

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 37

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 25, 2019

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Monsters and Musicals: Costume Design Grabs Students' Creativity



Members of *Skeleton Crew Theater*, gathered behind Chappell's Auto in Gill. Left to right: Brian Lamore, Simon Lorenzo, Rowan Graves, Chase Blair, Jonathan Chappell, Mercedes Bailey, Corey Martineau, and Teagan Linnell.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL – Each year, Turners Falls High School presents a musical, offering students an opportunity to explore their various creative abilities. Recent years have included younger students from Great Falls Middle School with great success. In fact, this past year, several middle school students had prominent roles in *The Little Mermaid*.

Contributing substantially to the overall visual excellence of these shows have been the costumes, created by Jonathan Chappell and the students from his Digital Video Filmmaking class. Over the last several years audiences have been treated to many unusual sights. For example, in *The Lion King*, Chappell and his students helped fill the stage with wild animals: young lions, hyenas, fancy birds, and realistic-looking giraffes, which were students walking on stilts, dressed in tall spotted giraffe costumes partially made of foam.

In *Dorothy In Wonderland*, an

amalgamation of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*, the Queen wore a red and black dress with a huge round skirt and a stunning headdress. Even more fun were the twins, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, two roly-poly fellows who sang and danced and looked every bit like their inspiration. All of these costumes were created by Chappell and cast members, in collaboration with the students of the video class.

And then there was this year's performance of *The Little Mermaid*. Chappell and his students outdid themselves, with more than a dozen costumes for many different characters and sea creatures. Each was unique, and very recognizable as the animal it was meant to be.

There was a giant lobster all dressed in red with big claws for hands. This was the costume worn by Corey Martineau, whose part also involved a good deal of singing, dancing and acting. There

see **MONSTERS** page A8

Fundraisers, Fireworks on Saturday's Crowded Calendar

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – This is the concert and fundraiser that you literally can't miss, because there's no way to be late for it: a 24-hour performance marathon at the Shea Theater, with proceeds to benefit RAICES Action Network, Immigrant Families Together, and the Pioneer Valley Workers Center, three organizations working in support of immigrants.

Held this Saturday, July 27, from 8 a.m. until 8 a.m. Sunday morning, the event was organized in response to the state of Customs and Border

Protection detention centers, and the policy of family separation. A day of national protest on July 9, linked with the hashtag #closethecamp, inspired the theater company TheatreTruck to coordinate a local event.

TheatreTruck is three women, Brianna Sloane, Elizabeth Pangburn, and Emma Ayres. Ayres also coordinates events for the Shea Theater Arts Center, which is supporting the event. All artists and staff are donating their time and talents, so all proceeds can benefit asylum seekers and families in the current border crisis.

see **SATURDAY** page A4



Among several major public events this Saturday in Turners Falls is a 24-hour-long "Close the Camps" fundraiser at the Shea Theater.

Montague Center Neighbors Worried Speed Bump Ship Has Already Sailed

By JEFF SINGLETON

Residents of Montague Center woke up Tuesday morning to find that Main Street, which goes through the heart of the village, was being repaved. Normally that would not be a cause for concern, but the timing did not please a group of residents who have been lobbying town officials for measures to slow traffic on the street.

Concerns about cars speeding through Montague Center have been expressed for years, but have been highlighted in the past month by three accidents on Main Street. On June 29, a vehicle sped into the front yard of 18 Main Street, and on July 7 another crashed into the front steps of 29 Main Street. There was also an accident on July 13 further south of the village center.

These incidents were cited in a letter 13 Montague Center residents sent to town officials on Wednesday, July 17, less than a week before the repaving project began.

The letter noted that residents have complained about speeding vehicles "for decades," and repeated a number of suggestions the group made last October in a previous letter to the selectboard. Suggested "easy" solutions included four stop signs, two sets of removable speed bumps, and a greater police presence to issue speeding tickets. The

letter requested a "formal discussion" of these proposals in the fall.

This week's repaving project was not received well by some of the residents who signed the letter.

"We have been complaining about speed, and what did we get?" Emily Monosson of North Street told the *Reporter*. "A nice slick

see **TRAFFIC** page A7



A number of residents say they wish the road crew that started paving Main Street this week would install traffic-calming contours on its surface.

GILL SELECTBOARD

FERC Approves Hydro License Split; Gill Eyes Appeal

By GEORGE BRACE

At their July 22 meeting, the Gill selectboard reviewed the recent decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to approve FirstLight Power Resources' plan to split its Northfield Mount Hermon Pumped Storage Project into two separate limited liability companies (LLCs), and transfer its current FERC license to the new entities.

After granting Gill and other interested parties intervenor status in FirstLight's application for the change on July 1, FERC approved FirstLight's restructuring plan on July 11. Board members questioned the decision, and considered next steps.

Town administrator Ray Purington began the discussion by posing the question "Is there anything to do about it?" He informed the board that they had 30 days to file an appeal, but commented that in reading the decision, he wasn't sure there was much merit in

see **GILL** page A5

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Turnover, Turnaround Planned For Turners Secondary Schools

By MIKE JACKSON

Summer is a time for the Gill-Montague school committee to take stock, and at its July 16 meeting, it began to examine major changes underway at Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School, including a new principal, a new assistant principal, and two new deans of students.

Joanne Menard, the incoming principal, joined in the discussion. Menard said she had already been engaging with summer-school students, including addressing behavioral issues.

"Students have been very skeptical of if I'm going to follow through," she said, adding that she had heard from students that they felt administrators dealt out "inequitable consequences" for misbehavior.

"I need to be able for them to see that I've heard them, and I'm taking steps to try to change that," she said, adding that she intended to be a more hands-on

see **SCHOOLS** page A5

New Yoga Studio Offers Relaxation with a Twist

By DOTS LUVERA

TURNERS FALLS – You may have noticed there is a new sign on the old Housing Authority building that reads, "The Local Yoga Joint." Living inside is a newly born waterside studio, where yoga is taught with an added spice: cannabis. It's a business that intends to bring people together and teach alternative ways to heal, collectively and individually.

Jocelyn O'Shea, the owner and teacher at this new joint, is far from new when it comes to teaching yoga. She says teaching is what she is meant to do; it comes naturally to her, and without any fear or anxiety. O'Shea talks about how she recently found a photo of herself as a teenager leading yoga poses with relatives. Even in her more recent past as a clothing designer in the film industry, she negotiated free time in her



Jocelyn O'Shea sees the canalside studio as a restorative, social space.

contract to allow her to teach yoga to preschoolers.

One of the most eye-catching practices that the Local Yoga Joint

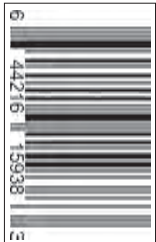
offers is "CBD-infused yoga." Well, what does that even mean?

Firstly, the style of yoga students

see **JOINT** page A6

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The Montague Reporter

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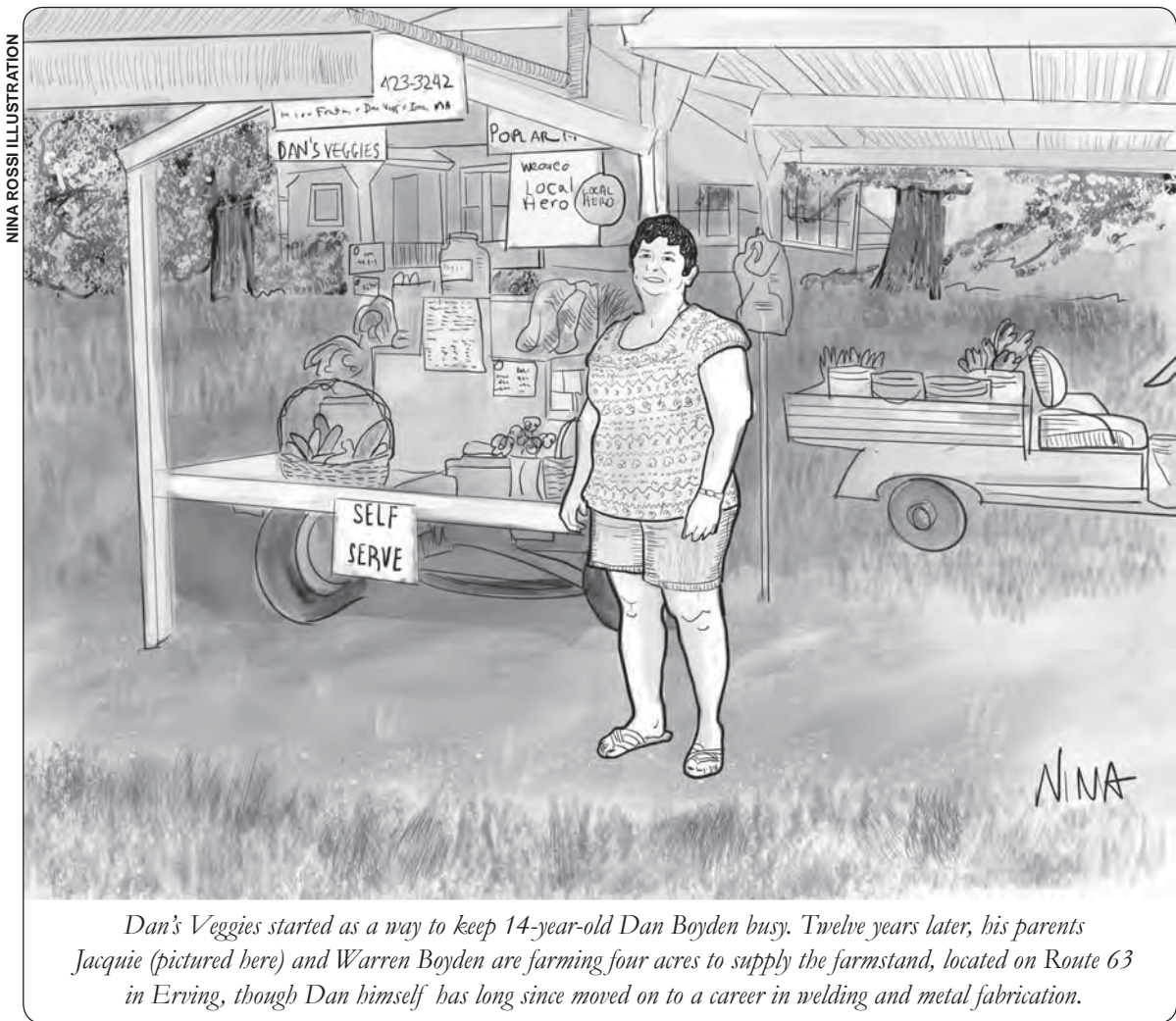
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About Face Computing

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August 2002



Dan's Veggies started as a way to keep 14-year-old Dan Boyden busy. Twelve years later, his parents Jacquie (pictured here) and Warren Boyden are farming four acres to supply the farmstand, located on Route 63 in Erving, though Dan himself has long since moved on to a career in welding and metal fabrication.

Filling The Streets

Puerto Rico’s population is just about 3.2 million, and on Monday, as many as a million might have been swept up in a mass protest and general strike, demanding the resignation of governor Ricardo Antonio Rosselló Nevares.

The uprising was a response to a rare public peek behind the curtains of power. Earlier this month, the Center for Investigative Journalism (CPI) published 900 pages of leaked private chat logs showing the governor discussing public policy, media strategy, and confidential budgetary issues with a dozen other men: the secretary of state; the secretary of the treasury; various consultants, lobbyists, and cronies; and the government’s representative to PROMESA, the body by which the United States imposes debt austerity on the island.

Puerto Rico has been ravaged by natural and unnatural disasters, formally ruled by the United States government and dependent on its mainland economy, yet disenfranchised and abandoned repeatedly in times of greatest need.

But the island’s civil society has also been strengthened in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, and the sheer breadth and intensity of the response to the “Telegramgate” revelations show a powerful, united, democratic popular will.

It didn’t hurt that Rosselló and his inner circle came off like nasty, sexist frat boys in the chats. They called Carmen Yulín Cruz, the progressive mayor of San Juan – one of Bernie Sanders’ four national campaign co-chairs – a “daughter of a whore,” made homophobic remarks about pop superstar Ricky Martin, and cracked jokes about deaths caused by the hurricane.

But the scandal exposed in the leaks runs much deeper than those headlines. At its base, it showed evidence of a revolving-door conspiracy of privatization and profit.

CPI connects the dots succinctly. “The *modus operandi* involved planting internal personnel and external contractors in key advisory and communications positions in the agencies to control information,” they explain. “At the top of the scheme is the former chairman of the Transition Committee, lobbyist, former campaign director and a close friend of Rosselló’s, Elías Sánchez-Sifonte, followed closely by publicist Edwin Miranda-Reyes and media and communications strategist, Carlos Bermúdez-Urbina.... who, on paper, appear as ‘private citizens’ and ‘contractors,’ but actually constitute the top of the the

government, with more power than any of Gov. Rossello’s constitutional cabinet members.”

Sánchez, in particular, appears to have been calling the shots on government agency appointments on the one hand, while channeling major agency contracts to his private clients. These included a \$300 million Department of Corrections contract and a large contract with the Health Insurance Administration. CPI identified 65 separate contracts generated by the conspirators.

Rosselló clung to power even as protests swelled – and then the island’s labor unions called for a general strike. Hundreds of thousands of residents crowded onto the Expreso Las Americas, the capital’s main highway, on Monday. Police fired tear gas at the crowd outside the governor’s mansion.

Rosselló announced on Wednesday that he will resign.

While no one knows what will happen next, it would be incorrect to write off these events as a scandal particular to Puerto Rico’s political culture. Rather, it is a prime example of what can happen when *privatization* offered as a solution to a public economic crisis.

An apt comparison might be the rise of the “oligarchs” amid the collapse of the Soviet Union. Well-networked, unethical men managed to vacuum up massive wealth at that time precisely because it was being shovelled *into* the private sector.

Rosselló, a governor’s son, met Sánchez when they were young. They were roommates, then best men at each other’s weddings. Rosselló went to MIT and became an entrepreneur, and when he ran for governor, his lobbyist friend managed his campaign. After he won he appointed Sánchez as representative to PROMESA’s Fiscal Control Board. Sánchez resigned from the position in 2017 amid criticism of his financial disclosures; his replacement also conspired in the private chats.

The people of Puerto Rico won’t gain democratic oversight of their island’s economy simply by evicting Rosselló’s nest of spiders. The underlying culprit is PROMESA, which pushes budget cuts, layoffs, and privatizations in order to repay the mainland billionaires and hedge funds speculating on the island’s crushing, 1970s-vintage debt.

Beyond that, it is the paradigm of debt itself, inherited by every child born in the global South, and nowadays even many in the North.

Perhaps one day a general strike will solve that problem, too.

Letter to the Editors

State Forest Again Threatened

Thanks for the *Reporter’s* recent coverage of the “Highway Battle” regarding Route 2 and the Wendell State Forest. I especially appreciated the reprint of Jonathan von Ranson’s piece from the *Wendell Post* archives, “Amazement, Restrained Joy, Relief Felt at Saving of State Forest,” in which he pointed out some Erving residents brandishing signs stating: “People are more important than trees.”

Flash forward 32 years to the present threat against our beloved State Forest, this time coming from another Massachusetts state agency, the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

As *Reporter* readers may know, DCR plans to cut down acres of 100+ year-old Oak trees for no other reason

than their commercial value at a time when “Trees are Important to People”! (and older trees most importantly since they store the most CO₂ from our overburdened atmosphere in these times of Climate Crisis).

As a close neighbor to my friends in Wendell, I want to take this opportunity to plead for the kind of love and resistance they displayed back in the day to protect Wendell State Forest. As Wendell Bear might say: “Only you can prevent climate chaos”.

You can reach the Wendell State Forest Alliance at savebrookrdforest@gmail.com.

Don Ogden
North Leverett

GUEST EDITORIAL

Remember, and Prevent, Nuclear War

By ANNA GYORGY

TURNERS FALLS – The Japanese city of Hiroshima was bombed on August 6, 1945, and three days later Nagasaki. Each year, many people around the world gather to remember this first use of atomic weapons, and urge an end to the nuclear age.

This year, area peace and justice groups invite all to a local event on the banks of the Connecticut River in Turners Falls on Tuesday, August 6. Organized by the peace taskforce of the Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR), and co-sponsored by the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, and the Interfaith Council of Franklin County, the event will start at 5:30 p.m. at the Unity Park riverfront.

