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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 23, 2018

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Sewer Rate Hike Now Up To 71%

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the August 20 Montague selectboard meeting, water pollution control facility (WPCF) superintendent Bob McDonald announced that adjustments in his department's budget may well require that next year's sewer rates increase by 70.9%, as opposed to the 38.2% increase predicted at last spring's town meeting.

The higher-than-predicted hike is primarily the result of the cost to the town of shipping "solids" it cannot process by the sewer plant to distant locations. The original estimates had also assumed a smaller WPCF staff. These two changes have increased the WPCF's projected costs by \$375,000 over the budget approved by town meeting in May.

Town administrator Steve Ellis stressed that Monday's meeting was "not a sewer rate hearing," so there was no discussion of the impact of the increase on average user rates. However, the FY'18 rates were \$8.28 per 1,000 gallons, so a 70.9% increase would bring the total to \$14.1.

A special town meeting, which will vote on the proposed budget increases, is scheduled for October

see **SEWER** page A5

French King Solar Project OK By Water Commission

By KATIE NOLAN

ERVING – On Tuesday, in their role as the town's water commissioners, the Erving selectboard approved a 54-acre solar array at 129 French King Highway, contingent on the preparation of a stormwater management plan. The conservation commission, however, did not sign off on the project, continuing its hearing until September 10, while it seeks additional information to determine whether a stream south of the site is "perennial" or "intermittent."

The 6.45-megawatt solar installation received conditional approval from the Erving planning board in June, and a special permit hearing process began on July 24. Developer Jack Honor of Ameresco LLC and consultant/engineer Andrew Vardakis of AMEC Foster Wheeler introduced the proposal at that meeting.

Almost 60 acres on two wooded parcels owned by Francis Prondecki would be cleared for installation of ground-mounted solar panels. Because the parcels are located in the town's groundwater protection district, the project also required a special permit from the water commission.

At the July session, Vardakis assured the water commissioners and con com members that the project would not affect groundwater quality. He said that the project would

see **SOLAR** page A6



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Hereford cows and calves on Montague's Wendell Road ignore the view over Mormon Hollow as the sun begins to set.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Wendell Forest Plan Under Criticism

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Wendell historical commission has continued to protest a plan to log a portion of Wendell State Forest despite the fact that a bid of \$37,524 for the work was accepted by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on February 21. John Conkey and Sons of Belchertown was awarded the contract, and will be given two years to complete the work.

Lisa Hoag of the historical commission, a longtime critic of the project, attended the auction and expressed concerns about indigenous "ceremonial stone landscapes" identified by tribal resource experts. But she also signed off as a witness to the bidding process, and was reported by this newspaper to have said, "these guys are pretty good. They've flagged the areas we've identified."

However, on April 3, the commission issued a letter complaining that flagging the site violates Chapter 40, Section 8D of Massachusetts General Law, which stipulates that sites identified by local historic commissions "shall not be a public record."

The letter also criticizes DCR for failing to respond to a previous complaint from the commission, and lists a total of eight "concerns," focusing on the agency's "lack of adherence to DCR's own guidelines." For example,

see **FOREST** page A8



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Trees in two parts of Wendell State Forest are scheduled for selective removal over the next 18 months. Town officials who say cultural resources were not taken into proper account are joined in their criticism by some who oppose logging outright.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Sunflowers in full bloom crowd around the Fourth Street community garden in downtown Turners Falls.

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Gill's Hubert Quits School Committee

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – At Tuesday night's school committee meeting, the committee discussed a vacancy opened up by the recent resignation of Gill member Shawn Hubert. Hubert, who last attended a meeting on March 27, submitted his letter of resignation on July 11 to superintendent Michael Sullivan.

"I could never have seen my life situation change as drastically as it has [since] I committed to the position, and the one thing I know is that truly doing the job properly is much more than a meeting every couple weeks," he wrote. "It requires a true commitment of time, energy and focus and I feel I would be doing a disservice to the Committee and the School itself for me to stay."

Hubert wished his colleagues the best, and thanked his voters. "With no political experience it was appreciated and humbling to think they felt I could make a difference," he wrote, "and I hope they all know I did do my very best."

In May 2017, Hubert defeated incumbent and chair Sandy Brown for a three-year seat representing the

see **GMRSD** page A5

Park Service Awards More Battlefield Study Funds

By MIKE JACKSON

PESKEOMPSKUT -- A fresh round of federal funding has been awarded to the local effort to learn more about the events at the Falls on May 19, 1676. This week the town of Montague, which has acted as the lead on the project, heard from the National Park Service that it will receive \$81,000 to continue archaeological investigation of the incident.

It is the third grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program for the project, overseen by historical commissioners of Montague, Gill, Greenfield, Deerfield, and Northfield along with Wampanoag, Nipmuck, Narragansett, and Abenaki preservation officials. It will extend "Phase II," which started two years ago with \$81,000 to search for artifacts.

The findings so far seem to resolve a long-running debate over whether to classify the mass casualty event at the Falls during King Philip's War as a "battle" or "massacre." Physical evidence appears to confirm that the massacre by English colonists of a camp of Native non-combatants was followed by a sustained counter-attack from armed fighters who arrived from several other nearby camps.

Archaeologists hired from the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum and Research Center "were only able to do a mile and a half of extensive search and metal detecting,"

see **STUDY** page A4

The Montague Reporter

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That New Pencil Smell

The *Montague Reporter* prints at a more leisurely pace in July and August – a biweekly schedule, which this year means skipping over five publication weeks.

It’s always a good break for everyone involved. Most of us volunteer our time to keep this independent, nonprofit, hyper-local rag afloat, and don’t mind the rest.

We’ve been busy in our off weeks, though, training newcomers and implementing behind-the-scenes changes in hardware, software, and communications that should allow us to make it into the 2020s. Watch for an announcement about our online archive of back issues!

After next week, it’s back to business, nose to the grindstone once more. That “back to school” time of year always evokes a particular mix of feelings: the loss of another summer’s openness and opportunity, tempered with an excitement to delve into new ventures, maybe turn over a new leaf.

After you’ve wrung out August’s last humid days, run around the lawn in your Labor Day clothes, and gotten through the primary election, do you expect to feel a new wave of clarity, energy, and purpose?

If so, would you consider becoming a local news reporter?

Social media gives us a false sense that each of us is a tiny journalist, but it also deprives us of the shared public context in which journalism must exist, the anonymous but good-faith tests our claims must be ready to withstand.

Journalism is still “the first draft of history,” and we think practicing it will bring essential long-term benefits to our towns. It’s a great way to get to know your neighbors. And it’s a learnable skill like any other: if you join us, we’ll train, support, and challenge you.

So consider covering the news in your town, and get in touch if you’re curious! All ages and walks of life encouraged – just bring a pad, a pencil, and a will to tell the truth.

Doktor for First Franklin

For every voter, the answer is personal. For me, Christine is a neighbor, friend, and co-worker on the board of the Old Creamery Co-operative in Cummington, where she has dived into her complicated tasks with energy and skill.

I’ve also known Steve Kulik for years and am confident that Christine would be a great replacement as our State Representative in this district.

Christine grew up in Peru, a town just west of the district, and developed her legal skills in a Manhattan law firm, a pretty unusual progression, then brought those skills and advocate’s passion back to western Massachusetts. While in New York she handled both commercial litigation and *pro bono* advocacy, includ-

ing immigration, disability, and Holocaust reparations cases.

Back home, Christine’s civic and legal advocacy ranges from championing rural education and a vibrant village center to advocating for divorced women and their children. She lives on a Cummington farm with her partner and two children and has the experience, empathy and savvy to advocate effectively for our rural communities.

Please join me in voting for Christine Doktor on September 4 to represent the 1st Franklin District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Wil Hastings
Cummington

DiDonato for Wendell

I have been active in municipal government in Wendell for over 20 years, and have had the opportunity to work with each of the three candidates for selectboard.

There is no question in my mind that Laurie DiDonato is by far the best candidate. She is an intelligent, considerate, and open-minded person who will be an asset to the Wendell Selectboard.

In this election, with the selectboard serving as the Municipal Light Board, it is extremely important that

the new member have an open mind and not be biased as we work toward choosing our path forward. I have worked directly with Laurie on the energy committee and she has been hard working and has consistently contributed to the work at hand.

I urge my friends and neighbors to elect Laurie DiDonato to the Wendell Selectboard.

Sincerely,

Nancy Riebschlaeger
Wendell

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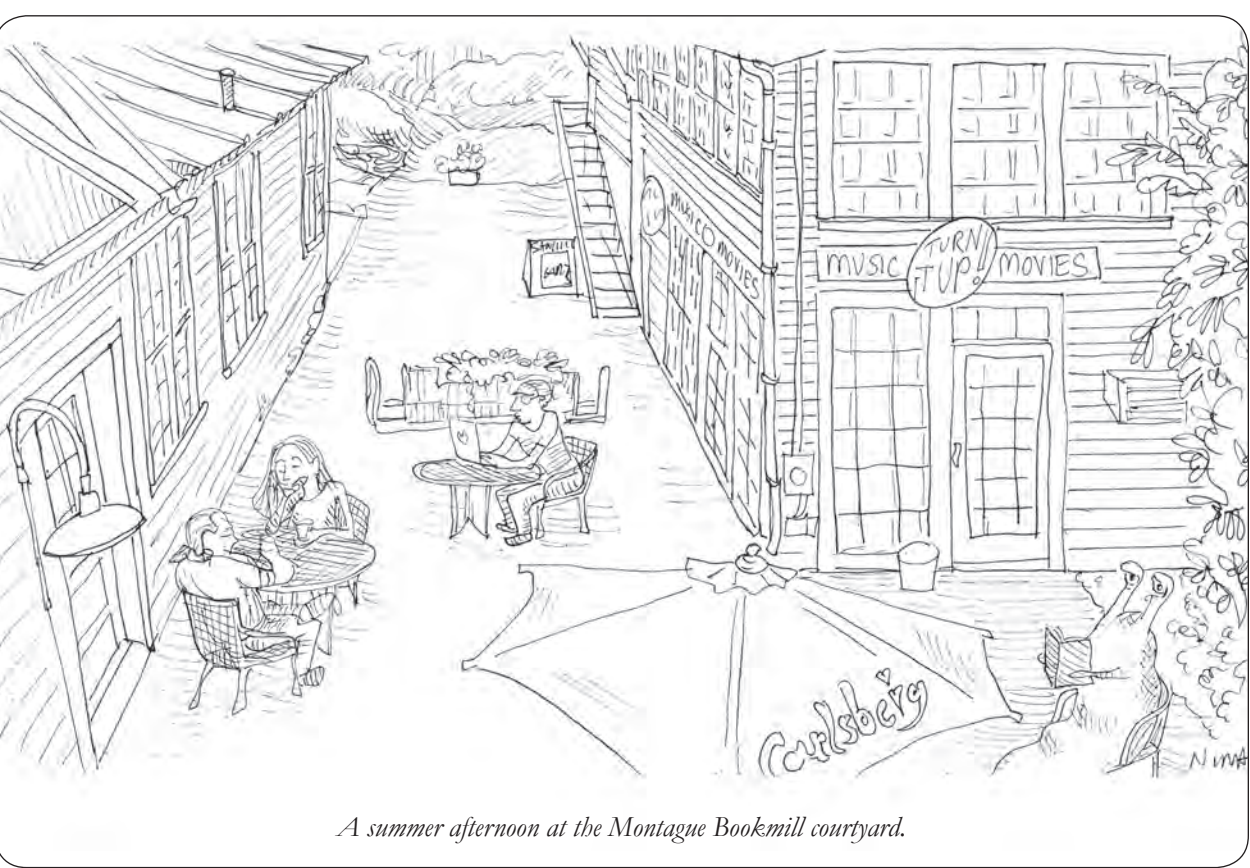
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A summer afternoon at the Montague Bookmill courtyard.

Letters to

the Editors

A Ravine of Racism?

It’s not that uncommon for a political lawn sign to be stolen or vandalized. But the most recent set of incidents constitute a racist act that cannot be ignored.

Monday morning (August 13) I noticed that my sign for Francia Wisniewski for State Representative was missing from in front of my house in Montague Center. It had been there the night before. On Tuesday morning I reported this to the police.

When I spoke with the police dispatcher at the station, he told me that there had been other reports of missing signs, and that someone reported a whole batch of signs down a ravine off Turners Falls Road near the railroad tracks – they were all either Francia’s signs, or Black Lives Matter signs.

Hiroshima & Nagasaki

Ms. Wisniewski is the only person of color running in either the State Rep or State Senator race, and the inclusion of BLM signs in this spate of vandalism leaves little doubt about the racism behind these acts.

The recent controversy about the Indian logo was not just about race, and a lot of good education about race and ethnicity took place. Still, there can now be no denying that there is a racist element in our community that must be exposed and rooted out.

I don’t claim to have all the answers, but I want to urge everyone to be aware, confront racism when it appears, and talk to your friends and neighbors about this.

Ferd Wulkan
Montague Center

Going To Go With Jo

Many thanks go to the League of Women Voters for sponsoring the candidates for our Senate district in a forum on August 13 at Deerfield Academy.

While the local papers have done a good job of introducing us to the candidates, it’s been hard to get an understanding of the subtle or substantive differences among these four highly qualified people. Even the websites of the candidates can’t really give a comparison, or a measure of how to choose who will get your vote.

Jo Comerford and the other candidates have similar values and priorities for the improvement of people’s lives, but at this in-person event, Jo clearly rose to the top.

I want my senator to have knowledge of how things work, not just in the mode of critique of the status quo, but in understanding how to strategize and build the coalitions that are necessary to the legislative process.

Jo Comerford’s answers to questions on the wide variety of topics convinced me that she is a step beyond the other candidates in her ability to consider issues and take appropriate action that will be possible, feasible, and achievable.

Jo has a proven track record in organizing and getting things done. While each participant had good things to say and offer, hearing all of them in the live format convinced me that Jo Comerford is the best person to represent our district.

I encourage you to join me in writing her name on the ballot on September 4.

Emily Samuels
Gill

Jonathan von Ranson
Wendell

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Enjoy a brand new community room activity at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, August 25, from 10 a.m. to noon: **old-fashioned board games.** Come and play such games as chess, checkers, tic tac toe, and even Candyland for kids! Bring friends or find a partner in a “pick up game.” Games, and light refreshments, will be provided by the bank. No electronic video games allowed.

The **Fairy House Day** scheduled for last weekend on Avenue A in Turners Falls was re-scheduled because of inclement weather to this Saturday, August 25. Activities along the Avenue include making miniature fairy villages, which will be installed in the downtown planters, starting at 11 a.m. At Spinner Park (Avenue A and Fourth Street). Enjoy a story hour, a shadow puppet show, and mermaid music at the Carnegie Library at noon, and at 1:30 p.m. there will be a monarch butterfly release and more at Peskeomskut Park.

Staff at the Great Falls Discovery Center will be joining in on fun. Make a winged friend for the fairies – maybe a butterfly, dragonfly, bat, or bird – at our craft table outside the Discovery Center from 3 to 5 p.m.

