Julie Shively ran through the three or so times she herself has had no internet, usually due to weather or a car hitting a pole.

The board alluded to the possibility of a singular, rather than systemic, failure, and urged her to have an electrician check her end of it.

D’Errico’s hostility to this complaint was palpable, and Thurston asked “not to be shushed and discredited for my viewpoint.”

The board urged her to bring it up with the Municipal Light Plant, the town committee which oversees the broadband.

Dudleyville Road resident Ray Bradley’s request to pave his road met with stony silence as the board tried to think up a reason why the idea was a non-starter. They shortly came up with budget considerations, along with the notion that people like the 5-mile north-south road as is.

The board agreed to reach out to American Tower, who builds and leases cell facilities, to see if it would be interested in developing a relay station along the Sawmill River corridor to better serve the north side of town.

While discussing a phone consolidation proposal, the board decided to eliminate two dedicated fax machine lines, outdated, to save money.



Firefighters used a powerful fan to stay cool on break from battling the blaze.

Energy and Dollars: Wendell Gets Double Savings With Conservation Grants

“Cooler in summer, warmer in winter” – with energy savings to residents, and the town as a whole.

That’s the goal of the Wendell Energy Committee as it offers grants of up to \$750 for energy conservation measures taken by resident householders.

“Making homes more energy efficient is one more step towards making Wendell a net zero energy community and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels – both energy committee goals,” explained co-chair Nan Riebschlaeger. And by using less energy, she added, homeowners and renters can save money and be more comfortable at home, no matter what the weather.

The conservation grants are made possible by funds received when Wendell became a Green Community.

Examples of projects that would be approved include installing insulation, storm doors, heat pumps or solar hot water, or making window upgrades.

Grants can also be applied retroactively to projects already completed, as long as they were done after January 30, 2018.

Town residents can apply for the special funding with a simple form available in print from the town library and the Energy Committee’s booth on Wendell Old Home Day, July 21, or from the town website (www.wendellmass.us/index.php/energy-task-force.html).

For more information, contact Nan Riebschlaeger at (978) 544-2741.

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TURNERS FALLS – River’s Edge Cycling will host The River Valley Ice Cream Ride on Saturday, July 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting from Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Whether you’re a daily cyclist or only get your bike out a few times a year, this ride has options for you. Three routes ranging from 7 to 50 miles blend the best of summertime fun for the whole family – biking, gorgeous roads and ice cream!

A fresh summer lunch and live music on the scenic Connecticut River rounds out the day. Registration for the River Valley Ice Cream Ride ranges from \$15 to \$75 depending on age group and route.

All proceeds benefit local organizations River-Culture, CISA, and MassBike. This event is co-sponsored by Greenfield Savings Bank, Bart’s Ice Cream, and many others. For more information, registration, and route maps visit www.riversedgecycling.com.

MONTAGUE REPORTER

At right: Kate and John Moruzzi of Leverett on vacation in Kirkwall, in the Orkney Islands of Scotland.

Below: Pam and John Hanold of Turners Falls on the north shore of Lake Superior, in Grand Marais, Minnesota, where they “have vacationed from time to time over the years.”



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ON THE ROAD



natalie
BLAIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Get the scoop on Natalie Blais on July 14, 2018

Meet Natalie, enjoy some ice cream and talk about the future of the First Franklin District at one of these locations:

11:00 - 11:45 am
Williamsburg General Store, 12 Main St, Williamsburg

1:00 - 1:45 pm
5J Creamee & Pasiecznik Farmstand, 255 River Rd, Whately

3:00 - 3:45 pm
Sugarloaf Frostie, 116 Amherst Rd, Sunderland

5:00 - 6:00 pm
The Country Creamee, 52 Avenue A, Turners Falls

CAN'T MAKE IT?
Natalie will be at 2nd Street Baking Co., 104 4th St, Turners Falls on July 18th and August 1st from 8 - 9 am!



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B1

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JULY 12, 2018

An Artistic Bounty at The Brattleboro Museum



Singing mice in an installation created by Steve Gerberich.

By NINA ROSSI

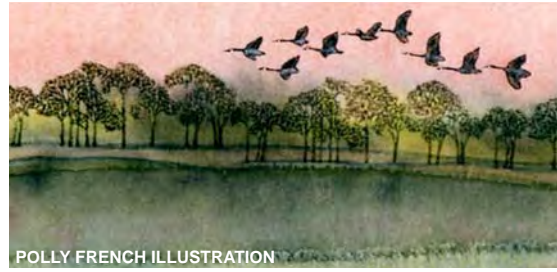
BRATTLEBORO – The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is well worth the drive north to see a bevy of seven exhibits for one modest \$6 admission fee. On view are works by Robert DuGrenier, Shona Macdonald, Debra Ramsey, Roz Chast, David Rios Ferreira, and Steve Gerberich. The current lineup comprises some of the best work I have seen at the small museum; the large exhibit called “Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys” by Gerberich is especially appealing to tinkerers of all ages.

Housed in an old train station at the southern end of town, the exhibits are rotated seasonally, and they all tend to be innovative, thought-provoking, and fun. Curator Mara Williams has the ability to pick out work of unique excellence. Williams has been at the

museum as both a former director and as curator since 1989; her tenure has seen the rise of Brattleboro as an artistic center and the maturation of other nearby cultural attractions such as the Yellow Barn, Marlboro, the River Gallery, and the Brattleboro Music Center.

The “Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys” exhibit presents Gerberich’s whimsical kinetic sculpture in the largest gallery of the museum. As you enter the main doors you are surrounded by his towering creatures that flap, whirr, hum, tap, and play tunes at the push of a button or turn of a wheel. Concocted of remnants of tools, furniture, musical instruments, and all the flotsam and jetsam of our manufactured world, these human and animal assemblages delight viewers with movements activated by unique arrangements of motors

see **MUSEUM** page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER VICTORY DANCE AT THE BEAVER HOLE

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER BEND – Imagine you are a traveler in 1890. It won’t be hard to do, just follow us. We are accompanying one Clifton Johnson, visiting towns and villages of Franklin County, taking notes and photographs.

We have just left the brand-new, bustling town of Turners Falls. On horse and wagon we cross the sandy plain between Montague’s villages. In his book “Picturesque Franklin County 1891,” Johnson will write of this trip towards Millers Falls:

After a time, I took the road for Millers Falls and crossed the great stretch of high sandy plain back from the river. Once this had been forest land, but now is quite barren, grown up to scrub oak and bushes, with here and there a clump of stunted pines or a thin grassed clearing...

The wagon tracks lead through the sand and dust, and we arrive suddenly on the rim of a deep, rounded bowl; before us, a sharp drop of two hundred feet down into a water world network of springs, marshes and pools, islands with towering white pines.

This is a bowl separated from the west-rushing Millers River that is pushing water hard into a tilted-up red rock flank of Mineral Mountain, where it then careens off, due north, at a 90-degree angle. Johnson will write:

I turned off the main plains road and followed a winding track along the western bluff which overlooks the “Beaver Hole.” From the bluff you get a fine view of the valley, the river with its long shining loop, the fields and brushy flats, the clustered village higher up river...

If we had looked hard down into that valley and those fields

we would have seen a tall, gaunt man, bent slightly over, swinging his scythe through the grasses of the field. That would have been my great-grandfather Judah, his farm house on a rise just beyond.

Now, one hundred and thirty years later, I myself, his great-grandson, sit here at that homestead on a Sunday morning, writing a celebratory piece about that marshland, the Beaver Hole oxbow.

It’s celebratory because finally, after its more than 10,000-year existence, that oxbow is now forever protected from encroachment and development. (See “Fish and Game Buys Millers River Oxbow,” *The Montague Reporter*, June 28, 2018, page A1.)

So down here on the Flat, we are celebrating this victory for the ecology and biodiversity in a time when in many natural heritage places, our see **WEST ALONG** page B5



The now-protected Millers River oxbow, in a photograph taken on an April morning several years ago.

BOOK REVIEW

Everyday Ecstasy Every Day!

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE CENTER – Death. That singular event from which life gets much of its meaning. People who love life are said to fear and hate death because it’s the end of us for all time. There’s no coming back once we’re gone.

People respond to the inevitable end of their existences in a number of ways: they try not to think about it; they create dreams of an afterlife they hope will come true; they accept their “being no more” as a part of what it means “to have been.”

Some find comfort in making room for those who follow. Others believe they can achieve a kind of immortality by creating works of art and science that will live on long after they are no longer here.