There the flowers and banners we bring will create a peace symbol on the grass. At 6 p.m. we will circle it for a short program of remembrance – and calls for nuclear disarmament.

We will remember the innocent civilian victims in the two cities: an estimated 135,000 deaths in Hi-

roshima, over 64,000 in Nagasaki. Many succumbed later from radiation exposure, burns, and related health effects.

In the decades since 1945, survivors known as “Hibakusha” have spoken around the world, warning of the dangers of atomic weapons. One of these, Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow, spoke with great feeling and conviction on December 10, 2017, on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), who received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Nobel Peace prize ICAN won was for their decade of work for a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In July 2017, at the conclusion of a special “UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons,” 122 countries voted in favor of an historic treaty to legally prohibit nuclear weapons – though none of the nine nuclear-armed nations joined.

The Dorothy Day Catholic Worker community and other DC peace groups will demonstrate at the Pentagon and White House. They write:

The US has never repented for the use of these weapons of indiscriminate mass murder. Moreover, it has continued to build even deadlier weapons which endanger all of creation. Today the US possesses over 6,000 nuclear weapons, many of which are on hair-trigger alert, and proposes to spend an estimated \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to modernize its existing nuclear arsenal.

This includes the W76-2 Trident nuclear warhead, designed to carry a relatively small destructive payload of five kilotons, far less than the 100 kiloton thermonuclear warheads with which Trident missiles are currently armed. This reduction fulfills the Trump administration’s quest for nuclear-war-fighting “flexibility.” This deadly venture not only endangers the world, but represents a direct theft from the poor of our nation and world.

Under Presidents Obama and now Trump, more than \$1.7 trillion has been authorized to upgrade and replace all things nuclear over the next 30 years. “This death money

see GUEST ED page A3

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Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

We are expecting a reprieve from the oppressive heat and humidity for the forecast-able future, so you will be able to **get outside and enjoy** all the fun festivals, kids’ activities, and concerts coming up in the next two weeks.

From 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, July 26, kids of all ages can get up close and personal with the **machinery used at Northfield Mountain**, including snowmobiles, groomers, backhoes, and a crane. There will also be arts and crafts activities, and free hard hats for the children. The program is free and takes place at 99 Millers Falls Road in Northfield.

The **Kidleidoscope Program** continues through the summer at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Meet in the Great Hall. For ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and

friends welcome. The theme for Friday, July 26 is **Skunks**.

The **Falltown String Band** performs at Riverfront Park in Erving on Friday, July 26 beginning at 6 p.m. Enjoy music with influences from country, folk, blues, and bluegrass. Pack a picnic supper.

The concert is free, funded by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

River’s Edge Cycling, with support from Greenfield Savings Bank and Bart’s Ice Cream, is hosting the **River Valley Ice Cream Ride**, a fundraiser for RiverCulture, CISA, and MassBike from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday July 27. Three routes from 5 to 50 miles begin at Unity Park, 56 First Street, Turners Falls so all ages and abilities can take part.

Bart’s Homemade will be scooping ice cream along the way, and there will be other food vendors. Music by FlavaEvolution and face painters, glitter tattoo artists, balloon animals, and more will keep you entertained.

The cost to participate is \$15 to \$75, but kids under ten are free. For more information, email info@riversedgecycling.com.

“Have Tuba, Will Travel”: Come and listen to Kevin J. Smith play in the Community Room at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to noon. The **tuba has a lovely sound**, made even more special by Kevin’s 50-plus years of playing.

While Kevin has a classical background, he will liven it up by playing jazz standards and melodies of the 60’s: old fashioned rock’n roll as well as the Beatles. Kevin has requested folks sing along to their favorites. Should be a rockin’ good time! GSB will provide light refreshments.

Ed the Wizard and his program “Reading is Magic” will appear at the Dickinson Memorial Library on Saturday, July 27 starting at 10:30 a.m. Inspired by the “Harry Potter” book series, Ed the Wizard weaves together the importance of building and maintaining one’s reading skills with his interactive magic performance. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The library is located at 115 Main Street, Northfield.

On Saturday evening, July 27, Unity Skate Park will host a **Night Skate**, with music, food, and skateboarding under the lights from 5 to 10 p.m.

At 9 p.m., pause to watch the **Christmas in July fireworks** show and boat regatta on Barton Cove. This annual event is sponsored by the Franklin County Boat Club.

Great Falls Books Through Bars will have an extra volunteer opportunity on Monday, July 29 for those who can’t make it to the usual Saturday hours. Read some letters, pack some books, and work through our backlog of requests from prisoners from across the country at La Mariposa, 115 Avenue A, Turners Falls from 6 to 9 p.m.

We can always use extra manila envelopes and packing tape, and if you have any spare paperback almanacs, thesauruses, or books on Dungeons & Dragons, we would love to have them.

Library Libations, a **fundraiser for the new Erving Public Library**, will be held at Element Brewing, 16 Bridge Street in Millers Falls on Thursday, August 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening will feature live music with Rob Fletcher, raffles, games, food, and great local beer. A raffle drawing for four Red Sox tickets will take place.

For more information, call the library at (413) 423-3348.

No Strings Marionettes present “Nick of Time” on Friday, August 2 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. On a special mission to explore a mysterious dark object nearing Earth, a rocket ship carrying astronaut Nick Eastman and his hoverbot Glitch is attacked by a deep space alien.

The program is at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls, but will be relocated to the Carnegie Library on Avenue A in the event of bad weather.

On Friday, August 2 from 11:15 a.m. to noon, Northfield Mountain

hosts a **bilingual sing-along** geared toward children five and under. The free program encourages participation through catchy melodies, simple phrases, and movement.

Dog lovers: the **Pioneer Valley Kennel Club Dog Show** is August 3 and 4 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This American Kennel Club-sanctioned, all-breed show will take place on the grounds of Greenfield Community College.

Back by popular demand for his fifth performance, Ed Hines will play at Greenfield Savings Bank’s Turners Falls branch on Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to noon. Ed will be playing his “**one of a kind Middle Eastern lute**.” This will be a relaxing morning for anyone who comes to enjoy the enchanting sounds of the lute. Light refreshments provided courtesy of the bank.

On Saturday, August 3 between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., **Star Lab: Portable Planetarium** brings the universe to you at the Sunderland Public Library, 20 School Street, Sunderland. Kids can climb inside the giant inflatable dome where images of the universe will be projected inside. The Springfield Science Museums’ guide will lead participants through a tour of the galaxy.

There are separate time slots for different age children. Registration is required. Call the library at (413) 665-2642 to find out more, and to register.

The **Pocumtuck Homelands Festival** returns to the Unity Park Riverfront from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 3 through 4. This Native American event features live music, demonstrations, history talks, and craft vendors. Free admission and open to all. Sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project.

Looking ahead...

In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls, the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum presents a **live animal program featuring owls** on Friday, August 9 from 1 to 2 p.m.

This bird of prey program focuses on the raptor night shift. Learn about the adaptations that make owls the supreme hunters of the night. In an exploration into the various species that call the Northeast home, you will see live owls, touchable artifacts and interactive demonstrations to make this an unforgettable presentation. For all ages, free.

Mutts in Need is an annual fundraiser hosted by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and Adoption Center. Tickets are \$30 per person and include an outdoor catered dinner, music, live auction, raffles and entertainment. Funds raised go toward caring for abandoned, neglected and unwanted dogs in Franklin County.

This year’s event will take place Saturday, August 10 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, 210 Turners Falls Road in Turners Falls. For more information go to www.fcrgdogkennel.org. The shelter is located at 10 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls, near the transfer station.

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GUEST ED from prev. page

from our taxes could instead provide life-bringing jobs in renewable energy and high-speed rail, health care, affordable housing, and eliminating child poverty – in short, a Green New Deal.” Traprock director Pat Hynes and Vicki Elson, co-director of NuclearBan.US, wrote in a recent editorial.

Instead, the Trump administration brings us closer to wars that could turn nuclear. In May 2018, it pulled the US out of the long-negotiated international treaty blocking Iranian nuclear development. In February 2019, charging Russian violations, it withdrew from the Reagan-Gorbachev-era Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which had banned many Russian and US ground-launched missiles.

Along with peaceful demonstrators bearing witness in the nation’s capital, in Hiroshima, and elsewhere around the world, we call on the United States, the only country to have ever used nuclear weapons, to endorse this treaty – see www.icanw.org/the-treaty – and lead the way to total worldwide nuclear disarmament.

Anna Gyorgy lives in Wendell. She is a member of the Traprock Center’s board of directors and FCCPR’s peace taskforce.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Cellar Tank, Solar Fence, Mound Roots, Oil

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Of the two visitors scheduled to come meet the Wendell selectboard at its July 10 meeting, only one came, Nancy Spittle. She has been trying to resign from her position as chair of the council on aging, but since no one else has taken that position, she still takes care of details as they come up.

Spittle addressed several maintenance issues at the senior center. First was paint on the stair and ramp rails, which needs retouching. She said there still might be paint remaining from when they were originally painted, but it was stored in the cellar, and freezing might have ruined it. Since the cost of the small painting job is low, selectboard chair Dan Keller told her she would not have to go through a bidding process, and only needs to follow sound business practice.

The building’s stair rail is not ADA compliant. Spittle said that probably what needs to happen is removal of what is there, and installation of ADA-compliant rails, set into the ground on both sides of the stairs.

During summer, the cellar dehumidifier fills its water tank quickly, and if that tank is not drained every day or two the humidifier shuts itself off. Village Neighbors donated another dehumidifier to the town, but that one drains with a hose, which would need a hole cut through the building wall, and Spittle wanted another opinion about that.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato, also a member of the ener-

gy committee, said the energy committee is looking at a heat pump for that building, and the nature of heat pumps is that they remove moisture.

Several pieces of the gazebo rail are broken and need replacement.

Selectboard member Christine Heard told Spittle to add her senior center chores to the list of fix-it chores to make a bundle of small chores into a larger project.

Small Setbacks

Board members opened the meeting with a continuation of their discussion of the town-owned 97 Wendell Depot Road house, and the proposed community solar project that was slated to go on the same parcel of land.

The property can be divided so the house lot is large enough and has enough frontage for zoning regulations, but the setback between the house lot and the solar project fence would be too small for town zoning requirements. The zoning board of appeals may grant a variance, but they do not meet unless an appeal is made. They meet after the planning board or building inspector decides that a project does not fit zoning regulations.

DiDonato said she would talk with Don Stone, who spearheaded the community solar project, and Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar, to see if the proposed array can be sited further from the house.

Both fire chief Joe Cuneo and the highway commissioners have accepted the idea of installing ground-mounted solar panels on

the property of the fire station and highway garage. Building inspector Phil Delorey says he thinks that is a better option than placing the panels on the roof of the office building, as was suggested originally.

A combination of Green Communities grant money and other available money will pay for the project, and it is ready to go out to bid now.

Shallow Roots

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that Wendell had still only received two responses to its request for bids for mowing town properties. Board members agreed to accept Jerry’s Landscaping of Orange to mow the majority of town properties.

Tom Wetherby bid \$75 per year to mow one-half or one-third of the septic mound in a rotating schedule once a year for \$75 a year, a solution recommended by the pollinator working group as a way to encourage native plants and the variety of wild native pollinators that need them.

But town engineer Jim Slavas said the whole mound must be mowed at least once a year. Slavas also said that the native plants that the pollinator group already planted on the mound will have to be removed, because their roots will go down into the leach lines as they grow towards water.

DiDonato, also a member of the pollinator working group, said that another member, Maggie Houghton, would like to talk with Slavas about plants over the septic mound. The native plants that were planted

there, she said, have shallow root systems, possibly more shallow than the grasses growing over most of the mound there now.

Other Business

Aldrich read out a list of people who citizens have recommended for Citizen of the Year. The award will be announced at Old Home Day, August 17.

The board accepted a bid of \$2.53 per gallon for heating oil and \$75 an hour for service calls, including nights and weekends from Orange Oil. Orange Oil has a good record of responding to Wendell’s needs for service.

Lori Mars accepted the position of kitchen coordinator, but does not really want to do it. The position is hard to fill. Mars is willing to stay on if she can drop the responsibility of cleanup. Board members suggested that Michelle Wilder, the new town custodian, be offered that challenge, and that she should ask the former custodian what is needed.

Aldrich said that in 16 years of collecting a cleaning deposit check from town hall renters in case the renter leaves the town hall messy, she has never had to cash one of those checks. She admitted that food-safe cleanup is more stringent than cleanup of the main part of the building.

Without talking about it, board members signed a letter to the state that shared fire chief Joe Cuneo’s reservations about the Office of Dam Safety’s placement of the Bowens Pond dam on its priority list for removal.

SATURDAY from page A1

According to Ayres, the group put out a call on the day of the protests, and received responses from 95 performers. “This has literally organized itself,” she says. “[TheatreTruck] want to create a template to pour resources into, so we can collectively say something and support the protests in the best way we can, putting our community on the national map in terms of magnifying our voice, and saying we don’t stand for this injustice.”

Sloane emphasizes that the benefit is not a heavy-handed political event.

“It is a festival, and intended to be joyful,” she said. “Some of the work is, of course, political, but primarily it is for entertainment – not commentary on the situation. Artists are doing what they love to make the statement that they are not in support of these immigration policies.”

Sloane has put together children’s and family programming for Saturday morning, and says she has assembled “gems of the Valley.” The event starts off with storytelling, yoga for kids, folksong, comedy, and Jack Golden’s “Garbage Is My Bag” act. There will be a participatory movement workshop for children with Sarah Lauren Marcus of Valley Performance Playground, a show by puppeteer Anna Sobel, and a community sing.

Ayres points out that for many artists, “putting their money where their mouth is” is not possible – artists of all kinds are notoriously underpaid and underfunded. “I say, put your *art* where your mouth is, and the money will come,” she says. The artistic community of

Western Mass has responded in droves, with the stage so tightly scheduled that many bands are only taking 15-minute slots.

At noon, the main stage gives way to a solid twelve hours of music and theater, with performances by Kalliope Jones, the Mary Jane Jones, Old Flame, John Sheldon, Raspberry Jam, Eli Catlin, John Lentz, Carolyn Walker, and others.

TheatreTruck, Real Live Theater, and Strident Theater will also present acts. TheatreTruck does work that Sloane describes as “unpacking local history.” Their two-woman performance piece called *Notions* will combine words written by 19th-century female mill workers with historical speeches and period violin music. “It is uncanny how much of what they have to say relates with what is going on right now,” says Sloane.

Strident Theater is a new feminist theater company that just finished their first season at Smith College; they are presenting snippets from a longer play. A third company, Real Live theater, presents a new piece headed by Tenda Loftin. Loftin will have an ensemble of actors create something together with the audience.

During the wee hours from one to 5 a.m., the lobby will be the center of the action, with a “Voices of Solidarity” local music showcase. The lineup includes Spinelli, Jameson Martin Kidder, Chris Goudreau, Miguel Angel Paredes, and Emma June.

Attendees can shake it out in the morning with sunrise kirtan with Mathew Andrews and morning yoga with Lauren Kohan Crigler of Great Falls Yoga.

Ayres describes Saturday’s benefit as a “community effort to demand justice and actively demonstrate our values.”

“[It] is a personal reminder to us as organizers, that we can put our anger and sadness into action,” she says. “I am the daughter of an immigrant. My heart is broken and full of rage.”

There will be a raffle and silent auction table of items donated by local businesses and artisans, including fine arts and crafts as well as gift certificates for restaurant meals, tattoos, shopping, and other goodies; well over \$1,000 worth of donations in all. During the day on Saturday, the LOOT store will donate 20% of their gross sales to the fundraiser.

The ticket price is by sliding scale donation, either at the door or online at sheatheater.org. Organizers ask those who can’t attend but would like to support the fundraiser to consider making a donation by purchasing tickets online anyway.

Ice Cream Ride

The event at the Shea isn’t the only marathon fundraiser happening in town on Saturday! River’s Edge Cycling of Sunderland is hosting their annual River Valley Ice Cream Ride, which begins and ends at Unity Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Profits support RiverCulture, CISA, and MassBike.

According to the group’s press release, the Ice Cream Ride “blends the best of summertime fun – bikes, gorgeous roads, and Bart’s ice cream. And, it supports local agriculture and better biking in the beautiful Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts!”