The New Salem Agricultural Commission invites the public to an “**Intro to Fermenting, Pickling and Cheesemaking**” workshop on Tuesday, August 28, at 6 p.m. at the New Salem Library. Join avid permaculture gardener and fanatical food fermenter Danny Botkin (of Laughing Dog Farm in Gill) for a whirlwind primer on harnessing Nature’s own micro-flora to make and preserve raw goat’s cheese, pickles, kefir, and more. The workshop is free – though a \$5 donation is suggested – and attendees can enjoy some tasty snacks!

RiverCulture is compiling a **Fall Calendar of cultural events** happening in Montague between September 1 and October 31. The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website, in social media, and circulated as a flier in the *Montague Reporter*.

To list your exhibition, talk, musical performance, theater performance, craft show, workshop, etc., submit details to riverculture@montague-ma.gov by August 28. Call Suzanne at (413) 863-3200 x 26 if you have any questions.

A presentation on Anna Gyorgy’s 2017 trip to the **UN Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany** will be given in the community room of the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, September 1 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Gyorgy, a board member of the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice, will highlight her trip to the conference with a 20-minute video report on international voices for “System Change not Climate Change,” produced by Gill videographer Janet Masucci. “Action on climate change is yet another aspect of Traprock’s peace and justice work,” Gyorgy says. All members of the public are welcome to watch this free video, and be part of a follow-up discussion with someone who had a front row seat. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

The **Turners Falls Fire Department** will hold a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5 at the public safety complex to discuss the purchase of a new ladder truck. The department’s ladder truck has failed to meet certification requirements for the past two years, and maintenance costs are mounting. All residents of the fire district, whose taxes may be affected, are encouraged to attend. A full-district special meeting to consider a vote on the appropriation is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26

at Turners Falls High School.

On Saturday, September 8, **Great Falls Creative Movement** will host its annual fall open house, offering a day of free creative dance classes for children ages 3 to 12. See what creative dance is all about, learn about their fall programs, and check out the beautiful Movement Studio on the second floor of the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. A free class for 5- and 6-year-olds will be held at 10 a.m., followed by one for 3- and 4-year-olds at 11 a.m. At noon, children ages 6 to 12 are invited to try out a creative dance class which will also serve as an audition for “Awesome Art in Motion,” GFCM’s children’s dance company. Parents of young children are encouraged to participate. All who attend will be offered a \$10 discount for the winter session of dance classes, which starts the following week.

Save the date! The *Montague Reporter* is hosting **our second annual trivia night** on September 22 at St. Kaz in Turners Falls. This year there will be a supper, along with games and prizes, and a little Family Feud. More information will follow in coming weeks, but we expect there will be a separate fee for trivia and for supper, so readers are invited to come for one or both. St. Kaz is again graciously offering the hall to the *Reporter* to use, and they will provide a full cash bar. The event is a fundraiser for this independent, community-run, non-profit paper. Mark your calendar, call your friends, and form a team!

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GUEST EDITORIAL A Diverse Skillset For Wendell’s Future Challenges

By LAURIE DiDONATO

WENDELL – In the many years I’ve lived in Wendell, I have become more and more entwined in the many facets of its character and continually appreciate the bounty of good will and natural beauty that shape our unique community. As I get to know more Wendell residents, longtime and new, and form deeper connections to those around me, I am encouraged that I could represent you well on the Selectboard. I am confident I have the skills, perspective, and energy to work with our current Selectboard members to move towards the solutions we need. My career took a shift several years ago when I realized my passion for the emerging field of sustainability. I had earned a PhD in biology, but after several years realized the inner workings of the human body didn’t hold my interest as much as the workings of a community did. Fortunately, the skills of a scientist – analytical and critical thinking, attention to detail, and effective communication – translate well to government work. I transitioned out of biology and into the Energy and Sustainability Department in the Town of Greenfield. Through my work in Greenfield I have acquired a deep understanding of energy-related issues, and have navigated state policies, grant opportunities, and project initiatives touching all aspects of government including education, housing, planning, and economic development.

In the meantime, I’ve volunteered in Wendell in various capacities, and through my ten years of work on the Energy committee, as well as participation in Town Meetings, and Selectboard and Broadband meetings,

I have gained a broad understanding of the issues the Town is facing. Most will agree, a key challenge moving forward in Wendell is keeping taxes manageable, with an awareness of the tax levy ceiling, while also funding our schools and bringing about new and critical broadband infrastructure. With regards to schools, we need to work to make sure the State provides the aid it has promised to help us keep up with increases in health-care and transportation costs, and to re-examine its formulas to ensure sparse, rural districts have enough funding. I also think we can work towards energy efficiencies in our school buildings as well as renewable energy projects that will defray future operating costs, and decrease our impact on the environment. With regards to broadband, it is critical that we bring broadband infrastructure to Wendell, to ensure children can do their homework, small businesses can be competitive, and property values increase, thus attracting new residents to town and increasing our levy ceiling. Without broadband we can expect a net outflow of residents, thereby reducing our tax base, and resulting in higher taxes for those who remain. Wendell needs some careful and thoughtful leadership in the coming years. Along with my municipal experience, I hope to bring a fair-minded, level-headed approach that hears all points of view, asks important questions, and uses open and clear, fact-based, communication to understand the issues and find solutions. I ask for your vote on September 4.

Laurie DiDonato is a candidate for Wendell selectboard. The opinions stated above are her own.

GUEST EDITORIAL Theater’s Call

By JOANNA JUREWICZ

GREENFIELD – I just went past street puppet political theater here in the square of Greenfield, Massachusetts on my way to a store. I had an impulse to attack the puppets. There were maybe six elderly people in the audience, and one yapping woman’s voice running the theatre. Everyone looked bored; one person was checking her iPhone. I thankfully did not attack the puppets, and scolded myself for such impulse. Why would you do that? I know why. When I was 13, I was suicidal. Full on suicidal. *Karetki*, 911 in Poland. Getting my stomach pumped. A very difficult puberty, a very difficult childhood of a very sensitive girl. I gravitated toward Teatr Wybrzeże in Gdańsk instinctively. My uncle took me to see a play a few weeks earlier, and I pronounced, shaken by the play that I did not understand, that I was going to become an actress. He was a natural born teacher, and asked a wise question: “Well, what kind of actress would you like to be, a film actress or a theater actress?” I said “theater.” I meant to say “film,” because film was cool, but then beneath it, I meant theater for reasons I wasn’t even admitting to myself. Theater meant belonging, and it was what I craved. I went to a rehearsal for a teenagers’ theater club at the above-mentioned theater. I sat down, expectant. Some teenager was reciting patriotic poetry. The theater

student running the workshop did his best to keep it light, and cut through the artifice in the air. The air reeked of artifice. I ran. I ran, and I started riding horses instead, in a state stable in Sopot. No, no, I was not a rich girl riding her horses; I was not rich. Privileged, perhaps: I was from an intellectual family, which in a communistic country meant some privileges, but we were not wealthy. I rode horses in a state stable, and shoveled shit to earn my time with them. The people riding horses for money were honestly vulgar. I never joined them, but they did not offend me either. And the horses, they could not be fake. Pure beauty. It lasted for a few years. I became okay at riding horses, and loved them, and always will. But I wish I spent that time in the theater. I’m still as lonely as I was then. If it only had not reeked of falsehood as it did. It was why I nearly attacked the puppets today. Theater is a place of refuge for people who come to it, whether they can voice it or not. Earnestness is not good enough for theater. Theater, even street theater – especially in a small town where options are few – may be someone’s last hope that they craved not even realizing until they come face to face with it. If it falls flat, if the pitch is off, it is a lost opportunity. Unexamined “good intentions” are not a good reason for a physical attack, but perfectly good for ridicule into oblivion. *Joanna Jurewicz lives in Greenfield.*

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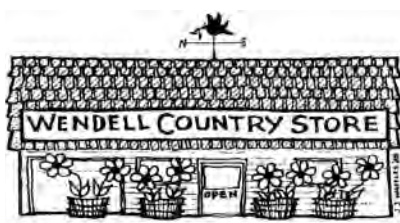
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Senate Race Shows Local Democracy is Vital

By DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Back when George W. Bush was running for re-election on his record as the most bellicose and incompetent president to occupy the White House since Ronald Reagan, I was interviewing voters in the breezeway of Food City to determine the pulse of the electorate. Or at least to satisfy myself that it still had one.

Enter former town moderator Fran Dolan, the most genial defender of liberal values Montague has ever known.

I asked him about the issues that mattered most in the upcoming elections.

He replied, “Fund the poor.”

Dolan was famous in Montague for turning in his gavel the day town meeting voted, in 1962, to change town government to an elected town meeting with precinct representatives, who all too often are unknown (and therefore unaccountable) to the people they supposedly represent.

Dolan called the vote to abolish open town meeting “the day democracy died in Montague.”

I thought of Fran Dolan as I sat in the half-empty Shea Theater on Tuesday, August 14, listening to three write-in candidates for the open Hampshire-Franklin-Worcester state senatorial district debate with Chelsea Kline, the one candidate whose name will appear on the ballot for that seat in the upcoming state primary on September 4.

Despite the half-full house, I left the theater that night feeling optimistic.

Although democracy is facing more than its usual challenges, locally as well as globally, it is still a vital force. Dolan would have been proud to hear the state senate candidates embrace his advocacy for the disenfranchised, the homeless sleeping in tents in the pouring rain, the veterans denied just benefits, the bullied students, the differently able, the 13% of families in the Valley who are “food insecure,” the black and brown residents criminalized for their color, and all the vulnerable members of our community whose plight appears to uniformly inspire the candidates’ hard-charging campaign for a vote whose outcome, by conventional measure, should be preordained.

The seat they are running for has been vacant

since former Senate president Stanley Rosenberg resigned in the wake of an ethics scandal on May 3, two days after the filing deadline for nominating papers for the state primary. Kline was the only other candidate to file before that deadline.

There is no Republican nominee in the running for the seat, so whoever wins the Democratic primary is a shoo-in to take office. The difficulty of running a write-in candidacy without major party backing in a largely rural 24-town district could be daunting, if not insurmountable.

All four candidates who remain in the race live in Northampton. But don’t let Northampton choose your next state senator for you. Once elected, a senator has a tendency to settle into the seat for a long, long time. Witness Rosenberg, who served 27 years.

Ryan O’Donnell, 38, president of the Northampton city council, proudly states he is the only candidate who has served in elected office, the only one who has raised taxes on the voters he now faces. He’d like to raise them again – on millionaires – to bring in more revenue for the causes he champions: affordable housing, more public transportation, fully funded public education, and a swift transition to renewable energy.

The difficulty he is facing, in common with Central Hampshire veterans agent Steve Connor, 58, and *MoveOn.org* campaign director Jo Comerford, 54, is that all three write-in candidates share these same legislative priorities and broad policy goals with Chelsea Kline, 40. Yet Kline was the only one among them determined enough to get her name on the ballot while Rosenberg was still in the running.

All four candidates support single payer health care; all would like to see commuter rail and bus service expanded; all would spend more on public education. The things that distinguish them are background and experience.

Connor leans heavily on his role as an advocate for homeless veterans. He is passionate about “housing first,” and says the state would save money by combating homelessness directly, doing whatever it takes to house people and then providing them the support services they need.

Kline talks openly about being a teenaged

single mom on food stamps who relied on public education to advance to a successful career and family life. She says her “lived experience” informs her urgency to share the bounty of the Commonwealth equitably so all residents can enjoy the same advantages.

Ryan relates his upbringing in public housing as the son and grandson of public school teachers to his commitment to public service, first as a campaigner for an open democracy with Common Cause and Fair Vote, then as a city councilor in Northampton who helped extend the state’s new minimum wage law to city workers and enact sanctuary city protections for immigrants, among other achievements.

Jo Comerford draws on her years of experience running a homeless shelter for abused women, as director of programs for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and at the helm of the American Friends Service Committee of Northampton and the National Priorities Project to articulate a keen, sweeping policy analysis of where the Massachusetts legislature has fallen short on meeting the needs of the district, the state, and the nation at a time of global political chaos and climate crisis.

Comerford called “affordable housing a fundamental human right.” She said the legislature needs to take a systemic look at the problem of homelessness and make it a priority in order to “uproot the inhuman causes of people living on the street.”

“Fund the poor,” said Fran Dolan, as he paused in the breezeway of Food City, so many years ago. “Fund the poor.”

It’s up to all of us to listen to the candidates’ debate (available through MCTV), and make sure Dolan was wrong about one thing:

Democracy isn’t dead in Montague. Not yet.

Not when we have great candidates like these – and candidates like Montague’s own Francia Wisniewski, a standout among the contenders for the First Franklin house seat – running for state legislature.

David Detmold lives in downtown Turners Falls. He is the former editor of this newspaper.

STUDY from page A1

according to battlefield grant advisory committee member David Brule. “They jumped ahead to a couple of likely spots, and turned up a lot of objects.... They determined that the so-called battlefield and counter-attack stretched over seven miles.”

The advisory committee will meet September 5, and then put a new contract out to bid. “The Mashantucket Pequot research group is doing a great job so far,” said Gill representative Lynn Snow Tomb. “I hope, and expect, that they would submit a bid for this part so they can continue.”

So far, the team has turned up hundreds of artifacts including 284 lead musket balls, many of which are believed, from their location, to have been fired at the retreating colonists.

“The English, who were retreating into Factory Hollow, dispersed in several directions,” Tomb explained. “The challenge is going to be to find what those different directions were.”

She said the town, FirstLight Power, and a large number of private landowners granted the team permission to survey their land last year. Much more evidence was uncovered of the Native counter-attack than the early morning massacre itself.

“The Riverside area has been extensively built on and excavated for so many hundreds of years,” Tomb said, “that there’s not a lot left.... So they went across Route 2, over behind the Wagon Wheel and onto some private land, and found the direction of the retreat: up onto Main Road, and across lands there they’d gotten permission to survey, and then to that hilly area that leads

down to the Fall River, where they found quite a lot.”

She said the group did survey the location where Captain William Turner, the leader of the attacking English group for whom the Montague village of Turners Falls was later named, is believed to have died, but that “they want to continue into the other avenues of retreat.”

Brule said he expected the study to “pick up where they left off, and proceed slower” from Factory Hollow, through a “big chunk of Greenfield” into Deerfield’s North Meadows.

“They’ve already scoped it out, and found musket balls all along – out towards Cherry Rum Brook and along the Green River to where it meets the Deerfield River,” he said. “There’s a traditional fording place there. We know there was an ambush there by indigenous soldiers, and that the English had a hard time getting across the ford.”

Two “Battles”

The massacre of as many as 300 people at the Falls marked a turning point in King Philip’s War, waged in this region by a coalition that included Pocumtuck, Norwotock, and Pennacook people as well as the Abenaki, Narrangsett, Nipmuc, and Wampanaog whose descendants are represented in the advisory group.

About 40 of the 150 or so English troops were killed during their southward retreat. Sixty years later, the attackers’ male descendants successfully petitioned the Province of Massachusetts Bay to award them a tract of land known as “Falls Fight Township,” which later became

Bernardston and Leyden.

Phase I of the study involved bibliographical research of all contemporary written accounts of the event, as well as consultation with tribal preservationists about knowledge passed on through their respective oral traditions.

The Mashantucket-Pequot Museum’s reports on both Phase I and Phase II are available on the town of Montague website.

“The Battle of Great Falls/Peskeompskut is best conceived of as two separate battles,” the Phase II report concludes. It includes accounts of the English taking the time to count their dead victims before the counter-attack began.