Greenfield resident Mary Clare Powell takes an alternative path: focus on the small, see the special in the ordinary, celebrate the beauty found in the everyday. Everywhere she looks in her exquisite collection of poems, *Everyday Ecstasy*, Powell finds levels of appreciation for the time we have left to us, especially when that time is short and

death is near.

In the early poems of her collection, Powell wishes she were not a “sense maker,” that she could simply exit like a grazing animal or even the flower it eats, and be no more. But she can’t help noticing the limp that won’t go away, the wrinkled skin that will never again be smooth, and the passion that has died before she has. When the daily reminders of death close in, life can seem like a “hideous joke,” nothing more than a hole in the ground from which there is no exit.

So what’s a poet “drawn by the magnet” of her own end to do? Knowing there will soon be a time when she will never say another word, Powell expresses in writing approaches to death that are often overlooked or taken for granted when we are alive. These approaches can bring peace, contentment, and yes, even joy.

Take sheets drying on a line in the sun, for example. Later in their bed, Powell and her lover are brought closer by the smell of sun “older than Eve,” and like the sun, “still glowing.”

see **ECSTASY** page B2



THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: JACQUELINE WEST

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – This week, I interviewed Jacqueline West, author of the *Books of Elsewhere* series.

Izzy Vachula-Curtis: What made you decide to become an author?

Jacqueline West: Honestly, I never decided to become an author, because I was pretty sure I couldn’t be an author. I thought authors had all lived a hundred years ago, and they had exciting, adventurous, important lives and magical creative powers.

I didn’t have any of those things. All I had was a love of stories. Of course, a love of stories and years and years (and years) of practice at reading and writing are all you really need to become a writer.

After years and years (and years) of practicing – mostly in secret, because I was still sure I couldn’t be a real author – I started writing something that I would have loved to read when I was growing up. And that thing turned out to be my first published book, *The Shadows*, Volume One of *The Books of Elsewhere*.

IVC: Are there going to be any more books in The Books of Elsewhere series?

JW: At this point, I don’t think so. Five volumes felt like enough to me, and *Still Life* (the last volume) gave all the characters the endings I think they deserved.

Maybe someday I’ll want to return to the world of *The Books of Elsewhere* and explore some of the other stories that might be hidden in it, but for now, I’m having a fantastic time creating brand new worlds.



Our correspondent, bearing The Books of Elsewhere.

IVC: Is the Books of Elsewhere series going to be made into a movie? If so, who would you want to play the characters?

JW: There has been quite a bit of interest in the see **AUTHOR’S** page B4

Pet of the Week

On Monday afternoon, Betty, after thirteen long and uneventful years as your basic two-eyed cat, was enucleated.

Dark spots that appeared when she was a kitten had gradually spread to cover her entire left iris, and this year, Betty's owner was advised that the melanocytes had begun to transform into something more malignant.

It's not always an easy decision

to invest in keeping our dearest companions alive and comfortable.

But the news is good! As this issue goes to press, Betty is moping about her apartment in the Patch on kitty painkillers, wearing a cone so she doesn't yank the stitches out of her newly empty eye socket.

She's doing well, and the hope is that once recovered, she will enjoy many more years as a surly old buccaneer!



GALLEN HUGHINS COLLAGE

"BETTY"

Senior Center Activities JULY 16 TO 27

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.

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 7/16

8 a.m. Foot clinic (by appt.)

12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 7/17

11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 7/18

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 7/19

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Monday 7/23

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/24

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

Wednesday 7/25

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 7/26

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

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 congregating 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.

Art Classes run July 10 to August 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday 7/16

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 7/17

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

ECSTASY from page B1

Love is laundered in other ways, too. Visiting her mom in a nursing home, Powell sees a man stuffed into the old woman's pants and imagines the residents' clothes being passed around like cookies. "Even the clothes of the dead live on," Powell tells us. "My arms in your sleeves, your socks in my drawer.... All worn, all washed, and worn again." **Beautiful!**

Newly washed clothes play a humorous as well as loving role in "The Straight Line." In this poem, Powell builds a pile of clothes for her mom to put on that day. She is instructed to start at the top with

an incontinence pad and work her way down through blue sweatpants to sturdy black shoes. It's a straight line from top to bottom. All mom has to remember is what goes in which hole.

Powell has advice for us to keep in mind, too, as we move up in line "for the void":

*... cheeriness is what will see you through -
like an infant with its unconscious smiles at mother
assuring her eternal care.
You must never confide your terror,
but grow cute and cuter each passing day.*

The poem is an ironic parody of a "Dear Abby Replies" column. What makes it so powerful, of course, is the sad truth that Abby is right: "Suffering doesn't make you popular."

Powell's best advice, however, may be reserved for those turning sixty, a time to "fix the spirit": take naps, wear caps,

*Give everything away,
and love
eat poetry and sing
don't shove.*

Here's my advice: eat this book. It's a matter of life and death.



MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Charging Your Electronics Overnight Can Reduce Dirty Fossil Fuel Use

By SALLY PICK

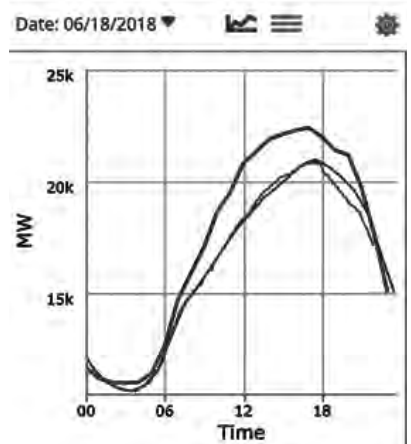
MONTAGUE – We're in the thick of summer, having just slogged through a brutally hot week. Did you know that those hottest, peak electricity days can result in electricity suppliers turning on "peaker plants," used only at times of big spikes in energy demand? And that those plants typically run on the most polluting and most expensive fuels, coal and oil?

So, you're thinking, *What can I do about that? It's up to the electric operators to oversee the grid, right?*

Well, yes. And no, we don't have to be dependent on those peaker plants. Sure, we count on our independent system operator, ISO New England, which manages our electricity, to keep the juice coming to our homes so we can run our refrigerators, air conditioners, stoves, etc. But, on those peak days, collectively, we can help lower the peak electricity demand, to reduce the need for costly, dirty peaker plants.

If electricity has a lower spike in

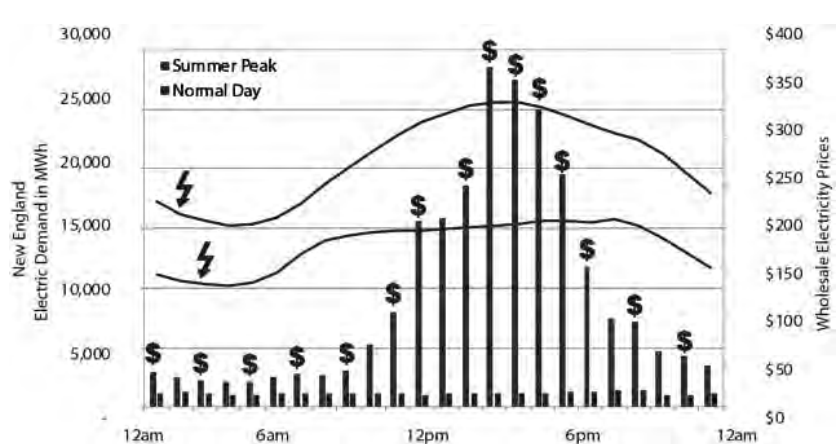
use at peak times, then there's less demand for utilities to use peaker plants for a few times on the hottest summer afternoons and evenings and the coldest winter evenings and mornings when they are fired up. The highest demand times only account for 10% of the hours of electricity used, but are responsible for 40% of our electricity costs, according to the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance.



A little knowledge about when our peak demand times happen can help. Take a look at this ISO New England System Load Graph (above), showing our collective demand for electricity. Demand on that warm June day peaked at around 6 p.m., starting to rise in the early afternoon and dropping precipitously as the evening progressed. Summer peak is roughly 1 to 8 or 9 p.m.

So, as possible, if we avoid turning on our dishwashers, clothes washers, dryers, or air conditioners, or charging electronics, during the peak load, we can help make our electricity cleaner and cheaper.