The ride has three options to suit varying levels of cycling ability, and is aimed at family fun, with kids 10 and under riding along for free. There are three routes to choose from: the “Kiddie Scoop Loop,” five flat miles along the Canalside Rail Trail; a 25-mile “Single Scoop Loop” through Montague, Sunderland, and Deerfield; and an advanced, 50-mile “Double Scoop Loop,” which adds roads in Gill and Northfield to the Single Scoop.

Admission ranges from \$15 to \$75, and the fee also covers locally-sourced lunch, Bart’s ice cream, live music from FlavaEvolution, and family activities like face painting, balloon animals, and glitter tattoos at Unity Park after the rides. Register at riversedgecycling.com. Sponsors, in addition to River’s Edge, are Greenfield Savings Bank and Bart’s Ice Cream.

Christmas In July!

This year marks the 18th annual “Christmas In July” boat regatta and fireworks display over Barton Cove, sponsored by the Franklin County Boat Club and the Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club.

Boats will cruise the river and the cove, visible from both Gill and Turners Falls, during the evening before the fireworks. They will be decked out in Christmas decorations and other regalia, all vying to be voted for Best Display in their boat class.

The evening is topped off by a spectacular pyrotechnic show over the river at 9:30 p.m., visible and audible from points in Turners Falls as well as Gill.

RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS

Week of July 29

PAPER

Week of August 5

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GILL from page A1

pursuing that course. He said he felt it would be “pretty steep slope,” or “pretty high bar,” to come up with evidence to appeal the decision.

Chair John Ward said he wondered whether FERC looked into the possibility that the split into two companies might enable FirstLight to avoid financial obligations, such as upgrades to the dam and infrastructure, due to the LLC running that facility, now called “FirstLight MA Hydro LLC,” being less profitable than the “Northfield Mountain LLC,” which runs the pumped-storage aspect.

He said he felt that issue might be a basis for an appeal, but that he was conflicted. On one hand, he said, “Gill is not a town of unlimited resources,” and he didn’t want to speak for the town or put its resources into the legal cost of an appeal. On the other hand, referencing the expression that “silence is complicity,” he indicated that he did not want to be silent on the matter.

“We don’t have to remain silent,” selectboard member Randy Crochier responded, and suggested reaching out to other intervenors to see if any of them were interested in making a statement, or taking some other action.

Crochier, board member Greg Snedeker, and Purington all commented that there was a feeling that FERC’s decision seemed a “rubber stamp” of First-Light’s plans. Crochier noted that the board was not able to announce its intervenor status until July 8, and FERC made its decision on July 11. He said FERC may have granted intervenor status to Gill and others “to shut them the hell up” because it had already made up its mind.

Purington said that for Kinder-Morgan’s application to build a natural gas pipeline through the region, FERC had chosen one or two towns among the many that applied for intervenor status, but in this case they allowed a great many intervenors, including an individual. He said he felt this was “unusual,” adding, “yeah, there’s a little bit of cynicism about the timing, and what decision FERC made.”

Snedeker cited the lack of available information on which to base an appeal as an argument against that path, and reiterated the suggestion that the town reach out to other intervenors, particularly the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Ward asked Purington how much information on FERC’s deliberations was available, and where it could be found. Purington said FERC’s written decision included footnotes referencing documents the commission had used in making its decision.

Highway Hiring

The selectboard continued the process of hiring a replacement for highway superintendent Mickey La-Claire, who is retiring as of August 14.

SCHOOLS from page A1

principal. “I’ve been visible in the halls, and it makes a huge difference,” she said. “It’ll be a culture shock for them.”

“Sweet,” replied Montague member Heather Katsoulis.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan announced that Menard will be joined by new assistant principal Thomas Gaffigan, who recently served in the same position in Greenfield. Kathi Smith, who filled in for outgoing principal Annie Leonard during a medical leave this spring, is leaving to work at Deerfield Elementary School.

Dean Rebecca Zuklie has also resigned, and Sullivan announced her replacement: Mike Duprey, who filled in for Smith this spring while she filled in for Leonard.

The district also plans to hire two deans of students, as part of its response to public criticism last year of the administration’s handling of student discipline issues. The two deans, Sullivan said, may “loop,” each following particular classes through the building’s seven grades rather than splitting their jurisdictions between the two schools.

At the July 16 meeting, Sullivan presented data on student disciplinary infractions and civil-rights violations, as well as the results of student surveys on school climate. At Turners Falls High School, only 35% of students agreed with the statement “Students are respectful of each other.” At the middle school, the figure was 13%.

The schools also differed in

Board members reviewed a draft of an updated job description put together by Crochier, Purington, and Tom Hodak, and discussed pay scale, responsibilities, and a timeline for posting an ad. The board decided the draft was sufficient to enable the town to advertise the position, and said they would make any necessary changes before making a hiring decision.

They also appointed Crochier, Purington, and Hodak as a preliminary screening committee. Purington recommended placing an ad this week, and allowing the committee to decide if preliminary interviews were necessary once applications are received.

The board postponed a discussion as to whether the highway department’s standard work week should be four days or five days until after a new superintendent is hired.

A Very Special Town Meeting

The board signed a warrant for a special town meeting to consider a single article, “An Act Authorizing the Town of Gill to Continue the Employment of Gene M. Beaubien.”

Beaubien, the fire chief, will turn 65 this year, and state law requires an act of the state legislature for continued municipal employment beyond that age.

“This process seems to be in need of streamlining in a big way,” Snedeker said as he signed the warrant. “Sixty-five is... not as old as it used to be,” he said, noting that given the region’s aging population, the circumstance is likely to come up more often.

The special town meeting was set for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6 in the town hall. Purington announced that free reusable shopping bags would be available as a bonus for those who attended.

Other Business

The board approved a purchase order from the fire department for new batteries and a charger for the department’s airpicks, amounting to approximately \$2,500. A purchase order of \$1,500 for cubicle wall panels, to create temporary office space for the assessor’s office was also approved.

The board approved the appointment of John Cowan as a part-time police officer.

The board signed a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste District for the district’s hazardous waste collection event, which will take place on September 21 at Greenfield Community College and the Orange Transfer Station.

The board announced there will be a “Celebration of Life” for Susie Maddern, who passed away in April, to be held at the Schuetzen Verein this Friday, July 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. Purington said Maddern was a “longtime, beloved fixture of the Gill Store.”

the number of recorded infractions – 205 at the middle school, as opposed to 26 at the high school, though several more categories of incidents were recorded at the middle school.

“Knowing what I’ve heard and what’s been told to me, that seems anemic to me,” Montague member Thomasina Hall said. “There is a little bit of interpretation, when an incident happens.”

“What’s bullying to one person may not seem like bullying to another person,” said Cassie Damkoehler of Montague. “But it’s gotta be, so everyone’s speaking the same language.”

Sullivan and Menard said the incoming administration hoped to work with faculty and staff to streamline interpretation and reporting of all such incidents.

The committee looked over the goals set for the year under “school improvement plans,” as well as a broader “turnaround plan” for the high school, mandated by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education following poor standardized test outcomes.

The introduction last year of a school police officer, touted in part as a measure to more effectively address truancy, resulted in no quantifiable improvement in student attendance.

Some of the curricular goals in the improvement plan, including the expansion of “alternative learning opportunities,” were also unmet. Sullivan said that “concerns about school culture and climate, particularly as it pertained to civil rights incidents of all kinds, and also about the consistency of managing student negative behaviors” had redirected resources – including professional development time – to dealing with those issues.

“There’s a lot of damage control that needed to be done this year at the secondary level,” said Damkoehler. “It probably wasn’t possible to get as deep into these goals as the staff would have liked to, sadly.”

The committee plans to continue to review the reform plans and goals at its August meetings.

A new part-time “family engagement coordinator” position has also been filled. Stacey Langknecht, formerly of the Salasin Center and Children’s Advocacy Center in Greenfield, will start in the position in August. Langknecht’s husband, Michael, sits on the school committee.

Langknecht will also join the “equity steering committee,” which held its first day-long session last month. That group, which provides stipends for members, is tasked with leading the district in examining and addressing reported issues of discrimination at the schools.

Reporting on this meeting was made possible by Montague Community Television. Video of the meeting can be found online via montaguenv.org. The meeting’s agenda packet, which includes student disciplinary data and survey results, is available at gmrsl.org.

TOWN OF LEVERETT

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Leverett wishes to hire a full time, benefitted Highway Superintendent.

This working department head position manages all departmental operations required for the oversight of the town’s roads and grounds. Includes employee oversight, budgets, reporting, paperwork, emergency response, maintenance of all town vehicles, as well as operating all machinery, equipment, plows, and labor. Reports directly to the Selectboard. Must have valid Class B CDL license with air brake endorsement and a 2B hoisting license (or ability to get hoisting license within 6 months), and a clean driving record. Must also have construction, plowing, vehicle maintenance, and management experience. Must also have good interpersonal, communication, and community relationship building skills. Close proximity to town needed. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications. Applicant also must pass a town-provided physical and drug test prior to hiring and agree to random drug tests during employment.

Job description and Employment Application are available by calling Town Hall at (413) 548-9150 or townadministrator@leverett.ma.us. Applications are due to the Administrator, PO Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054, by 9 a.m. on August 9, 2019.

Leverett is an AA/EEO employer.

TOWN OF GILL

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

This fulltime and benefitted working Department Head position is responsible for planning, directing, supervising, and participating in the operation of the Gill Highway Department, which includes the construction, improvement, repair, care and maintenance of roads, bridges, and culverts within the town (~35 miles of gravel & paved roads), Riverside sewer system, trimming & removal of roadside trees, and maintenance and repair of town-owned buildings and related infrastructure. The Highway Superintendent is also responsible for supervising the work of 2 fulltime highway crew members and seasonal employees. Must be available evenings and overnights to assess road conditions and respond to weather-related and other emergency situations.

Salary range for this exempt position is \$54,900 to \$66,800, depending on experience and qualifications. Valid MassDOT Class B Commercial Driver’s License and hoister’s license required.

A full job description with application submission guidelines can be found online at gillmass.org/highway and at **Town Hall, 325 Main Rd, Gill, Mon-Thur 9AM-5PM**. The closing date for all applications is August 16, 2019.

Gill is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Senior Solar Rebid

By KATIE NOLAN

At their July 15 meeting, the Erving selectboard voted to reject the \$325,000 bid it received for installing a ground-mounted solar array at the new library building, and to put the project out to bid again.

Owner’s project manager Daniel Pallotta said he had talked with the attorney general’s bid unit, and found agreement that the \$325,000 bid could be rejected, because it was significantly higher than the estimated amount.

For the new bid, they reduced the scope of the project, eliminating the foundation work and fencing, and eliminated the requirement that the contractor needed to be certified by the state Department of Capital Assets Management.

Pallotta said that the foundation and fencing work could be completed by the library building contractor as a change order, the cost of which he estimated at approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000, and the solar installation itself should cost no more than \$150,000.

Selectboard member William Bembury asked if the rejection and re-bidding would delay the library project. Pallotta said that the solar array could be installed as much as six months after the building is completed without a problem.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said he was “apprehensive” about rejecting the bid, but he didn’t want to spend \$325,000 when the work could be done more cheaply.

Away From The Panels

In June, the Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Agency conducted a safety audit of town facilities and

found that the office space at the highway garage is closer to the electrical panels than the OSHA-mandated seven-foot buffer.

On July 15, the selectboard decided that, temporarily, water and wastewater chief Peter Sanders will relocate his office to town hall, and highway foreman Glenn McCrory will relocate his to the senior and community center.

For a permanent solution, the board recommended that the main entryway to the highway garage be extended and the vestibule renovated to provide office space for Sanders and McCrory.

Smith was asked to solicit estimates for planning the renovations from engineering firms Weston & Sampson and Tighe & Bond.

Other Business

The board accepted a revised job description for a building and grounds maintenance position for the new library and the senior and community center. Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that the position would be advertised promptly.

McCrory said that the new HVAC heating and cooling system had been installed at the senior and community center, and was working as of July 12. Smith said that the new system was “greatly appreciated.”

The board accepted a bid from Scott’s Recreation of Manchester Maine for \$7,499 for an aluminum grounds maintenance trailer.

The board also accepted a bid from Pangermehl Land Clearing, Inc, of Ashfield for \$6,500 for clearing for the proposed highway department dry storage building.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Anxious to Cut People Out of Their Cars, In No Rush to Kick Them Out of Their Homes

By JERRI HIGGINS

Golden hour turns to lead without quick intervention. Leverett needs to update its Jaws of Life equipment – stat. The problem is, there’s no money.

At last night’s selectboard meeting, fire chief John Ingram referenced recent accidents on Route 63. One required a Jaws of Life rescue, which the town’s 18-year-old equipment did handle, but took time beyond the “Golden Hour” to extricate those injured. Ingram handed out a graphic on the Golden Hour, which deputy chief Brian Cook later described as the time in which “the patient [is] treated, from the initial injury and transfer to the hospital – which, depending on the type of injury, might be into surgery – increasing the patients’ survival chances.”

Ingram described surrounding towns’ newer, more powerful Jaws of Life equipment, which would have accessed the trauma patient quicker, and he requested funding to replace the older equipment.

The selectboard agreed the upgrade is important, but said it is not currently in the town budget. Member Julie Shively commented that it would have to go to a town meeting vote.

General discussion ensued on other possible avenues for funding, which Ingram said the department has been pursuing, including FEMA grant funding, which Leverett hasn’t been able to secure due to its not having the larger call volume of more populated municipalities within Massachusetts.

Ingram told the board his department is hoping for a donation of a 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer from the Belchertown fire department, which would replace the 1998 Ford Explorer currently being used by Cook for calls.

Defibrillators are also being updated, with some older, still usable, ones to go downstairs in the town hall, and potentially to the library or elementary school, for training and emergency use.

Beyond the need for updated vital equipment, Ingram described his final request as “the big one”: funding for full-time staffing. Ingram said he is “trying to work within the budget to get coverage, and we still need a full-time person.” He provided charts and statistics of call volume, busiest times, and staff and volunteer availability, and while he said his department is making the best use of its staffing, the fire captain and three firefighter positions remain unfilled.

Exploding Airbag, New Officer

Police chief Scott Minckler related that a brand-new cruiser the town has purchased, currently at a police-equipment installation company – where it hadn’t yet been serviced – suffered an unexplained blowout of its passenger-side airbag. The installation company reported that no one was in or near the vehicle at the time, and that this has never happened before.

Minckler contacted the Colonial Municipal Group, which sold the town the vehicle, but they had no explanation either, and also said they had never seen that before.

“[Colonial] took it back, and were supposed to have a Ford-certified technician come in to figure out what made the airbag go off,” Minckler said, “because airbags do not just ‘go off.’ I was advised that that technician did not come, that the company just went through and replaced the wiring harness and the airbag and said: ‘here you go, it’s good to go.’ I question that, because there is no documentation stating what happened, or how it happened.”

Minckler continued: “I’m not putting anybody at risk. We have to keep these cars nine years, and I don’t want something freaky happening to it.”

The department is looking at other vehicles from Colonial Municipal Group, but all 2019 models have been sold, so they will try to use the airbag malfunction to negotiate for better pricing on a 2020 model.

Minckler introduced the department’s new full-time officer, Jeff Belanger, who also works full-time as a plumber, which led to joking about potential extra job duties. When Belanger asked if there were any questions for him, selectboard member Tom Hankinson responded, “Where do you get your ties?,” adding to the evening’s levity.

Minckler said that hiring Belanger will allow the department better coverage for more hours, and Belanger said he is looking forward to serving Leverett.

Well... That’s A Deep Subject

Resident Stephen Nagy was present to ask about an email he had recently received from town administrator Majorie McGinnis describing an assessment to be undertaken by Wilcox & Barton, Inc.

The civil, environmental, and geotechnical consulting and engineering firm has been hired to assess wells in the Teawaddle Road area of Leverett for potable water, due to ongoing issues with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater.

Nagy said he is concerned with potential disruption to the water supply during the firm’s assessment, and wants more specific information on what will happen, and when.

After some discussion, Peter d’Errico acknowledged a lack of clarity in the email, and said the town will provide the affected residents more information on the process. The firm will use LIDAR technology to discover the geological features of the area, and then determine whether potable water lies beneath the bedrock, which could solve the problem of high VOCs in the area groundwater.