The report argues that the incident “directly and indirectly led to the dissolution of the Native coalition and the eventual abandonment of the valley by indigenous tribes.”

Building the Groundwork

Last week’s award letter also came with nomination papers to place the area on the National Register of Historic Places as a “battlefield.”

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey said he was excited about the prospective designation. “It’s a way to take all this information and research and develop that into the boundaries of a place worthy of protection for generations moving forward,” he said.

Ramsey said that while the designation would be “largely symbolic” – “it doesn’t limit individual property owners,” he emphasized – “there’ll be a certain level of historic review required for the expenditure of federal funds.”

Once the archaeological study is complete, Brule said, the group plans to move into “Phase III.” “It’s still nebulous,” he said, “but it will likely involve educational outreach, signage, possibly developing a historical cultural trail, and perhaps looking toward a Native American cultural park.”

Tomb, newly nominated to the group after the recent resignation of Ivan Ussach, who is moving out of town, said the Gill historical commission has taken part in discussions of a “museum-type setting, where everything would be available in one spot to the public,” but that no concrete proposals had been made about such a museum or its location.

Tomb added that the Gill commission has three empty seats to fill. Members recently published a book on the Riverside neighborhood -- already on the Register as both an “archaeological district” and a “historic district,” she pointed out, meaning that its recognition as a “battlefield” would be its third appearance.

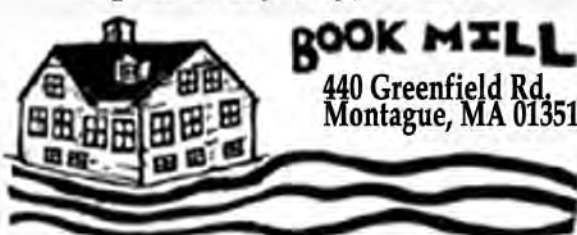
“It’s really a regional project, that Montague happens to be taking the lead on,” Ramsey said. “What actually happened in Montague is quite limited.... The study did identify some small encampments in Montague; some of the Native soldiers who helped come to the defense were on this side of the river.”

He added that the multi-town district “would be an exciting opportunity for the region, as far as cultural tourism goes, and general education about our history.... This is building the groundwork for something in the future, so that this story can be told.”



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SEWER from page A1

10. After that, the selectboard, in its role as sewer commissioners, will hold a hearing and vote on the proposed rates.

Ellis presented the board with a think file of data on the history of sewer costs and revenues. As in the past, three key factors are driving sewer rate increases: a decline in industrial revenues, particularly after the closing of Southworth Paper; a loss of revenue from processing other towns’ sludge with the end of the plant’s experimental “Montague process”; and the need to ship more of Montague’s own solids to outside processing centers.

Ellis’ data showed revenue from industrial sewer users declined from \$644,422 in 2013 to \$206,054 last year. This decline was initially offset by sludge intake during the heyday of the Montague process, which earned \$483,854 for the department in 2016. But after the state ordered that the plant reestablish a traditional process, that income dropped to zero. Meanwhile, the expense of exporting the plant’s own leftover solids has increased: from \$19,010 in 2016 to a projected \$400,000 in 2019.

Ellis argued that the “huge numbers” associated with the Montague process and its solids reduction “artificially suppressed” the actual cost of sewage disposal to ratepayers.

McDonald reported on discussions with the state Department of Environmental Protection over staffing levels at the Montague plant. The additional rate increase proposed Monday also reflects the state’s requirements that Montague hire a chief operator at a higher grade, and increase total staffing to “8.6” positions. McDonald is appealing to the state with a request that the facility be allowed “to stay at 7,” and the revised budget would allow for 8.

McDonald also requested that the plant be allowed to expand its composting capacity, to reduce the cost of exporting solids. He noted, however, that there is not enough room at the current facility, so he may have to “look to other areas of town.”

In related business, the selectboard voted to give Ellis the authority to execute a \$150,000 state grant to help finance a 200-KW solar array to provide electricity for the plant.

Shea Roof Woes

Ellis reported to the board on what he called his “least favorite subject”: the latest efforts to fix the Shea Theater roof. The Shea is managed by a non-profit organization, but the building on Avenue A in Turners Falls is owned by the town.

Ellis reviewed the roof’s recent history: a town meeting appropriation last year to reseal it; the discovery of “buckling,” which made resealing unrealistic; new specifications for “fastening” the roof; and the failure to get a new warranty for the fastening, due to gravel ballast on the structure. “When we pull the ballast off we may find the roof is unwarrantable,” Ellis reported.

“It is very difficult to know how to proceed with this roof,” he said. “We’ve had very good people involved. We’ve had very experienced people involved.” He said that Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno would be working to get a “reliable quote on what it would take to do the entire job.”

“What would a new roof cost?” asked selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

Ellis responded that current estimates are \$150 to \$250 thousand, but “that’s what we need to look at.” He said the capital improvements committee would discuss the issue

later in the week.

Accessibility Study

Megan Rhodes of the Franklin Regional Council of Government reviewed the findings contained in the recently updated Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan. The plan reviews the compliance of town infrastructure and policies with the federal disability law.

Rhodes said that town staff were generally knowledgeable of the law’s requirements, but that there were “some weaknesses,” particularly in the availability of devices to assist the hearing impaired. She also stated that subcontractors doing work for the town need to be more aware of the law.

As far as the town’s “physical infrastructure” is concerned, the report identifies serious accessibility problems at the regional school district administration building and at the Carnegie Library as the main concern.

ADA advocate Betty Tegel, who participated in the study, said that the update contained many “low cost items,” such as bathroom handles and parking signs. She noted that a state grant of up to \$250,000 will become available for sidewalk and bathroom repairs. Ellis said that there would be high demand statewide for that grant, but suggested there could be a “sweet spot” for those applying for smaller amounts.

The board voted to approve the ADA transition plan.

Other Business

The board delayed consideration of the Town Administrator evaluation until September 24, and set October 19 as the date for the beginning of the Civil Service Assessment Center process for choosing a permanent police chief.

The board extended the lease for the school district’s use of town property at the Sheffield-Hillcrest complex until January 31, 2019, to allow time to consider dividing the property into two parcels.

The board approved the disbursement of \$17,280 in design fees for the potential demolition of the Strathmore Mill complex.

The board set the date of October 10 for a fall special town meeting, and October 1 for a ribbon cutting at the solar array recently completed on the old landfill off of Sandy Lane. The ribbon cutting will be from 10 to 11 in the morning.

Ellis reported on the progress of the committee directing the construction of a new highway department facility on Turners Falls Road. The committee is now hiring an owner’s project manager to oversee construction. That selection process “went live” on August 1, and there was a bidders’ conference on the 15th. Final bids are due September 1.

Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron announced the appointment of Beverly Ketch as the new custodian for town buildings.

The board approved the transfer of intermittent reserve police officer Bruce Molnar to the Greenfield police department.

The resignations of Suzanne Rubinstein from the RiverCulture steering committee and Ivan Usaach from the Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee were accepted by the board.

At the end of the public meeting, the board retired into an executive session with members of the Turners Falls Fire District prudential committee to discuss litigation concerning the Southworth Company.

The next selectboard meeting is on August 27.



This Sunday in Shutesbury: Democrats Picnic, Honor Pals

SHUTESBURY – Candidates for the Senate seat for Franklin, Hampshire & Worcester and the seats for Representatives for 1st and 2nd Franklin and 3rd Hampshire are expected to attend the traditional end-of-the summer multi-town Democratic picnic this Sunday, August 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Shutesbury Athletic Club. They will say a few words and meet the voters.

In addition to the meet and greet, the picnic will honor former Senate President and long-time Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Steve Kulik of First Franklin for their years of service.

Music will be provided by local Shutesbury band, the Helen Winter Trio. In addition to Shutesbury, the event is co-sponsored by the town committees of Amherst, Leverett, New Salem, Pelham, Sunderland, and Wendell. There will be light refreshments.

According to Penny Kim, Chair of the Shutesbury Democratic Town Committee, “It will be a good chance to meet with the candidates informally before the Primary Election on September 4.” Everyone is welcome.

The Shutesbury Athletic Club is at 282 Wendell Road. The picnic will be held in the shelter behind the Club. Ample parking is available.

GMRSD from page A1

town of Gill.

The vacant seat will be filled by a procedure described under district policy “BBBE.” Any Gill resident interested in filling the position on a temporary basis until next spring’s townwide election should submit a letter of intent to Dr. Sullivan by September 18. Committee members will then nominate candidates and select one, using open written ballots, at their September 25 meeting.

“There should be no discussion among the members, even one to one,” chair Jane Oakes reminded her colleagues. “If anything’s discussed outside the meeting, that’s a violation,” she said, referring to the state open meeting law.

The prospective candidates will be allowed to introduce themselves at the September 25 meeting.

After some discussion, the committee decided they would plan not to ask the candidates any questions. “I don’t want them to feel like they’re going to come here and encounter a firing squad,” said Montague member Cassie Damkoehler.

A period at the beginning of each school committee meeting is also set aside for any member of the public to deliver a short comment. The next meetings are scheduled for August 28 and September 11 at Turners Falls High School.

This is the second consecutive year a sitting Gill-Montague school committee member resigned in the months following townwide elections. In 2017, Marje Levenson of Montague stepped down, and veteran members Joyce Phillips and Michael Langknecht submitted their names as candidates. The committee chose Langknecht by a 6-1 vote, with Hubert casting his ballot for Phillips. Langknecht was re-elected by the public this spring to serve out the rest of the term.

“The last time was, I think, unique,” said Gill member Valeria “Timmie” Smith. “This time, you don’t know – there may be people that none of us know.”

Bottom Line Improves

As the state budget is finalized and local aid and charges both become clearer, the district’s current fiscal year budget is beginning to look rosier, business manager Joanne Blier told the committee. A single out-of-district special ed placement that cost Gill-Montague about \$100,000 last year will be reimbursed, and the same expense will not be charged to the district this year, so the improvement is twice that sum.

Sullivan said the district also believes it will qualify for statewide “rural” aid this year – less than the full \$100 per student aid level, but probably around \$75 per student.

The committee voted to approve paying an invoice of \$1,397.25 to Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas, the law firm Gill-Montague is retaining to pursue New England Medical Billing (NEMB), which for years processed the district’s Medicaid reimbursement claims and overbilled the state for them. The district is now required to repay the state over \$900,000 over the course of 20 years, but it may be able to recoup some of the fees NEMB charged for its service.

“I’m hoping it’s very close to the last [invoice],” Sullivan told the committee.

Drawing Thunder

Montague representative Heather Katsoulis said she had so far received two submissions for logos for the new high school team name, the Turners Falls (or Powertown) Thunder. One features a bird, inspired by those engraved on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, though other members wondered whether it would be seen as referencing a “thunderbird,” and thus specifically appropriating Native American imagery, which the committee hopes to avoid.

Jennifer Lively recommended applying the same criteria used to narrow down choices for a new name to the logo selection.

“We don’t want to draw it out for another year,” said Damkoehler. “It’s important to have something for the kids to get behind.”

High school principal Annie Leonard said she could investigate student designers, but pointed out that “having really cool and professional gear, and a logo people are drawn to, is a good thing.”

The committee decided to continue the conversation at its September 11 meeting.

Feeding and Petting

Several policies were officially approved at the meeting, as was the final text for the high school student handbook.

After much conversation, the committee decided on a repair and replacement fee schedule for the Chromebooks that will be passed out to middle school students this year. The devices will be insured, but members disagreed initially over how much of a disincentive students and their families should face to neglect or damage them.

According to the version that was finally approved by a unanimous vote, the first time a missing computer needs to be replaced it will cost \$25, but subsequent replacements will cost \$200. Power adapters will cost \$25 to replace, and minor repairs will be \$10.

Blier asked the committee to give its input on whether the schools should move forward with

their plan to guarantee free breakfast and lunch to all middle and high school students, given that in light of revised enrollment numbers, the district may not qualify for compensation at the expected level.

“If we do qualify, I’m relatively comfortable that we’ll break even,” she said, but if not, the program could run a deficit.

“I’m not worried about losing money feeding our kids,” said April Reipold of Montague.

“It’s a worthwhile investment to the community to say that they’re eating well,” Lively agreed.

Turners Falls senior Victoria Veaudry, who has been participating in one of the school’s Alternative Learning Opportunities called “Animals Are Awesome,” met with the committee to propose a program in which a dog could be present at the school for therapeutic support for students.

“Just a couple months ago the school committee adopted a policy about service animals,” Sullivan warned her, “tightly constructed to make sure everybody and their cousin doesn’t want to bring a dog to school.”

But the committee praised the group’s detailed proposal, and while no vote was taken, indicated that work on the program could move forward without their opposition.

“Will we be able to meet the dog?” Damkoehler asked.

“Sometimes these meetings are stressful for us,” Oakes added.

Other Business

Staff will be returning to school next Monday, August 27, but they will not include facilities manager Jim Huber, who resigned over the summer. His last day was July 30, and Blier said she was fielding applicants and hoped to fill the position shortly.

The district’s newly rebuilt website will be softly launched August 24, and officially announced in mid-September or as soon as any “kinks” are ironed out.

Blier said a number of local districts are sharing information about out-of-district special education bus routes with the goal of putting shared routes out to bid, and thereby saving money.

The committee discussed the problem of absentee student representatives, especially in light of a state law requiring that committee members meet with student reps at least once every two months.

“We have not followed that in the last five years,” Sullivan acknowledged.

“And longer than that,” Oakes told him.

Leonard said she would discuss the issue with the incoming student council president.



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SOLAR from page A1

include few impervious structures, and that clearing the land would not change the parcels’ water run-off characteristics. Grass would be planted in the cleared area after the panels are installed.

When the hearing continued on August 6, chief water operator and conservation commission member Peter Sanders recommended that the town have an engineer evaluate the effects of “clear-cutting an area that large.” Sanders asked whether removal of the trees would change the way rain penetrates the soil, and whether it could cause issues with erosion.

Con com member David Brule said wetland scientist Emily Stockman had informed the commission that the site is a white pine and oak upland, and that there are no wetland areas within the proposed solar installation. Brule said that Stockman identified the stream south of the property as a “perennial” stream.

Stephen Herzog of AMEC challenged this characterization, saying that the stream was dry in April. State regulations state that a stream that is dry for four days over a 12-month period is considered an “intermittent” stream. Herzog provided photographs documenting that the stream bed was dry over at least four days.

The distinction could affect the project: a “perennial” stream requires a 200-foot buffer zone, while an “intermittent” one requires only 100 feet; the plans for the array were developed using a 100-foot buffer zone. “We believe our plan is accurate,” Herzog said.

The hearing was continued from August 6 until August 21 to allow the town’s consultant, Tighe & Bond, and Stockman to review the proposal and the additional information provided by the developers.

Soil Testing

On Tuesday, Brian Huntley of Tighe & Bond summarized his review by saying the plan was well put together, and with the exception of the lack of a stormwater report, his recommendations for conditions were “relatively minor.”

Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache said that the commission had received the company’s stormwater plan that day.

Mark Stinson, an environmental analyst from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, briefly reviewed the stormwater plan at the meeting. He observed that it was based on federal Natural Resources Conservation Service

soil classification maps, which he said may not be accurate for Franklin County.

Huntley agreed. “There are lots of gaps and holes in Franklin County soil mapping,” he said, and recommended digging test pits at the site to classify the soil.