Some utilities, such as Con Edison in New York, already offer time-of-use rates, charging higher electricity rates at peak times and lower rates at low-use times. For example, their summer peak rates are 21.8 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), and off-peak rates are 1.54 cents per kWh. If your typical monthly summer electric bill is 600 kWh, your bill at only peak rates would be \$131 – versus \$9 at only off-peak rates!



Of course, you'd probably run your electricity at some combination of peak and off-peak, but you can see the savings from shifting to more off-peak use.

The chart at the bottom of this page, from the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, shows very clearly the difference in cost of peak demand electricity versus normal demand. Those high wholesale prices get passed along to consumers, giving utilities justification to ask the state to raise prices.

Here are some ways you can lower your own summer peak electricity demand:

- Charge your electronics such as iPads, cell phones, and other portable devices overnight.
- Charge your computer late at night and run it off the battery during peak hours.
- When you take a lunch or coffee break, turn off your computer.
- When you're not using your printer, leave it off, so it's not drawing electricity in standby mode.
- Bake a meal for the next day later in the evening, after 8 or 9 p.m. Who doesn't love leftovers, especially on a hot night?
- Do laundry after 8 or 9 p.m.
- Run fans during the peak hours or turn your AC temperature up several degrees during those hours.
- If you have an electric car, set it to charge during the lowest use times, between midnight and 5 a.m.

Happily, these ideas cost nothing to implement! They will also help keep our electric bills from skyrocketing, especially as record high temperatures become more common. And it's good practice, should our utilities start charging peak and off-peak rates in the future.

If you want to be reminded when it's a peak day, the nonprofit Mass Energy puts out alerts. You can sign up for them at massenergy.org/sha-vethepeak.

Sally Pick is a member of the Montague Energy Committee. She can be reached by emailing SJP-MEC@crocker.com.

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MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Good News at the Libraries!

By **ANGELA ROVATTI-LEONARD**

TURNERS FALLS – Thanks to a generous \$1,000 grant from the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in Greenfield, the Montague Public Libraries have added books to their collection that fall under the themes of peace, social justice, compassion, diversity, tolerance, and the place of humans in the natural environment.

The collection, comprised of over 70 books, available at all three library branches, includes bilingual titles and a variety of fiction and nonfiction books that will appeal to a range of ages, from preschool to middle school children and teens.

These books provide the foundation from which Traprock and Montague Public Libraries intend to create opportunities for encouraging empathy and reflection among the community's youth. "Books can influence children in so many ways – providing good role models, deepening their sense of wonder in nature, stimulating their imagination, and showing a world of tolerance and respect," says Traprock Director Pat Hynes.

Youth Services Librarian, Angela Rovatti-Leonard eagerly anticipates "several events throughout the year

that will offer a chance to highlight some of the books in the collection and offer a way to show the power of books as vehicles for inspiration in the lives of young people."

This summer, two events will be offered. The first event, An Act of Kindness, includes a reading of the book *Flowers for Sarajevo* by John McCutcheon, a live performance by a local cellist, and a related craft on Tuesday, July 24, 11 a.m. at the Montague Center Common.

On Tuesday, August 7, at 3 p.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, the library will host Paving a Path for Peace: Paper Crane Project.

In remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there will be a reading of an excerpt of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr and *Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts About Peace* by Anna Grossnickle Hines.

Origami expert Mike Naughton will instruct participants in how to make paper cranes and other designs as well. The origami cranes will be attached to a quilt and displayed at each of the Montague Public Libraries in turn.

For further information call the Carnegie Library at 413-863-3214 or email Youth Services Librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard at arovatti-leonard@cwmar.org.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By **ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

A warm and hearty hello from Montague Community TV!

You don't want to miss this: in our latest video program, "Antenna Cloud Farm presents LADAMA," for the first summer concert of the year! LADAMA is a collective of women from across the Americas making music and building community. Their debut album is out now. Learn more about LADAMA and the work they do at Ladamaproject.org or www.antennacloudfarm.com.

com/blog/ladama.

We encourage you to look for more concerts this summer at Antenna Cloud Farm.

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!

TV REVIEW

Lost in Space (Netflix)

By **MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

GREENFIELD – Netflix has several original TV series to their name. Now they have decided to add their own version of the 1960s TV series "Lost in Space" to the list.

I don't know much about the original one, except that the actor named Bill Mumy was a part of the cast. I remember much more about the movie version of the show that was done in 1998. That was a very sci-fi movie. I am a huge sci-fi fan, so I enjoyed the movie.

Like the other two versions, this take features that Robot that joins the family. They get lost on a planet that is a heavily forested area. They left Earth because its atmosphere had become unbreathable.

After they crash on this planet, we are treated to glimpses of their life on Earth. They are interesting to see. Will's father is in the military, and not a scientist like he was in the movie. Also, the cast in this version is a bit more diverse; one of the family's daughters is black.

In the first episode, the show is

a family drama, with elements of sci-fi. It doesn't really have any moments where it's going at a slow pace. It becomes much more sci-fi towards the end of the episode.

Will encounters the Robot, and his form is different than what has previously been done. I like the new form very much.

Will helps the robot out, and let's just say the robot is very grateful. The robot helps out the family in a big way, and just turns out to be a big help for this family on this planet. At one point, that famous line of the robot, "Danger Will Robinson, Danger," gets mentioned.

They haven't left the character of Dr. Smith out of this version, either. This time, she is female. We see her at the end of the episode.

This show seems to have all the original story elements to it. They should help with it being a success.

I don't really know how well it's been doing on Netflix, but if its success in any way resembles how big a promotional billboard I saw for the show is, then the show will have struck gold.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fisher Cat Screams; Hot Dogs Rot; Skunks Dig Hole; Stuff Gets Stolen; Dog Shelter Found To Be 99 Degrees

Monday, 6/25

12:12 p.m. Two walk-in reports of a new hole forming in the General Pierce Bridge. Both parties advise that the hole they're reporting today is new and is right next to the one reported yesterday that MassDOT patched either last night or this morning. Officer advises hole is 1' x 2', right next to the patched hole from yesterday. Rebar is exposed. MassDOT, TFFD, MedCare, and Shelburne Control advised.

4:14 p.m. 911 caller reporting that there is a deer with a visible flesh wound on its back walking along Wendell Road. Message left for animal control officer. Area checked; no deer located.

10:23 p.m. 911 caller requesting police for a fight at Between the Uprights. 11:14 p.m. 911 caller states that he and a friend are down on the beach by the bike path bridge and are hearing a loud screeching noise that sounds like a woman screaming. Officers went to the area and heard the sound themselves and advise it is a fisher cat.

Tuesday, 6/26
9:57 a.m. Caller believes that her neighbor threw a package of hot dogs at her apartment door as part of an ongoing dispute. She does not want to touch them, and now they are rotting. Advised of options.

2:13 p.m. A 35-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant and three default warrants.

5:16 p.m. A 30-year-old Montague Center man was arrested on a straight warrant.

11:48 p.m. Caller reporting small red SUV speeding up and down the alleyway beside Avenue A multiple times. Caller states that an unknown small item may have been hit while the vehicle was backing. Officer on detail at General Pierce Bridge just saw vehicle matching description go by. Area checked; unable to locate.

Wednesday, 6/27
7:35 a.m. Caller from L Street states that several plants/flowers have gone missing from their yard lately. Report taken.

1:21 p.m. Caller states that there is a raccoon wandering on Main Street. Officer did not locate raccoon, but a neighbor stated that it was eating food in the road, then left.

7 p.m. Report of a male and a female in the area of Fairway Avenue asking for money and claiming to be from a church group. Officer advises that the parties

are with the Seventh Day Adventist Church and have the correct documentation. 7:46 p.m. Caller advising that a raccoon is in the roadway near the Route 63 crossover and will not move for traffic. Second caller is advising that a raccoon in the same location is dead in the road. Message left for DPW.

Thursday, 6/28
6:40 a.m. Report of assault and battery on Millers Falls Road. Suspect located.

5:31 p.m. Caller reporting a scam caller who claimed he was the caller's grandson. When told that the caller had no grandson, the scam caller became crude and spoke about his genitals. Instructed caller to disengage, block the number if possible, and alert the U.S. Treasury Department.

5:59 p.m. Report of flooding in area of East Main and Federal streets. A neighbor is reportedly blocking traffic with his skid steer while trying to clear the drains. Caller is concerned that he will damage the basin or drain with his machinery. A call was placed to the party with the "machinery" and the concern was passed along to him. Party was upset that someone would complain and expressed that he felt that the "town" should clear the drains, and this might be prevented. Referred to DPW/MassDOT. Party advises he will not use his machinery in the future.