Highway Hiring

Highway superintendent David Finn’s letter of resignation was accepted unanimously.

The board discussed changing the structure of the department. Shively said she liked the idea of moving to three full-time employees, but suggested the decision should wait.

“I don’t think we’re ready to decide on the highway department consulting until we know who we are going to have for a supervisor,” she said. “I don’t want to set that up until we hire somebody.”

JOINT from page A1

will be performing is called restorative. This type of yoga slows down your poses and uses the help of blankets, bolsters, and blocks to support your body. With “CBD-infused” yoga, there is an additional aid: CBD, or cannabidiol.

The CBD in the salve is a non-psychoactive strain of cannabis, so students will not feel high from it, but it is intended to relieve pain or tension through its anti-inflammatory properties.

Once you have chosen a place on your body to massage the salve, you perform a pose that interacts with that area. Around five to ten minutes later, and *voila!* O’Shea says that most folks who do this practice are able to begin to feel relief.

The Local Yoga Joint currently offers Vinyasa Flow, Restore and Flow, and Hatha yoga classes, as well as monthly Full and New Moon Circles. I ask O’Shea what Vinyasa is, and she says “it’s the practice where you see the postures link together, so it looks a bit more like a dance.”

Other teachers, including Amanda Reynolds and Myk Freedman, will also be leading classes. Reynolds’s current classes are Vinyasa Strong Flow and Flow and Restore. Hatha, which is a slow exploration of postures including meditation and breath work, will be led by Freedman.

CBD is offered in a few different forms at the Local Yoga Joint: salve, balm, and tincture. They are sourced from local woman-owned businesses in Massachusetts and Vermont. The salve and balm are rubbed directly onto the skin like lotion.

The CBD tincture is the only item students ingest. It comes in a little dropper bottle that you can use to place drops under your tongue, or into a drink like tea. O’Shea says she personally uses the tincture for depression, anxiety, stress, and difficulty sleeping, but finds it does have a physical effect, and naturally goes to inflamed areas.

So, yoga and CBD are intended to work in a symbiotic way, like the hot fudge on top of ice cream: CBD is used to make yoga even more

beneficial than it already is.

But, you may be asking yourself: Is this “joint” just about CBD? Can students smoke?

Starting in August, the business will host private “cannabis + yoga” events (for students 21 and above) on the first Friday of every month. There is no smoking inside, so it will be done outside, away from the door or down by the river.

“Before moving into postures, some time is spent consuming herbal plant medicines as a group,” O’Shea explains. “It’s an awesome way to get really deep into your body, and pay attention to what’s happening.”

I ask O’Shea what she envisions for the future of the Local Yoga Joint. She tells me she hopes to have a tea bar, herbal workshops – maybe even, if laws permit it, a cannabis café.

“Eventually, [we can] have tea after yoga class, and have a space where people can really hang out together,” she says, “not just ‘go to yoga, throw your shoes on, and leave!’”



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was July 9, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

New Owner for Railroad Salvage

This week the Montague selectboard heard an upbeat report on the status of the former Railroad Salvage building, whose west wall partially collapsed into Power Street during the afternoon of May 27, 2006.

The town fought a lengthy battle with absentee owner Gary Kosuda, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, who purchased the vacant building about a decade ago with the intention of developing it for business and residential use. Instead, Kosuda allowed the building’s deterioration to proceed unchecked.

In November 2008, the town’s legal battle to force Kosuda to correct the conditions threatening public safety at the crumbling mill culminated in the appointment of a receiver to oversee and correct conditions at the property.

Now, the building has a new owner, James Bent, a resident of the Albany area of New York. Bent, whose interest in vacant mill buildings in Turners Falls seems to

center on their salvage potential, owned the Strathmore Mill for a one-month period in 2008.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the selectboard on Monday that “demolition of the building will be a long-term project.”

Native American Tribes Discuss Mariamante Property

Native American tribes will be invited to discuss the future use of a parcel of Gill town-owned land known as the Mariamante property, after expressing their concerns to the Gill selectboard in a July 13 letter.

The letter, authored by Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, referred to the land as a “sacred site,” due to the historically documented presence of an unusual interment of “twelve Indians buried in a circular ‘spokes’ pattern,” found on the land in 1881 by former owner T.M. Stoughton.

Gill purchased the 12-acre parcel from the Mariamante Academy for \$245,000, following a nearly unanimous vote at the annual town meeting in 2004. At the time, the

selectboard identified the parcel as ideal for commercial development, and commercial realtor Mark Abramson told the meeting he had identified three interested buyers.

However, an archaeological survey by UMass Archaeological Services found that it contained artifacts that “have the potential to address important questions concerning pre-Contact Native American settlement and society in the Connecticut River Valley.” In addition, more than half of the test pits (41 out of 77) dug throughout the site produced at least one Native American artifact.

No burial remains were uncovered during the survey, but red ochre, a material associated with Native burial ritual, was found, said selectboard member John Ward on Monday.

Selectboard member Ann Banash asked town administrator Tracy Rogers to invite representatives of the three federally recognized tribes who have expressed an interest in the disposition of the land – the Mashpee Wampanoag, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and the Narragansett – to attend a selectboard meeting on August 3.

Former superintendent Will Stratford remains available to help out in the interim, and has been helping with road grading.

D’Errico asked Stratford if he was “available to help keep things from completely falling apart.”

“Yes,” Stratford affirmed.

An emergency meeting has been scheduled for August 13 to discuss issues such as delegating facility maintenance responsibilities to the proper town departments, how to share or delegate tasks, getting employees and volunteers to maintain “pride of place” in grounds upkeep, and notifying the proper department when things need fixing.

Tax Title Issue

Town clerk Lisa Stratford reported that a resident who owes \$65,000 in back taxes has asked tax collector Jason Noschese if they could begin to pay it off at a rate of \$200 a week

in order to avoid losing their house. The town holds a lien on the property, and taxes are accumulating at a rate of about \$100 a week.

“Jason said he is not making a decision like that,” she explained to the selectboard.

“As long as we’re protected with the lien,” d’Errico said, “it comes down to ‘what do we think about an impossible long payback?’ What are we talking about – throwing someone out, and taking their house?”

“As long as we have a lien,” he said, “we at least have a lock on the asset.”

Stratford pointed out that if the resident does not miss any payments, it would take 13 years to catch up at the proposed schedule.

“So what’s our bottom line,” d’Errico asked. “If it’s legal, we’re going to do it?”

“It’s got to be very clear that if we miss a certain number of pay-

ments, we’re back to taking the land or the property,” Shively added. “Do we want to be the town that kicks people out of their house?”

“Let’s wait until Margie’s back, check the details with [town counsel] Donna [MacNicol], what the range of things is...” d’Errico said. “This sets some kind of precedent.”

Other Business

Colonial Power Group, an aggregator for residential electricity, was briefly discussed. Colonial will send representatives at a date to be determined to discuss how aggregation works. 100% of the purchased energy will be from “green,” Massachusetts sources, and will exclude biomass.

Diana Bella was unanimously appointed as the Council on Aging outreach worker.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town Welcomed Back to Crime Group

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague is once again officially participating in the “anti-crime taskforce” administered by the Northwest District Attorney’s office, police chief Chris Williams told the town selectboard at its meeting Monday night.

Participation in the regional taskforce was suspended by the DA’s office in July 2016, following an investigation by the state attorney general of former police chief Chip Dodge’s handling of prescription drugs in a dropbox at the public safety complex, though Dodge was never charged with a crime. Montague’s participation in the dropbox program, which was also suspended in 2016, has also since been restored.

Williams said that detective Jacob Lapean was sworn onto the DA’s taskforce on July 15, and will be working “two days on the taskforce, and two days in town.” He said the taskforce would reimburse the town for some of Lapean’s time doing regional work.

Williams reported that Lapean had worked with the taskforce the previous month, executing a search warrant that led to two arrests in Montague. “So it’s invaluable,” he said, “and he’s ready to get going.”

“What it really seems to do is provide us with a way to expand our capacity,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “We sacrifice a little of his time in town, at different points in time, but then we gain the benefit of extended resources from other departments.”

“What happens in Montague or Greenfield affects Montague or Greenfield,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

Mike Nelson asked if the town is “now on all taskforces, and boards and such, that we were on prior to the incident that we experienced?” Williams answered in the affirmative.

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

Williams remained at the front table for a lengthy discussion of potential parking and traffic congestion during a music festival in Montague Center, which will take place on the same day (August 17) as Old Home Days. Organizers say the festival, called Barbes in the Woods, could attract as many as a

thousand people, and will begin at 1 in the afternoon. Old Home days takes place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a parade down Main Street at 12:30. (*See article, page A1.*)

The board also granted Matt Tarlecki of Abandoned Building Brewery a one-day beer and wine license for the festival. A separate license for the same purpose was approved for New City Brewery.

Vulnerable Roadway

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board “close out” a state Municipal Vulnerability Action Grant (MVP) that was used to design a solution to the frequent flooding on Montague City Road. The flooding is produced by a small stream adjacent to the road. The grant program is designed to help localities deal with problems that may be exacerbated by global warming.

Ramsey said the project, as designed, will “rechannelize and redevelop the floodplain” adjacent to the stream, and install “drainage structures” along Montague City Road. He said the planning board has given the project its wetlands permit, but “a little more” state permitting will be required, which will cost the town \$9,700. He was working with the highway department to allocate Chapter 90 funds for the purpose.

Ramsey estimated the total cost of the project itself at \$365,000. He said this could be funded by another MVP grant, or a federal Hazard Mitigation Grant. The town will probably have to fund 25% of the project. Ellis said the board should consider a special article on the town’s upcoming fall special town meeting to appropriate its share.

The board approved a motion to close out the previous MVP grant.

The board also authorized Ramsey to submit an application for state MassWorks funding to replace the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge over the canal, which has been closed since 2017. Ramsey said any effort to redevelop the former Southworth Paper Mill, or the former housing authority building across the street, will rely on that bridge.

Ramsey said the town plans to run water and sewer lines across the rebuilt structure, which sits adjacent to a state-owned bridge for vehicle travel.

Last Large Lot

The board approved a purchase and sale agreement with Caluwe Biomass Heat and Power Solutions Inc. of Burlington, MA for a 6.3-acre lot in the airport industrial park. The company, which makes pellet, wood chip, and biomass heating boilers for residential and industrial use, is offering \$157,500 for the property. Ellis said the property is the “last remaining large lot in the park.”

According to Ellis, Caluwe wanted to move to Montague because “a large segment of their market is in western Massachusetts.”

“This is a warehouse and a show room,” said Ramsey. “This is not a biomass plant, as some people might be concerned when they hear that word.”

Hydro Split


Ellis announced that Montague had received formal notice from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that it had been granted “intervenor status” in a matter related to the federal licenses held by FirstLight Power Resources, which owns the Turners Falls Dam, power canal, and Cabot Station, a hydro generating facility.

The specific issue being addressed is FirstLight’s transfer of the licenses to two separate subsidiaries – one for the Turners Falls project, and another for its pump storage facility on Northfield Mountain. Towns and environmental organizations have expressed the view that dividing the company may limit funds available to address local concerns about the two closely-related projects.

FERC approved the transfers on July 11, but as an intervenor, Montague will be allowed to appeal the ruling. The transfers come in the middle of FERC’s process of reviewing and renewing the licenses.

Other Business

The selectboard endorsed a letter to the state Department of Transportation about a bad accident on the corner of Routes 47 and 63. The letter, written in consultation with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), asks the state to conduct a “road safety audit” of the corner. Ramsey said the corner is on the FRCOG’s list of the most dangerous intersections in the region.



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Education Site Supervisor (Turners Falls)
Early Head Start Program seeks leader to join our experienced team in running a two-classroom full day site for infants and toddlers. Spacious rooms in a rural community. NAEYC Accredited, and excellent teacher:child ratios. Must have demonstrated ability to develop authentic and professional relationships with children, families, and staff. Brazelton Touchpoint Site, offering ongoing training and support. Minimum qualifications include a BA in Early Childhood Education or directly related field with early education and supervisory experience, EEC D II certified. Annual Salary Range is \$43,660 – \$46,312, full year.

Lead Teacher Preschool (Turners Falls) *\$1,000 sign-on bonus!*
Head Start Program seeks experienced preschool teachers. NAEYC Accredited, excellent teacher:child ratios. Successful candidate must be EEC LT/Pre-K certified and have a minimum of an AA in Early Childhood Education or related field; BA preferred. Position is 37.5 hours a week/full year. Pay Range: \$17.81 – \$18.89 plus \$1.35/hour full day differential.

Teacher Preschool (Greenfield, Turners Falls) *\$1,000 sign-on bonus!*
Head Start program seeks Preschool teachers. NAEYC Accredited, excellent teacher:child ratios. Minimum AA in Early Childhood Education or related field with EEC Preschool Teacher Certification. 37.5 hours/week. Pay Range: \$15.55 – \$16.50 plus \$1.35/hour full day differential.

Anticipated Teacher Infant Toddler (Turners Falls) *\$1,000 sign-on bonus!*
Head Start program seeks Infant Toddler teacher. NAEYC Accredited, excellent teacher:child ratios. Minimum AA in Early Childhood Education or related field with EEC Infant Toddler Teacher Certification. 37.5 hours/week. Pay Range: \$15.55 – \$16.50 plus \$1.35/hour full day differential.

Teacher Assistant (Turners Falls)
Head Start program seeks preschool floating assistant for classroom and daily bus run. NAEYC Accredited, excellent teacher: child ratios. EEC Pre-K Teacher Certification preferred. 27.5 hours/week/full year. Pay Range \$13.20 – \$14.00 plus \$1.35 full day differential.

Administrative Assistant Education Department (Northampton)
Early Education and Care program is seeking an administrative professional to provide essential administrative assistance to the Director of Education. Must be exceptionally organized and able to prioritize tasks, take initiative, be flexible, and be able to work both collaboratively and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must demonstrate sound professional judgment and discretion, with excellent problem solving and oral, written and interpersonal communication skills. Must demonstrate proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and Publisher). High School Diploma and 2 years related experience, or Associate’s Degree in Business Administration, Management, or Education required. Degree and familiarity and work experience in early childhood setting preferred. Position is 37.5 hours per week with full benefits. Ongoing training and professional development, supervision, collaborative work environment. Pay range is \$14.76 – \$15.66 per hour.

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TRAFFIC from page A1

new road, right in the center of town. Nice to speed down. Seems like a slap in the face to those of us who have been asking for traffic-calming solutions.”

Center Street resident Leigh Rae criticized the project in an email. “By initiating a major paving project in and around the Village without including measures to slow traffic,” she wrote, “the DPW is not acting in the best interest of residents who have publicly expressed concerns and offered ideas to alleviate this public safety issue over a number of years.”

Rae also predicted the repaving project will place an “additional burden” on the police department, because the repaved road “will encourage vehicles to move faster through the village.”

“They’re not going to like it,” public works superintendent Tom Bergeron told the *Reporter*, in reference to the residents’ speed bump request. He said that when the town used speed bumps to slow traffic on School Street in Montague Center, nearby residents complained of the noise from vehicles passing over them. He also said that removable speed bumps could not be used on Main

Street, because they would need to be covered with blacktop.

Bergeron said he would discuss potential traffic-calming measures with town planner Walter Ramsey.

Neither the letter about speeding nor the repaving project was discussed at Monday’s meeting of the Montague selectboard, despite the fact that a large group of Montague Center residents were in attendance to discuss a different potential parking and traffic problem: two major events in the village both scheduled for August 17.

A music festival called Barbes in the Woods, which organizers say could attract up to 1,000 people between 1 and 11 p.m., overlaps with the Center’s traditional summer event, Old Home Days, scheduled for the period between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. As part of Old Home Days, there will be a parade down Main Street, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Cassandra Holden and Kyle Homstead of Laudable Productions, which is sponsoring the music event, came before the board to review their latest plan for parking. Holden said that an “offsite homeowner” is allowing

festival attendees to park on their land, which would accommodate 150 to 200 vehicles.

There will also be parking behind the mini-mart, also called the Village Store, and on the edge of the softball field along School Street. Homstead estimated there would be offsite parking for up to 300 people.

Holden suggested that only a “trickle” of people were likely to arrive at the festival between noon and 1 p.m., so attendees of Old Home Days should be able to find parking in the morning.

But several audience members expressed concerns about the parade mingling with cars parked on the School Street field.