The water commissioners asked the developers, as a condition of their approval of the permit, test-pitting and classifying the soil to confirm the modeling for the stormwater plan.

Stream Flow

Discussion then turned to the stream. Stinson told the commissioners that “photographs alone are not in compliance with the regulations.” He said that Ameresco would need to prove that the stream is not significantly affected by drawdown from the town’s water supply well, impoundments such as beaver dams, or human-made water diversions.

Stinson said that Ameresco would need to prove that the stream is not significantly affected by drawdown from the town’s water supply well, impoundments such as beaver dams, or human-made water diversions.

“The stream may well be intermittent,” Stinson said, “but the regulations require information in addition to just photos.” He recommended that the proponents create a video of the entire length of the stream channel to document whether there are significant impacts that could dry up its flow. He added that he gives guidance to towns, but that ultimately, the con com “would have to decide what is significant.”

Brule said the con com could decide whether there are significant impacts to water flow, based on the information gathered “if you all walk the channel” and videotape it. AMEC consultants and Sanders agreed to walk the stream this Thursday, *Karetki* August 23.

Brule said he would talk with Sanders to find “rational criteria” to decide whether the town well impacts the stream’s flow. Stinson suggested consulting a hydrogeologist.

The conservation commission continued its hearing to Monday, September 10. Brule said he thought

it could “come to closure” about the stream issue then.

Other Considerations

After stormwater runoff and the stream were discussed, the water commissioners asked the developers about other aspects of the project: the spill prevention plan, vegetation management, decommissioning, and training first responders.

Selectboard member William Bembury asked what materials used at the site could be spilled to the environment. Honor replied that Ameresco uses no fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides at its installations. He said that a transformer could malfunction and spill oil, but said that the plan specified non-toxic vegetable-based oil for the transformers. “We don’t have anything to leak into groundwater,” he said.

Bembury said, “I would like to see the plan specify what chemicals are used.”

Honor said a list would be added to the spill prevention plan, and Vardakis said that the spill prevention plan was typically written after construction.

According to Honor, after the trees are cut, the construction would proceed in phases; once the heavy construction was completed, grasses would be planted. He estimated that construction would take about six months.

Brule asked whether replacing the woodland with grass would create changes in runoff. Huntley replied that differences in runoff are generally fairly minimal with “conversion of forest to meadow.” He said that good contractor controls were important to prevent runoff during construction, and noted that there are usually weekly inspections and reports on the construction process. Honor said the grass would be mowed twice a year once the installation was complete.

Water commissioner Jacob Smith asked if the project’s decommissioning plan included replanting. “We can add that,” Honor replied.

Bastarache asked whether Ameresco would provide security equal to 125% of the decommissioning costs. Honor said the company would provide documentation of the security prior to receiving the permit.

Smith asked about training for first responders in Erving and mutual aid towns. Honor said first-responder training was standard for large solar installations, and agreed to contact fire chief Philip Wonkka about it.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

FD Gets New Truck

By **GEORGE BRACE**

At their August 20 meeting, the Gill selectboard reviewed, and unanimously voted to endorse, an updated open letter from civic leaders in the Gill-Montague Regional School District concerning the state’s Chapter 70 school funding formula.

The selectboard had previously endorsed an earlier version of the letter, but chair Greg Snedeker, also a member of the group which drafted it, said that he felt there had been enough revisions since that time that the board should take another look.

The letter argues that the state legislature should “consider making changes to fix a glaring inequity in the current system.” The aspect of the formula addressed in the letter is a provision which caps the local contribution which districts must make to the state-mandated, minimum school budget requirement for their district, at 82.5% of the total.

The letter contends that the effect of the cap is to shift a financial burden from wealthier districts, whose contributions would be larger if not for the cap, to less wealthy ones, for whom the cap does not come into play.

Snedeker said that the overall formula was very complex, with a lot of moving parts. He noted that there were other issues that could be looked at, but the letter was focused on the local contribution component. “We’re making the case that it’s more regressive than what you actually see,” he argued, “because of the 82.5 percent cap.”

New Rescue Truck

The board approved the purchase of a barely used rescue truck for the fire department for \$145,000.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien and five members of the department were on hand to present their recommendation of the vehicle, a 2011 Ford F-550 custom rescue truck with 3,600 miles on it. Three had traveled to Pennsylvania to drive and inspect the vehicle, which had been located through a broker. They reported that the town which owned the vehicle was selling it due to lack of use, and did not intend to replace it.

The rescue truck is the first of two replacement vehicles slated for the department, the second being a tanker/pumper truck. The purchase is funded with money gifted to the town recently by Northfield Mount Hermon for this purpose.

Snedeker commented that the price was a little higher than originally envisioned, but said it made sense to spend a little more on it due to the fact that it gets more use than the tanker truck, and added that the price was within the budget.

Deputy fire chief Stuart Elliott said he had discussed the town’s needs and budget for both vehicles with the broker, and the broker recommended the rescue truck as a good fit.

In other fire department business, Dan Ware was approved as a firefighter; and purchase orders were approved for the repair of a fire hose nozzle and the purchase of three quick-connect fittings for new air packs.

Personnel Matters

The board unanimously approved several recommendations of the personnel committee: a job description for a part-time administrative clerk; a job description acknowledgment

and signature form which complies with American with Disabilities Act requirements; and the decision to provide service recognition, rather than longevity pay, for long-term, non-full-time employees. Those being recognized for their service may also receive a custom hat.

Randy Crochier, the selectboard’s representative to the personnel committee, commented that the latter decision was a good way to recognize longstanding service without incurring the financial and administrative costs of longevity pay.

Board member John Ward said he liked the idea of recognition, but thought it was “a little bit unfortunate” that some town employees received financial recognition while others did not. “You can’t buy groceries with a hat,” he said, “but having somebody say ‘thank you’ is better than not having somebody say ‘thank you’.”

Administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that the highway department preliminary screening committee, of which he is a member, is recommending two applicants for a position in the highway department for interviews with the selectboard, out of an original pool of eight who went through preliminary screening.

Other Business

Crochier listed some upcoming events associated with Gill’s ongoing 225th anniversary celebration, including: a harvest picnic with the fire department on the common on September 23; a contra dance on October 12; “The Jurassic Roadshow,” hosted by the historical commission, on October 13; and another community skate at Northfield Mount Hermon School on December 30. Also in the works are a “community read” event and a puzzle swap.

Purington presented a letter he had received from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in reference to the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project and Turners Falls Hyroelectric Project. He summarized the letter as “basically five pages, explaining all of the timeline to date for the FirstLight relicensing process and application,” and seeming to boil down to saying that the earliest FirstLight can file their amended relicensing application for the projects will be in June 2019.

The board reviewed a notification from the Massachusetts Historic Commission that the nomination of the Gill Center Historical District to the National Registry of Historic Places will be considered at the commission’s September 12 meeting in Dorchester. “This isn’t a ‘you-can’t-pick-what-color-your-house-is-painted’ kind of district,” Purington explained, “it’s a ‘recognition-type’ district.” He encouraged those who want to know more to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gill town hall.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be Saturday, September 22. The closest location to Gill is the campus of Greenfield Community College. Registration applications are available at the town hall, the solid waste district’s website, and elsewhere. Preregistration is required by September 14.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, and state primary elections September 4, the selectboard decided to schedule its next meeting for Wednesday, September 5, at 5:30 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Criminal Misconduct or Complaints

By **KATIE NOLAN**

Monday’s regular Erving selectboard meeting began with a joint executive session with the board of health, called “pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(5) to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints.”

Health agents Charlie Kaniecki and Claudia Lucas, town counsel Donna MacNicol, and police chief Christopher Blair attended the closed session with the two boards. Selectboard member Jacob Smith attended via conference call.

At the open portion of the meeting, Kaniecki updated board members about various properties in town that are in violation of health codes. For the property at 143 Old State Road, Kaniecki and the attorney general’s office have been discussing receivership, where a contractor cleans up the property and

then auctions it. However, a portion of the property is protected under Chapter 61, and the town has the right of first refusal for purchase. Kaniecki said, unless the town waives that right, it would make the property less attractive to a receiver.

The board approved a change order requested by Dagle Electrical Construction, the company installing energy efficient bulbs in town streetlights. The board approved up to \$5,048 to install new bulbs in the decorative lighting along Route 2. Installation requires some re-wiring at each light fixture.

The board signed a memorandum of understanding regarding sludge hauling with the county solid waste district.

They also discussed the budget planning schedule for FY’20. Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that information about the schedule will be shared with town department heads at their September staff meeting.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Not Getting Involved In Chapter 70 Funding Debate

By ROB SKELTON

Jeff Singleton was on the agenda at the August 21 Leverett selectboard meeting to discuss movements afoot in the arcane state educational funding formula known as Chapter 70.

Members of the Gill finance team, led by Tupper Brown, recently met with Montague selectmen to discuss calling for the state to lift the cap on “local contribution,” a component of the formula which adds “aggregated wealth” to the traditional “foundation” levy based upon property valuations.

This “aggregated wealth” factor was instituted in 2007 and it serves, in Leverett’s case, to skew fairness, due largely to one rich landowner (Mike Kittredge at Juggler Meadow). This means neighboring Shutesbury receives more state aid than Leverett, even though another set of numbers (HUD’s) shows 46 percent of Leverett residents at “low to moderate income (more poor than Shutesbury).”

“The problem is, Chapter 70 has not kept up with health care costs and SPED costs,” said selectwoman Julie Shively.

Board chair Peter d’Errico described the Chapter 70 formula as a Rube Goldberg machine, and re-

fused to read the evolving document until it was actionable. He thanked Singleton and acknowledged his expertise, but balked at taking on such a fundamentally dysfunctional cal-liope of moving parts at this time.

Singleton said that he had “hit the ceiling” when he found out about the Gill machinations, especially since he had spent a decade working with finance officials in Montague and Gill to demystify and make fairer a funding mechanism which had landed the Gill-Montague school system into state receivership.

“Chapter 70 is not a welfare program,” Singleton said. “They’re treating it like that, and I think that is a mistake.”

Leverett elementary school principal Margot Lacey attended the meeting to touch base with the ever-increasing budgetary process and strategy to defend it to town meeting when necessary. She was unable to forecast costs as nobody knows the enrollment yet, nor which teachers may be retiring, allowing new hires at lower rates.

Merit pay, which often comes up when the school budget is scrutinized, was defended by Lacey. When selectman Tom Hankinson asked her if merit pay was affordable, she said she’d be happy to explain the teacher

evaluation system, which entails 170 documents per hire.

“We have teachers who aren’t that good. They don’t belong in Leverett,” answered Lacey, underscoring the value of the merit system, especially when things go south.

Hankinson rolled out the architectural schematics for the school’s sprinkler system and, with Lacey, went expertly through the sets of problems associated with an emergency system which was *not* installed by a sprinkler contractor, for reasons no one can explain.

A “Green Communities” grant which the school used to insulate the ceiling in parts of the school may have inadvertently blocked heat to some attic areas, causing a freezing of the “wet heads.”

Discussed was insulating the roof or heating the attic areas, hiring a sprinkler contractor, and using local staff to ensure low spots in the system are drained.

Tensions are rising over the time it’s taking to fix the Coke Kiln Road bridge over the Sawmill River near Moores Corner. D’Errico said local contractor Isaiah Robeson heard there was a hold-up by the lawyer, which is why the new deck has been delayed; d’Errico mentioned that someone’s ass needed to be kicked.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Swift River School Asks State, Towns To Help Fix Building’s Water Damage

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The first visitors at Wendell’s two-member summer selectboard’s August 8 meeting were Union 28 superintendent Jen Haggerty, director of finance Bruce Turner, Swift River School principal Kelley Sullivan, and school committee member and town citizen Johanna Bartlett. They came to discuss problems that the Swift River building has developed, and ask the selectboard to support their application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (MSBA) Accelerated Repair program for replacing windows and doors at the school.

The building has no gutters or overhangs, so rainwater has run down its sides and has, in places, collected under windows and doors, and the sills are rotting. The pavement in the playground next to the cafeteria and gym has allowed water to collect by the building, adding to the problems.

Delaying the necessary repairs, the administrators argued, will only increase their cost.

Some of the classrooms have their own exit doors, which are not required by code, and the administrators felt these could be replaced with solid walls, given present security concerns. A shelf or a case blocks the view of several classroom windows; shorter windows, they said, could replace those with no loss of light or view to the outside.

The MSBA would cover 76% of the repair cost, but that cost is not easy to estimate, because no other school as small as Swift River has

had similar repairs done. The closest estimate they could give for the project was \$2 million. If the repairs cost that much Wendell and New Salem would share a \$500,000 expense.

The first step is town meeting approval of a schematic design study, for which funds must be raised and appropriated, but which the MSBA would reimburse the towns. Finance committee chair Doug Tanner asked if that money could be borrowed (it may), and if that loan may be excluded from the town’s debt calculation (it may be). Wendell is close to its levy limit.

The MSBA expects a response by the end of August, but Sullivan said that she only got her notice on July 7, and that given the short notice it should be possible to extend the deadline. Wording is available for a town meeting warrant article, but the logistics of getting a warrant written and posted two weeks ahead of a special town meeting will put the vote in September.

Board members chose Thursday, September 20 for the town meeting.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said another proposal requiring a special town meeting vote is the state-approved tax deferral program for seniors. That law allows a qualifying homeowner to defer property tax payment until their property changes hands, at which time the effective loan is due with 8% interest. Town meeting may change both the income guideline and interest rate, and Tanner suggested 2% less than the Wall Street prime rate, or 3%. He said he would

write up the article.

Aldrich said not many people are likely to take advantage of the program, but it would give extra work for the assessors.

Informational Handouts

The second set of visitors to the meeting were Ilana Gerjouy, prevention strategies coordinator at the FRCOG’s Partnership for Youth, and Phoebe Walker, FRCOG director of community services. They described the youth substance abuse prevention program, the Communities That Care coalition, and what towns can do to reduce substance use disorder.

One step is to recognize that words matter, and to use non-stigmatizing language: for example, to say “substance misuse” instead of “drug abuse.”

They pointed out risk factors, as well as helpful factors, like families eating meals together regularly. They offered a menu of policy options for marijuana, alcohol, opioids, and prescription drugs, and said they were encouraged by the increasing number of Massachusetts towns that have increased the age for buying tobacco to 21. They said that tobacco companies are still aiming advertising towards youth.

Aldrich said she would pass their informational handouts to the town board of health.

Other Business

Board members approved Orange Oil’s low bid for heating oil at \$2.55 per gallon, and \$75 per hour for repairs and maintenance days, weekends, or nights. It was one of

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was August 21, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Strathmore Cleanup and Sidewalk Replacement

The Montague selectboard approved an agreement with the Swift River Strathmore Development LLC that puts a back taxes repayment schedule in place. All back taxes should be paid by June 30, 2009 for a total of \$213,000. The town will retain ownership of the property until then and continue cleanup.

So far 84 truckloads of waste paper have been removed as have 20 dumpsters of trash, according to Sasha Statman-Weil of contractor SRSD LLC. Work also continues to remove #6 oil and asbestos from the site and to make dents in the rubble piles from last year’s fire.

The plan approved by the selectboard also includes what was described as a “deferred payment loan” for the \$300,000 that the town spent last year on securing the property (roof and sprinkler improvements), also approved by town meeting at the time.