Friday, 6/29
7:11 a.m. 911 caller reporting fire alarm strobe lights flashing in the Southworth paper mill; first of several such calls. TFFD confirmed that this will be an issue for some time until it is fixed.

5:42 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that plants have been stolen from his farmstand; ribbon that the price was on was ripped off and placed on the cash box with no money left. Advised of options.

Saturday, 6/30
12:20 a.m. Bartender at Hubie's Tavern reporting two males involved in a fight inside the bar. All units en route. Report taken.

8:14 p.m. Caller on Bridge Street believes that he heard an explosion. The last time he heard this sound around a month ago, it was a teenage male in the neighborhood who had a stick of dynamite. Area searched. Caller called back to confirm that the noise was a firework.

9:26 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street has seen fireworks in the area. Officers spoke to parties in area who said that they had not seen any fireworks. Erving officer

advises that a wedding in that town was setting off fireworks. Units spoke to caller, who was not happy with the disposition.

10:30 p.m. Additional reports of fireworks in Turners Falls.

Monday, 7/2
1:47 a.m. Second report of female party on Fifth Street causing a disturbance. Removed to hospital.

Tuesday, 7/3
6:56 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts advising there is a 15-year-old white male threatening to fight; male left, but threatened to come back to fight. Officer advised subject that business does not want him back tonight.

9:22 p.m. Two reports of fireworks in Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 7/4
2:05 a.m. Caller from K Street requesting officer to take possession of some fireworks that he found on his porch. Services rendered.

5:25 a.m. Kayak reported stolen from a truck on H Street. Report taken.

11:41 a.m. A 51-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a probation warrant.

5:37 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road found a dog in the area with no collar or tags. Officer off at shelter with dog. Officer advising that temperature inside shelter is close to 99 degrees. Message left for shelter director.

9:22 p.m. First of four reports of fireworks in Turners Falls.

Thursday, 7/5
11:26 a.m. Caller states that there is a large group of people in Peskeomskut Park who have been partying for three days. Officer located all involved parties around the picnic tables. No alcohol being consumed at time, but several empty bottles were located. Parties advised that they were going to be returning the bottles, and that is why they had them. Parties advised not to congregate in area and to pick up their mess.

12:15 p.m. Caller states that there are railroad spikes or something similar in the roadway on the General Pierce Bridge. Hazard removed.

1:13 p.m. Structure fire on K Street. Command requesting Red Cross and Water Department. Seventh Street closed but later reopened.

Friday, 7/6
12:23 a.m. Officers out on foot investigating people yelling obscenities in an apartment in the Fifth Street area. Officers located verbal argument between father and son. Son was seen just prior

to this investigation running through downtown with no shoes and seemed to be dodging police. Male warned about activity.

7:13 a.m. Caller concerned about a refrigerator that is out by the curb on the lower end of K Street; a child could get trapped in it. Tenants told officer that the landlord had put the refrigerator on the tree belt. Call placed to landlord on record, who advises she sold the house to a new landlord. Call placed to new landlord; same advises the fridge will be removed this morning.

9:33 a.m. Caller concerned for safety of two children playing in the large puddles that have built up in the road at Avenue C and Griswold Street.

2:24 p.m. Burglar alarm set off by beer delivery man at Millers Falls Rod and Gun. No problems.

9:02 p.m. Caller from Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center reporting fireworks that are being set off close enough to this facility to disturb and stress the fish. Peace restored.

9:08 p.m. Report of a horse and a foal running in traffic on Turners Falls Road. During call, owner of horses arrived and walked them back into the pasture.

10:50 p.m. Money reported stolen from a Fourth Street apartment. Investigated.

Saturday, 7/7
12:12 a.m. A 40-year-old Lake Pleasant man was arrested on a default warrant.

7:47 a.m. Caller from Chester Street complaining of skunks, two adults and one baby, who have dug a hole and are living under her sun porch. Message left for animal control officer; caller also given number for wildlife rescue.

2:10 p.m. Caller requesting that officer speak to his neighbor who is recording the caller mowing his lawn without permission. Referred to an officer. Caller called back inquiring on status of his call; requested a different officer be assigned to it due to "prior issues" with the officer who is working on it.

Sunday, 7/8
7:02 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting help locating a male involved in an investigation in their town. Officers checked area; unable to locate. GPD called back advising that the male party lives on J Street and has many knives in his bedroom; also, there are pit bulls at the residence.

12:46 p.m. Caller advises she thinks her daughter broke into her apartment to use her washing machine while she was gone. Report taken.

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AUTHOR'S from page B1
books from movie production companies, but nothing is officially happening at this point. If that changes, however, I will most definitely spread the word!

As for who should play the characters... Oh, it's so hard to decide! I've always pictured Olive's father, Alec Dunwoody, as looking a lot like Richard Ayode. If Krysten Ritter played Annabelle, I would be thrilled.

And I'd love some great, funny voice actors to play the cats – maybe Johnny Depp, Patrick Stewart, and Jack Black as Horatio, Leopold, and Harvey? As for Olive, Rutherford, and Morton, I have no idea!

IVC: Who is your favorite character of yours you've ever written about? Why?

JW: Oh, another impossible question! I love all of my characters, even the bad guys.

That said, the magical, talking cats in *The Books of Elsewhere* were especially fun to write about, and whenever anything bad happened to them – even though I was the one causing those bad things, sort of – it broke my heart.

I'm also really fond of the main character in my new middle grade fantasy/mystery, *The Collectors*, which is coming out this fall. His name is Giovanni – Van, for short – and he's a very sweet, imaginative, perceptive kid who ends up in an incredibly dangerous underworld. I hope readers will love him the way I do.

IVC: Where do you get your inspiration for your books?

JW: Everywhere! Writers are idea hoarders; we're like raccoons, stealing anything sparkly or shiny or potentially tasty.

I get ideas from places I travel, people and animals I've known, artwork and music and literature, my own memories and fears and daydreams, things I glimpse out the window... Everywhere.

As for *The Books of Elsewhere*: There was this old house in my hometown that my bus used to pass on the way to middle school. It was three stories tall and more than a

hundred years old, with peeling paint and windows that were always dark. The man who lived in it was an inventor, so the overgrown lawn was full of his weird, wind-powered contraptions.

I used to look out the bus window and imagine what life inside an old, haunted-looking house full of modern, scientific people would be like – and eventually, those daydreams turned into the Dunwoodys and the old stone house on Linden Street.

So that's where *The Books of Elsewhere* began: back when I was in sixth grade, staring out a school bus window.

IVC: What was your favorite book when you were little or now?

JW: I have way too many favorites to name just one! Can I cheat and name a bunch of authors instead?

For young readers, some of my favorites are Roald Dahl, Eva Ibbotson, L.M. Montgomery, James Howe (the *Bunnicula* books specifically!), Kate DiCamillo, Jewell Parker Rhodes, and A.A. Milne.

For adult readers, I'd name Neil Gaiman, Margaret Atwood, Kelly Link, Carmen Maria Machado, Louise Erdrich, Sylvia Plath, Kurt Vonnegut, the Brontës, and Shakespeare.

And for adults and young readers: J.R.R. Tolkien and Bill Waterson.

IVC: Which character in any of your books do you have the most in common with?

JW: People expect me to have a lot in common with Olive, the protagonist in *The Books of Elsewhere*, but I don't – except for a few qualities like shyness, creativity, and an overactive imagination. I have even less in common with Van, the main character in *The Collectors*.

I share a lot of interests with Jaye, the main character in my YA novel *Dreamers Often Lie*, but our personalities and life experiences are very different.

I guess I'm probably a combination of Olive, Olive's mother, and Harvey the cat, which is slightly embarrassing.



MUSEUM from page B1

and pulleys, strings and wires. Don't miss out on seeing his fabulous imaginary orchestra, milking cow, and other contraptions before September 24.

In a smaller room off the main hall, you will find the "Handle With Care" exhibit by Robert DuGrenier. DuGrenier's historic barn burnt down in 2015. The artist is working through the grief from this loss by combining farm implements salvaged from the fire with molten clear glass.

The delicacy of the glass, and its ability to conform and adapt to the immutable iron tool heads, form the basis of a contemplation on how to process and transform tragedy into beauty. Axes and hammers, meant to be wielded with force, are rendered fragile by attaching glass handles to them.