“We’re going to clog up all of Montague until well after 2 o’clock,” said Meadow Road resident Mark Fisk.

Police chief Chris Williams said he had corresponded with the police chief in Easthampton, where Laudable Productions has organized a number of events, and was told that the company was “very professional,” and the city “had never had a problem” with them.

“If we do this again next year, hopefully it’s not on Old Home Days,” said Williams.

the display capacity.

Town treasurer Eileen Seymour informed the board that she will file a conflict of interest disclosure, because she will also be employed part-time as the Franklin County Technical School treasurer.

The board approved a request for the use of town property at the industrial park for the annual Northampton Criterium Cycling race on the evenings of July 24 and 31 and August 7 and 14.

Water pollution control facility superintendent Bob McDonald received approval for a sewer abatement of \$1,174.45 on Seventh Street.

The board approved a change of manager on the liquor license held by the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club, the pay rate for a new part-time employee at the airport, and a phone stipend for the new board of health director, Daniel Wasiuk.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on August 5.

Although speeding concerns were not mentioned in the discussion of festival parking, later in the meeting the selectboard approved a letter to the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) that referenced a July 4 collision on the corner of Routes 47 and 63 involving a car and motorcycle.

The letter noted that the corner has been ranked the third most dangerous intersection in the county by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and requested that MassDOT “assess” the intersection and “implement a strategy to improve safety.”

On May 13, Tom Bergeron discussed the Main Street paving project when he reviewed a list of projects being financed by state Chapter 90 highway money. At the end of Monday’s selectboard meeting, town administrator Steve Ellis announced that the project would commence the next day.

Neither announcement led to any discussion of concerns expressed by village residents about speeding.

“Well, one of these days, someone is going to get killed,” Monosson told the *Reporter*.



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MONSTERS from page A1

were two eels with faces of foam – actually hand puppets controlled by two actors. There was a pufferfish, controlled by the opening and closing of an umbrella which formed the fish's physical base. It closed down into a fish face and opened all puffed up, an ingenious design.

Most elegant were the two young women dressed in silver tights, with clear plastic umbrellas displaying long dangling ribbons hanging down around them, imitating the crystal-clear animal known as a jellyfish that has long tentacles that sting if they touch you.

Jonathan Chappell grew up in Gill, attended Gill Elementary and Great Falls Middle School, and then went on to study at Northfield Mount Hermon for high school. He studied at the University of Massa-

chusetts, graduating with a degree in Art in 1999. Shortly after that he started the Skeleton Crew, a unique theatrical performance group that features monsters and trolls.

The Chappell family has lived in Gill for several generations. Jonathan's father, Louis Chappell, owns Chappell's Auto Sales, which was started by Jonathan's grandfather. Now he shares space at his father's garage, using it to store and build his "monsters."

Many of the young people who have studied with Chappell at the high school are also members of Skeleton Crew. Several sat down with this reporter at the auto garage in early July, to talk about being part of Skeleton Crew, and what participating in the video class and school musicals has meant to them.

The group started by telling sto-

ries about their experiences. It was clear they feel very proud of the work they do, and enjoy it a great deal. They learn how to build and manipulate the monsters and trolls that are part of the costumes they wear, as well as characters that enhance the performance. They also participate in developing stories and writing plays.

Mercedes Bailey, who was one of the eels in *The Little Mermaid*, explained the hand puppet was made largely of foam, with a battery pack to light up the eyes. Mercedes will be a junior this coming year.

Chase Blair, the one who usually wears the big monster costume, has been part of Skeleton Crew since eighth grade. He graduated from TFHS in 2018.

Rowan Graves explained, with a smile on his face, how he often spends 20 to 30 minutes wearing one of the costumes, which can be quite hot.

Simon Lorenzo said he helps make the monsters. He graduated from TFHS as Valedictorian for the Class of 2018.

Korey Martineau, who will be a junior next year, joked about how he had to learn to manipulate the big hands of the lobster costume in *The Little Mermaid*. He's looking forward to trying his own hand at script writing this year.

Talking with these young people, who have all been part of Chappell's video class and Skeleton Crew, it was clear that the work they do and the encouragement they get from their teacher to learn and try new things has had a positive impact on



Jonathan Chappell (left) and Chase Blair with the Skeleton Crew monster that Chase wears for events, in the Gill garage that Chappell uses as his workshop.

their lives. The members said that there's a place in the group for everyone – "as long as you like monsters" – and that everyone has a say in what goes on. The program gives them something to do with summers and time in between school sessions, and has helped them learn valuable skills.

Teagan Linnell, the oldest of the group, said she's been part of Skeleton Crew for ten years, and has taken on a managerial role. She credits a sense of strong community, and good mentorship from Chappell as supporting her goals for the future. She is now studying arts administration at Simmons University.

Brian Lamore also joined in the conversation, if quietly. He is a mechanical engineer and teaches science and physics at TFHS. He worked on *The Little Mermaid*,

helping build the sets. Chappell said he is a valuable part of the team, and that his expertise is important to the work they do.

The group has many opportunities to perform during the summer, including a future event at Camp Apex in August. They participated in the Mutton & Mead festival, and had some good stories to tell about that. One member said he likes to see the look in kids' eyes when they first see a troll. And there was something about a live chess match, with people instead of chess pieces, but in this case monsters instead of people.


Jonathan Chappell has created a great opportunity for young people with creative minds to explore their potential. It will be interesting to see what the future brings!



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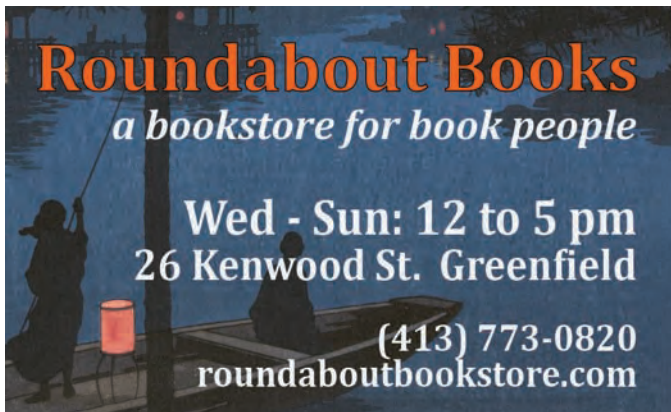
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Above: A lazy day on Barton Cove, seen from an observation deck at the campground.

Report from an Unveiling: No Misfits Here!

By K. CAMARA

WENDELL – On a summer Sunday afternoon, at the tail end of a brief, yet oh-so-oppressive heat wave, a crowd gathers outside the Wendell Free Library. A welcome breeze blows while friends share stories of summer travels thus far, and watermelon. The Wendell Warriors, a local hand-drumming group led by Jafar Manselle, provides the beat as anticipation for today’s event builds.

Inside the building in the Herrick Gallery hangs a temporary exhibition – mounted for only a few hours – of five oil portraits, one of them covered in red cloth and waiting to be revealed. On either side of the shrouded

CAMARA PHOTO



Professional portrait artist Warren Prosperi (left) presents Wendell with his portrait of local artist Donna Horn (right).

painting hang a self-portrait of the artist, Warren Prosperi; a painting of a young, pensive, dark-haired woman; a portrait showing the open face of a middle-aged man; and a large painting of a luthier – a violin maker – surrounded by violins. They are stunning in their realism.

I glance around the room in search of the open-faced man, a Wendellite, and easily identify him in the group. Comparing his face to that in the portrait on the wall, I see that this is no photograph. Something more has been captured here. Perhaps it is a friendship of twenty years that gives dimension to this portrait, I think, or perhaps an artist’s skill that has been honed over a lifetime? Likely both. I have been told the man, Chuck Hamill, is the link responsible for uniting Prosperi with the subject of today’s new portrait, which still lies beneath the shroud.

Hamill, a friend of artist Warren Prosperi and his artistic collaborator and wife, photographer Lucia Prosperi, one day shared a video with them from his new hometown of Wendell. In the video was a woman who rode upon a Jabberwocky in an Alice in Wonderland-themed Misfit Prom Parade. He thus captured their attention.

The creator and rider of that Jabberwocky, Wendell artist Donna Horn, now waits with the rest of the group for the unveiling of her portrait. Her face is childlike with excitement, and when questioned, she deflects attention at this point to the artist, to his wife, or to Chuck, the matchmaker. Yet many eyes remain focused on her, the subject of it all. She clearly has a following in this community, evident in the numbers in attendance and the shared interest and curiosity that prevails in the room’s atmosphere.

Building An Image

I spoke to Donna before this event, and then, too, she directed me to the artist and his wife. Not wanting to put words into their mouths, she encouraged me to speak with them. When pressed, she spoke of the significance

see **UNVEILING** page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

REPORT FROM THE EDGE OF DEEP SUMMER

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER BEND – Time passes slowly here at the house on the river. Yet we do inch towards August, and wonder how we can save some of this relentless heat for when we really need it, say in January?

None of us has figured out a way of storing up the July heat, but I did store up a month’s worth of notes for those of you who have not ventured out much over this fleeting summer. Maybe, like a bottle of fabled dandelion wine, you will open these pages again in deep December and be reminded of how hot we were these July days.

On *June 24*, I did ask myself: who says the early bird gets the worm? I scribbled down in my notes that I’d been up since six in the morning, and not a single bird was out here looking for worms. Even Nicky the dog was uninterested in my early morning risings, still sound asleep on his back on the couch, his four paws folded in the air.

I do need to mention that the one exception to the birds rising late these mornings is the phoebe on the porch. Her three young on the nest shelf high up near the ceiling of the piazza are hungry, and the phoebe couple has been up since first light. The female started incubating on May 28, and now the young have hatched. I set a tomato stake on the front lawn ten feet from the nest, and the pair of them take turns perching there. They sally out to nail an insect, and then return to the stake waiting for another before liting up to the waiting young on the shelf.

I draw no small pleasure and comfort in the beauty of the soft presence of these modest birds. From my vantage point right now a month into the future, I know that within days, by June 28, the young will fledge, teeter on the edge of the nest, and then swoop down and out over the front porch railing, and follow their parents down into the woods along the river. There to spend their brief adolescence

during the lazy summer.

On *June 28*, besides noting the phoebes’ empty nest, I wondered: how to describe this perfect summer morning, and why bother? Isn’t it enough to note the leaf pattern of the cherry tree on the white page? The catbird overhead mews and scolds me out of jealousy over the best cherries in years. She wants them all for herself. I’ve got a full branch hanging just over my head and notebook, those will be mine, easy to pick. I’ll let her get the ones 15 feet up where my ladder can’t reach. I’ve got my eye on other ones farther below on the sunny side of the tree, ripening and reddening up.

The bee balm is on the verge of flowering too, the hummingbird is waiting and checking. There’s promise of hot temperatures arriving with the azure blue sky worthy of a morning somewhere in the south of France.

Just now, when the catbird flies by my chair so low that I feel the air move across my face from her wing beats, I guess this is as close to poetry as I will get this morning. It is a great day to be alive.

In the afternoon, we’ll need to take a ride in the air-conditioned car up to Hinsdale to fetch some good vodka for my winter cherries recipe. Pop those cherries and vodka into mason jars, and do not open until Christmas. Then to savor a summer dessert deep in winter, remembering catbirds and burning sunshine.

But there’s no rush. Later today when the sun goes down, we’ll settle out back on the deck, teasing a glass of chilled, crisp white wine, listening to the wood thrush’s evening song at sunset. We’ll keep the dog company as the day cools down and the house exhales and breathes, upstairs windows wide open to the cooling evening zephyrs from the woods and river.

On *July 4*, we spent a quiet holiday at home, preferring fireflies and bats to firecrackers and fireworks. We pledged allegiance to the environment on this

see **WEST ALONG** page B8

THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: DONNA GEPHART

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Joyeux été! Happy Summer!

When I went to Book Expo a couple months ago, I met Donna Gephart, who wrote *The Paris Project*. Ms. Gephart was so nice, and I recently finished *The Paris Project*, and it was so amazing! I smiled and cried reading this, because it was so incredible. This month I’m going to be reviewing the book and interviewing Ms. Gephart. Enjoy!

The Paris Project is about a girl named Cleveland Rosebud Potts. Cleveland’s goal is to go to Paris, and to help her do so, she makes a list that she calls her “Paris Project List.” On the list there are things such as: practice speaking French; learn to bake or cook something French; go to a Parisian cafe; and finally, go to the American School Of Paris, and live in France.

Cleveland has a tin box with the Eiffel Tower on it which her dad gave her for her 11th birthday, and she walks dogs in Sassafras, Florida, to get money to hopefully travel and stay in Paris. Whenever she earns money, she puts it in the Eiffel Tower tin.



Our correspondent met the author at this spring’s Book Expo in New York.

Sadly, Cleveland’s dad has a gambling problem, and he gets arrested for stealing money from his boss, and he also stole money from Cleveland’s Paris Project fund. Almost everyone in Cleveland’s town knows about her dad, and doesn’t trust or want to be friends with her. This makes it extremely difficult for Cleveland to raise money for her to travel to Paris, and to make friends, other than her best friend and neighbor Declan.

This book is *magnifique*! However, it is really sad when Cleveland

is talking about her dad being in jail. She really misses him, but is also so mad at him at the same time.

I think my favorite characters in this book are Cleveland’s older sister Georgia and their family’s boy dog, surprisingly named Miss Genevieve. Georgia always supports Cleveland, and seems super sweet and kind. She’s also really selfless, and works hard for Cleveland and their mom, Glory.

Miss Genevieve is *so* cute, energetic, and can always tell when his

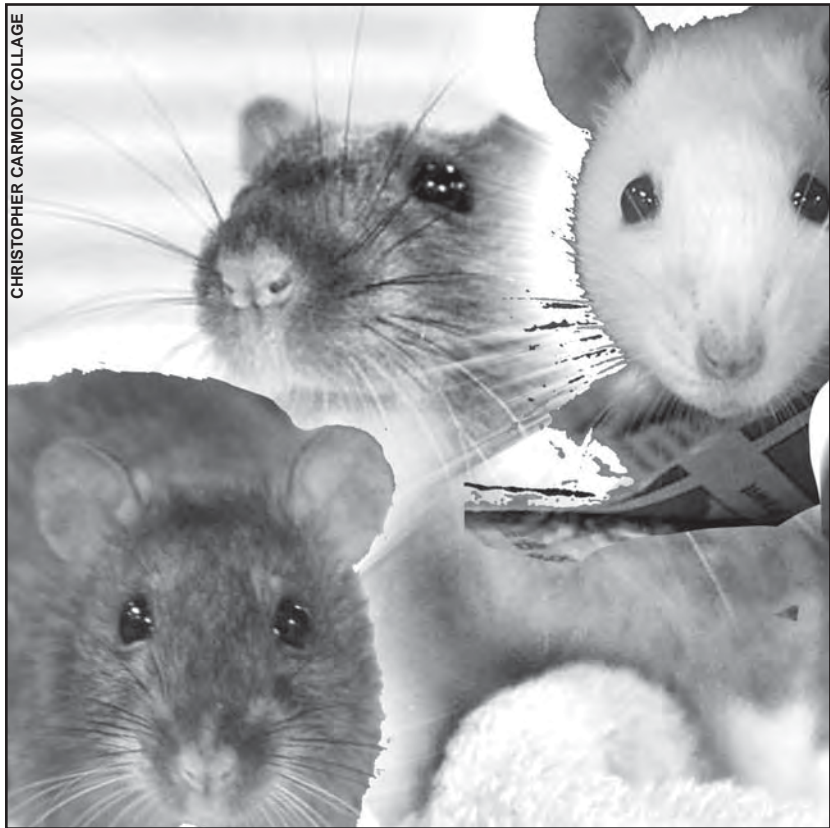
see **AUTHORS’** page B2



Wood thrush (Hylocichla mustelina).

LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

Pets of the Week



“COURTNEY, LINDA, & CARLY”

We are friends who live together and should remain together. If you seek a smart, adorable, and interactive pet troupe, then look no further! When we rats are happy, we have something similar to laughter. We love being handled and will happily ride around on your shoulders. We are social, active, and love to play. We use our tails to keep us balanced. Our average lifespan is about two years and I promise we'll be your best friends until the end.

For information about adopting us, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

BY MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have gone to events in Turners Falls and found artists at them whose work I liked. I did with the Mutton & Mead Festival when I went for the first time this year. One of the artists that I liked there was named Cara Finch. I took a business card of hers to contact her for an article.