The loan will become a grant if, after ten years, the Swift River Group is still the owner of the Strathmore Property.

A combination of block grant money and town funding will be used to improve sidewalks along Unity Street, Seventh Street, Spring Street, Stevens Street, Center Street, and Union Street in Turners Falls. The completed project should result in improved pedestrian access near schools and parks and more clearly defined pedestrian and parking areas surrounding Scotty’s Store.

Jonathan Edwards School Closes

According to the Reverend Bob Davis of Covenant Church in this picturesque town, the recent closing of Jonathan Edwards Academy in Turners Falls is a mixture of joy and sorrow, of celebration and grief.

“It’s such an emotional time for us,” said the Rev. Davis at his office in Fellowship Hall. “When we

opened the school is 1997, we had some lofty goals. We even envisioned being something like Deerfield Academy. We succeeded in so many ways, but we just couldn’t balance our budget for the 2008-2009 school year.”

It was the Rev. Davis who helped found Jonathan Edwards along with Headmaster Ronald Baines and the Rev. Jerry Bricker of Greenfield’s Christ Church.

“In the last four years,” David said, “we simply had a decline in enrollment. And even though we had financial reserves over the years, they were eventually eaten up. We could have continued operation this fall, but we didn’t want to go out in debt and close in the middle of the school year.”

The Christian school’s home was a space rented at the Turners Falls Industrial Park. Last school year, 40 students were enrolled from kindergarten to 12th grade under the tutelage of 12 teachers.

Sunshine and Good Times at Block Party

To best describe the mood of the parade that kicked off the 2008 Turners Falls Block Party, I have to defer to lawn chair drill team member Mike Szeliga, whose t-shirt read “Different is Good.”

Or to the tiny wagon pulled by Jin Jin Dickson toting a load of frogs and fish with a sign that said, “I (heart) Turners Falls.”

Or to the well-dressed four foot tall stuffed bear that hung out at parade central bearing a reversible sign that started out saying, “Turners Falls, That’s What I’m Talking About!” And later sat by the stage sporting the message “Home Grown.”

Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno led 30 or so four-legged marchers and their companions. My dog Flame was in the parade accompanied by Dottie Janke. Flame was not as well-dressed as some, but the treats provided by dog organizer and select board member Patricia Pruitt were enough to ensure her good behavior.

According to Patricia, there were “no fights, and no bites.” (Story by Anne Harding.)

two bids received.

They agreed on Wednesday, September 12, for an extra off-week “all board” meeting to discuss the number and potential impact of several large solar installations that are being proposed, discussed, or rumored in Wendell.

The agreement between the library and the neighbor on the building’s north side has expired, and that house has a new owner. That new owner has agreed to more cutting of the trees between the two buildings, and even to removing the shrub that blocks the view of drivers leaving the library parking lot. Librarian Rosie Heidkamp is drafting a new agreement.

The state small bridge inspection reported that Wendell’s small bridges are all in fair or better condition. The bridge replacement on Wendell Depot Road over Whetstone Brook is delayed by Verizon’s procrastinating moving the wires as needed for the bridge work to begin.

Good Neighbors, the Full Moon Coffeehouse committee, and the kitchen committee agreed on a need to lock the town hall kitchen when it is not being used – not merely with a padlock, but with a real door lock, and four keys. A paid inspector/cleaner would work one to two hours per month, and get paid \$20 per hour, costing the town about \$180 per year. Good Neighbors has contributed \$500 to a revolving fund, and the Full Moon committee agreed to put in \$150 per year.

The kitchen committee was formed to get the town hall kitchen built and functioning, and now its members feel a new committee should be formed to oversee its operation.

The state cannabis control commission wants a copy of Wendell’s marijuana laws. So far Wendell has passed no new laws or zoning regulations relating to newly legal recreational use. Smoking of any kind is not allowed on town property.

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FOREST from page A1

the letter complains that DCR has failed to develop a “forest management plan” for the region, and has ignored the fact that the forest falls within 16 miles of the “Turners Falls Sacred Hill Ceremonial Site” at the Turners Falls airport, making it part of a “pauwau (medicine) district centered at Turners Falls.”

The Wendell selectboard co-signed the commission’s letter on May 3.

State Disputes Charges

DCR commissioner Leo Roy responded on May 7 to the town’s complaints with a five-page letter. Roy presented a chronology of interactions with Hoag dating back to 2016. For example, Roy wrote, DCR forest management officials and an archeologist met with Hoag in August 2016 to discuss ceremonial landscape features at the proposed Brook Road site.

In October 2017, project director Keith Dinardo and DCR archaeologist Ellen Berkland toured the site with Hoag, Narragansett preservation specialist Doug Harris, and several others. “Keith agreed to flag areas to keep equipment away,” Roy wrote. “While you may not agree with DCR’s position,” he concluded, “DCR has been extremely responsive to you...”

Roy went on to argue that the Brook Road project does not qualify for exclusion from timber sale, because “the threshold for excluding cultural resources is listing on, or eligibility for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places.”

He denied that proximity to the Turners Falls airport site qualifies the Brook Road project for exclusion, because the federal determination for eligibility of that site “does not specifically identify resources within Wendell State Forest.”

Roy also noted that the area of cultural resource concern was flagged “in the spirit of cooperation with the Wendell Historical Commission,” and “no public notice was

being given of what feature was being protected.”

State Disputes Charges

The project has been sharply attacked by some environmentalists. A *MoveOn.org* petition titled “Save the Brook Rd. Forest in Wendell State Forest” has collected 467 signatures as of press time. The petition does not mention native ceremonial landscapes, but rather declares that “we want our forest as a living, wild and natural asset, not to be ‘managed’ and turned into dead logs for the biomass and wood pellet industry.”

Another group has complained that the Brook Road and other projects initiated by DCR would “worsen climate change” by eliminating a source of atmospheric oxygen. In 2016 almost two dozen environmental organizations signed a letter to DCR requesting that the agency more carefully evaluate these projects in the context of the state Global Warming Solutions Act.


What has come to be known as the Brook Road project actually involves two separate areas within the larger state forest.

One focuses on a red pine stand planted during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. That stand straddles the road that links Millers Falls and Wendell. Critics have not expressed strong concerns about this piece of the project, because the pine forest is “monocultural,” in Hoag’s words, and vulnerable to disease.

The opposition has focused on a more diverse stand within the forest located between Ruggles and Wickett ponds. This 88-acre section of the forest includes a more diverse variety of trees, including red oak, birch, maple, and black cherry.

According to the 2016 silviculture proposal that initiated the DCR project, this area was cleared for agriculture in the nineteenth century, but has been covered with forest for approximately 110 years.

The DCR proposal calls for tar-



natalie
BLAIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Artist: Christine Pellerin



By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – Alice Thomas sat in the lobby of Greenfield Community Television’s (GCTV) main office on the evening of June 15, waiting for the people to settle down for her artist talk. Chairs were arranged in a small area in the front of the room next to the large picture window that looks out onto Main Street in Greenfield. Light from the window lit her face, which was full of anticipation as she smiled at those who’d come to hear her talk about her recent collection of work.

Behind her were two of her large paintings. Inside the television studio, several more of her paintings were on display, hung along the wall above the employees’ workstations. The room was cool and hushed. A cameraman stood ready to begin recording.

Alice is a petite woman with a bright, fresh face who smiles easily. She sat poised and confident, her lightly tousled curls streaked with silver, framing her face. She wore black, with a silver and stone necklace completing the balance of color and light. On a table beside her sat a vase with pink and white peonies someone had brought as a gift of support.

The paintings on display are abstract views with powerful color and movement, a collection titled “Precarious.” “Because we’re in a very precarious situation. It’s all about nuclear weapons,” explained Alice. Her concern is that the risk of nuclear war seems increasingly possible, and she wanted to express this through her art.

When asked to describe her process, she said it included taking some of the paintings in her collection called “River Rooms” and adding a new dimension to them. Those paintings had shown what was underneath the water and the land, so now she painted over them, using more dynamic images of action: explosions above and below. She added strong bold colors, some blue and white with active lines of black drawn over them; some with bright orange and yellow streaks across the calmer, more structured geometric paintings below.

Alice includes poetry along with her art displays to express

her thoughts and ideas about the theme. These are framed and hung alongside the paintings. She said she feels it is important as an artist to bring challenging ideas forward in her art, to inspire discussion of issues too often ignored.

She referenced the recent meetings between President Trump and North Korean President Kim Jong-un, saying the recent public conversation rarely addressed the real dangers of nuclear war or the constant risk to our planet as long as these weapons exist. Instead there had been long debates and commentary about the motives of the two leaders and whether the agreements were real, good or useless; intentions honest, or just for show. The focus was on the two leaders, without more than a general reference to what nuclear weapons actually can do.

As a nation that possesses many such weapons and the only country that has used them, Alice said it was certainly something we should be talking about. By bringing this to the fore through her art, Alice seeks to start the conversation.

Words to Express

I first met Alice sometime in 2006 when I participated in the Artist Windows Exhibition Project in Greenfield, developed by the non-profit organization Fostering the Arts of Franklin County. I had never shown my work anywhere except in college until then. Alice was just beginning to explore what she wanted to do artistically. I was just learning how to mat and frame my photos, and exploring the wonders of digital photography.

So many years later, it is clear that Alice has devoted a great deal of time and energy exploring the possibilities of how to use her art to express what she believes is important. She has also learned something that I still struggle with: how to explain the thinking behind her artistic choices.

In classes over the years, art teachers have wanted me to express in words the choices I make in what I photograph. They have wanted me to tell them what I was thinking when I took that photo, and I am always baffled. I’m quite clear that I have absolutely no thoughts

see **TRANSITIONS** page B5

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – Welcome to the first edition of the Great Falls Apple Column, a new monthly feature from your friends over at the Great Falls Apple Corps. GFAC was founded after a few neighbors found each other in the fall of 2017 and discovered we had a mutual love for food, especially food we could harvest in our own downtown, for free!

Inspired by the various fruit trees that dot Turners, we decided that we would come together to try to advocate for more edible plantings downtown, and in turn create space to grow community.

With this mission is the underlying idea that one’s diet should not be dictated by their income, and with a little knowledge and a little creativity, we should be able to eat well from our surroundings! Our work is guided by the passions of those involved, all to the end of increasing accessible food and educational opportunities for the residents of Turners Falls and the general area.

We coordinate the Unity Park Community Garden, run workshops, maintain public plantings,

and like to just generally play in the dirt downtown.

Wild Edible Spotlight #1:

Autumn Olive, *Elaeagnus Umbellata*

Food is growing all around us. Each month we will feature an edible plant that grows in town that you can forage and eat! The following disclaimer will precede this part of every column: If you are not 100% sure, *do not eat it!* While most plants are edible, it only takes one bite of the wrong one to make you sick, so make sure you know what you’re doing. The internet is a great resource, use it! Still have questions? Bring a photo, or the plant itself, to our open hours at the Unity Park Community Garden, and we’ll try to identify it with you.

Our first wild edible is the Autumn Olive, *Elaeagnus Umbellata*. These bushes produce a tomato-red berry with silver flecks that carries a sweet and tart flavor, with last season’s favorite tasting like the best sour candy.

The berry ripens around the first week of September, which should give you plenty of time to scout out your future harvest.

see **APPLE CORPS** page B2



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Country Life

the casual visitor, but are treasured by the humans who raise them.

There also is a tent at which garden products and goods are judged for size and flavor. Tables sparkle with shining jars of jams, pickles, and jellies. Beautiful prize-sized fruits and vegetables are rated, and baked goods tasted, by judges. Colorful needlework and quilting is on display.

Then there is the historical building which houses old-fashioned farm equipment and tools, generally made of wood and all manpowered. There is also an exciting tent for children in which they can use a pump to try to raise

water, turn a grinding wheel to remove corn from the cob, or rub clothing against a corrugated scrub board before rinsing the item with a hand wringer.

Kids can also make butter, try hand weaving, and plant a seed in a pot to bring home. Small children who are being raised in an electronic world are enthusiastically trying all of these hands-on activities.

And then, last but not least, the behemoths: huge oxen and enormous work horses with hairy hooves, trained to haul tons of stone blocks on sledges. We admire how their trainers work them by

see **GARDENER'S** page B3



By LESLIE BROWN

HEATH – Spending a day at a country fair is a happy step back in time. It is a celebration of the life many of our ancestors lived, and one which a handful of hardy folks still live today. It is an event for the entire family.

First, there is the livestock: sheep, goats, pigs, cows, horses. Country kids raise their own livestock, join 4H at an early age and then proudly show off their animals to be judged. There is also a small animal category, which features any kind of rabbit you can think of, and more domesticated ones like guinea pigs and hamsters.

First, second, and third place ribbons hang proudly from cages; the qualifications are unknown to



By ROB SKELTON

MONTAGUE – By now your plants should be budding.

Beware still the renegade male plant, indiscriminately seeding the females in the vicinity.

Males grow tall and have ball sacs (clusters); females show doubled white tendrils, translucent, like a peace sign.

Snip and dispose of males be-

OK Cannabis Part 3: Late Summer

fore they do their damage.

Shift from nitrogen to potassium, food-wise, if you haven’t already.

Don’t let the rain delude you into not watering two gallons a day, per plant.

They should be tied down to maximize growth. Use tie-line, baling twine, hemp, or sisul, and keep the loop loose. Anchor to a stake, or root in the ground, or to your fencing.

Ease the plant into lateral submission incrementally, so as to not shock or break.

Tend the garden. Pull the weeds. Enhance the light. Try top feeding. Try drip-feed.

Girdle the tree too big to cut with a circumferential half-inch deep bow saw cut.

Trim dead leaves to forestall mold entry.

There is no fix for white powder mildew. It is a genetic defect. Ethical growers destroy it. The Northampton dispensary bathes its white powder mildew buds in a hydrogen peroxide vat, and then sells them to your neighbors.

It is long past time to get back to the garden.



Top: One perfect purple iris, weighed down by the rain in the flower garden at Turners Falls High School, March 2008.
Bottom: Alice Thomas with one of the paintings from her exhibit “Precarious,” now on display at the GCTV office in Greenfield.

Pet of the Week

Do you love cats who really know what they want? Then come down and adopt Sakar.

You must follow his set of rules to establish a proper loving relationship and share your life with a wonderful loving kitty who will sit on your lap and snuggle with you as long as you like. His rules: sit and wait for him to jump into your lap. That's it.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.



“SAKAR”

Senior Center Activities AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 7

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: 12 p.m. Lunch
Monday 8/27
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 8/28
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
Wednesday 8/29
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 8/30
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Monday 9/3
Senior Center Closed - Labor Day
Tuesday 9/4
Senior Center Closed
Poll Location Precinct 5
NO Senior Farm Share
Wednesday 9/5
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 9/6
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
10:30 a.m. SNAP Applications
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 congregate meals.

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

For information, call Paula Better, 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 8/27
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday 8/28
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
1 to 3 p.m. Art Class
Wednesday 8/29
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 8/30
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick Up

APPLE CORPS from page B1

Green, unripe berries still carry the silver speck.

The leaves have a silvery underside to them that is apparent from a distance, and when you get close you can see that the leaves have little silver specks on the underside, just like the berries. The berries are attached to small branches by a tiny whitish stem.