DuGrenier will be giving an artist's talk tonight, Thursday July 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Cartoonist Roz Chast's storyboards from her latest book, *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant...?* fill the larger rear gallery at the museum.

Familiar to many as a regular contributor of cartoons to *The New Yorker* magazine, Chast's chronicle of caring for her aging parents will strike a familiar chord with many who've navigated the same territory. Her honesty on the subject of dying and death and its aftermath is inspiring and refreshing, and not at all morbid or distasteful. Despite their difficult personalities and quirks, you will grow to love her parents as they are presented here and admire Roz herself.

Chast's book is for sale, and she will give a talk on Saturday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Three other exhibits await your perusal at the Museum: large gouache and ink paintings by David Rios Ferreira in "And I Hear Your Words That I Made Up"; delicate etchings by Shona MacDonald of plants under protective nettings, called "Terrestrial Vale"; and rolls of painted paper that represent distilled hues of the landscape in "Painting Time" by Debra Ramsey.

A "Fun With Wire" sculpture workshop, loosely related to the



Molten glass "ice" holds a pair of tongs in this sculpture by Robert DuGrenier.

ROSSI PHOTO

"Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys" exhibit, is scheduled for July 24 with Vermont artist Bruce Campbell. Learn how to bend wire to your will from 1 to 5 p.m. Details at brattleboromuseum.org.

David Rios Ferreira will give a talk on art and activism on July 25 at 7:30 p.m. Rios Ferreira and members of The Root Social Justice Center discuss art as a way to challenge narratives of colonization that continue to abide in current social and political structures.

Also coming up at the museum, during the next Art Walk night on August 3, is the Caterpillar Road

Show. This nature-themed show aims to foster greater appreciation of natural diversity through "live caterpillar educational programs, research initiatives, and photography and film projects."

The galleries are closed on Tuesdays, but are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all other days; during the First Friday Art Walk nights, they are open until 8:30 p.m. with free admission. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is located at 10 Vernon Street in Brattleboro.

For more information see brattleboromuseum.org.



Great Falls Middle School / Turners Falls High School 4th Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 6

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| FIRST HONORS
Michael Boyle, Hugh Cyhowski, Devin Emond, Isabel Garcia, Taylor Greene, Fiona Hutchison, Syna Katsoulis, Joseph Mosca, Ricky Pareja, Jillian Reynolds, Jack Trombi, Isabella Vachula-Curtis, Charlotte Valle, Carly Whitney | SECOND HONORS
Kyleigh Dobosz, Jeremy Kovalsick, Megan Leveille, Oliver Postera, Jacob Reich, Jessica Tricolici, Andre Widmer | THIRD HONORS
Kamryn Berry, Josiah Chapin, Jasmine McNamara, Ella O'Keefe, Raygan Pendriss, Derek Wissmann |
|---|--|---|

Grade 7

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| FIRST HONORS
David Damkoehler, Lindsay Davenport, Shealyn Garvin, Mia Gonzalez, Abigail Holloway, Samuel Hoynoski, Alexander Johnson, Thomas Labombard, Madison LeBorgne, Brayden McCord, Taylana Pabon, Lillian Poirier, Levin Prondecki, Kitana Rodriguez, Emma St. Hilaire, Alex Sulda, Brooke Thayer, Corin Wisniewski, Sophia Wolbach, Cadence Wozniak | SECOND HONORS
Kole Broderick, Kendra Campbell, Kordell Cannon, Sorin Cioclea, Morgan Dobias, Natalia Guzman, Derek Helms, Samuel Lashtur, Ashley Leblanc, Nikolas Martin, Abigail Moore, Stephanie Peterson, Kimberlyn Semb | THIRD HONORS
Drew Bullard, Silas Koyama, Maria Labelle, Sean Matakanski, Aisha Pruitt Gonzalez, Vincent Renaud, Dante Ruggiano, Jocelyn Wyman |
|---|---|---|

Grade 8

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| FIRST HONORS
Dylan Burnett, Laura Cioclea, Emily Fess, Britney Lambert, Jacob Lyons, Jacob Norwood, Kiley Palmquist, Blake Pollard, Brandon Pollard, Lucy Postera, Greyson Rollins, Maria Romashka, Abigail Sanders, Ivan Sankov, Olivia Stafford, Paige Sulda, Hannah Warnock, Emily Williams | SECOND HONORS
Willa Beltrandi, Bryce Finn, Amalia Rubenstein, Dylun Russell, Devin Willor, Emily Young | THIRD HONORS
Angel Bieniek, Zachary Emond, Jada Jurek, Amos Koyama, Dezirae Porlier-Longo, Arianna Rosewarne, Samantha Thorpe, Tyler Whitney |
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Grade 9

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| FIRST HONORS
Mercedes Bailey, Haley Bastarache, Kate Boulanger, Xavier Chagnon, Jacob Dodge, Isabelle Farrick, Kate Graves, Haleigh Greene, Isabella Johnson, Natalie Kells, Mercedes Morales, Audrey O'Keefe, Karissa Olson, Dalver Perez, Catherine Reynolds, James Robison, Madison Sanders, Amber Taylor, Brynn Tela, Leah Timberlake, Jade Tyler, Hailey Wheeler, Olivia Whittier, Maralee Wiles, Cecilya Wood | SECOND HONORS
Gemanaia Cruz, Taryn Thayer | THIRD HONORS
Vincent Carme, Xavier Chadwell, Emily Cobb, G-anni Garcia, Storm Nye, Morgan Pendriss, Emily Sevrens, Jamie Thayer, Kaylin Voudren, Kolby Watroba |
|---|---|--|

Grade 10

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| FIRST HONORS
Cameron Bradley, Josy Hunter, Eliza Johnson, Joseph Kochan, Chantelle Monaghan, Dabney Rollins, Vy Sok, Abigail Waite, Kamara Woodard | SECOND HONORS
Jakob Burnett, Chelsea Curtis, Liam Driscoll, Karissa Fleming, Joshua Gaulin, Juliet Keefe, Corey Martineau, Kaitlyn Miner, Brody Trott, Thao Vo, Allison Wheeler, Lindsay Whiteman, Jaden Whiting-Martinez | THIRD HONORS
Hailey Bogusz, Mirela Cioclea, Jonathon Fritz, Shelby Jordan, Mason Kucenski, Trevor Lapinski, Zackary Mason, Madison McCassie, Alyson Murphy, Brian Murphy, Anthony Peterson, Jaclyn Thibeault, Maily Torres-Benvenutty, Mackenna Whiteman |
|--|---|--|

Grade 11

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| FIRST HONORS
Lindsey Bourbeau, Cailyn Gobeil, Anna Kochan, Mireya Ortiz, Hunter Sanders, Victoria Veaudry | SECOND HONORS
Samantha Bocon, Ryan Campbell, Jenna Jacobsen, Garrett Martel, John Putala, Will Turn, Sarah Waldron, Hannah Welles | THIRD HONORS
Owen Darling, Katherine Garcia, Jorge Morales Burgos, Tyler Murray-Lavin, Summer Rain, Jovanni Ruggiano, John Torres-Benvenutty |
|---|---|--|

Grade 12

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| FIRST HONORS
Amanda Cooke, Chloe Ellis, Samantha Kolodziej, Carlie Kretchmar, Snejana Lashtur, Abigail Loynd | SECOND HONORS
Alora DeForge, John Driscoll, Maya Hancock-Pezatti, Justin Mikalunas, Madison St. Marie, John Wheeler | THIRD HONORS
Chase Blair, Destiny Hubbard, Zachary Lastowski, Kayli Messinger, Tatyana Torres |
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WEST ALONG from page B1

ecology and environment are under attack. Perhaps less so in Massachusetts, where land trusts, private land stewards and government are managing to save land every day.

Judah's pasture lands along the river have become woodlands, now under permanent protection for more than a decade. Since just last week, the marshland oxbow, just a stone's throw across the river has been placed under permanent protection too. That now means that our woodland, protected by a Franklin Land Trust Conservation Restriction, and the marshland across from us form one completely-protected ecological zone.

Indeed, from the mouth of the Millers at the French King confluence with the Connecticut, banks and inlands on both sides of the river form a protected green corridor, and blue riverway, up to the first bridge at Millers Falls.