What I learned about her from doing that is that she is from Hadley, “but lives in Greenfield now.”

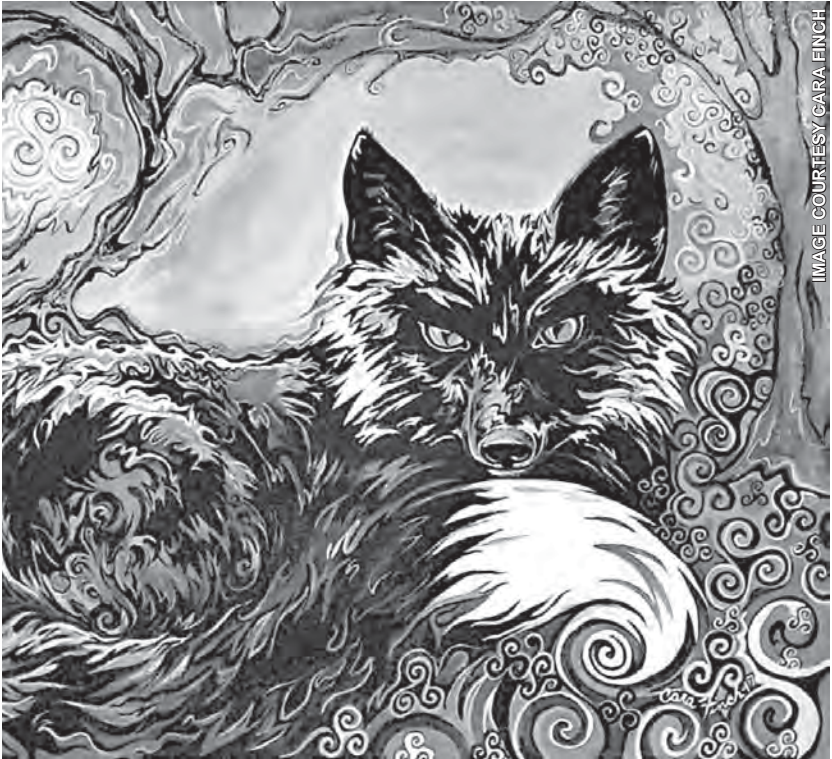
“I’m a self-taught artist, and have been a professional artist for 25 years,” she said. She also mentioned “I have been in quite a few art galleries. One was called Grounding in Florence, MA.”

Besides being an artist, she “also illustrate[s] poetry books.” She told me one is called the Magdalene Poems. Now let’s get to the inspiration behind her art, which is “mostly nature and the outdoors and spirituality.” She said “I love being outdoors.”

Like I mentioned in my review of the Mutton & Mead fest, her art is a good fit for the event. “People have responded very well to it,” she told me. “They often say they love it. They have an emotional connection to it.” According to her, other people agree with me that her art fits well with the Mutton & Mead theme.

ARTIST PROFILE

Cara Finch, Painter



Detail from Cara Finch's painting, “The Black Fox.”

As for her thoughts on Mutton & Mead itself? “I thought it was great and fun,” she said. “I love the people there. I love history and fantasy.” She mentioned her art at the festival has been very lucky and successful, from doing it for the third year in a row. She pointed out she’s been going to festivals for that long, too. The Garlic & Arts fest is another one that she’s been going to for three years. One more festival that she has been to is the Connecticut Renaissance Festival.

When I spoke to her, she said she would be going to the Green River

Festival this year. I don’t know how successful she was at that, but if her booth at Mutton & Mead was any kind of sign, then she was probably successful again.

If I had to describe what Cara Finch’s art looks like to someone who’s never seen it, I would say it’s forest scenes, with woodland creatures in them, most of the time. Occasionally, there is a wood nymph in the picture too. One or two pictures were just two colors. The way she draws all of that makes them the kind of good fit with Mutton & Mead I spoke of.

Senior Center Activities

JULY 29 THROUGH AUGUST 9

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 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 7/29
12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo
Tuesday 7/30
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Senior Farm Share Pick Up
Wednesday 7/31
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 8/1
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Friday 8/2
12 p.m. Pizza Party
Monday 8/5
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 8/6
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Senior Farm Share Pick Up
Wednesday 8/7
9 to 11 a.m. Veterans Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 8/8
9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Friday 8/9: Open

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 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 7/29
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch
12:30 p.m. Pitch card games
Tuesday 7/30
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich
1 p.m. Bazaar Brainstorming
Wednesday 7/31
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 8/1
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9 to 11 a.m. SHINE
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Friday 8/2
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch
9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun
10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

12 p.m. Lunch
Monday 8/5
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch
12:30 p.m. Pitch card games
Tuesday 8/6
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
9:30 a.m. Ask the Nurse
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich
Wednesday 8/7
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1 p.m. Veterans’ Assistance
Thursday 8/8
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9 to 11 a.m. SHINE
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Friday 8/9
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch
10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games
11:30 a.m. French King Lunch
1:15 p.m. River Boat Cruise

LEVERETT

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

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

Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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.

AUTHORS’ from B1

family is in a bad mood, which reminds me of my cat! (Miss Genevieve’s shelter name is Roscoe, which is what the rest of her family calls the puppy, but Cleveland feels like Roscoe is a boring name for a dog. She calls him Miss Genevieve, which is the dog’s name from the book *Madeline’s Rescue*.)

This book was super *formidable*! Fantastic! (I’m trying to learn French because my family and I want to go to France next summer, just like Cleveland wants to do.) I would recommend this book to older kids and young adults. It’s *absolutely* wonderful!

Now I’m going to interview Ms. Gephart:

Izzy Vachula-Curtis: *What inspired you to write this book? Did you travel to Paris to do research for the book?*

Donna Gephart: I did not travel to Paris, like my character. The book is about her big goal of getting to Paris, but it’s really about Cleveland Rosebud Potts growing to accept her family and life, with all its problems.

IVC: *Which character do you think you are most like in this book?*

DG: There’s a part of me in all my characters. I’m probably most like Cleveland with her big dreams and big heart, wanting to do the right thing ... but not exactly sure what that looks like.

IVC: *The main character Cleveland Rosebud Potts’ goal is to go to Paris. When you were younger, was there any place you dreamed of going?*

DG: I grew up in Philadelphia and we didn’t have the money to

travel anywhere. The only place that took me *everywhere* was the public library, for which I’ll be eternally grateful.

IVC: *In this book, Cleveland idolizes her older sister, Georgia. Was Georgia based off of someone you know?*

DG: I wanted to have a warm, loving relationship between two sisters in this book, each of them looking out for each other in their own ways. My sister and I didn’t get along with each other when we were younger, but now we have a warm, loving relationship.

IVC: *Cleveland’s favorite holiday used to be Halloween. Do you remember any really amazing or interesting Halloween costumes you had?*

DG: Cleveland’s favorite holiday is Halloween because it’s my favorite holiday, too. So much fun to dress up. We used to live in a neighborhood where all the neighbors donned costumes and celebrated together outside while hundreds of trick-or-treaters came by. It’s really such a fun holiday.

IVC: *What inspired you to write about a character who has a parent in jail?*

DG: I think this is sometimes an invisible problem in our country, so people with loved ones who are incarcerated feel lonely and ashamed. I believe they should be supported and cared for. We really need to reform our criminal justice system in this country.

Thank you so much, Ms. Gephart. *The Paris Project* was so amazing! Readers, have a *parfait* (perfect) summer!



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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Simple Ways You Can Help Keep Utilities From Burning The Dirtiest Fossil Fuels

By SALLY PICK

Last weekend’s heat wave made headlines – it affected two-thirds of the continental United States! Undoubtedly, there will be more this summer.

High temperatures impact not only human health; they also change the way that the utilities generate electricity. To meet the unusually high spikes in “peak” electricity demand that last about four hours on a very hot day, utilities turn on old “peaker plants” which burn the most polluting and most expensive fossil fuels, oil and coal.

Peak demand times account only for 10% of the hours of electricity used, but are responsible for 40% of our electricity costs, according to the Green Energy Consumers Alliance.

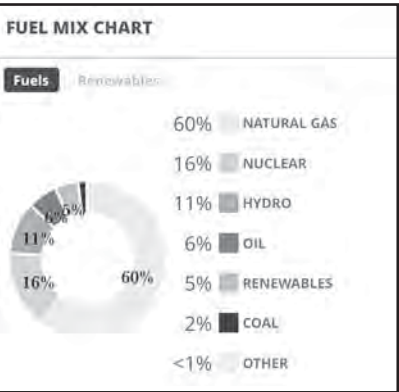
Fossil fuel peaker plants spew carbon emissions, contributing to global warming. They also exacerbate the more immediate health impacts of poor air quality that accompany high temperatures, because of other pollutants that fossil fuels generate.

Here are some ways you can help reduce peak electricity demand during the hottest times of the day, when commercial businesses and industry are still operating, and people come home, turn on their A/Cs, and run appliances and electronics. Peak hours are typically between around 3 and 8 p.m.

- Take a dip in your favorite lake, stream, or pool.
- Turn off lights in rooms that are unoccupied.
- Wash and dry your clothes before or after peak energy times, such as in the morning or later at night. Better yet, instead of using your dryer, hang them on a clothes line. Dryers consume lots of electricity.
- Cool your home before peak energy hours and, during peak hours, increase the temperature setting of your air conditioner several degrees – or turn it off and run fans.
- Cook the day before a peak energy day, eat leftovers, have a barbeque, or make a salad that doesn’t require cooking.
- Invite family and friends for a green energy dinner, encouraging them to turn their A/C off while they’re out.

- Take a cold shower, or, as my neighbor does, a cold bath.
- Charge your electronics – e.g. computers, cell phones, tablets – at non-peak hours, and run them off batteries during peak times.
- Run your dishwasher during non-peak hours. It’ll feel cooler in your kitchen; plus, you’ll have an excuse not to do your dishes!
- Head to an air-conditioned movie theater during peak hours. When you get home, turning on your A/C won’t contribute to the need to run a peaker plant.
- When you’re not using computers, TVs, or peripherals such as printers, routers, and DVDs, turn them off and unplug them, or turn off the power strip that they’re plugged into. These draw electricity even when on standby.
- If you have an electric vehicle, charge it overnight, after peak hours.

Want a reminder that it’s a peak energy day? The Green Energy Consumers Alliance has a program called *Shave the Peak*. You can sign up for alerts at greenenergyconsumers.org/shavethepeak. When you sign up, you’ll get an email or text telling you that it’s a peak energy day, and letting you know when it’s most effective to lower your electricity use.



If you want to see actual, real-time electricity use on our New England electric grid, check out the system load graph at www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/. Lower on that webpage is a chart showing the mix of fuels generating our electricity. On a peak energy day, watch for oil and coal joining the mix in late afternoon to see for yourself when peaker plants are added to our mix.

Sally Pick is a member of the Montague energy committee.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week On MCTV

By MIKE SMITH

On June 20, MCTV joined Staff Sergeant Lee Laster at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls for his presentation on gun safety. His fun and informative lesson will soon be available on our website, montaguetv.org. Available on our page right now is video called “The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever,” which captured a Kate Bush-themed dance presentation in Greenfield’s beautiful Energy Park. Also recently posted are the recent Gill-Montague Regional School District meeting, and Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Go to montaguetv.org to stay up to date with town news.

MCTV is seeking local musicians to help start a new community collaboration project. We want to create music videos for our local musicians’ original songs! Contact us at info@montaguetv.org if you are interested!

The deadline is approaching for the 120 Second Film Festival. Check out our website for rules and registration details.

Something going on you think others would like 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’d love to work with you!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Repeated Vandalism, Break-Ins At Brick House; Neighbors Also Tiring Of “Ongoing Nefarious Activity”

Monday, 7/8

8:36 a.m. Caller reports witnessing someone in a dark-colored Jeep egg a silver Ford pickup near Bridge and East Main streets, then drive off. Officer observed eggs on Ford pickup; unable to locate owner in area. No one ever called in about vandalism to their vehicle.

9:36 a.m. Caller reports that a bear ran into the side of her vehicle on Lake Pleasant Road at approximately 9 a.m. today. Advised to report incident to insurance company; MPD will have on record.

2:54 p.m. Caller from Main Street reports that someone drove across his lawn this afternoon and hit his steps, damaging the steps and leaving a piece of their bumper behind. Officer advises heavy damage to stairs; involved vehicle should have heavy front end damage. Rau’s Sunoco called to say that someone found a license plate on Taylor Hill Road and brought it to them. Officer located more from grill of vehicle along Old Sunderland Road. Officer located involved vehicle at registered owner’s home. Owner admitted to hitting the property and then leaving the scene. Summons issued.

4:17 p.m. Multiple callers reporting car accident at Avenue A and Third Street. One patient transported to hospital for evaluation. Tow requested for both vehicles.

5:44 p.m. Caller from Power Street reports that three teenage boys are harassing him. Peace restored.

tacked by two loose dogs on Dell Street. Officer has located loose dogs and owner. Victim located at her home; states that she was knocked to the ground by the loose dogs. Report taken.

8:40 p.m. Report of unwanted person sleeping on porch and leaving trash around caller’s property on Eleventh Street. Advised to notify landlord and call police when she sees the party on the porch.

9:03 p.m. Caller from previous entry reporting that unwanted male is back. Party has picked up his belongings and left the property.

[No entries provided for Wednesday, 7/10.]

Thursday, 7/11

1 p.m. Employee from Brick House reporting that someone broke into the building last night; there is damage and some items are missing. Staff members just want on record for now; they will deal with it internally.

2:07 p.m. Bartender from St. Kazimierz Society requesting assistance with a fight happening inside the main hall. Peace restored.

3:10 p.m. A 30-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

3:17 p.m. Caller from Colle building concerned that buses are stopping in the middle of the street on Third Street. Officer advises it appears there needs to be another No Parking sign.

4:43 p.m. Officer reporting traffic is going both ways on the General Pierce Bridge; requesting Greenfield PD to stop traffic. Officer advises female party figured they could go through light because it took too long.

4:46 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting that people came to their house wearing IDs and wanted a copy of caller’s electric bill. Caller reports that Eversource stated they did not have anyone in the area. Will put on record.

5:47 p.m. Caller from Central Street requesting to speak with officer about a bicycle and house keys that were stolen three weeks ago. Report taken.

8:25 p.m. Caller reporting that a male party is lying on the sidewalk passed out in front of Hubie’s Tavern. TFFD and AMR contacted and responding. Officer advising to cancel emergency services and call a taxi; male party fell asleep waiting for taxi earlier. Cab company has picked up party. Clear.

Friday, 7/12

10:21 a.m. Caller advises that she is blocking traf-

fic on Millers Falls Road so that a turtle can cross the road and now other motorists are angry with her. All clear upon arrival.

6:22 p.m. Caller reporting that a baby deer was hit at Montague City and Turnpike roads; caller believes deer has passed on. No damage to vehicle; no one is hurt. Officer confirmed no damage.

9:22 p.m. Caller transferred from Greenfield PD reporting people are setting off fireworks near the skate park. Caller passed the phone to a female party who stated that a fight is about to break out. Services rendered.

Saturday, 7/13

5:45 a.m. Caller from Second Street reporting that his vehicle was entered and gone through overnight. A mess was left of his belongings, but it appears that only a cell phone charger was taken. Requesting to have on file only.

7:22 a.m. Caller reporting vehicle rollover on Main Street; occupant says she is not injured but airbags did deploy. Leverett PD on scene advising female is out of vehicle. Vehicle towed.

7:29 a.m. Caller from G Street reporting that someone entered his vehicle overnight; so far only some change appears to be missing. Console was gone through and items were thrown around in the car. Report taken.

9:21 a.m. Caller reports that her tenant has been dealing with a noise disturbance from a group of kids who are hanging around the alley near the Brick House late at night. Tenant states that kids are being very loud and playing music. Caller requesting extra patrols in area between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m.

1:47 p.m. Received interpreter call reporting public drinking in Peske Park; states same people as always; also reporting male parties urinating in park. Officer spoke with parties at park; they were advised not to drink in the park and that charges will be filed if MPD continues to respond there.

1:53 p.m. A 21-year-old Northampton man was arrested and charged with failing to report a military status change.

6:39 p.m. Caller from G Street believes there is a rabid raccoon in the street; it is growling like a tiger and hissing. Officer spoke with caller; raccoon has gone under porches across the street; advised to call back if it returns and is a nuisance.