You can find Autumn Olive bushes lining the edges of Peskeomskut Park, the Discovery Center, and the bike path. Once you identify them, you may find that you see them everywhere.

Humans are not the only ones that love autumn olives, for birds love these berries and spread them to the point that they are considered invasive. By eating these berries before the birds, you prevent their spread and get a great snack instead!

Use in smoothies, jams, baked goods, fruit leather, or eat them fresh.

EVENT CALENDAR:

Open Hours at the Unity Park Community Garden: Every Thursday, 5 to 7 p.m. Come bring us your gardening questions, help us harvest, weed, clear paths, and above all, snack!

August Organizational Meeting: Monday, August 27, Unity Park Community Garden from 6 to 8 p.m. Want to get involved behind-the-scenes at the Great Falls Apple Corps? All are welcome.

Contact the Great Falls Apple Corps by email at greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com or send us a message on our Facebook.



Franklin County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its annual household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 22 at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 14. On-line registration forms may be completed at www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html. Paper registration forms have been made available to participating town offices and transfer stations. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

This collection is for residents and businesses of Athol, Barre, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

This collection event is free for most residents, but Barre, Phillipston, and Sunderland residents must pay to participate. Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible. (Call 772-1528 for info on disposal for residents of those towns.)

Space is limited. For business registration, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, see the above website.

Mercury-containing products such as thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent light tubes, and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) should never be disposed of in the trash. At the 2018 Franklin County Hazardous Waste Collection Event, the only acceptable mercury-containing items will be thermostats and thermostats; fluorescent bulbs will not be accepted.

CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs are accepted at Franklin County municipal transfer stations (handle carefully and hand to attendant), Lowe's Stores (accepts all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only). Additionally, mercury-containing items and bulbs are accepted year-round from District residents at the Regional Hazardous Waste Collection sites in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438; email info@franklincounty-wastedistrict.org; or visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Try Roller Derby

FLORENCE – Have you ever dreamed of being a superhero? Of flying? Of having great strength and stamina? Of using your powers for good? Participating in roller derby can help make all these dreams a reality.

Gain strength, speed, and learn to fly (on skates!) by checking out Pioneer Valley Roller Derby (PVRD), a non-profit roller derby league based in Florence. They are beginning their recruitment season and will be holding three recruitment nights on Wednesday, September 5, November 7, and January 9 at 7:30 p.m. at their warehouse space at 296 Nonotuck Street in Florence.

Established in 2006, PVRD is western Massachusetts' premier flat track roller derby club, home to the nation's first men's roller derby team and, as of 2015, the nation's first all-/no-gender team, two women's teams, and a juniors division (ages 13-17). They pride themselves on being inclusive, intersectional, and creating and maintaining safe spaces.

PVRD officials keep their games and scrimmages running smoothly; officials positions are available both on and off skates. They are currently recruiting officials and skaters for all of the teams. Register at www.pioneervallyrollerderby.com/join-us/

Don't know how to skate? Don't worry. They will teach you how to skate, and teach you the game. All you need is the confidence to try.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

voice commands like “gee,” “haw” and “get up,” rarely using a whip. Teams are eliminated as the weights rise, until the animals, which after all, outweigh their owners by many pounds, determine that they are done and no amount of cajoling will inspire them to be backed up to the hitch again.

Besides all of these visual treats, there is a potpourri of scents: musky animal, fresh popcorn, barbecuing chicken, fresh hay, squeezed lemon and, most invigorating of all, air that is almost alpine.

There is toe-tapping live music and a parade, which features the requisite police and fire vehicles led by small and middle-sized children showing off goats small and large.

The finale is a long line of meticulously maintained tractors, many of which are antiques.

Farming is becoming a lost art. It requires long hours of back-breaking work for little pay and rare vacations. Lucky for us, there are still families and generations who thrive on the work, who prefer working with animals over being inside with machinery.

The crowd at the fair is infused with much emotion – excitement, wonder, and enjoyment – but the dominant sense is one of great pride. Farmers take great pride in their crops, their animals and their families. Villagers take great pride in living high on the mountain with all of them, too.

Well worth celebration.



Have You Seen This Cat?



Bruiser went missing from 390 Main Road, Gill mid-day on Thursday, August 9. He is an 11-year-old fixed male Bengal mix. He is missing both fangs, upper and lower, on the right side. He is normally very friendly. He has very distinct markings, stripes and rosettes.

Please call Renaissance Builders at (413) 863-8316 or Barb Edson Greenwald at (413) 834-4444 if you think you may have seen him. Any leads greatly appreciated. There is a reward for his safe return. Thank you!

MOVIE REVIEW

Ant-Man and the Wasp (2018)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The first Ant-Man movie (2015) had a passing of the Ant-Man torch from Dr. Hank Pym to Scott Lang. With this sequel, we have the passing of the torch, more or less, from Hank’s lost wife Janet, played by Michelle Pfeiffer, to his daughter Hope, played by Evangeline Lilly.

Speaking of Janet, Hope and Dr. Pym try to get Janet back from where she was lost. They get information from Scott that proves she is still alive, and they also seek Scott’s help with their effort to get the original Wasp back among them.

While doing that, they cross paths with an individual called the Ghost, played by Hannah John-Kamen, who sort of has something in common with the original Wasp. Her real name is Ava, and what she can do is kind of cool. It makes the name the Ghost very fitting for her.

The Ant-Man is supposed to be able to shrink and grow big. In this movie, they have a lot more of that happening. There is also a lot more humor in the film; it is even more offbeat than the first one. Those comical associates of Scott also come in handy again, too. Those individuals helped the story work nicely the first time around. A lot more humor, and more of the Ant-Man’s shrinking and growing ability, does as well.



I won’t say if Hank and Hope succeed with bringing back Janet. But their journey to get her is one wild ride to watch. Janet’s storyline crosses paths, and helps out, with the Ghost’s in a way I really liked.

I also like Hope’s hairstyle better than the one she had in the first movie. Hank and Janet’s relationship isn’t the only romantic relationship that is focused on in the sequel. Hope and Scott had an attraction that they went back and forth with a bit in the first one. They do that a bit more the second time around, and this time, there is a resolution to the pair’s attraction.

Both movies did all of the right moves when it came to having humor, an offbeat nature as part of their stories, and staying true to the comic lore that makes up what is Ant-Man. If they keep doing that when it comes to the Ant-Man movies, then they will get a third one. I am more than a little interested in what the story for that one will be!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unfounded Drug Suspicion; Newspaper Smoke; Floods; Drinking; Hubcap Hurler; Trapped Turkey; Lawn Signs, Black Lives Matter “Propaganda” Stolen

Monday, 8/6

7:39 p.m. Caller states that there is a beaver on the bike path that looks sick or lost. Officers located beaver; it appears to be OK.

Tuesday, 8/7

3:08 a.m. Warrant arrest of an adult male following a foot pursuit on Third Street.

2:55 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Savings Bank requesting to speak with officer re: a suspicious male who just attempted to make a transaction. While there, the male began persistently asking the teller about the bank’s hold-up procedures. Officer advised.

5:33 p.m. Caller reports that a suspicious silver Chevy sedan appears to be conducting drug deals at Unity Park. Unfounded.

7:24 p.m. Caller reporting loose pigs in Montague Center. Officer rounded up pigs and got them back on the property.

Wednesday, 8/8

1:01 p.m. Officer left note for homeowners on Sunset Drive to trim bushes that are sticking out into Turnpike Road, making it difficult for motorists to see.

3:03 p.m. Caller from Avenue A believes that a friend just stole \$80 from a table in her home. Advised of options.

3:27 p.m. Caller from Central Street reporting missing medication. Advised of options.

3:28 p.m. Caller requesting help regarding unwanted calls she is getting from a prisoner who she does not know. Advised of options.

5:58 p.m. Caller advising of extreme flooding in area of East Main and Federal streets. Officer requesting MassHighway for water that is encroaching on houses and foundations. MassHighway *en route*.

6:10 p.m. Caller from Court Square reporting lightning strike to chimney; no fire or smoke showing at this time, but phone line and smoke detectors are fried. MCFD dispatched via Shelburne Control.

6:55 p.m. Caller from Park Street advising that a manhole cover has popped up and is a hazard to motor vehicles. Officer was able to return cover to its position.

Thursday, 8/9

2:48 p.m. Off-duty MPD officer requesting assistance with a vehicle that was being operated recklessly and then pulled into Cumberland Farms. Officer advises vehicle will be parked at this location until a family member can retrieve it.

8:49 p.m. Caller advising that a woman with blond hair is sitting under the bridge on Spring Street.

Woman stated she had been beaten up by her sister’s boyfriend. Officer found described female. Investigated.

9:51 p.m. Caller from Park Street reporting fire in area that is being fed by newspaper, creating a lot of smoke that is entering her home. Caller states that flames are five feet or higher. TFFD advised and *en route*, parties advised of complaint and of town regulations regarding outdoor fires.

Friday, 8/10

8:06 a.m. Caller requesting assistance removing several homeless people trespassing on the riverbank near Railroad Salvage. One subject was served with trespass notice by FirstLight yesterday and given until noon today to leave and remove all of his property. Officer following up. Subject did not have anyone to help him move, so his property was still on site; however, it appeared that he was making attempts to clear out the area. Officer and FirstLight employee helped subject move his remaining items. Subject advised of consequences if he returns.

9:30 a.m. Party from Elm Street into station to speak with an officer re: issues with a neighbor that are affecting his rental property. Neighbor’s dog is regularly off leash, defecates on the property, and the neighbor turns around and tracks mud in the reporting party’s driveway. Party has tried to speak with neighbor, but they were not receptive to rectifying the issue. Officer advised neighbor of consequences if these issues continue.

12:35 p.m. Report of heavy smoke in area of Seventh and K streets; unknown source. TFFD and officer advised. Caller called back; smoke was coming from a lawnmower. Caller did not have a visual on the mower, but advised that someone told her it was “under control and all set.” TFFD in area investigating.

2:14 p.m. Caller requesting assistance removing a subject who is camping/trespassing on private property off Depot Street. Parties located and moved along.

2:50 p.m. Report of hit-and-run accident in front of Millers Falls Library. Suspected vehicle had “Northeast Tree Care” written on its side. Sunderland officer spoke with someone at the business who confirmed that this was a company vehicle and provided a cell phone number for the owner.

6:11 p.m. Gill PD found a cockatoo at Barton Cove;

advising in case someone calls about a missing bird. 6:59 p.m. White Trek 1100 bike reported stolen on Third Street. Report taken.

Saturday, 8/11

3:52 p.m. First of several reports of street and property flooding.

Sunday, 8/12

6:03 a.m. Caller reports that there is a hole in the Turners Falls–Gill Bridge that he believes was covered, but the cover is now across the intersection of Main Road and Route 2 by the Mobil station. Officer advises the pavement has become separated from the desk plate of the bridge on the Gill end. Photos taken; MassDOT notified. Officer advises not an immediate hazard.

11:44 a.m. Caller requesting options re: a perceived threat from a male friend. Caller advised male that she no longer wants to be friends with him, at which time he demanded that she return gifts he had given her or else he would come to her residence next week. Items in question included a freezer and over \$400 in cash. Unable to locate male party, whose last known address was in Greenfield; Greenfield PD will continue to be on lookout.

4:18 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a male party is highly intoxicated and was kicking his sister’s apartment door. Party taken into protective custody. 5:29 p.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Pizza House reporting that a male just reached into his vehicle and stole his cash bag from work. Suspect fled on foot down Fourth Street toward L Street. Report taken.

9:27 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle into telephone pole on Coolidge Avenue. Injuries reported. PD, FD, and MedCare responding. Under investigation.

Monday, 8/13

8:30 a.m. Caller reports that the other day he was driving north on Route 63 and something shot through his window and struck his headrest. Caller initially believed it was a rock, but upon further inspection, he believes it was a bullet. Using landmarks, determined with caller that he was north of Millers and had already crossed into Erving or Northfield jurisdiction; may have been as far north as New Hampshire when this occurred. Provided caller with number for Shelburne Control.

10:37 a.m. Caller reports that five minutes ago, she observed a subject remove a hubcap from a blue Prius and throw it into

the bushes next to Great Falls Harvest. Subject then walked off toward the Pizza House. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 8/14

12:35 a.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle in Bookmill parking lot. Operator advises he was meeting a friend.

8:51 a.m. 911 caller from Sheffield Elementary School reporting suspicious male in a gray Jeep who has been showing up recently trying to interact with a young teacher. Male party had stated that he was a private investigator. Male party showed paperwork confirming that he was a private investigator for a company out of New Hampshire. Advised party to check in with police department when he is going to be in town.

9:12 a.m. Walk-in party would like it on record that someone stole two political lawn signs from his front yard on Main Street over the weekend.

8:05 p.m. Caller from Third Street requesting that an officer instruct a man who just left the area not to come back. Caller believes that this man is a Level 3 sex offender, and he would like him to stay clear of this building that houses children. Officer searched area; negative findings.

Wednesday, 8/15

1:11 a.m. Officer advises he received a call from the male owner of Hubbie’s Tavern and Restaurant reporting vandalism to his car. Someone has slashed the top of the car. Investigated.

8:43 a.m. Clerk at Scotty’s Convenience Store reporting that two of their newspaper boxes were stolen overnight. At the same time, a customer came into the store and stated that she saw one of the boxes near the dog park area of Unity Park and could hear somebody in the woods banging on something metal. Officers located one box; still searching for second box. Report taken.

9:31 a.m. Caller states that his company’s pickup truck that was parked by the White Bridge went missing overnight. Red truck with letters “MIG” on side. Shelburne Control advised to be on lookout. Vehicle entered as stolen. Environmental police notified and requested to check Montague Plains for vehicle. Officers checking address of possible suspect. One male party taken into custody. Vehicle located on Chestnut Lane. A 44-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant and also

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3 charged with larceny of a vehicle; obstruction of justice; larceny over \$1,200; three counts of larceny under \$1,200; two counts of malicious destruction of property over \$250; and larceny under \$250 by false pretense.

10:53 a.m. Report of male party who took two shopping carts from Food City. Unable to locate.

2:03 p.m. Report of people drinking alcohol in Peskeomskut Park. Unfounded.

6:19 p.m. Caller advises that a male party was in front of Connecticut River Liquor and Wine asking to purchase heroin. Unable to locate; officer will be on lookout in area.

7:20 p.m. Officer advising that a person in a hospital gown is running in the direction of Turners Falls near the White Bridge. Greenfield PD advised; they are not looking for a person with that description, and Baystate Franklin Medical Center is not missing anyone fitting that description, either. Investigated.

Thursday, 8/16

2:25 a.m. Officer out in area of Family Dollar; kids are walking on road. Youths redirected to sidewalk.

9:48 a.m. Report of a large bump that has formed in the middle of the White Bridge that caller states was not there yesterday. Caller advises it is not the bump between the bridges but is actually on the bridge. Officer walked length of bridge; unable to locate.

11:40 a.m. Party into station to speak with an officer about political signs for her campaign that were stolen out of several residents' yards. Caller advises that her opponent's signs were not stolen. Caller also came into information that someone found some of her signs discarded somewhere along with Black Lives Matter

propaganda [*sic*] and is concerned that the theft of her signs was racially motivated. Officer advised caller of options and will look into matter further. Log scan since 8/1/18 shows two potentially related calls.