Land acquisitions and protective covenants over the past 40 years have progressively fit together like a puzzle. Starting with the collaboration between the Waidlich family and Terry Blunt of the DCR and the Connecticut River Watershed Council, and now ending with the Mass Fish and Wildlife purchase of last week, those of us who live on the river can feel relatively sure that the lands along it have overseers and agencies who have the river's best interests in mind.

But it's not just all about bureaucracy.

The Beaver Hole has held a multi-generational fascination with families of the village, as well as for some of the first woodland peoples who camped, lived and fished along the *paguag* river, now known to us as the Millers.

Among the youngsters of my generation, when we were growing up, we had an additional name for the Beaver Hole: the *Indian village*. I still hear it called that today among some of later generations of villagers. For a while now I've been deep into the history of early local indigenous people, but I can only spec-

T-RUMP



ulate who lived there, back then. Were they Nipmuck or Abenaki?

The Beaver Hole is right on the edge of the Pocumtuck Homelands. They were allies and neighbors of the Squakheag Abenaki of contemporary Northfield, so the Indian village may well have been the home of some of the outlying families of either band.

Certainly the site would have been perfect. The Beaver Hole pools are fed by the pure and cold springs from the Montague Plains aquifer, and would have supported a vigorous native trout population. In addition, mink, otter, waterfowl, bear, deer, and turtles would have thrived there, and still do.

Early memories in village and family lore hearken back to dire warnings addressed to the wild grandchildren that we were, warnings of the dangers lurking in the Beaver Hole. We were admonished to never try to penetrate this dangerous swamp because of the sinkholes and quicksand.

Grandmother even went so far as to tell us of the tale of a man, his wagon, and horses that all disappeared there and were never seen again. I have a feeling that rural folk have been telling their young that kind of a story for a millennium at least! Our Irish grandmother possibly heard it from Irish elders warning about the dangers of the boglands.

To be sure, in Celtic cultures, such marshlands are the watery passages to the underworld, so there may well have been an ancient inherited memory evoked in her warnings. Regardless, those warnings only spurred on our desire to explore that irresistible swamp.

The place has remained fairly impenetrable from most approaches. Once you do enter, there are firm tussocks of marsh grass that serve as stepping stones deeper into that world. You need to balance carefully in hopping from tussock to tussock. One brief, faltering leap will land you in deep muck, and into the firm grip of swamp demons!

There is a beaver dam that helps the explorer cross to the leaping tussocks, but one memorable time as I was carefully tiptoeing across the top of the dam, there was a big black cobra barring my way, guarding the swamp. He rose up from his coil, flared his hood, and hissed. I backpedaled quickstep off the dam, giving up the day's adventure.

Of course, that was no cobra. It was a puff adder (we call it that), really a hog-nosed snake. They do huff and puff, but if that threat doesn't work, they fall over and play dead. No cobra at all, but a harmless bluff which, unfortunately for the snake, makes it an easy target for boys with rocks intent on killing it. That trait has driven the

hog-nose to the point of rarity, and even endangered status.

The oxbow played such an important role in the geography of my existence, that at a very pivotal time of my youth, I just had to share the place with an important young woman in my life.

She loved it! That did it – I passed the test, among many others she had in store for me, and we were married within a year. We have been living in this old homestead, in sight of the swamp, for the last forty-five years.

The recent land preservation coup not only protected that wetlands, but the purchase also included a sand pit which was once part of a delta, then a beach on the so-called Lake Hitchcock. On flat land two hundred feet above the oxbow, likely set on the old floodplain terrace of the prehistoric Millers, spreads a hayfield. On the edge of that field are the cellar holes of the old Kulis farm, inhabited by contemporaries of my grandfather.

Still higher up is a trail that leads through a dramatic gap littered with rockslides – likely a related effect of the prehistoric tremors of the Eastern Border Fault. And at the top of the trail is a perennial vernal pool.

This pool can hold water well into the wintertime, depending on the year. It's good for salamanders, a watering hole for all other crea-

tures, and ice skating in the winter, if conditions are right.

This crest, with its pool, would have been an island in the glacial lake of 15,000 years ago. The view out over the Montague Plains when the leaves are down, with Mount Toby in the far distance, brings forth visions of that immense inland sea.

This ecological complex of high ridge, floodplain, and deep oxbow provides excellent habitat for wild creatures and human creatures alike. That's why the reference to the Victory Dance in the title: we are all, wild and human alike, rejoicing in this rare and strategic win for the environment.

After years of dreams and efforts, there is now a green corridor up both sides of this old river, the *paguag*/Millers, from its mouth to the village of Millers Falls.

In my mind's eye, there is a campfire on the white pine island of the Beaver Hole, with the deep booming of the medicine drum bringing forth the spirit dancers: the Indian spirits, the bear spirits and all the other wild creatures going back to the beginning of time.

A couple of us, representing the human beings, join in the circle dance too: dancing our Victory Dance for the Beaver Hole, hand in hand with all the creatures who came before, and all who are yet to come.

Partying This Summer? Reduce Waste by Recycling and Composting.

By AMY DONOVAN

FRANKLIN COUNTY – This summer, consider the environmental impact of your cookouts and other celebrations. To recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles and juice boxes at your party, place a recycling bin or any type of labeled container next to trash can. Most food and beverage containers are recyclable. Please note these no-recyclable items: plastic cups, plastic plates, paper plates, utensils, or straws.

For details on what can and cannot be recycled in western Massachusetts, visit springfieldmrf.org, or call the Franklin County Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438.

Composting is an American tradition; according to the book *Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf, presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson composted their garden waste! At your summer party, consider setting up a separate bin for food waste such as watermelon rinds, and encouraging party goers to throw food items and paper such as napkins in this "compost bin."

Recycling and composting can help save money. Instead of filling your \$2 or \$3 town trash bag (or stickered bag) with food waste from your party, the following materials are compostable in a home compost

bin or pile: paper napkins; paper towels; and non-meat food waste such as fruit and vegetable wastes, bread, coffee grounds; and paper filters.

For more information on composting, see www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org/composting.html. Composting is easy, and it can be even easier with effective, low-cost composting equipment. "Earth Machine" home compost bins are sold to Franklin County residents "at cost" (\$43 to \$45, cash or check) at the following locations. (Hours vary; call for information.)

- Franklin County Solid Waste District, 50 Miles Street, Greenfield: (413) 772-2438
- Greenfield Transfer Station (Greenfield residents only): (413) 772-1528, x 6106
- Colrain, Orange, and Wendell Transfer Stations: (413) 772-2438

The Solid Waste District office at 50 Miles Street also sells "Sure-Close" kitchen compost collection pails for \$5 each. This 2-gallon pail is designed to sit on the countertop or under the sink to collect compostables before they are brought out to the home compost bin or municipal compost collection.

If home composting isn't possible for you, municipal or commercial composting can dramatically reduce trash volume. Commercial

composting accepts a wider range of wastes than home composting, including: all types of food waste, including meat, bones, and cheese (no liquids); paper plates; paper napkins; paper towels; soiled pizza boxes; and BPI-certified "compostable plastic" cups, plates, and utensils (see www.bpiworld.org).

These eight Franklin County transfer stations accept compostables free from residents: Bernardston, Greenfield, Leverett, Orange, New Salem, Northfield, Wendell and Whately. Materials are sent to a commercial compost facility.

In addition, Martin's Farm, located at 341 Plain Road in Greenfield, hosts a free "Public Food Waste Drop-Off" in a designated compost dumpster.

Traditional disposable plastic plates, cups, utensils, and straws are made with fossil fuels, and are not accepted for recycling or composting. Many people are concerned about plastics in our oceans: single-use plastics that are littered or improperly disposed of can end up in our rivers and oceans. Consider the alternatives, which are often biodegradable or made from renewable resources.

Most area grocery stores and big box stores sell "Classic White" Chinet paper plates, which are com-

postable in home compost bins or in municipal programs such as those at the eight transfer stations listed above. In contrast, most traditional paper plates are coated with plastics and therefore are not compostable. Paper plates – of any type – are not acceptable in recycling programs.

The W.B. Mason store at 121½ Wells Street in Greenfield sells compostable cold cups for beer and other beverages, compostable utensils, and compostable paper plates and cups. These BPI-approved compostable tableware items are accepted for composting at local compost facilities.

(Compostable plastics are not compostable in home compost systems.)

For more information on recycling, composting, or hazardous waste disposal, call the Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438, email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Amy Donovan is program director at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

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If you have a scientific idea you'd like to write about, a science-related book to review, an activity to advertise, or would like to share your experiences with science or any related field, please be in touch: science@montaguereporter.org.
— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

Coloring Hair: Science and Reflection

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Science is everywhere, even in hair color.