9:43 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street reporting that a female is going after people outside, yelling and threatening. Party taken

into protective custody.

11:36 p.m. Caller from G Street reports hearing a male and female screaming and yelling across the street. Officer reports this was children playing video games and being loud.

Sunday, 7/14

2:59 a.m. Caller reporting several kids making loud noise behind building on Fourth Street. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival; spoke to a couple of kids in area and advised them of complaint.

10:41 a.m. Caller from Federal Street has located an owl with an injured wing. Provided number for local resident who works with birds.

11:27 a.m. Caller states that her child found a small pouch with needles in it outside of her home on H Street.

9:32 p.m. 911 caller states that someone is throwing water balloons at moving vehicles in the area of the Brick House. Officer spoke with some kids who said they were having a water gun fight with each other and didn’t intentionally spray anyone.

Monday, 7/15

9:13 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports that sometime last night someone ripped out flowers in a few yards and threw them nearby. Referred to an officer.

9:51 a.m. Report of two loose ponies in the road near Highland Apartments. Message left for animal control officer. Officer advises animals – two Great Pyrenees and Shetland ponies – are now in back area of Highland Apartments. Owner called; info given to ACO, who advised dogs are already at the kennel.

10:08 a.m. Party into station to speak with an officer re: ongoing nefarious activity by some youths who frequent the Teen Center at the Brick House. Officer spoke with party and followed up at Teen Center. No one on site at Teen Center.

4:11 p.m. Staff member from Brick House requesting officer stand by while they clean up vandalism left by some youths.

9:24 p.m. Report directly to MPD officer of a firearm stolen from a motor vehicle. Gun entered into national database as stolen at this time.

Tuesday, 7/16

6:44 p.m. Caller from Meadow Road reporting there is a raccoon in the yard that is not acting well. Caller called back and stated raccoon is under the shed and there is no need for an officer to come out at this time.

8:26 p.m. Male party located and detained for

see MPD page B4

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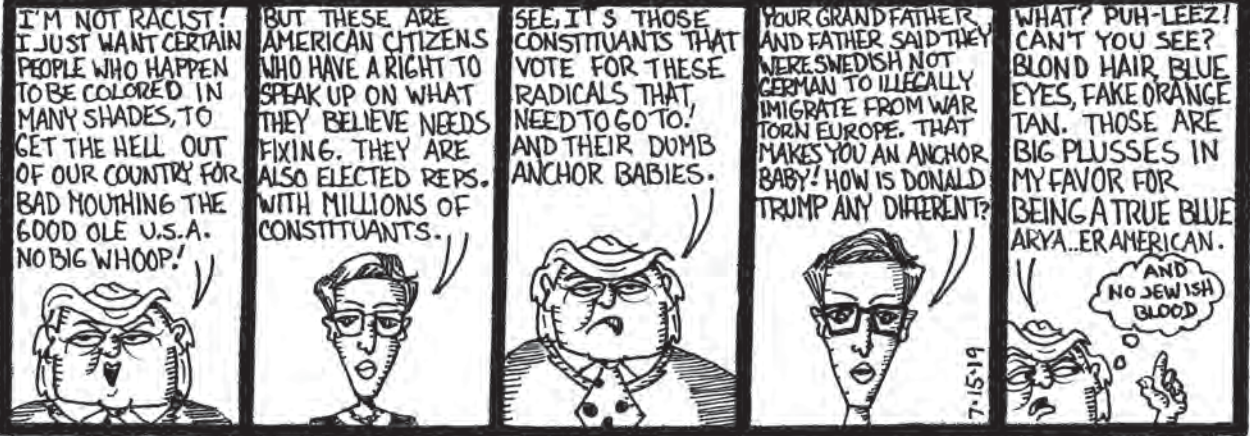
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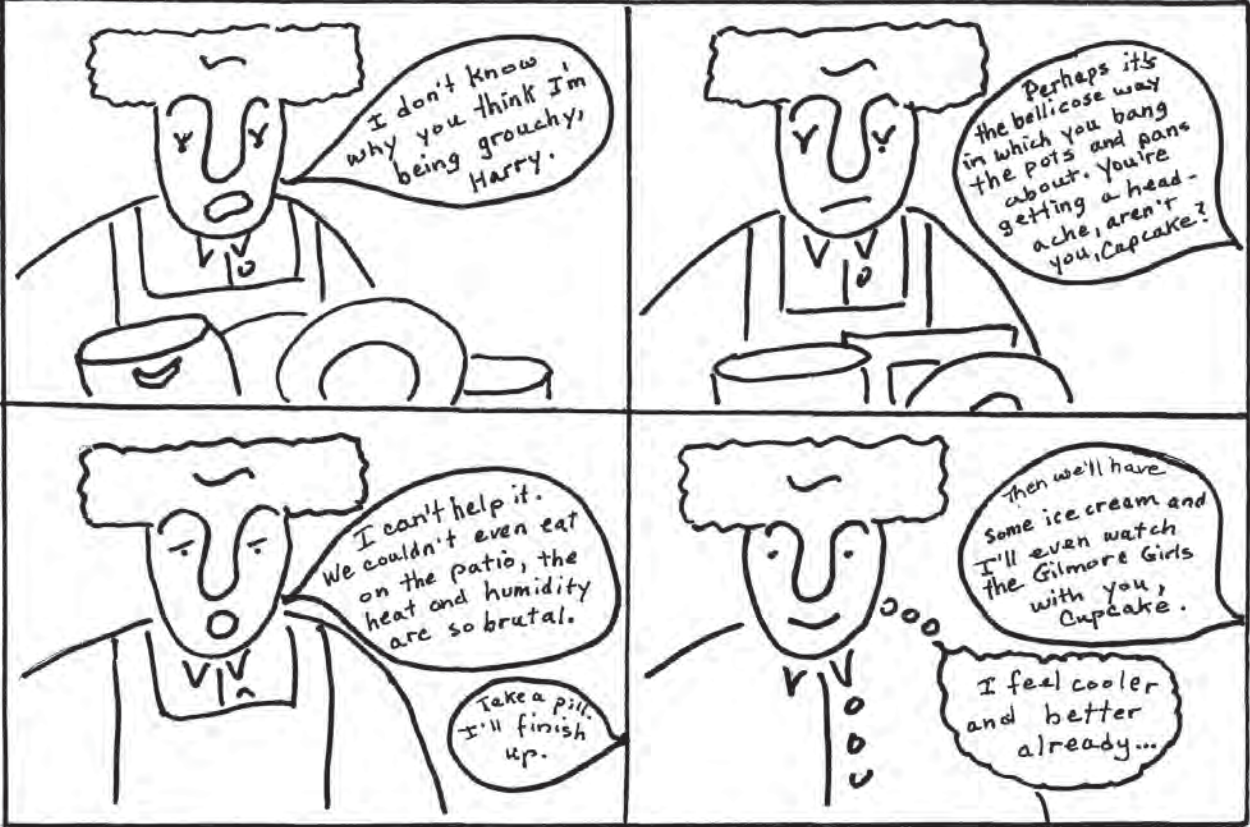
T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



UNVEILING from B1

of being “immortalized” in a portrait, and not much more.

The Prosperis engaged with me in easy conversation regarding the history of the portrait, the creative process, the artist’s story, and their own collaboration of 45 years. On this day, I know from our previous conversation that they, too, await the unveiling as the culmination of a process, where, in Warren Prosperi’s words, “the true success of a portrait is revealed when there is broad approval of those who know the person, affirming that ‘you have seen what we’ve all seen.’”

Just how, exactly, does that happen?

For Prosperi, who paints as a classicist in the genre of Rubens, it involves the employment of a classical technique, or method, enhanced

with the technical advancement of photography. Some answers come from Lucia Prosperi, who shares generously the steps in the process of “building an image” which, she says, is what happens once a subject has been decided on.

“It’s something we do all the time,” she says. “It begins immediately – in this case with the viewing of the video, or our first encounter with a person. As we gather more information, we build an image. In Donna’s case, because she was in costume in the video, the image was multi-layered.”

Warren Prosperi shares that his next step was to visit Donna Horn in her own environment – in Horn’s case, her woodland home dubbed the “Purple Cupcake” – and to continue to build an image through the choice of outfit, including jewelry

and motifs, and in deciding what elements to bring forward.

“We are responding to the question, What image embodies the character of the person, to the best of our abilities?” Lucia adds. Once these are decided, the pose can be determined. “Prior to any photography, the image has been constructed,” she continues, “and the photographs are just more information.”

Reflecting on what, pre-photography, would have been hours and hours of sitting for a painting, she says, “We build the image before we do anything, and then set the person up for the light, as if they are sitting.” By “light” she means, here, classical Northern window studio light, and to complete the process, Horn traveled to the Prosperis’ studio in Southborough, MA.

The photos were taken with the intention to capture her as she is, without her having to sit for hours at a time. Then painting began. “Warren can use the photos to reference an experience of the person,” Lucia stresses. “In fact, eventually, he is painting from memory: that image, that experience.”

A Wider Range

Here in the Herrick Gallery, someone begins to quiet the group, and conversations hush as we ready ourselves for the revealing. I glance at Donna Horn, and she seems as though to burst with excitement.

Warren and Lucia Prosperi approach the painting, one on either side. They lift and drop the cloth from the frame and there she is! A brief silence from the group, then the loud clapping of acknowledgement and approval. Someone shouts, “I can’t believe you got it!” Warren, visibly pleased, and his wife Lucia, also beaming with joy, begin to answer questions in earnest.

When asked if he does a preliminary study or drawing, Warren re-

MPD from page B3

warrant arrest by Bernardston police.

10:28 p.m. Officer advising of open exterior doors at Brick House; forced entry and damaged. Building checked and secured; no entry in rest of building.

Wednesday, 7/17

10:28 a.m. Brick House staff member reporting vandalism overnight. Report taken.

12:17 p.m. Caller from T Street states that there is a baby deer walking around in the road. ACO notified.

Thursday, 7/18

8:48 a.m. Report of possible illegal burn, possibly tires, in field on West Street. Officer advises MCFD on scene; fire appears to be out; was styrofoam burning, not tires.

12:44 p.m. Truck driver requesting officer respond to back up the cars behind him and turn him around so he does not have to

wait for another light cycle at the General Pierce Bridge. Caller is next in line to cross the bridge when the light changes. Advised caller MPD cannot fill that request; advised to cross bridge when light changes.

12:47 p.m. Report of homeless camp set up on river bank by old bridge abutment. FirstLight control room advised.

2:10 p.m. Officer requesting ACO to assist with a large turtle at the rear of Greenfield Savings Bank obstructing traffic.

11:19 p.m. 911 caller reporting large group of 9-10 year old kids wearing masks and carrying baseball bats on Fourth Street. Kids were seen running around hitting things with the bats. Caller states when she just went for a walk with her child, one of the kids started following

her wearing a mask and dragging the bat on the ground “like in a horror movie.” Units checked downtown area thoroughly; unable to locate.

Friday, 7/19

12:18 p.m. Ladder reported stolen from garage on George Avenue. Report taken.

1:51 p.m. Caller reporting that someone went through the red light and had to back up off the General Pierce Bridge. License plate provided.

4:23 p.m. Caller reporting her daughter was just run off the road and has crashed on Meadow Road. Vehicle towed.

8:37 p.m. Caller reporting that a transformer just blew and is now on fire on Turners Falls Road just north of the railroad bridge. Contacted Shelburne Control to send out MCFD.



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Horn visited the Prosperis at their Southborough studio to sit for the portrait.

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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Wild Structures on the River Bank

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS — At the Brick Beach this summer, unknown artisans have been very busy. Since the recession of the spring’s floodwaters, two strange structures have appeared along the banks of the Connecticut.

One is a stone structure consisting of two, three-and-a-half foot tall walls. These walls enclose a square space, and together suggest that the structure is something like a four-sided stone house, or the ruin of one. It appears to be constructed using the dry stone method, an ancient style of wall building that uses no mortar. The stone wall has a door in it that frames a view of the Gill-Montague Bridge. The second piece of this construction, a circle of standing stones, lies 15 feet away along this sightline.

Farther down the beach, close to the Indeck silo, stands another construction. It is a four foot tall, conical tower of bricks. The tower is a fireplace, an oven, or a chiminea. Surrounding it are a few benches, a well-used trash bag tied to a tree, and a sort of guestbook. The guestbook includes messages of surprise and wonder, and pleas to not disturb the brickwork.

WACKERNAGEL PHOTOS



A kitchen installation behind the former John Russell Cutlery site.

The tower is at the center of three brick terraces that descend the hill. The bricks of the terraces are laid using a herringbone pattern.

Why are anonymous people compelled to build objects like this at the Brick Beach? Is it just about the enjoyment of creative manipulation, or are they moved by the elemental power of the river and the picturesque deterioration of the mills? Are they inspired by the surprising way that floodwater can pave a surface with bricks at least as well as an amateur householder? Are they awed to behold the bricks in a more permanent configuration than ever conceived by the leaders of New England’s late 19th-century industrial capitalism? Shocked to realize the surprising serendipity of an unplanned beach completely “on trend” with the 20th-century’s mass transformation of industrial waterfronts into sites of recreation?

Why do these built objects strike us as beautiful? For one, they are made of natural materials, materials that are themselves abundant on the site. The brick tower and the stone wall are part of their site in the same way that the river is — they appear to belong there. Also exciting is the ambiguity of authorship — whether man-made or naturally occurring.



This stone wall is developing below the Turners Falls dam.

Like the bricks of the beach set by many years of high water, these structures look as if they could have been the products of impersonal, natural forces. If one considers the way geological forces create both clay and stone, it’s clear that both natural processes and human design contributed to the success of these projects.

Natural materials and traditional styles of building objectify a desire that many people have to experience an authentic reality. In America, the most common answer to this search is Nature. In addition to going outside, many people also consume images and goods thematically related to Nature, like landscape imagery, outdoor clothing, particular cars, etc.

A certain lifestyle (as in a system of consumer identity and practice that includes values, beliefs, modes of expression, and certain patterns of consumption) exists to cater to this illusory solution. One reason that people think stone walls, or geometric brick constructions, are

beautiful is that they are conditioned to appreciate things that objectify a balance of human will with natural processes and the limits therein.

While the idea of Nature is useful in dealing with feelings of alienation, detachment, and meaninglessness, it is also the paradigm that justifies the exploitation of natural resources. A process of objectification leads both to people’s ability to appreciate images and experiences of Nature, and is simultaneously the justification for exploiting it. Whether it is being viewed as a scene, enjoyed in thoughts as a place “permanently preserved,” or being strip mined, it is the idea of nature as an object that can be owned that leads to these different outcomes.

But I think that the reason people spend time building temporary constructions on the Brick Beach is the same reason that many of us live in Turners Falls. Other than relatively cheap rent, it’s the sense of place. Our village is superlative if one utilizes a certain way of seeing that

appreciates places of industrial abandonment as America’s version of the Roman ruins rediscovered in the Baroque by artists like Claude Lorrain.

Perhaps more than anywhere else in town, the Brick Beach captures this feeling of languorous melancholia. The stone and brick structures that appear and disappear most years on the Brick Beach are a testimony to the uniqueness of the site. They are points where the site’s singular qualities crystallize into form, forms that do not distract but are rather markers that make more explicit the unique combination of elements that make up the Brick Beach.

Despite an understanding that many things I like are defined by culturally conditioned aesthetic systems, and that the idea of Nature has many negative ramifications, going down to the river is one of my favorite activities this time of year.

Next time I am at the Brick Beach I will sign the guestbook and, if I have the time, may work on assembling a new bench.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico **The Montague Reporter**. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Visitando Salamanca!

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

Como algunas de ustedes ya habrán adivinado si siguen habitualmente esta página, mi ciudad de nacimiento es Salamanca, España. Aprovechando estos días de descanso en una árida, calurosa y seca Castilla, me he decidido a contarles en esta página la historia de mi ciudad natal. Actualmente se encuentran censados unos 150.000 habitantes, número que aumenta con la llegada de los estudiantes durante el curso académico y en verano con los miles de extranjeros que llegan a la ciudad para estudiar la lengua de Cervantes en la universidad o en otros centros académicos.

El año pasado hablamos de la Universidad de Salamanca en estas mismas líneas, así que nos centraremos en otros lugares de la ciudad y la provincia que vale la pena visitar.