12:10 p.m. Party into station reporting that on several occasions recently while visiting Springdale Cemetery he has come across discarded hypodermic needles; requests to have on record so officers will be aware of possible drug activity taking place there.

1:03 p.m. Caller lodging complaint re: unregistered vehicles at a Turners Falls Road property. Prior violation complaints located. Homeowner served in hand; officer advises eight unregistered vehicles on property.

7:09 p.m. Party into station to speak with an officer re: faded crosswalks around town. With school starting soon, caller would like to see them repainted for the safety of students. DPW advised.

9:27 p.m. 911 caller advising of screaming in area of Peske Park; sounds like a fight going on and a woman is yelling. Officers advised and *en route*. Not as described; just a radio playing. Parties reminded of hours of this location and legal ramifications if they continue to break town bylaws. Parties moved along.

Friday, 8/17

7:55 p.m. Caller states that he struck a deer in the vicinity of the technical school; deer is still running around but can't put any weight on its back leg. Officer could not locate deer. No damage to vehicle.

Saturday, 8/18

10:43 a.m. 911 caller reporting that there is a turkey outside a gate/fence on Water Department property on Swamp Road; turkey cannot get to her babies on other side of gate/fence. Transferred caller to

Environmental Police dispatch.

1:31 p.m. Caller reports that a half dozen tractor trailer units have been coming and going on Rod Shop Road; some of the trucks are parked on caller's lawn. While on the line, caller began yelling and swearing at one of the truck drivers. Advised caller not to engage with drivers. Officer spoke with parties attending a funeral at the Masonic Lodge. Peace restored.

9:29 p.m. Caller states that a male in dark clothing on Fourth Street is swinging a baseball bat around and seems agitated. Male party located. Courtesy transport provided.

10:54 p.m. A 24-year-old Turners Falls man turned himself in at the station on a probation warrant.

Sunday, 8/19

3 a.m. Officer located a male in shorts and a white t-shirt running in the middle of Millers Falls Road near the airport. Involved has been drinking but was able to contact his uncle. Courtesy transport provided.

10:58 a.m. Report of possible sinkhole forming on Federal Street. Officer reports obvious washout underneath hole. Area coned off. MassHighway on scene; will be scheduling repairs for road and calling for detail officers.

11:11 a.m. Caller states that she is moving out of an H Street address and a neighbor has taken her belongings from the porch and put them on the curb with a "Free" sign. Caller later advised her son and another party were *en route* to try to mediate situation. Officer called caller back; no answer; message left.

Monday, 8/20

12:58 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reporting that a train has been idling near her house for over 24 hours. Caller called railroad earlier and was advised that the train would be moved by 7 p.m. this past evening. Train still there. Advised caller that this would be on record.



Muscles for Mussels

By **LESLIE BROWN**

WELLS BEACH, MAINE – Rising waters and changing weather dominate the chatter about global warming. Both impact human life. But two other equally significant changes receive much less attention.

More than 3.5 billion people depend on the oceans for their primary source of food. This farming environment is not only rising, but so are its temperature and acidity.

We now know that global warming has affected not only crops grown in the soil but in an even more significant growing environment, our ocean waters: increased carbon and soil acidity impact earth farming of food crops, changes in the fish growing environment are impacting a major food source: the ocean.

The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of the world's oceans, and Maine's fisheries are essential to the region's economy.

So it is entirely fitting that a new research laboratory for oceanic studies – primarily microbial life and biogeochemical dynamics – was built in East Boothbay on the Damariscotta River estuary in Maine. The Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences is a non-profit project founded in 1974.

There is a feeling of urgency here.

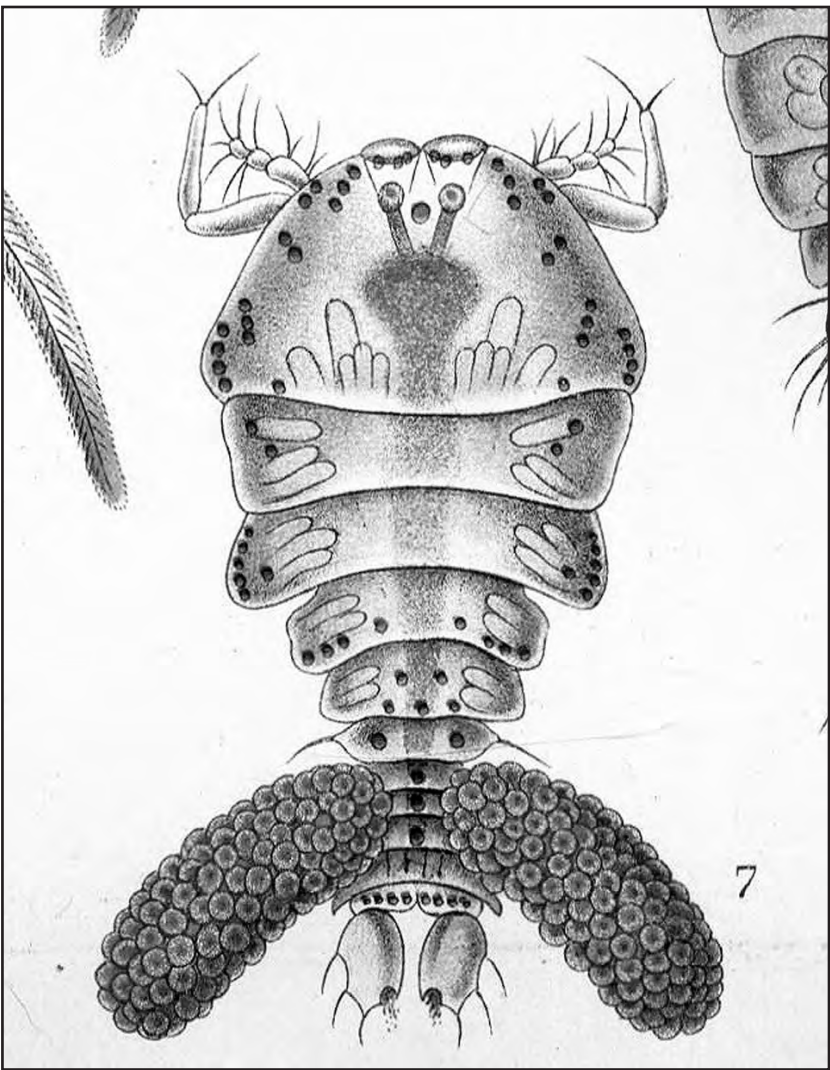
As global carbon dioxide climbs, the combination of warmer and increasingly acidified water climbs as well, threatening some of Maine's most important marine resources: copepods, a keystone species which serves as a food for fish, zooplankton and whales; baby lobsters and shellfish.

Around 1880, carbon dioxide levels were estimated at about 200 parts per million. In 2010 the level was up to 386 parts per million. According to NASA, levels are up to 410 parts per million as of this June.

Nicole Price, marine ecologist and senior research scientist at Bigelow, is studying how kelp farms might help mussels. It is posited that the development of strong shells and meaty innards may be impaired by rising temperatures and acidity.

She calls Maine the "birthplace of seaweed aquaculture," and notes that others have found that kelp can be used to soak up other nutrients.

She has been working on a study in which mussels were grown in an oyster cage inside a kelp farm. The premise was that the kelp sequestered carbon dioxide creating a



Ernst Haeckel illustration, from Kunstformen der Natur (1904), plate 56: "Copepoda."

"phytoremediation halo." In a recent interview in *The Maine Sunday Telegram*, she said, "We consider this preliminary data but we are excited. We do have positive evidence to suggest that there is a halo effect."

If the data proves out, raising shellfish in kelp farms will result in stronger shells and meatier contents in oyster, clams and mussels.

Another colleague at Bigelow, David Fields, studies copepods and baby lobster. Fields is working in collaboration with Rick Wahle from the University of Maine's School of Marine Sciences.

Fields is studying lobster larvae and how they develop and feed. Fields has researchers working on how long larval lobsters can survive on the fat vacuole they get from their mothers to use until they can feed on their own. They are studying how that fat vacuole gets burned, measuring breathing rates, carbon and lipid levels in lobster larvae.

Currently, scientists are reporting smaller numbers of baby lobsters. Wahle's research suggests that they may be moving into deeper, colder waters. Or it may be that lobsters are migrating further north east to cooler

Canadian waters, ultimately decimating the Maine lobster business.

It may be that humans can intervene and find new ways to help copepods, lobsters and shellfish to adapt to increased temperatures and acidity.

Or maybe nature is more resilient than we believe.

Fields spoke to writers at *The Maine Sunday Telegram*: "Over historical time, the CO₂ concentrates on earth were much higher, and copepods evolved at a time when they were much higher."

Maybe that was actually good for the copepods. Maybe they can cope with future acidification, if not with higher temperatures.

Fields said, "I am an eternal optimist...I do think that, as humans, we will resolve some of our issues. At a slower rate probably than we want, and there will be extinctions. But I do think that as a society, we can pull it together."

We're rooting for the copepods, the baby lobsters and the shellfish, not to mention for the researchers. There's a great deal at stake: the Maine fishing industry, and the food source of a great number of us populating our wonderful planet.



Mussels. Stefan Schwehofer image, used under Creative Commons license.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS This Week at MCTV

By **ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

We hope you are all having a splendid August here at Montague Community TV. Our new TV schedule is up and running at *Montaguetv.org*. Check it out to find out when to see your favorite shows and events on Channel 17!

We'd also like to direct your attention to the following programs now available on channel 17 and *Montaguetv.org*:

- Northern Roots Presents:

Wednesday Knudsen at the Brick House;

- Gill 225th Celebration and Pig Roast.

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!





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September 1: “Virgo Vibe” in Wendell

WENDELL – There will be a big backyard bash on the outdoor stage of the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub on Saturday, September 1 from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., with 11 bands, a tandem DJ dance party, food trucks, vending, local art, and much more. Rain or shine.

The lineup: 1 p.m., **The Wendell Swamp Sisters**, calypso, celtic folk, reggae youth band; 1:30 p.m., **Rufus Haikufus & The Magic Carpet Band**, beatnik bliss, ethereal horns & wash tub bass; 2 p.m., **Josh LeVangie and The Pistoleros**, a true outlaw country band; 3 p.m., **Ch’Chunk**, a modern take on classic swing; 4 p.m., **The Quaboag Vibe**, alt folk art rock fusion; 5 p.m., **Mamma’s Marmalade**, a bluegrass, funk, blues, folk string band; 6 p.m., **Deep C Divers**, alternative pop, rock, funk & reggae straight from the heart; 7 p.m., **Snowhaus**, lovable

party punx; 8 p.m., **Outer Style**, heavy psychedelic rock explosion; 9 p.m., **The Equalites**, roots rock reggae soul; 10 p.m., **Shokazoba**, original conscious afrobeat funk; and 11 p.m., **DJ Andujar & Studebaker Hawk’s** International funk & tropical dance floor.

Sun Kim Bop restaurant and food truck and local burgers fries and more will be on hand providing the tastiest food in the valley. Beautiful sound will be provided by Max-Sound Productions.

Vendors include Wendell residents Macle Designs; Annabel Levine Art; and The Enthusiast Premium Smoke & Vape.

This event is all about local community members coming together to create something fun, meaningful, accessible & integral. Our aim is to bring our Valley’s music culture back to its roots of warmth,

appreciation, and a celebration of local talent. Every person who buys an early ticket will receive \$5 back at the gate to spend how they wish. Tickets are just \$20!

Tickets can be purchased from participating musicians Jason Moses, Tom Schack, Rich Hennessy, Jack Dwyer, and Tobey Sol LaRoche; in Easthampton at Luthier’s Co-op & Head Eaze; at Turn It Up Noho, Montague, & Brattleboro; in Amherst at Mystery Train Records & Cushman Market and Cafe; at the Leverett Village Coop, and the Wendell Country Store; in Millers Falls at Element Brewing Company; in Greenfield at The Enthusiast; in Haydenville at Local Burgy; and in Florence at cafe evolution.

Persons under 12 admitted free of charge. *No BYOB*. Please direct any inquiry to Jason Moses at musician@gmail.com.

TRANSITIONS from page B1 in my head when I walk in the world and take pictures of what I see. I’m simply enchanted, curious, delighted or surprised by something I see. Whether I’m looking at a moment in nature, covering an event or photographing a theatrical performance, it is that special moment where light and image or human expression creates perfection. Why it feels that way, I have no words to express.

When I found myself in conversation with Alice earlier this year, I took that opportunity to talk to her about this. She paused to think, then asked me some questions, starting with: what do I photograph?

My quick answer was flowers. And then when she asked me why, and the answer was surprisingly easy: I photograph irises because they remind me of the purple irises in my mother’s backyard when I was very young. And cherry blossoms because there were two rows of cherry blossoms in full bloom behind the Philadelphia Art Museum and it made me so happy to see them every spring.

I photograph the beach and ocean, reminders of summers spent in Atlantic City as a child and so much of my life in Brooklyn, now behind me. As for my theatrical photography, that’s easy. My love of the theater began when I was very young, with performances in high school musicals, and it has never left me. Once bitten, as they say.

Multiple Transitions

In her personal life, Alice Thomas has had many transitions. She had a long, successful career as a speech therapist. Now she devotes her time to writing and painting, inviting her friends in to share ideas and creative work.

Like many of us, she has learned that having the support of others who work with art is important to avoid the loneliness and isolation

that comes to many in the arts who seal themselves off and feel they have to live inside their heads in order to produce great work. This myth has harmed a great many talented people over the years.

I hope that those of us who are working in a more inclusive and supportive creative environment will stand as examples of the positive value of sharing our work, rejecting isolation as a necessity of artistic endeavors. Especially as we get older, we need friends and community more than ever.

Alice told me she was working as the clinical supervisor for all of western Massachusetts and southern Vermont when she moved to Greenfield in 2005. Before then, she had held positions in several southern states, the last one in Florida.

Moving to the Northeast was a practical decision she made as she saw cuts coming to social service agencies due to congressional budget restraints. She could not have anticipated the much bigger change that would come to her life when she entered the rotary during a move to her new apartment in Greenfield. A car accident that day changed her life forever.

“We all have multiple transitions in our lives,” said Alice. “Some dramatic. Unplanned. Surprising. And those are the ones we cringe at their very memory. I’ve had unplanned changes that took me entirely by surprise, and perhaps the navigation of these is more the topic discussed here. Rather, it’s the ‘how to’ of running the course without coach or fallback position or plan.”

Alice struggled to speak about the accident, and it was clear that this was a difficult subject for her. At least in part, that is because she doesn’t entirely remember everything that happened. She spoke about how someone from her office would call and ask her every day if she was coming into work and she would say yes, but had no ability to

do so. Her injuries were not physically obvious, but very serious, and so it took a long time to diagnose them properly.

Alice gradually came to understand and recognize her limitations due to what must have been a severe brain injury. She asked herself, after recognizing that doing her job was no longer possible, “What can I do with my time?”

Her conclusion was art. Art would be her own rehab, enjoyable and therapeutic.