Tired of being brown and grey, I decided to look into what would actually be happening to my hair if I paid the eponymously named “Blanca” over \$200 to make it another color – OK, purple.

I’ve never really wanted to take part in the billion-dollar beauty industry because I think it is a way to spend too much money, and it sometimes makes people feel they need to change to be beautiful.

I don’t have any illusions of beauty; my purple hair project was going for “different.” I had to agree with the anthropologist Justine M. Cordwell who, in her essay “The Very Human Arts of Transformation,” wrote: “The anthropological analysis of clothing and adornment should be based on the assumption that mankind, from earliest times, has probably regarded the human body as the primary form of sculpture – and not been particularly pleased with what he has seen.”

Indeed, as Rebecca Guenard wrote in her 2015 *Atlantic* article “Hair Dye: A History,” “archaeological evidence shows that the use of dyes by humans dates back to the Paleolithic period.” This same article tells us that hair colors all have various and changing cul-

tural meanings: “Prostitutes during the early years of the Roman Empire were required to have yellow hair to indicate their profession. [...] Meanwhile, Germans colored their hair red by applying a mixture of beechwood ash and goats’ fat.”

I feared that my purple hair project would similarly mark me as “mid-life crisis victim” – rather than the “free (or at least working on being free) spirit” tag I’d like to try out. A friend had recently done her hair red and it looked beautiful, while I’ve always admired the many naturally (or now I wonder, how naturally?) evenly grey-haired women who live in the Happy Valley.

In any case, with hair as long as mine it’s a decision that’s not easily reversed.

Safety Questions

It also might not be safe. The Science Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP), a committee of the European Commission, assesses product safety by taking into account the physical and chemical properties of their ingredients, and whether or not exposure to these properties will be harmful to humans in any given product. They pay particular attention to carcinogens, toxins, and nano-materials, and their analysis takes into account special needs of more vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, or workers exposed to high

doses of chemicals such as beauty salon staff.

In Europe, 60% of women and 10% of men use hair dyes, and the SCCP states that because of their rigorous scientific review, it is the safest market in the world in which to do so. Their 2016 Fact Sheet stated that 100 chemicals have been allowed for hair dyes in the EU, while 180 have been banned.

These same protections may not be available in the US. In a *HowStuffWorks.com* article “How Hair Coloring Works,” Marshall Brain asserts that men’s hair coloring products in the US contain lead, whereas women’s do not.

According to Guenard, analysis of thousands-of-years-old Greek and Roman hair samples has shown that they also experimented with lead, in the forms of lead oxide and calcium hydroxide, for black hair dye. These substances created a lead sulfide nanoparticle, which forms when the chemicals interact with sulfur linkages in keratin, a protein in hair. The drawback was that this formula was toxic, so they switched to making black dye by fermenting leeches in a lead vessel.

Still undecided, and unwilling to involve leeches, I did what I usually do – more research...

How Hair Gets Its Color

What is hair? Mostly it’s keratin, the same protein that makes up fingernails and skin, but a hair shaft has layers.

The innermost layer, called the *medulla*, is a honeycomb core of loose cells that contain glycogen (which is a store of carbohydrate) and citrulline (which is an amino acid). The next layer out, the cortex, is harder and packed with the keratin protein. Finally, there’s the cuticle layer of cells, which make our hair shiny.

Hair gets its color from melanin, a natural pigment that comes in two types: *eumelanin*, which produces brown and black shades, and *phaeomelanin*, which produces golden blond, ginger, and red.

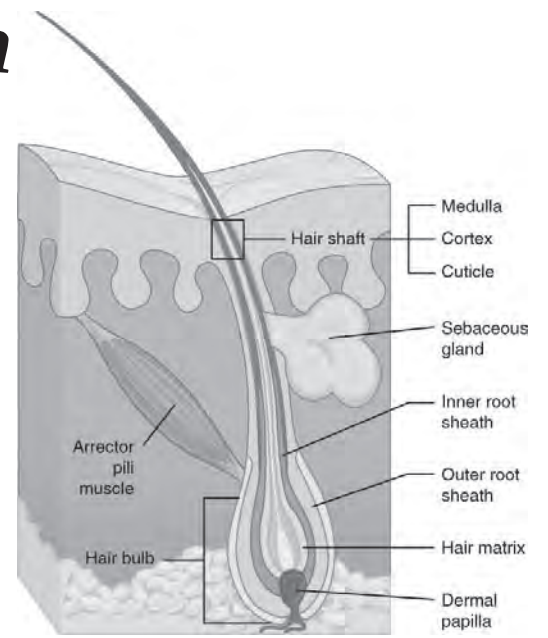
Melanin can be found in the cuticle and cortex of hair, the two outermost layers, and the overall color of hair depends on how much of each type of melanin protein it has.

How to Change It

How hair is colored artificially depends on if it’s a temporary, semi-permanent, or a permanent coloring process.

Pre-industrial-era coloring techniques were mostly temporary. Henna is one type of temporary natural dye still in use. Guenard writes that saffron, indigo, and alfalfa were other options known to other cultures. But these natural dyes only coat the hair temporarily; that is, they deposit the color on the outside of the shaft. Hairdressers call this “dyeing” to mark it as temporary – it washes off your hair in one or more (up to about 30) shampoos.

Non-temporary techniques involve varying levels of opening up the outer covering of the hair shaft – the cuticle – and deposit-



The structure of hair. Illustration from the *Anatomy & Physiology, Connexions website of OpenStax College (cnx.org)*; shared under Creative Commons.

ing color molecules inside the cortex, where they may or may not interact with the natural hair color that resides there, depending on the presence or absence of a catalyst. All these processes are called “coloring.”

There seems to be some overlap between temporary and permanent hair coloring, known as “semi-permanent” color, in which some very small pigment molecules enter the hair shaft without its being purposely opened and bleached first. This type of semi-permanent hair color is not dramatic: these pigments don’t interact with your hair’s natural melanin, and eventually they, too, are washed out of the hair shaft by shampooing.

Permanent hair coloring is more dramatic and has more chemical steps. In this process, the cuticle is opened, allowing the dye to react with the cortex. Usually, the hair’s original color will be stripped out by “bleaching,” and a new color deposited there.

This involves ammonia and peroxide. Ammonia (alkaline) opens the outside cover of the hair shaft, the cuticle, allowing the color to get into the cortex of the hair. Ammonia is also a catalyst for when peroxide and the new color come together.

Peroxide removes the pre-existing color of the hair, breaking the melanin’s chemical bonds and allowing the new color to bond to the hair’s cortex.

Afterwards, conditioners are used to close the cuticle again, to protect the hair’s structure and its new color.

So Should I Do It?

As Guenard points out, “[...] dyes were used for more than fashion or to signify occupation. Cordwell identifies several instances where hair color was changed for other reasons; for example, Afghans believed that dyeing their hair red with henna could cure a bad headache.”

Luckily I don’t have a bad headache. I might like to try something new, but old habits die hard. So far, no sign of purple on the horizon. More research is needed...

Moon Calendar for July and August 2018:

Thursday, July 12

New Moon

partial solar eclipse visible from Southern Australia

Saturday, August 11

New Moon

partial solar eclipse visible from northern Europe and Asia

Thursday, July 19

First Quarter

The Perseid meteor showers will reach their highest intensity on August 12.

Friday, July 27

Full Moon

total lunar eclipse visible from South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia



Saturday, August 4

Last Quarter

Sunday, August 26

Full Moon

Full moon photo courtesy of Tilemabos Esthimiadis under Creative Commons License.

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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.

EVERY FIRST SUNDAY

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 (fourth floor), Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band* and *Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 8 p.m.

EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hip hop dance night with *Craze-faze*. 7 p.m.

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:

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *John Landino Sculpture 1985-2018: Strong and Choreographic*. July 5 through August 2.

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.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fireflies, Hummingbirds and Bats*. Artwork by local kids. Through July.

July 14. Through July.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Rossi and Friends*. Paintings, mosaics, jewelry and *objets d'art* by local artists; metal sculpture by Jon Bander; decorated walking sticks by Ron Edwards.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Water*: paintings by Gayle Kabaker, Ashfield artist. Reception July 21. Through August 26.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Eclectic Eye of Jim Gambaro*. Digital photography. Reception July 21. Through August 26.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Go With the Flow*. Moods of the water by member artists and crafters. Through July.

three jpegs to explodedviewma@gmail.com by August 22.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JULY 12

Leverett Library: Thursday Evening Music Series: *Danse Cafe*. BYO lawnchair. 7 to 8 p.m.

The Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Horse-Eyed Men, The Van Nostrand Sisters, and Tonight's Tonite*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Seth Glier, The Mary Jane Jones*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Endiana*. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Matt Kim's Academy of Rock Showcase*. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sedagive*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Wendell Library: Sci-Fi Film Series: *Slaughterhouse Five*. A man named Billy Pilgrim tells the story of how he became unstuck in time and was abducted by aliens. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Trevor Healy Trio and Jim Matus*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Free Range Cats*. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Austin Fair, Don Gadi, Chris Focus & Walt Arkain, Pasto Chris*. 9 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, JULY 15

The Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Noisy Summer Fly-Bye* featuring *Sunburned Hand of the Man, Eisenberg/Gelineau/Robidoux Trio, Shutaro Noguchi, Noise Nomads, Shrinners, 10 Gallon Hat (Allen/Foam/Lee), Wren Kitz, Viewer, Jay Keery, Lauri McNamara, Dooley/Brown/Hadge, Golden Egg, and Jackieboy/Wardlaw Duo*. 6 p.m. \$

MONDAY, JULY 16

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. "Young at Heart." 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 17

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Mediums *Karen Tatro and Carmen Carignan*. 7:30 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *History of the Turners Falls Dam*. Talk by Ed Gregory, local historian. 12 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kimaya Diggs*. 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 19

Leverett Library: Thursday Evening Music Series: *Other Cats' Pyjamas*. BYO lawnchair. 7 to 8 p.m.

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

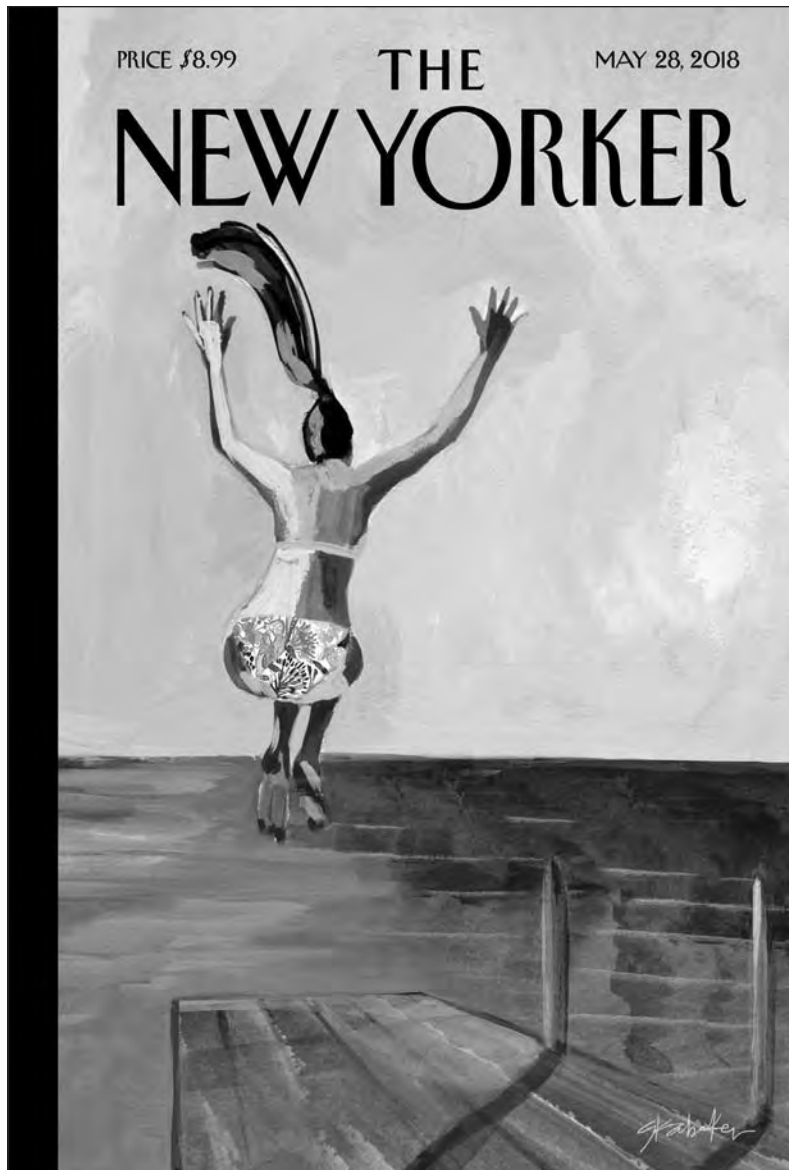
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield:

White, Black, and Blue. Silvorthorne Theater production. World premiere. Walter, a black man, breaks into the home of Joe Renshaw, an older white man, late at night. 7:30 p.m. Repeats 7/20, 7/21, 7/22, 7/26, 7/27, 7/28.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Shokazoba*. Funk Fusion. 9 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, JULY 20

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Intonation, Radiolaria*. Soulful bluesy roots. 8 p.m. \$



Ashfield painter Gayle Kabaker is inspired by warm summer days, beaches, and bodies of water for her newest collection of work, "Water," on exhibit at Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls. Seen above is "Jump!," her cover illustration for the May 28 New Yorker. July 6 to August 26, with a reception Saturday, July 21, at 3 p.m. with music by Chris Eriquezgo.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Magic and Flow: A Collection of Contemporary Paintings*, by Dave Hay. Abstract and "pop portraits," all painted in his bold palette. 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 Crafts and Arts: *Vivian Gay (den) and Genna Crowe*. Prints and Pottery. Reception

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *Life's Too Short to Follow Rules*. Painter Sharon Loehr-Lapan and photographer Roy Mansur. Through August.

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,

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From a Kid's Point of View: Golf!

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

GREENFIELD – In my seventh column, I will be writing about my life as a golf player. I love to play golf, and when I'm older I'll have something to do.

Golf is a nice calm sport because, unlike soccer, golf is not rough; you just walk around hitting a golf ball.

If you are interested in golf you might want to buy a golf game to start off with, like *Play 9*. It is super exciting to play.

Another way of getting involved is to play mini-golf. Have you ever wondered how golf and mini-golf are alike? Well I'll tell you one thing that is related about them: mini-golf is basically just putting.

Now once you've graduated from mini-golf, you can get an actual set of clubs. There are 14 clubs in all, but I only have nine: a driver, a hybrid, 5, 7, 8, and 9 irons, pitching and sand wedges, and a putter. You can't just get a set of clubs – you will need to get golf balls, too. You also can get golf gloves, so you don't get blisters on your fingers. Towels can be

helpful to clean your clubs off.

Before I move on from golf clubs, I will talk about what they are used for. Sometimes it can be hard to decide, because if you are not a pro at golf, you're not as familiar with your clubs.

The driver is usually the first club that you use, because it hits the farthest; the next farthest are the hybrid and the woods. Next are the irons. The theory is that the lower the iron number, the lower, but farther, the ball will go.

Next come the wedges which are just for short, high shots; and finally the ground-bound, short-shot putter.

One of the main places to practice golf is a driving range. This is a huge, closed-in area where you practice hitting golf balls. All golfers go to the driving range occasionally. The driving range I use has different holes to aim for, and different yardages for different clubs.

Since I love golf, my Mom wants to encourage my passion. She put me in a PGA Jr. League. I love the PGA Jr. League because we basically do golf for two hours, three days a week. Golf camp

is even longer. At first, we do warm-ups on the driving range, and then finally we get out onto the course.

My golfing position: stand with feet a foot apart, knees slightly bent, and hands interlocking on the club. With my driver, I first tee up, then do a practice swing in the air. Now, when swinging an iron and wedges, I want to make a divot by hitting the ground. With the putter, I just gently hit the ball.

While my partners and I are playing we must keep score of how many shots we take, so in the end we know who won. When we finish each hole, we each mark down how many hits it took to get the ball in the hole.

A lot of the holes at the Crumpin-Fox Club in Bernardston, where I golf, are for adults and pros, because they are hard. The seventh and eighth holes have quite a bit of water, and the first hole has a big right-angle turn in it. I play nine holes every Sunday for the PGA Jr. League, and they are challenging.

Thanks for reading my column. Watch for my next!



LYN CLARK PHOTO

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