Se tienen datos de la existencia de Salamanca como núcleo de población desde el siglo IV a.C. en que convivían dos tribus prerromanas: los vacceos y los vettones. Estos últimos nos dejaron el famoso toro para algunos, verraco para otros, hecho en piedra y que ahora sin cabeza se encuentra actualmente al lado

del puente romano. Este animal de piedra es protagonista de un de los capítulos de la novela anónima *El Lazarillo de Tormes*, el más famoso pícaro de la literatura española.

Alrededor del año 220 a.C., Salamanca fue conquistada por los romanos que construyeron parte de la muralla que aún se puede ver y el famoso puente Romano que cruza el río Tormes. Salamanca formó parte de la Calzada de la Plata que cruzaba la península de Norte a Sur para facilitar el transporte de plata extraída de las minas. Salmantica, nombre que le dieron los romanos a Salamanca se convirtió un poco más tarde en municipio dentro de la provincia de Lusitania.

El siglo V d.C. llegó la caída del imperio romano, y con ella las invasiones de pueblos germánicos, que dejaron en Salamanca coronas votivas en iglesias románicas, como la famosa iglesia de San Marcos donde todavía se pueden apreciar o magníficos frescos que datan del siglo XI, pero que no fueron descubiertos hasta el siglo XX. La cifra de población disminuyó en esos años pese a los intentos de repoblación de ciudadanos provenientes de Galicia, Asturias y de los territorios francos.

Como curiosidad puedo decirles

que mi primer apellido deriva de una familia franca apellidada originalmente Mailloux que se establecieron al sur de la provincia de Salamanca, muy cerca de la Peña de Francia, en un pequeño municipio al que dieron nombre castellanizándolo, El Maíllo. Durante el siglo VIII en adelante se producen incursiones musulmanas en la ciudad ya que quedó en tierra de nadie en un momento en que las fronteras eran muy cambiantes. Existen algunos vestigios de arquitectura musulmana en la ciudad, aunque la mayoría desaparecieron al construir las iglesias católicas sobre ellos.

En el año 1102 se empezó a construir la catedral románica, ahora conocida como la Catedral Vieja a instancia de Raimundo de Borgoña que consideró que una ciudad no era ciudad si no disponía de una muralla y una catedral. La catedral empezó siendo de estilo románico, pero al terminarse a finales del siglo XIV se incorporaron elementos góticos que estaban de moda en la época.

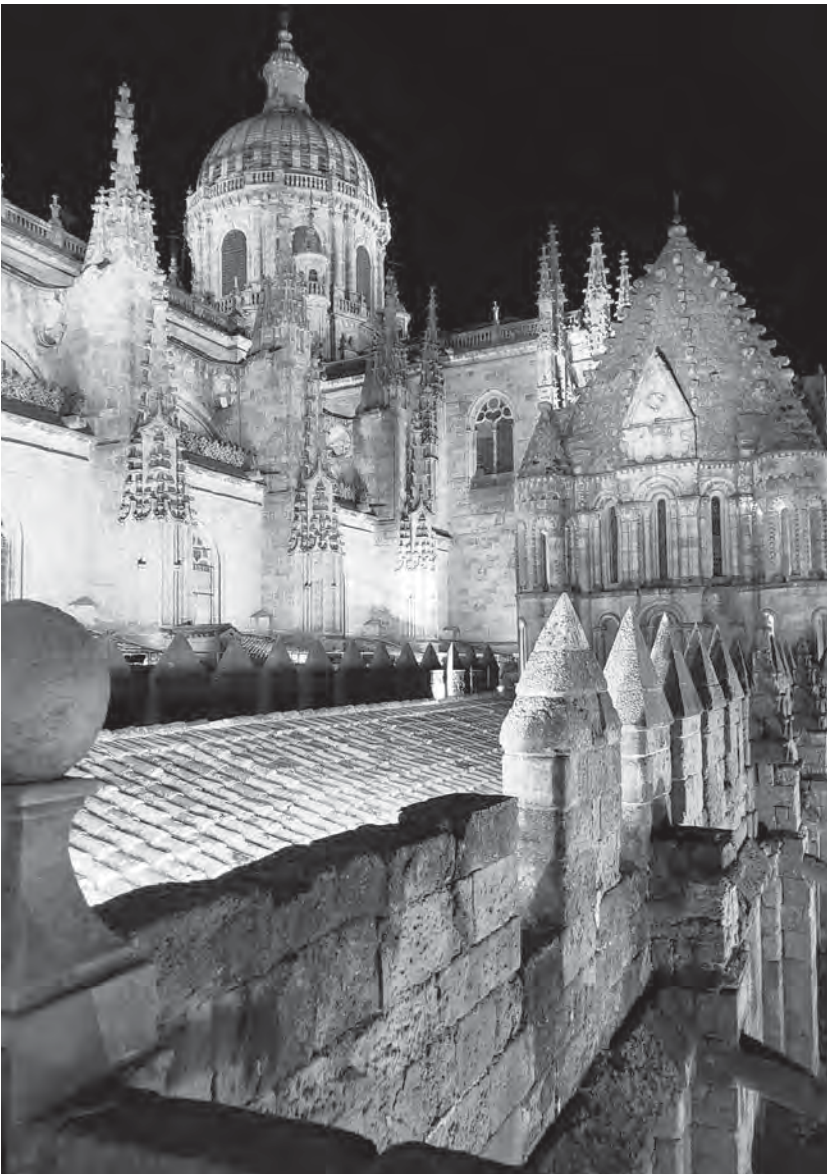
La estructura que más llama la atención es la llamada Torre del Gallo ya que este animal corona la velta al final de dicha torre. El interior de la torre es un cimborrio que tiene la forma de una naranja abierta en el que se pueden observar perfectamente los 16 gajos. La Catedral Vieja estuvo a punto de ser destruida para construir la Catedral Nueva aunque esa idea no se llevó a cabo por razones logísticas ya que durante la prolongada construcción en el tiempo de la nueva sede se necesitaba un lugar para el culto. Al final la Catedral Vieja y la Nueva comparten uno de sus muros.

Dentro de la catedral, en el altar mayor está el famoso retablo del Juicio Final realizado entre 1430 y 1450. La estatua de la Virgen De la Vega, patrona de Salamanca se encuentra en el centro del retablo.

La tercera civilización que convivía en España hasta 1492 fue la judía. En el siglo XII, el rey Raimundo de Borgoña publicó leyes que favorecían la llegada de inmigrantes, entre ellos la población judía desplazada por las diversas guerras que habían acontecido en la península. Hay datos de una judería en Salamanca desde el año 1120, cuya principal arteria es la ahora llamada calle Libreros. Existieron tres sinagogas en la ciudad que ya no se conservan ya que fueron destruidas años más tarde para construir edificios civiles o iglesias. En la calle de la Rúa, todavía se pueden ver la característica estética de sus construcciones.

En el año 1208 se establecieron los Estudios Generales que fueron la primera piedra de la Universidad de Salamanca. En dicha Universidad estudiaron, no sin superar grandes obstáculos, las quizás primeras mujeres universitarias del mundo como Lucía de Medrano, Beatriz Galindo.

La Catedral Nueva fue construida entre los siglos XVI y XVIII debido a la necesidad de construir un templo más grande debido al aumento de población de la ciudad. Es una de las más altas de España y en 1755 sufrió las consecuencias



Torre del Gallo. Catedral Vieja.

del terremoto que inclinó la torre irremediablemente.

En el año 1993, en sustitución de algunas de las figuras que estaban deterioradas al lado de una de las puertas, esculpieron un astronauta, un dragón comiendo un helado de cucurucho, y otras figuras representativas del siglo XX.

Otro monumento importante y misterioso es la llamada Cueva de Salamanca de la que no se conoce el año de construcción. Estaba construida en la sacristía de la Iglesia de San Cebrián y la reina Isabel la Católica mandó tapiar la entrada. Se dice que en esa cueva daba clases el Diablo y se ha asociado en muchas obras literarias a prácticas de nigromancia.

El elemento arquitectónico más famoso y representativo es la Plaza Mayor que fue construida entre entre 1730 y 1756 por Churriguera y es de estilo barroco. Es el centro de la ciudad, donde se encuentra el ayuntamiento y está rodeada de tiendas, bares, cafeterías y terrazas. Allí se ha-

cen espectáculos, conciertos, ferias y otras actividades culturales y civiles.

Mi monumento favorito es la Casa de Lis, que fue construida en torno a 1905 y es de estilo modernista. La fachada sur con vistas al río Tormes tiene una maravillosa balconada con vidrieras de colores. Actualmente alberga el museo de Art Nouveau de Salamanca.

Por supuesto, en Salamanca hay miles de rincones preciosos, conventos, edificios de interés cultural que merecen muchas líneas, pero no quería dejar pasar la ocasión sin mencionar al Barrio del Oeste que ha sabido reinventarse a sí mismo. En los años 80 y 90 fue una parte deprimida de la ciudad, azotada por la heroína que campaba a sus anchas en esa época. Actualmente, y gracias a las asociaciones de vecinos y artistas que han querido plasmar su arte en las calles se ha convertido en un barrio hipster y bohemio en el que pasear y descubrir obras de arte en puertas de garaje, muros y rincones es un verdadero placer.



Catedral Nueva.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Kathy Sylvester and Joe Pod, the frost heaves and hales, Austin & Elliott*. Coop Concert series. 6 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Music on the Patio*. Danse Cafe. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, concert moves inside. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Fire Pond*. Old time swing roots, and celtic. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *the frost heaves, True Believers, Land, Man*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *BKO, The New Sound of Mali*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Project Trio*, free, family-friendly workshop and performance. 4 p.m.

Miller's Pub, Millers Falls: *Little House Blues*. Harmonica-led blues quartet. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Clay Camero & the County Line Bandits, Chevrolet Pile, Ben Wetherbee*, more. \$. 8 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *413 Says #CloseTheCamps*. A 24-hour fundraiser of performance including music, theater, dance, and children's programming to raise money to be sent to RAICES, Immigrant Families Together, and the Pioneer Valley Workers Center. Tickets by making a donation of your choosing from \$10 to \$1,000; no one turned away. Lobby raffle of items donated by local businesses and artists. 8 a.m. Saturday through Sunday morning.

FAB Fashion, Turners Falls: *Model Session*. Workshop for aspiring models with New York runway coach Jerry Jordan

CALL FOR VENDORS

Hawks & Reed in Greenfield is looking for arts and crafts vendors and other organizations who would like to be part of an indoor market on Saturday, August 3 from 8:30 to 1 p.m. Bring your creative ideas to life in our space: marketing@hawksandreed.com.

EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery. Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Sister Art. Elisabeth Lachance and Becca Wheeler* display their polymer clay sculpture and painted furniture. Through July.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: New exhibits for the summer include beach scenes, activist photography by *Dona McAdams*, immersive installations, steel sculpture, and more.

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Beauties, Bugs, and Beasties*. An animal-themed exhibit celebrating creatures real and imagined, to July 28. Followed

by a show of art by members of the Leverett Crafts & Arts Center called *LCA at DVAA* through September 8; reception, August 4, 1 p.m.

Porter-Phelps Huntington Museum, Hadley: *A Perfect Spot of Tea*. Afternoon tea with instrumental jazz, pop, and original songs performed by *Peter West* and *Burt Jackson*. Two seatings, one at 2:30 and 3:30. \$. 2:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Traditional Music Open Session*. Contra, Irish, old time, etc. Open jam session. 3 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Project Trio*. Outdoor family concert. "Music, Joy, Surprise" with Project Trio. Bring a blanket and picnic before the show at 5 p.m. No dogs or glass. \$. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bandella: The Band of Astronauts*. \$. 7 p.m.

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Home Body*. With cocktails by Al's Bar. \$. 7 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Lui Collins with Anand Nyack*. Original and traditional folk, jazz. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Pistoleiros*. Outlaw Country. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *No Lens, Luke Deroy*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Porter-Phelps Huntington Museum, Hadley: *Sweet Mandolin Ensemble*. Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical works on a variety of mandolins. Held in the Corn Barn. Donations appreciated. 2:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Literary Rendezvous*. Featured poet *Amy Laprade*, open mic hosted by *Beth Filson*. 2:30 p.m.

Look Park, Northampton: *Dinosaur Jr., Kurt Vile & the Violators*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Joshua Burkett, Wednesday Knudson, Hung Trucker, Frederico B*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 30

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Song, movement, laughter for young children and their caregivers. *Marcy*

Gregoire and *Hilary Lake* with puppets, costumes, instruments. \$. 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Cole Blu, Wishbone Zoe, Ruby Lou, Dari Bay, Fomosurfer*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With *McCoy* and *DJ Roger Jr*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *Library Libations*. Fundraiser for the new Erving Library with music by *Rob Fletcher*, raffles, games, food, beer. \$. 6 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Roland LaPierre Band, Charlie Conant and Friends, and Pat & Tex LaMountain with Avery & White*. Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio with *Masala Jazz*. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, concert moves inside. 7 p.m.

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw*. Figure drawing sessions with a model. By donation. 7 p.m.

Abandon Dream, Turners Falls: *Powers/Rollins Duo, Jen Gelineau, Willie Lane, Parish/Pasquarosa Duo, and Cosmic Ray*. 7 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Stash Wyslouch, avant-garde bluegrass; Bringers of the Dawn*, new local band. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Lori McKenna*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Cindy Foster*. Comedy. \$. 8 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Bluffs, Mary Jester, and Madden Aleia*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dan Deacon*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Stillwater*. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Pocumtuck Homelands Festival*. Free, all-day celebration sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and RiverCulture. Live music, drumming, dancing, storytelling,

Native crafts, and street vendor food. 10 a.m.

Porter-Phelps Huntington Museum, Hadley: *A Perfect Spot of Tea*. Tea with music by *Same Old Blues*, a group which performs 1920s and '30s Piedmont and East Coast blues music. Two sittings, one at 2:30 and 3:30. \$. 2:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The VJC Allstars with Eugene Unman*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Joanne Shenandoah*. Joanne Shenandoah, Ph.D., is one of "America's most celebrated and critically acclaimed Native American musicians of her time" (AP). She is a Grammy Award winner with three nominations, over 40 music awards (including 14 Native American Music awards – a Hall of Fame inductee) and music ranging from solo to full symphony. \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Samirah Evans and Her Handsome Devils*. Jazz and blues with New Orleans spice. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Movie screening, *Them*. Atomic testing is responsible for dangerous giant mutant ants that threaten to take over Los Angeles. Preceded by an episode of *Fireball XL5*. Part of the SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Monster series at the library. 7:30 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: Films by *LGHQ, Nina Wiesnagrotzki, and Nyle Genevieve Kaliski*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Garcia Project*. \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Look Park, Northampton: *Beach House, Hellp*. \$. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Song, movement, laughter for young children and their caregivers. *Marcy Gregoire* and *Hilary Lake* with puppets, costumes, instruments. \$. 10:30 a.m.

Cute Little Human Monsters. Paintings by Wendell artist *Dona Horn*. The works in this show represent emotional landscapes and emotional creatures. Horn is the originator of the Wendell Misfit Prom and is well known for her elaborate costumes and floats. Artist's reception and celebration on Saturday, July 27 at 3 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Chris Hill: Nocturnal Landscapes*. Surreal botanical paintings depicting farmland and fallow fields "as they should be," combining painting, permaculture, organic gardening and a plea to repair the earth one garden at a time.



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Silverthorne Theater's Short & Sweet Festival of New (tiny) Plays is looking for original, unpublished works for the stage in any style. No more than 20 minutes long, four actors or less, and simple production values. Not a workshop; plays must be ready for production. Festival to be held in Spring 2020. Deadline August 1. Details: silverthornetheater.org or email stcliterarymanager@gmail.com.

The Rendezvous

bar with food

**FRI 7/26 9:30 pm
Masala Jazz**

**SAT 7/27 9:30 pm
No Lens, Duke DeRoy**

**FRI 8/2 9:30 pm
Stillwater**

**SUN 8/4 11 to 1
Jazz Brunch
w/Soul Jazz**

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Sarah Holbrook: *Driving Home*, photographs of the winding back roads of southern Vermont and western Massachusetts. Through September 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *A Taste for Art* group show on a food theme by member artists. Through July 28. Followed by *The Blue Show* in August.

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Artist: Christine Pellerin