Free Falling

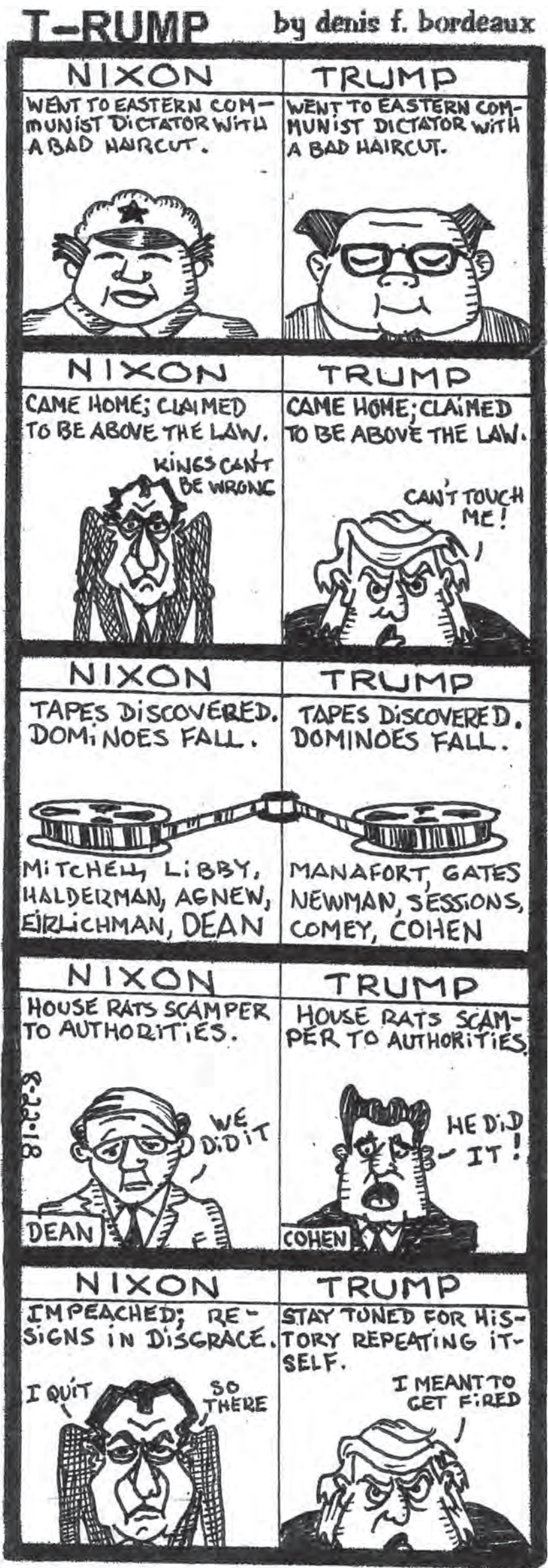
In order to make a new life trajectory, Alice found an artist in Brattleboro to study with who also helped her renew her skills in Mandarin. She enjoyed the drive up there, and says she always looked for positive experiences that were available to her in all aspects of her life.

“It’s difficult to just be you when it seems that you are not working – not moving forward in a situation,” she said. “One of those times (for me) was after my motor vehicle accident. It changed everything. When that happened to me, my first response was ‘Be in free-fall.’

“I was so uncomfortable doing/ thinking that, but the truth was, I couldn’t do anything else, especially living alone. Everything was difficult and some things still are. I work every day to carry on and improve what I lost...vocabulary and all. I simply do the things I can and omit what I can’t. It’s been quite a ride!”

As for her work as an artist now, she asks, “What is in our world that we see, read about in the newspaper? What are the topics that deserve commentary, discussion? What is just? How do all the pieces that go into that world of justice fit together? What is it that the common person knows, and what don’t we know? Have a discussion about that.”

Getting back to this idea of free-fall, Alice says it reduced her anxiety: “I knew certain things would



happen on a daily basis like sleep, eat, etc., so that’s what I focused on. I simply left undone what I couldn’t do myself. Even today, it’s a matter of sorting, being realistic, salvaging, keeping what’s doable; prioritizing and letting go of what will not serve me in future days or years.

“I have met so very many new people, 99 percent of whom never knew me before the accident. I am surrounded by the most loving, ex-

citing, interesting people I could ever hope to meet. This time, free-fall is a thrill.”

You can watch Alice Thomas’ artist talk at gctv.org/videos/alice-thomas-artistic-journey-precarius. The show includes many views of the artwork on display. The exhibit will be up through the end of August at the GCTV office, 393 Main Street, Greenfield.



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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
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or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

Magic Music

for Gerrit Lansing, In Memoriam

The Chinese gong is tuned
in accordance with the cymbals,
and in the large hushed room
rhapsodic intervals

swell an embellished scale.
A few crane their ears,
divine a hidden madrigal,
a lucent score that soars,

whirls, dances on tiptoes,
whispers for a moment, then
descends like hailstones
chasing summer rain.

– Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

Two Poems from *Blueline*

The air is impossible as if someone has thrown rose petals everywhere; it is done in certain festivals in India: Saffron and rose. Out of a palm grove two figures tumble. One in pink lycra, rotund and tall; the other in the same costume is short and lean. Both have black hair. Mesmerized by color, they are – she thinks – my own Tweedledum and Tweedledee, though it’s not original of her to think so. Ah, but referencing is important in some circles. While she ruminates the two pink-clad fellows (she couldn’t call them men: too cute or familiar) come nearer. The tall fat one has large fleshy hands matted with black hair. The other has child’s hands. They draw pink air with them. Standing stock still, she makes a tremendous effort to move. Her effort – a flutter of eyelids.

She feels hurried. The other could come along at any second and ruin everything. What everything exactly? The carefully constructed sense of some important and irrevocable act to be accomplished in the brevity of Friday afternoon, the 14th; the light is rapidly leaving us short. When the president made his announcement on the South lawn, a siren wailed behind him for all of the question and answer period. Did he hear it? He has his back turned and his eye fixed on the dead idea of an army in the desert – an army in the desert painted red. When someone like that gets in she is suspicious. All she can hear is that siren in the city. Hardly anyone is getting what they want, if they know what they want. Dead idea = Dead people.

– Patricia Pruitt

A Friend’s Advice

Gather under the oak trees the freckles and the beauty marks.
follow by boat the days of the eclipse.
gaze upon the pebbles in the languid eyes of strong models.
dance between the cracking whip.
see the women, who at 40 years old, leave their hearts in unfortunate bodies, replacing vegetables with classical attitudes.

– Paul Eluard & Max Ernst
Translated by Imogene Pruitt-Spence

The Scissors and their Father

The little one is sick, the little one is going to die. He who gave us sight, who locked up the darkness in the forests of firs, and who dried the streets after the storm. He had an agreeable stomach, carried a softness in his bones, and made love with the bell towers.

The little one is sick, he is going to die. Now, he holds the end of the world on the tip of his finger and the birds by their feathers – which the night brings him. He will be dressed in a grand robe, made of gold and covered in tassels, confetti in his hair. The clouds announce that he has no more than two hours. At the window, a needle registers the trembling distance of his agony. In their hideaways made of icing, the pyramids bow deeply, and the dogs hide in their riddles. The nobility does not like to be seen crying. And the lightning bolt? Where is my grace, the lightning bolt?

He was good, he was soft. He never whipped the wind, nor cracked the ground. And he was never trapped in a flood. He is going to die. Is it then nothing to be a little one?

– Paul Eluard & Max Ernst
Translated by Imogene Pruitt-Spence

In Search of Innocence

In the open air of the mountains, a single star in ten is clear. The eskimos can’t bury the light in their abominable glaciers.

In a moment of forgetfulness, the light returns, staying with the tender kiss of an ideal mother. The turtledoves profit from pushing the moon and the fragile bushes underground.

Silence, as the dear angel brings attention of broken sentences. He melts slowly, first dawn.

– Paul Eluard & Max Ernst
Translated by Imogene Pruitt-Spence

Contributor’s Notes

Kevin Smith was April’s featured poet. Regarding his poetry, Kevin says he seeks posthumous fame, and hopes he will be alive to see it. Kevin lives in Turners Falls, with his wonderful and inspirational girlfriend, Stephanie, along with a dog and two cats.


Imogene Pruitt-Spence’s translations are from Misfortunes of the Immortals, the 1922 collaboration by French poet Paul Eluard and German artist Max Ernst.

Imogene, June’s featured poet, is currently co-translating with Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno this collection, as well as Repetitions, an earlier Eluard and Ernst collaboration, for Alyscamps Press (Paris). Imogene, who is also a visual artist, grew up mostly in Greenfield. She was a youth winner of the Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest while a student at PVPA. For the last few years she has lived and studied in Olympia, Washington.

Patricia Pruitt, who died in April 2018, was an editor of this page. Her *Full Moon at Sunset: Selected Poems* was published last fall by Talisman House. The poems appearing here are from her prose-poem sequence *Blueline*, which Alyscamp Press (Paris) is issuing early this autumn.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno edits this page.

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EXHIBITS:

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

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Fabricated: Fabulous Functional & Whimsical Fiber Art*. Through September 16.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Don't Get Hung Up on the Details*. A group exhibit by the Magic of Watercolor for Adults Class. Through August.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *PaperJam* group exhibit curated by Exploded View, art inspired by paper. *On a Roll – the Story of Paper in Turners Falls* is an exhibit exploring the transition from hand-made to machine-made paper, the paper industry's arrival in Turners Falls, and the rise and fall of the village's paper mills. Reception with Exploded View performance on September 9, 2 p.m. Through September.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Visions of Love* by Cameron Schmitz. Abstract paintings. Through September 21. Reception and artist talk, August 24, 5:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Steve Stroud: Illustration Retrospective; Sarah Stroud: A Layered Life*. Through August.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Ixchelailee Art*. Digital collage by Turners Falls artist Diana Pedrosa. Through October 6.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *22 Homes* by Hannah Hurricane Sanchez. A colorful display of rigid spaces and flexible boundaries, a response to moving 22 times last summer, with family adventures and in between houses. Through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Works on Paper*: paintings by Greenfield artist Joseph McCarthy and *Stream of Consciousness* paintings by Petula Bloomfield. Reception September 1, 3 p.m. with music by Chris Eriquizzo. Through October 28.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Past, Present and Future*. Member show celebrating 20 year anniversary of the Coop. Through August.

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

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Call for Photography: The Millers River Watershed Council is pleased to announce the first-ever Millers River & Watershed Photo Contest and Exhibition, co-sponsored with the Athol Public Library, where the exhibition will run during the month of October, 2018 before moving to other watershed venues. Please visit millerswatershed.org for details. Submission deadline is September 24.



Amherst artist Petula Bloomfield says: "For me, Painting is a celebration of energy and color." Take a look at the work in Bloomfield's new featured exhibit at Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls. Through October 28 with a reception on September 1 at 3 p.m.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Threads: A Unique Fashion Show*. Costumes from Silverthorne Theater's five seasons of shows will be modeled plus period clothing and wearable art from the DVAA Gallery exhibit *Fabricated*. \$. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Box Shop Blues*. Music on the Patio Series. Bring your own lawn chair. 7 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*. 8 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Spooky Mulder*. Singer-songwriter. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPM Fest*. Featuring *Tombs, Incite, Barishi, The Beast of Nod, Aethere, Rozamov*, and 6 more. \$. 4 to 11 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Giraffes? Giraffes, Dryjacket, Wild Pink, Lost Film*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Caleb Wetherbee*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Millers Falls Road & Gun Club, Montague: *RPM Fest*. With *Black Tusk, Whores, Black Mass, Heavy Temple, White-nails, The Damaged, Dead Empires, Jeopardy, Age of Empires, Gay Mayor, Anti-Cosmos*, and 12 more. \$. Noon to 11 p.m.

Shelburne Grange Fair, Shelburne Center: *Zydeco Connection*. Louisiana zydeco. Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *June Millington, And the Kids, Calliope Jones*. Fundraiser concert for Jean Millington's stroke recovery. \$. 6 p.m.

and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Impalers, Bombers, Gay Mayor*. Punk Show. \$. 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Stephen Page Trio*. Jazz trio on piano, trumpet and guitar. \$. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Same Old Blues*. Music on the Patio series. Bring your own lawn chair. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Brandee Simone, Andy Goulet*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jamie Kent, with Mikey Sweet*. Country rock. \$. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Tasty Chicks Comedy Show*. Savory Stand Up. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunny Lowdown*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

First Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Voices of Dissent, Music of Activism*. With *Gloria Matlock and Michael Nix, Adam Matlock, Licia Sky, and Irene I-SHEA Shaikly*. Free. 10:15 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Virgo Vibe*. Concert party with food trucks, vendors, lots of bands, including *Shokazoba, The Equalites, Mamma's Marmalade, Outer Style, Snowhaus, The Pistoleiros*, and more. \$. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dom Flemons*. Multi-instrumentalist and co-founder of the Carolina Chocolate Drops. \$. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dalthom, Weeping Bong, Byron Coley, and Donkey No No*. Feeding Tube Records and Poon Village presentation. \$. 9 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-Op Straight Ahead Jazz*. Balcony in the afternoon. 12 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont Experience*. \$. 6 p.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Anjil-irose, Wendy Eisenberg, Miles Hewitt, LittleboyBigHeadOn-Bike*. \$. 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*. Stories, projects,

snacks for young children and their caregivers. 10:15 a.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creación Latin Big Band Jam*. On the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.



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Untitled painting by Cameron Schmitz, at Greenfield Gallery through September 21.

“Visions of Love” at the Greenfield Gallery

By TRISH CRAPO

GREENFIELD – Bernardston artist Cameron Schmitz believes in pushing herself out of her comfort zone. Trained as a representational landscape and portrait painter, Schmitz has lately been putting aside the impulse to plan and overly control her work, preferring to let intuition take over.

She describes her more recent work as “non-objective abstraction,” yet points out that her compositions contain many connections to human and pastoral forms.

“The gestural qualities of my work I see as being very much related to human relationships and connections,” she says. The title of her current show at The Greenfield Gallery, “Visions of Love,” refers to the way her abstract forms seem to reach toward one another, mingle and touch.

Even when she was painting representational landscape, Schmitz

says, she was always aware of being a witness to what she experienced as the “communal event” of nature. She saw the ways that trees reached in for the light as metaphors for people reaching to touch each other.

“I think about the picture plane as a window into a deeper space,” Schmitz says. She gestures toward a painting on the wall of her studio, pointing out how the abstract forms and energetic brushstrokes suggest a path leading through some shaded, yellow woods toward a brighter opening.

Schmitz has been enjoying working on larger canvases, and “really pushing and playing with color. Sometimes I start with a series of gestures and just work the surface and really move my body to help ignite a sense of movement and energy.”

As she responds to her first marks, “that’s when the conceptual aspects of the paintings are born. I find that process to be most engaging. And interestingly, I find that I can find a better flow if I just trust the process...

So much of my work now is letting go of everything I know and finding play, tapping into these moments of exploration and experimentation and not worrying so much about where I’m going.”

In painting abstractly, Schmitz says, “I’m really embracing the unknown, and the mystery. I’m thinking about capturing this moment of time, this sense of movement, the kind of painterly event that’s occurring.”

She laughs as she adds, “I wish I could be this confident about life!”

On view at the Greenfield Gallery, 231 Main Street through September 21. Gallery talk Friday, August 24, 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by an artist’s reception. Workshop in intuitive abstract painting with Schmitz will be held Saturday, September 15. For more information, see bit.ly/CameronSchmitzGG. Trish Crapo is the publicist at the Greenfield Gallery.

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